

YOUR GUIDE
TO THE
STATE
FUNERAL
TOMORROW

PAGES A8-9



PROCESSION

Starts at 12.30pm from Parliament House. It will pass landmarks such as Old Parliament House and City Hall, as well as heartland areas



FUNERAL SERVICE

Held at University Cultural Centre, NUS, from 2pm to 5.15pm



CREMATION

Private event at Mandai Crematorium

THE STRAITS TIMES

— CELEBRATING 170 YEARS, SINCE 1845 —

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2015



Where does it begin... or end? An aerial view from the 18th storey of Swissotel The Stamford at 9pm shows snaking queues as people try to make it into Parliament House to pay their last respects to Mr Lee Kuan Yew. ST PHOTO: DESMOND FOO

Massive crowds at Padang, so queue temporarily halted

Safety concerns led organisers to call for suspension to clear backlog

By RACHEL CHANG
ASSISTANT POLITICAL EDITOR

AS PEOPLE continued to arrive at the Padang through the day to endure waits of up to 10 hours for their turn to pay their last re-

spects to founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew in person, the crowds swelled beyond control last night.

At about 10pm, the organisers announced that they were "temporarily suspending" the queue to

clear the backlog of people who were even spilling over into the MRT station at City Hall.

Policemen at City Hall MRT Station told the crowd: "The Padang is full. Please go home."

A statement from the organis-

ing committee said that the decision was made "to ensure safety of individuals due to the large crowds, and to limit the physical

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Day of mourning in India

INDIA is honouring Singapore's founding father Lee Kuan Yew by designating tomorrow as a day of national mourning.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is travelling to Singapore where he will join other foreign leaders for the state funeral.

In an unprecedented gesture, New Delhi announced yesterday that the Indian flag will be lowered to half-mast across the country tomorrow and there will be no official entertainment on the day.

It is unusual for India to hon-

our a person who had retired from national leadership for nearly a quarter-century. ■ SEE A17

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LONG QUEUES TO PAY TRIBUTE

Mr Lee Kuan Yew
1923 - 2015

Six-year-old Calista Lee presenting two stalks of roses in a water bottle to Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong from her place in the queue outside Parliament House, a sweet gesture that people whipped out their phones and cameras to capture. ST PHOTO: DESMOND LIM

Public urged to pay tribute at community sites

FROM PAGE A1

discomfort of the long wait, especially for the elderly and young children”.

“We would like to accommodate as many as possible in this overwhelming outpouring of respect and love for Mr Lee Kuan Yew,” the statement said.

“We are appealing for patience and understanding as we work to ease the situation. We will inform the public when the queue is open again.”

As of press-time, the queue had not been reopened.

Mr Jeremy Ng was trapped with his wheelchair-bound mother Lee Khar Lee outside the Padang, as people did not heed calls to exit the line.

“We can’t go forward, neither can we go backwards,” he said.

Others, like Dr Tang Yao Liang, 31, decided not to join the queue at all, once the suspension was announced.

“We decided to cut our losses. We really wanted to show our respect as it’s quite a historical moment, so I’m disappointed. But we tried our best,” he said.

Mr Lee’s body is scheduled to lie in state until 8pm today.

But since Wednesday, the number of people streaming in has defied expectations and forced organisers to expand the scope of their plans repeatedly.

More than 290,000 people have visited Parliament House in the last three days.

Mr Lee, who was Singapore’s Prime Minister from 1959 to 1990, died on Monday at age 91.

Throughout the day yesterday, the organisers issued advisories asking members of the public not to join the queue at the Padang. Instead, they were told to visit one of the 18 community tribute sites across the island.

Meanwhile, a live-stream of proceedings at Parliament House began broadcasting at noon yesterday, and people were encouraged to watch it.

But few seemed to have heeded the call to stay away.

Organisers are bracing themselves for another surge today – the last time that visitors can file past Mr Lee’s casket with a bow, a prayer or a silent word of farewell – as the final hours tick by and the weekend begins.

Even after the suspension is lifted, it is unclear what time the organisers will close the queue to Parliament House today.

They declined to confirm whether those arriving at the queue’s start point after 8pm will be turned away.

Mr Lee’s funeral procession is to start at 12.30pm tomorrow, and the set-up for the 15.4km procession to the University Cultural Centre, where his funeral is to be held, will require a substantial

amount of time.

“I knew they were telling us not to come,” said Singapore Polytechnic lecturer Fan Ay Deng, 34. “But there is only one chance to see his casket, it’s as simple as that. And I think a long wait is worth it to pay my respects to the founding father.”

The sight of hundreds of thousands of Singaporeans, taking time off from work to stand in line for up to 10 hours for a few fleeting moments next to Mr Lee’s casket, is one that will likely never be witnessed again in Singapore’s history.

From 10am on Wednesday, the first day of the lying in state, the authorities have had to change their plans in reaction to the unceasing flow of people.

Originally scheduled to end at 8pm, the viewing became a round-the-clock affair, and public transport services were extended as well.

Organised groups were no longer allowed to skip the queue, and mourners were asked to speed up past the casket instead of stopping. Priority lines birthed priority lines as the elderly, disabled and the very young showed up in force.

But the sheer numbers meant that there was inevitable chaos, especially in the priority queue on Thursday night.

By early yesterday morning, barricades had extended the priority



ABOVE: The area outside Raffles City at 11.30pm was still packed with people after the authorities announced at 10pm that they were “temporarily suspending” the queue to clear the crowd which was spilling over into City Hall MRT Station.

RIGHT: Men from the Special Operations Command were stationed in front of the closed Padang. ST PHOTOS: MARK CHEONG

ty queue to six times its length to aid the flow, and a new filter was created for those in wheelchairs and strollers.

The line abated in the late morning but swelled again from the late afternoon yesterday and through the night.

Inside Parliament House, global grandees such as former Indonesian presidents Megawati Sukarnoputri and Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono numbered among the mourners.

Opposition veteran Chiam See Tong came and, despite his political differences with Mr Lee, he said: “Singapore is very lucky to have Mr Lee as her first Prime Minister.”

Additional reporting by Chong Ziliang and Lim Yan Liang



Crowds at City Hall MRT Station were advised to go home as the Padang was full. PHOTO: LIM YAOHUI FOR THE STRAITS TIMES



People shielding themselves from the sun with umbrellas, newspapers or just a hand - whatever works. ST PHOTOS: DESMOND LIM

11-hour wait – yet they kept coming

Organisers warn people about long wait but they persevere anyway

By THAM YUEN-C, ANDREA NG and CHONG ZILIAN

TOLD to stay away, they came anyway.

People continued to turn up from midnight yesterday into the day to queue outside Parliament House to pay their last respects to Mr Lee Kuan Yew.

This was despite the fact that from Thursday night, the state funeral organising committee advised people not to join the queue until further updates, warning the wait could get as long as 11 hours.

However, most of those on the ground reported waiting a much shorter time – although this was before the crowds surged again last night.

Engineer Veron Koh, 37, who was there at 4am yesterday because she was “scared of the sun” and had to work, but still wanted to pay her respects, was told that she would be waiting for eight hours. But she was done in four.

She said: “I was prepared to take urgent leave if I had to but they were very organised, and I waited only a while at the Padang, then our whole group walked straight to Parliament House.”

The difference between the estimated and actual times was due to the different organisation of the queue system yesterday compared with the first two days of the public mourning on Wednesday and Thursday. Instead of one long queue around the Padang, people were broken up into groups, with each group assigned a holding area at the Padang.

The groups could expand or contract, depending on the number of people. When there were fewer people, each group moved quicker.

For some, the faster flow of the general queues was still not fast enough – financial analyst Dawn Huang, 32, left the Padang at around 8am, after waiting about two hours.

“I have to go to work but I plan to come back later,” she said as she hurried off.

On the other hand, retiree James Chan, 64, was undaunted when he arrived at midnight yesterday and was told that it would be an eight-hour wait.

He decided to stay, saying: “That’s the least I can do to repay the debt of gratitude that generations in Singapore owe to Mr Lee.”

Others who had gone there at around the same time gained a small respite in the end – the waiting time was more like seven hours.

Nanyang Technological Univer-

sity student Lee Jing Shen, 23, was one, emerging from Parliament House at 6.45am.

Asked why he waited, he said pragmatically: “The MRT and buses had already stopped running when we got here and found out how long it would take.”

However, university mate Kee Han Chong, 23, said: “Based on my calculations, the queueing times would only get longer from Friday, so I had to do it. Mr Lee is a very important part of our history.”

Those who arrived not long before daybreak yesterday persevered for the same reason.

Counsellor Diane Choo, 31, who got there at 5.30am, said she got into the hall where Mr Lee’s body lay in state after a wait of “only” five hours.

“It was only right that I had to put in that energy and effort to say thank you,” she said.

Amid the large turnout in the wee hours yesterday, there was confusion about where to start queueing. Some joined in at Raffles City to make their way to the Padang, while others did so at Esplanade Park, unwittingly cutting the queue.

Meanwhile, those in the priority queue – for the elderly, disabled, pregnant and those with children below six years of age – had a much shorter wait, after the system was changed on Thursday night so only parents could go with their children, and just one adult could accompany an elderly person.

Childcare centre principal Angela Ang, 57, who was there at 6am with her 77-year-old mother Nancy Wu, “breathed through” in about 45 minutes. She said: “I would’ve come even if the queue was long because I’m a beneficiary of his legacy.”

For teacher Sally Chew, 37, in the priority queue with her husband and sons aged five and 11, it was her second try.

The first time, she had to go and pick up her children from school, and was not allowed to re-join the queue where her husband was waiting.

Just to be safe, her husband took leave yesterday and her children skipped school.

She said: “I came mainly for the education of the kids. They can read a lot about Lee Kuan Yew but it’s nothing like going through (this).”

Throughout the day, people continued to stream into the area, even when it rained for a spell in the afternoon, and with the sun beating down afterwards.

Ms Joyce Khoo, 30, got there at around noon with her husband, just as it started to drizzle.

The Singaporean pilates instructor, who now lives in Jakarta, had flown back yesterday for a day, specially to pay her respects to Mr Lee.

“Living overseas makes you very conscious of how lucky we are as Singapore citizens... It’s all due to the dogged determination of Mr Lee and the first generation of Singaporeans. I would have regretted it if I hadn’t come back,” she said.

As night fell again, the crowd grew larger, backing up to Raffles City. Public transport operators extended their hours yesterday, with buses and MRT trains to operate overnight.

Father-and-son pair Albert and Alex Lim were among those who arrived by public transport.

The older Mr Lim, 54, and his son, 24, came prepared to wait through the night. They said they “will be here as long as it takes”.

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PRESSING ON

“I can’t queue for eight hours but I can still handle four hours. I have to come and pay my respects or I won’t feel good.”

– Madam Lee Yong Jong (below), 81, who leans on an umbrella for support when she walks. She decided to join the queue yesterday because it was too crowded the past few days



WELL-HANDLED

“As someone who works in logistics, I feel the queue is well-organised and moving very quickly. We’re residents of Tanjong Pagar and Lee Kuan Yew has been our longest-serving MP. We had to come and do our part and decided to come today because tomorrow is the last day and might be even more crowded.”

– Logistics manager Lee Yoong Yoong (below), 42, who went to pay his respects with his six-year-old son Masan Lee



BENEFIT OF DOUBT

“We give people the benefit of the doubt when they say they are feeling unwell. Those who come with elderly parents can also join the priority queue. Even with the heat, most people come in with a smile on their faces.”

– Volunteer queue coordinator Selvie Mabel (below), 46, on letting people join the priority queue



LKY AIRPORT?

ALMOST 10,000 people have signed an online petition calling for Changi International Airport to be renamed in honour of Singapore’s founding Prime Minister.

While the petition acknowledged that Mr Lee did not need the recognition, it said: “Renaming the airport ‘Lee Kuan Yew (LKY) International Airport’ will serve to remind all Singaporeans of the foundations laid to bear the successes we see today.”

The petition was started on Wednesday, two days after Mr Lee died at age 91, by an individual with a website account named “Remembering LKY”.

Addressed to Transport Minister Lui Tuck Yew, it was posted on petition website Change.org. It drew mixed reactions, some of which opposed the suggestion.

Netizen Boey Wai Yen pointed out that money, time and effort would be needed to carry out the renaming exercise.

She and others suggested that new landmarks be named after Mr Lee instead.

Numbers behind massive effort

HANDLING the unprecedented crowds that have formed since Wednesday to pay their last respects to Mr Lee Kuan Yew, who is lying in state at Parliament House, has been a massive task

276,000

people turned up to pay their last respects, as at 7pm yesterday

107,150

condolence cards, gifts and flowers received from visitors

5,600

SAF personnel involved in the lying in state and tomorrow’s state funeral procession, twice the number first estimated

300

tents

1,000

barricades

to manage the queues. The operation was handled by the Singapore Army’s 9th Division.

60

SAF personnel rostered for round-the-clock vigil guard duties, up from the initial 30

for organisers of the former Prime Minister’s state funeral.

The decision to extend visiting hours at Parliament House from 10 hours to 24 hours meant that organisers, comprising govern-

ment agencies and the Singapore Armed Forces, had to beef up their operations to deal with bigger crowds. These are the numbers behind the huge operation mounted over the past few days.

LYING IN STATE

S'pore lucky to have Mr Lee, says Chiam

His contributions to S'pore outweighed the criticisms made by the opposition

By RACHEL AU-YONG

MR LEE Kuan Yew's contributions to Singapore outweighed the criticisms made by the opposition, said old adversary Chiam See Tong in a touching tribute yesterday afternoon.

"Singapore is very lucky to have Mr Lee as her first Prime Minister," the leader of the Singapore People's Party told reporters, after paying his last respects to Mr Lee, who is lying in state at Parliament House.

Recounting the first time he met Mr Lee, Mr Chiam said he was struck by how stern he was. "He said, 'Who is this oppositionist?' I don't think he knew me at that time. And he said, 'Mr Chiam, I'll see you in Parliament.'"

"But the way he said it, it was as if he said, 'I'll see you in the boxing ring.'"

An emotional Mr Chiam also acknowledged that Mr Lee was a "great debater", but one who never humiliated him, even during their frequent clashes in the House. "In Parliament, he clobbered me. But... I never lost my dignity or decorum."

Looking back into the hall, where several hundred people were filing past Mr Lee's casket, Mr Chiam murmured: "This is where he worked."

Earlier in the hall, Mr Chiam, who celebrated his 80th birthday two weeks ago, got out of his wheelchair and walked slowly to-

wards Mr Lee's casket.

Supported by his wife, Non-Constituency MP Lina Chiam, and Environment and Water Resources Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, he climbed a few steps towards the casket to bid Mr Lee a final farewell.

Dr Balakrishnan later said in a Facebook post that Mr Chiam insisted on climbing the steps, although he was physically infirm. "They had mutual respect for each other's integrity, gumption and unflinching passion."

Mr Chiam's daughter Camilla had also accompanied him to Parliament House. The family were later received by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and his wife Ho Ching, who clasped Mr Chiam's hand throughout the exchange.

Mr Chiam, the longest-serving opposition MP until 2011, had earlier this week penned a heartfelt condolence letter to PM Lee on his father's death.

In the letter, he said the late Mr Lee was to Singapore what former British prime minister Winston Churchill was to his country. "He was there, just as Britain needed Winston Churchill during World War II – always taking a strategic and long-term view of Singapore."

Mr Chiam added: "His absence from our 50th National Day Parade later this year will be particularly poignant to us."

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Opposition politician Chiam See Tong (left) shaking hands with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong after paying his respects to the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew even as he admitted that they were not close friends. "No matter how friendly or unfriendly we are, the passing away of a man you know well saddens you. I cannot say I was a close friend of Kuan Yew. But still I feel sad at his demise," Dr Mahathir wrote on his personal blog.

Banker remembers 'helpful, open-minded' man

By LIM YAN LIANG

IN THE early 2000s, a push by then Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew to consolidate Singapore's banking sector put the former Overseas Union Bank (OUB) in a tough position, said Mr Peter Seah, who was the bank's president at the time.

Mr Lee had wanted the banks to merge and grow larger so they could compete better globally.

Although it had been the fastest-growing local bank in the 1990s, OUB was still the smallest and thus a "potential victim" to be acquired by its larger competitors, recalled Mr Seah yesterday.

"I had my own views then: OUB was a bank worth preserving, so I actually reached out to (Mr Lee)," said Mr Seah. "I wrote him a letter, never expecting any response. But he called me up, and grilled me over my thoughts, over my arguments."

Mr Lee also gave him some advice – do something or the bank would be taken over – said Mr Seah, speaking to reporters at Parliament House yesterday after pay-

ing his last respects to Mr Lee.

"I always remembered him as somebody who I least expected (to do so) but who reached out, was helpful, was understanding, was open-minded and was warm," said Mr Seah.

While OUB was eventually acquired by UOB, Mr Lee's prediction proved prescient: The consolidation of the banking scene left those standing in better shape to compete with their foreign peers.

"Today we have three of the world's strongest and safest banks, (which are among) the largest banks in Asia, able to withstand – no, compete – with all the global banks," said Mr Seah, who is now chairman of DBS Bank.

"DBS, for example, is in the top 50 banks in the world in terms of market capitalisation. Coming from a small island, I think that's a great achievement."

Besides Mr Seah, other visitors who paid their respects to Mr Lee yesterday included Nepal's Honorary Deputy Prime Minister Prakash Man Singh, Maldivian President Abdulla Yameen and Israeli President Reuven Rivlin.

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Not close friends, but I still feel sad at his passing, says Mahathir

By ASRUL HADI ABDULLAH SANI
MALAYSIA CORRESPONDENT
IN KUALA LUMPUR

MALAYSIA'S combative former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad expressed sadness over the passing of Mr Lee Kuan Yew even as he admitted that they were not close friends.

"No matter how friendly or unfriendly we are, the passing away of a man you know well saddens you. I cannot say I was a close friend of Kuan Yew. But still I feel sad at his demise," Dr Mahathir wrote on his personal blog.

Dr Mahathir became his country's fourth prime minister in 1981. He and Mr Lee were counterparts until Mr Lee stepped down in 1990, while Dr Mahathir continued in office until 2003.

The Malaysian leader, who is still influential in his country, said Mr Lee's death marked the end of an era of strong leaders. "Now Kuan Yew is no more. His passage marks the end of the period when those who fought for independence led their countries and knew the value of independence. ASEAN lost strong leadership after President Suharto and Lee Kuan Yew."

He said he "crossed swords" many times with Mr Lee after Singapore joined Malaysia in 1963, but "there was no enmity".

"I first met Kuan Yew when I was a member of Parliament in 1964 after Singapore joined Malaysia in 1963. We crossed swords many times during the debates. But there was no enmity, only differences in our views of what was good for the newborn nation," Dr Mahathir said.

"He included me among the ultra Malays who were responsible for the racial riots in Singapore. Actually, I never went to Singapore to stir up trouble. Somebody else whom I would not name did."

Dr Mahathir paid a courtesy call on Mr Lee when he became prime minister in 1981 and both agreed their countries should advance their clocks by half an hour.

"I am afraid on most other issues, we could not agree."

Strong personalities both, they often did not see eye to eye on bilateral issues. The water agreement, for instance, led to numerous verbal clashes.

Dr Mahathir once slammed Mr Lee as a "Chinese emperor" and "big frog in a small pond" who harboured ambitions of becoming the first Chinese Prime Minister of Malaysia.

Former Singapore High Com-



Mr Lee receiving Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the airport on his first visit to Singapore as prime minister of Malaysia. ST FILE PHOTO

missioner to Malaysia, Mr K. Kesavapany, said Dr Mahathir's tribute was not surprising.

"Leaders have to maintain a public persona, but at the same time their private position would be different. They both in a sense adored each other, but the national position of both countries turned them into adversaries."

Mr Kesavapany described the relationship between the two leaders as like "iron is turned into steel when there is fire".

Despite the public hostility, Dr Mahathir seemed to suggest they did care for each other. "When I had a heart attack in 1989 and required open heart surgery, he cared enough to ring up my wife to ask her to delay the operation as he had arranged for the best heart surgeon, a Singaporean living in Australia, to do the operation," he wrote.

"But by then, I had been given pre-med and was asleep prior to the operation the next day."

When Mr Lee was ill, Dr Mahathir said he asked to see him. "He agreed, but the night before the visit, the Singapore High Commissioner received a message that he was very sick and could not see me."

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What Mahathir wrote on his blog

NO MATTER how friendly or unfriendly we are, the passing away of a man you know well saddens you.

I cannot say I was a close friend of Kuan Yew. But still, I feel sad at his demise.

Kuan Yew became well known at a young age. I was a student in Singapore when I read about his defence of labour unions.

I first met Kuan Yew when I was a member of Parliament in 1964 after Singapore joined Malaysia in 1963. We crossed swords many times during the debates. But there was no enmity, only differences in our views of what was good for the newborn nation. He included me among the ultra Malays who were responsible for the racial riots in Singapore. Actually, I never went to Singapore to stir up trouble. Somebody else whom I would not name did.

The Tunku attended the inaugural meeting of the PAP and was quite friendly with Kuan Yew. He believed Kuan Yew was a bastion against communism. But when the PAP contested in the Malaysian elections in 1964 with Malaysian Malaysia as its slogan, Tunku felt that the PAP's presence in Malaysia was going to be disruptive for the country.

When I became PM in 1981, I paid a courtesy call on Kuan Yew. It was a friendly call and he immediately agreed to my proposal that the Malaysia and Singapore times, which had always been the same, should be advanced by half an hour. I explained that it would be easier adjusting our time when travelling as we would fall within

the time zones fixed for the whole world at one-hour intervals.

I am afraid on most other issues, we could not agree.

When I had a heart attack in 1989 and required open heart surgery, he cared enough to ring up my wife to ask her to delay the operation as he had arranged for the best heart surgeon, a Singaporean living in Australia, to do the operation. But by then, I had been given pre-med and was asleep prior to the operation the next day.

My wife thanked him but apologised. She promised to ring him up after the operation. She did the next evening.

When he was ill, I requested to see him. He agreed but the night before the visit, the Singapore High Commissioner received a message that he was very sick and could not see me.

Still, when he attended the Nihon Keizai Shimbun annual conference on the Future of Asia in Tokyo, which I never failed to attend, I went up to him at dinner to ask how he was. We sat down together to chat and the Japanese photographers took our pictures, promising not to put them in the press. I wouldn't mind even if they did. But I suppose people will make all kinds of stories about it.

Now, Kuan Yew is no more. His passage marks the end of the period when those who fought for independence led their countries and knew the value of independence.

ASEAN lost strong leadership after President Suharto and Lee Kuan Yew.



Indonesia's fifth president Megawati Sukarnoputri – daughter of the first president, Sukarno – paying her respects at Parliament House. With her is her daughter Puan Maharani. ST PHOTO: DESMOND FOO

Indonesian dignitaries pay respects

TWO former presidents of Indonesia were among several Indonesian dignitaries who paid their last respects to Mr Lee Kuan Yew yesterday.

They were Ms Megawati Sukarnoputri, daughter of the country's first president Sukarno, and Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who was succeeded by current President Joko Widodo.

Ms Megawati told reporters that Mr Lee was her mentor.

"Personally, I have a good relationship with him, and also his family," she said in Bahasa Indonesia.

She added that she was in Singapore as head of her party, the Indonesian Democratic Party-Struggle (PDI-P), as well as the Sukarno family.

Ms Megawati was received by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and his wife Ho Ching.

Dr Yudhoyono arrived with his wife. A former general, he saluted Mr Lee before bowing. Earlier this week, he said in a condolence message that Mr Lee was a close personal friend as well as "a true friend of Indonesia."

"I have always benefited from my conversations with him," he added. "In every one of those meetings, he always gave me valuable motivation and advice for the success of Indonesia."

He also said Mr Lee would be "sorely missed, not just by Singaporeans, but by Indonesians and South-east Asians".

The daughters of Indonesia's second president, the late Suharto, also came to pay their respects. They were Ms Siti Hardiyanti Rukmana "Tutut" Suharto, Ms Siti Hediati Hariyadi "Titiek" Suharto, and Ms Siti Hutami Endang "Mamiek" Suharto.

Mr Lee and Mr Suharto had worked closely while in power, setting the stage for a relationship that helped stabilise the region.

President Joko will attend Mr Lee's funeral tomorrow.

RACHEL AU-YONG



Indonesia's sixth president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (top) and his wife Kristiani Herawati paying their respects yesterday. Also at Parliament House were the daughters of Indonesia's second president, Suharto. Seen here are Ms Siti Hardiyanti Rukmana (above, in black) and Siti Hediati Hariyadi, with PM Lee's wife Ho Ching. ST PHOTOS: DESMOND FOO, DESMOND LIM

LYING IN STATE

Mr Lee Kuan Yew
1923 - 2015



'Mr Lee thought about others, even when he was sick'

Doctors who treated former PM reveal his softer side in SGH tribute session

By SALMA KHALIK
SENIOR HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

MR LEE Kuan Yew was very sick the night before he was hospitalised on Feb 5.

But he did not want to go to hospital immediately as it would mean waking up the senior doctors. He told his security officer to wait until after 6am the following day, when he knew most senior doctors would be awake.

"I was glad the security staff did not follow that particular instruction but brought him in straightaway," Professor Fong Kok Fong, chairman of Singapore General Hospital's (SGH) Medical Board, said yesterday.

"More than six weeks on, looking back, I'm still overwhelmed by the kindness of thought he had for others, even when he's unwell," said Prof Fong, who first met Mr Lee about 18 years ago.

He was speaking at a closed-door tribute session at SGH for Singapore's first Prime Minister, who died on Monday after 47 days at the hospital. Mr Lee was 91.

Other speakers who paid homage included Professor Christopher Cheng and Professor Ivy Ng,

who opened the session. But they wanted their tributes to remain private. The session was attended by about 1,000 SingHealth staff from its various institutions.

Prof Fong said many people viewed Mr Lee as someone who was stern, maybe even combative at times.

"Not many have the opportunity to see the softer or gentler side of him. It is indeed a great privilege for me to have had that opportunity."

The first time he travelled with Mr Lee as his physician, he was asked to sit, and asked whether he wanted some water. Prof Fong said Mr Lee probably saw, from the perspiration on his brow, how anxious he was.

Mr Lee then poured him a glass of water. "It was a simple gesture of courtesy but spoke volumes about the way he treated and cared for the people around him."

On a trip to Britain several years ago, the staff accompanying Mr Lee were not told that they were also invited to attend a black-tie dinner. But they either had to rent the appropriate attire for \$300 to \$400, or forgo the dinner and wait outside.

When Mr Lee found out, he

told them not to waste their money and to attend the dinner in a lounge suit and tie.

But what impressed Prof Fong was that Mr Lee himself dressed the same way as the rest of his delegation, even though he had the appropriate attire, as he was the guest of honour and was giving a speech.

"Such considerate behaviour and support from a boss is indeed very, very rare and very difficult to find," said Prof Fong.

Like many educated patients, Mr Lee would query and disagree with the medicines prescribed for him.

But after discussing it with the doctor, Mr Lee would say: "I'm not a doctor, I respect your views and recommendations. Though I may not fully agree with them, I'll follow your instructions."

Yesterday, Prof Fong told colleagues he often asked himself: "How can I repay what Minister Mentor has done for all of us?"

The answer, he said, is simple. "Follow his vision, remember his deeds and carry out our core mission."

Mr Lee, in a speech at SGH's 85th anniversary celebrations in 2006, had said: "The core mission of SGH is to serve Singaporeans with high-quality, affordable healthcare."

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(Clockwise from left) A woman unable to hold back her tears while paying her final respects to Mr Lee; thousands continued to stream into Parliament House yesterday to say their final farewells; a man paying his respects by kneeling near Mr Lee's casket, with his palms joined together in prayer; elderly Singaporeans, including those in wheelchairs, were among those who braved the heat and queued for hours to pay tribute to Mr Lee yesterday. ST PHOTOS: DESMOND FONG, ALPHONSUS CHERN, MARK CHEONG



The local football fraternity turned up in force at Toa Payoh Central Community Club to pay their respects to Mr Lee yesterday morning. They bowed before Mr Lee's portrait and wrote their condolence messages. ST PHOTO: AZIZ HUSSIN

Football fraternity pays tribute

By AFIQ ROSLAN

AS SINGAPORE basked in the glory of the 1977 Malaysia Cup win after beating Penang 3-2, then Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew met and congratulated the victorious national football team at the Istana.

The reception is etched vividly in the mind of striker Ho Kwang Hock. The 58-year-old recalled yesterday: "He came in, clad in golf attire, shorts and all, and went around shaking our hands."

"The Prime Minister was coming to each and every one of us to shake our hands, not us to him." Mr Ho's anecdote is just one of many recollections as Singapore's football fraternity turned up in force at Toa Payoh Central Com-

munity Club to pay their respects to Mr Lee yesterday morning.

Led by Football Association of Singapore (FAS) president Zaimudin Nordin, more than 200 players and officials from the FAS and local Great Eastern-Yeo's S-League clubs, as well as players from the LionsXII, Courts Young Lions and various Centre of Excellence and National Football Academy age-group teams, bowed before Mr Lee's portrait and wrote their condolence messages.

Said Mr Zaimudin: "The footballers are all part of Singapore's history and we came together to remember the great man and his contributions to Singapore's sports and all that he had done for our country."

He also remembers an inquisitive Mr Lee: "He continued to learn, wanting me to explain to him about Formula One, even at his age. Even as Singapore went through changes, he wanted to see how it developed."

Former national defender Lim Teng Sai, also from the triumphant 1977 team, paid his own tribute by standing in line for 3½ hours on Wednesday at Parliament House. The 61-year-old said: "I am grateful to Mr Lee for having fought off the communists, and building a community that is fair to everybody."

"I don't mind standing in the sun for the man who contributed so much to my country."

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TOMORROW'S STATE FUNERAL

Mr Lee Kuan Yew
1923 - 2015

STATE FUNERAL PROCESSION

WHEN TO GO

The procession starts at 12.30pm and will arrive at the UCC before 2pm. Lines are expected to be longer nearer Parliament and in town.

HOW TO GO

There are several MRT stations along or close to the route: Clarke Quay, City Hall, Esplanade, Raffles Place, Downtown, Telok Ayer, Tanjong Pagar, Outram Park, Commonwealth, Buona Vista and Dover.

WHERE TO STAND

Some good spots to observe the procession are roads near the Padang, Raffles Quay, and outside the NTUC building and Singapore Conference Hall, though these are likely to be more crowded.

Those living along Jalan Bukit Merah, part of Queensway and Commonwealth Avenue, and Commonwealth Avenue West can also observe the procession from their blocks.

Members of the public are advised to stay on public footpaths for their own safety.

Go to www.mytransport.sg, www.sbstransit.com.sg and www.smt.com.sg for details on bus service diversions.

THE FINAL JOURNEY

The procession from Parliament House to the state funeral service will pass through key landmarks and areas of special significance for Mr Lee Kuan Yew. **Janice Heng and Zakir Hussain** report.



The new Parliament House opened in 1999, adjacent to the old building, which was built in 1827. ST PHOTO: LIM SIN THAI

Parliament House and Old Parliament House

In the final sitting in the old Parliament House, before the adjacent new one opened in 1999, then Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew said: "The importance of this Chamber did not, and does not, depend upon its size and its grandeur, but upon the

quality of the men and women who occupy it as representatives of the people."

Built in 1827, the old Parliament House served for many years as the colonial government's courthouse.

It was repurposed by the Legislative Assembly, to which Mr Lee Kuan Yew was elected as an opposition assemblyman in 1955. After independence in 1965, it became Parliament House.



City Hall and the Padang

The funeral procession will travel the length of the Padang, where audiences heard many a historical speech delivered by Mr Lee from the steps of City Hall.

It was here that he spoke to Singaporeans celebrating the start of self-government on June 3, 1959, and where he read the Malaysia Proclamation on Sept 16, 1963.

The Padang was where Mr Lee saw Singapore's first National Day Parade in 1966. It returns there this year.

Marina Bay

Mr Lee's vision to build a dam and create a freshwater reservoir in the heart of the city saw the construction of Marina Barrage, which opened in 2008, and the creation of Marina Reservoir, part of his goal of making Singapore self-sufficient in water.

Both were only possible with the clean-up of the Singapore River in the late 1970s under Mr Lee's leadership. Gardens by the Bay has also been built, and can trace its origins to Mr Lee's tree-planting campaign.



Mr Lee at the National Day Rally at the University Cultural Centre in 2003. ST FILE PHOTO

University Cultural Centre

The University Cultural Centre was the venue for the Prime Minister's annual National Day Rally speech from 2001 to 2012, and although the late Mr Lee did not deliver any rally speeches here, he spoke at students' forums and other events.

The funeral service will take place from 2pm

to 5.15pm.

Civil service head Peter Ong is the master of ceremony and 10 eulogies will be delivered. Among those who will be delivering the eulogies are Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, President Tony Tan Keng Yam and Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong.

Sirens will sound for nation to observe a minute's silence

Funeral procession will pass landmarks that represent Mr Lee's lasting legacy for Singapore

By **ZAKIR HUSSAIN**
DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

SINGAPOREANS are expected to line the streets in large numbers tomorrow afternoon as the country bids a solemn final farewell to its founding Prime Minister after a week of mourning.

Sirens will also sound nationwide at about 4pm to signal the start and end of a minute of silence for Mr Lee Kuan Yew, who died on Monday at age 91.

The 15.4km-long state funeral procession route will pass by several historic, as well as more recent, defining landmarks of the country Mr Lee had shaped in his career.

These include the NTUC Centre and Trade Union House, which reflect Mr Lee's beginnings as a lawyer defending workers, the Port of Singapore and his Tanjong Pagar constituency, as well as Bukit Merah, Queenstown and Commonwealth housing estates, the State Funeral Organising Committee said.

A rehearsal for the funeral procession was also held early yesterday morning.

The casket bearing Mr Lee will be lifted from its catafalque at Parliament House, where his body has been lying in state since Wednesday, by eight officers from the army, air force, navy and the police shortly before 12.30pm.

The cortege will be led by four guard-of-honour contingents from the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) and the Singapore Police Force (SPF). The SAF Military Band will play a funeral march.

As the gun carriage leaves the Parliament driveway, some 48 men from the SAF and SPF in ceremonial military trucks will escort it.

The procession will then turn into Parliament Place as the first round of a 21-gun salute is fired from four ceremonial howitzers on the Padang.

The vehicle will make its way to St Andrew's Road and past City Hall, from where steps Mr Lee once spoke on many a historic occasion.



Singapore Armed Forces and Singapore Police Force officers rehearsing at the entrance of University Cultural Centre yesterday for the state funeral. PHOTO: LIM YAOHUI FOR THE STRAITS TIMES

Development and Defence Maliki Osman and Nominated MP K. Karthikeyan will also be pallbearers.

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The vehicle will make its way to St Andrew's Road and past City Hall, from where steps Mr Lee once spoke on many a historic occasion.

As the procession passes City Hall, the Republic of Singapore Air Force's Black Knights will fly a Missing Man Formation - with one aircraft leaving the group - as an aerial salute for Mr Lee.

Two Navy vessels will do a sailpast in the waters off Marina Barrage.

About 1,700 students from various secondary schools and junior colleges will line the procession route.

The 21st volley will be fired as the procession travels out of sight of the Padang and heads to the University Cultural Centre (UCC) for the funeral service.

The procession will travel at around 25kmh, and take about 37 minutes to cover the route. It is expected to reach UCC by 1.45pm, where the casket will be carried in a slow march to the tune of Dead March From Saul, performed by the SAF

Military Band.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and family members will follow the procession into the UCC Hall, where the casket will be placed on a bier for the service.

At the end of the service, a lone bugler from the SAF band will sound the Last Post, and the Singapore Civil Defence Force Public Warning System siren will sound nationwide for 15 seconds to rally everyone in Singapore to observe a minute of silence.

The Rouse, a symbolic callback to duty, will then be sounded, and all citizens are encouraged to join in the recitation of the Pledge and the National Anthem.

The funeral procession will then make its final journey to Mandai Crematorium for a private cremation service.

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SAF's highest honours

By **JERMYN CHOW**
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Singapore Armed Forces will give Mr Lee Kuan Yew the highest honours on land, air and sea.

In a Facebook post, Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen said four ceremonial 25-pound guns at the Padang will fire the 21-gun salute at the start of the funeral procession.

At the same time, four F-16 fighter jets from the Republic of Singapore Air Force aerial display team, the Black Knights, will fly in a "missing man" formation, an aerial salute to honour dignitaries who have died or fallen soldiers.

The aircraft will fly in a "V" formation and, as they approach City Hall, one jet will leave and head west, signifying a final flight towards the setting sun. The gap it leaves symbolises the missing man. This is only the second time that the team will perform this tribute. It did so at the 2008 Singapore Airshow to honour a teammate who had died of cancer.

As Mr Lee's body crosses the Esplanade Bridge, naval patrol vessels RSS Dauntless and RSS Resilience will perform a ceremonial sailpast off the Marina Barrage. Referring to a Chinese poem Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong had shared with him, Mr Ng said: "Mr Lee Sun Yew would encourage us to continue to live life to its fullest, to take Singapore further and make the world proud of what we can accomplish from what he had started."

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Mr Lee speaking at the NTUC May Day rally at the Singapore Conference Hall in 1983. ST FILE PHOTO



Mr Lee thanking voters in Tanjong Pagar after a September 1962 referendum on Malaysia. ST FILE PHOTO

Tanjong Pagar

Mr Lee was first elected assemblyman for Tanjong Pagar on April 2, 1955, and continued representing the area until his death, an unsurpassed record of 60 years.

In 1991, it became part of Tanjong Pagar GRC, which has not been contested since. The procession will drive past part of the Port of Singapore and the Central Business District.

It will also pass by the award-winning public housing project Pinnacle@Duxton.



Queenstown is where the first flats were sold under the Home Ownership For The People scheme. ST FILE PHOTO

Bukit Merah and Queenstown

Bukit Merah and Queenstown are home to some of the earliest public flats in Singapore, built both by the colonial-era Singapore Improvement Trust and its successor, the Housing Board. Queenstown is where the first HDB flats were sold under the Home Ownership For The People scheme, introduced in 1964.

Mr Lee sought to turn Singapore into a nation of home-owners as a way to give citizens a stake in the country. "It is the foundation upon which nationhood was forged," he said.

NTUC Centre and Singapore Conference Hall

Mr Lee began his political life by representing trade unions. As a lawyer in 1952, he won a case for postal workers who had gone on strike. He was soon appointed adviser to more than 50 unions,

which became his support base in his first election.

The Singapore Conference Hall was originally Trade Union House, completed in 1965 to fulfil the PAP's election promise of building a

headquarters for the trade union movement, and remained the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC) headquarters until 2000.

The NTUC Centre is now at One Marina Boulevard.



The new headquarters at 2, Lengkok Bahru. Mr Lee gave CPIB greater powers in 1959. PHOTO: CPIB

CPIB Headquarters

The Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau was set up in 1952 by the British, but it was Mr Lee who gave it greater powers and tightened laws against corruption when he took over in 1959. Known for his fierce defence of integrity in the public service, Mr Lee set up systems and processes to ensure that every dollar was properly accounted for, and any wrongdoing was swiftly addressed.



Mr Lee saw an educated workforce as key to Singapore's future. PHOTO: SINGAPORE POLYTECHNIC

Schools and Singapore Poly

The funeral procession will pass educational institutions, including Gan Eng Seng Primary, Henderson Secondary, Bukit Merah Secondary and Singapore Polytechnic, before entering the National University of Singapore campus for the state funeral. Mr Lee saw an educated workforce as key to Singapore's future. As he put it in a speech on the eve of National Day in 1967: "It is the quality of our youth that will determine our future. And we have to invest in them more than any other sector."



A ‘Singaporean Singapore’ right from the start

DPM Teo tells of founding father’s ‘hard-fought gift’ of multiracialism

By CHARISSA YONG and MELODY ZACCHUEUS

MR LEE Kuan Yew and his colleagues refused to appeal to exclusive racial and religious identities in Singapore’s early days, choosing instead the more difficult path of creating a “Singaporean Singapore”, said Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean.

Today, Singapore is a harmonious, multiracial country in large part because of Mr Lee’s determination to weave multiracialism into its very foundation, said Mr Teo yesterday.

Singapore’s first Prime Minister understood the need to inculcate a sense “that we are all Singaporeans, first and foremost, regardless of race”, he told 2,000 people at a memorial organised by community groups.

Those present included leaders of community groups, representatives from the business sector as well as teachers and students.

Also present were Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, his wife Ho Ching and Cabinet members.

The event was held at Kallang Theatre, where Mr Lee gave his last National Day Rally speech as Prime Minister in 1990.

Mr Teo, who is also Home Affairs Minister, paid tribute to Mr Lee’s legacy and “hard-fought gift” of multiracialism, which Singapore must never take for granted.

lay, Indian and Eurasian communities also spoke of how Mr Lee’s policies helped strengthen their communities and Singapore’s multicultural fabric.

Speaking in Malay, former Singapore mufti Shaikh Syed Isa Semait said the Malay/Muslim community has benefited from the establishment of institutions such as the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis), the Syariah Court and the Registry of Muslim Marriages.

Sinda’s Dr N. Varaprasad said the Indian community, itself an amalgam of many sub-communities, is indebted to Mr Lee for giving them equal opportunity, something they did not have even in their homeland.

The Eurasian Association’s president, Mr Bennett Theseira, paid tribute to how Mr Lee and several Eurasian pioneers worked together to build Singapore’s world-class civil service.

Chinese community leader Chua Tian Poh said he was touched by Mr Lee’s interest in setting up a fund to strengthen bilingual education.

Mr Lee even personally donated \$12 million to the Lee Kuan Yew Bilingual Fund.

Tearing up, Mr Chua said in Mandarin that Mr Lee was already in his 80s when he approached him with the idea to set up the fund.

The ceremony ended with representatives from each ethnic group presenting condolence letters to PM Lee and his wife.

Leaders from the Chinese, Ma-

ed. The late Mr Lee valued the contributions each community could make, and recognised their uniqueness and differences, he said.

But Mr Lee was “conscious of the real dangers of chauvinism, whether based on language, race or religion”, said Mr Teo.

He added that Mr Lee had seen how these differences were exploited during Singapore’s early years as an independent state, which led to conflict.

“He knew that if each community pushed for more and more, others would similarly push back. And each community and our entire country would end up with less,” said Mr Teo.

Mr Lee recognised that harmony rested on a delicate balance based on give and take, mutual trust and understanding, and treating everyone fairly, regardless of race, religion or creed, added Mr Teo.

He enshrined it in policies such as having national schools not segregated by race, and bringing people together through public housing rather than have them living separately in ethnic enclaves.

He also encouraged the spirit of community self-help, now seen in groups such as the Chinese Development Assistance Council, Mendaki, the Association of Muslim Professionals, Singapore Indian Development Association (Sinda) and the Eurasian Association.

Leaders from the Chinese, Ma-



ST PHOTOS: ONG WEE JIN

“

He has left behind all those fundamental values that are necessary for the governance of Singapore: integrity, honesty, equality, justice. We are not canonising Mr Lee because although he was a man of many achievements... he had his flaws...I think it is important for us to move on and to forgive...

– Archbishop William Goh, noting that while many were hurt by the 1987 Marxist incident, it is time to move on

”



ST PHOTO: BERITA HARIAN

Reflect on Mr Lee’s legacy and do good, Muslims urged

By ZAKIR HUSSAIN
DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

MUSLIMS in Singapore were reminded of Mr Lee Kuan Yew’s contributions to the community and nation in a Friday sermon prepared by the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis) for the 68 mosques.

The sermon was on the theme of how Muslims should use their limited time on earth to do good deeds.

He called on worshippers to reflect on Mr Lee’s legacy and contributions, and think about what

they could do that will leave an impact on others, as Mr Lee had.

“The passing of Singapore’s first Prime Minister has touched the hearts of many Singaporeans, including members of the Muslim community.”

“He played a huge role in our multiracial and multi-religious society,” said Ustaz Irwan Hadi Mohd Shuhaimy, reading the sermon yesterday at Toa Payoh’s Mohajirin Mosque.

“He led a team of leaders who worked with him to develop Singapore to become a prosperous country that is envied by many. This

was achieved, among other things, through the harmonious relationship between people of different races, economic development and an excellent education system.”

The sermon added: “Let us think of the contributions that we have made and the impact of our actions on those whom we will eventually leave behind.”

Mr Iskandar Kastari, 92, a retired driver who was born in Central Java and came to Singapore in 1943, welcomed the sermon’s theme, and said Mr Lee was “a good man who helped improve the lives of the poor”.



‘Time to move on from Marxist conspiracy’

Returning to dark period won’t help in nation-building: Archbishop Goh

By MELODY ZACCHUEUS

THE late Mr Lee Kuan Yew was a man of conviction who did what he thought was best for the country, said the Catholic Church’s Archbishop William Goh yesterday.

He was a dedicated father who cared for the country as if the people were part of his own family, said Archbishop Goh at a mass for Singapore’s first Prime Minister.

Still, while he was a leader who helped to give Singaporeans education, medical care and jobs, the archbishop said there are many people who do not agree with certain policies that Mr Lee introduced.

These included family planning policies such as the “Stop At Two” programme and the legalisation of abortion, the legalisation of casinos and his eugenics theory, which supports the idea that educated Singaporeans marry in order to produce brighter offspring.

The Catholic Church had arranged for a special memorial mass for Mr Lee, who died on Monday morning at the age of 91. During the mass, they prayed for his soul and for his family. Worshippers also penned about 1,000 prayer messages in his memory.

Addressing the congregation that spilled out of St Joseph’s Church in Victoria Street into its surrounding carpark grounds, the archbishop said Mr Lee was a man who stood by his beliefs and had the vision and wisdom to turn Singapore into what it is today.

“He has left behind all those fundamental values that are necessary for the governance of Singapore: integrity, honesty, equality, justice,” he said.

“We are not canonising Mr Lee because although he was a man of many achievements... he had his flaws.”

In particular, he said the 1987 Marxist conspiracy was a “dark period” in the Church’s history here.

In May and June that year, 22 people – who included many with links to the Catholic Church – were arrested under the Internal

Security Act. They were accused of planning to overthrow the Government under the cover of the Catholic Church.

“We can disagree with him but the point remains... If he had been harsh with his political opponents, it gathered (the case) because this man would do everything to protect the existence of Singapore and the people,” said the archbishop.

Archbishop Goh later told the media that many people were “wounded and hurt” by the 1987 incident.

“I think it is important for us to move on and to forgive and, most of all, to continue to build the country,” he said.

“There’s no point to go back to the past, trying to lick our wounds because it will not help in nation-building... And, as Christians, all the more we should forgive and forget.”

Mr Lee, said Archbishop Goh, did not oppose religion and in fact promoted it.

What Mr Lee did not tolerate were people who used religion for political purposes.

“When you start mixing religion with politics, you have crossed the line. Either you get involved in politics or you get involved in religion but not under the guise of religion,” said Archbishop Goh.

Mr James Galvin Loh, 60, a retired foreign exchange broker, described the archbishop’s message as “truthful and balanced”.

He was among the thousands who stood listening to the mass outside the church building, as all 1,200 seats for the 1.15pm mass had been filled by 11am.

He said: “The Marxist incident happened so long ago. There’s no point hanging on to it. What’s important is that the existing cordial relationship between the Church and the state continues. It’s a new era now.”

Ms Adrienne Desker, 52, a software developer, said she also appreciated the archbishop’s homily.

“We’re all here to celebrate a life well-lived,” she said.

Ritz-Carlton cancels SuperBrunch

THE Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore has cancelled its sold-out SuperBrunch, which was slated to take place tomorrow.

It made the decision on Tuesday, out of respect for former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, who died on Monday. His funeral takes place tomorrow.

Mr Peter Mainguy, the hotel’s general manager, said: “Although our culinary team had spent many months planning and preparing for the event, there was no doubt that it was the proper thing to do; giving our guests and employees the opportunity to pay their respects to Mr Lee.”

About 500 people were to have gone to SuperBrunch, a twice-yearly event since 2011. It was to have featured a 15m-long seafood counter featuring oysters and sashimi; roast meats; and Louis Roederer champagne.

Mr Mainguy added: “Our suppliers were very understanding and let us cancel most of the food and decor ordered for the event without penalty.”

Diners who have paid for the event will be given full refunds. Prices for SuperBrunch start from \$288++ for adults. The next edition will take place in October or November this year.

Solemn Sunday in Orchard Road

THE mood in Orchard Road tomorrow will be sombre, with banners removed and screens in malls televising the state funeral of Singapore’s founding father Lee Kuan Yew.

The lighting on store-fronts and mall facades will be dimmed and all coloured lights switched off. Pop-up stores have already been removed.

The Orchard Road Business Association has advised its 133 members, including 20 mall owners, to “tone down everything that is of a celebratory nature”, said its executive director Steven Goh.

“It will be a solemn Sunday for us,” he said.

The state funeral service, which starts at 2pm tomorrow, will be televised on shopping centre ION Orchard’s facade.

It will also be shown on the SPHIMBO (Out-of-Home Media of SPH) indoor video wall at mall 313@Somerset.

Other malls televising the service, to be held at National University of Singapore’s University Cultural Centre, include Jurong East malls Westgate and JCube, The Star Vista, Bugis Junction, Junction 8, HDB Hub and Parkway Parade.

It will be televised as well at Hotel Grand Copthorne Waterfront’s piano bar and the hotel lounge at Copthorne King’s Hotel Singapore.

French restaurant feeds the crowd

SINGAPORE – A French restaurant at the old Parliament House handed out food to people queuing to pay their respects to Mr Lee Kuan Yew yesterday evening.

Staff at Olivia Cassivelan Fancourt gave out miniature bowls of pasta tossed in truffle oil and seaweed. The full-sized version at the restaurant comes with scallops and costs \$30.

Operations manager Jackson Lim, 29, said staff had been watching people stream past over the previous three days.

The lines, which start at the Padang, snake past the Asian Civilisations Museum on the way towards Parliament House, where Mr Lee’s body is lying in state.

To make it more comfortable for the thousands waiting for hours to pay their respects to Singapore’s first Prime Minister, people and companies have been handing out drinks, umbrellas and food, among other things.

Many said it was their way of giving thanks to Mr Lee.

Said Olivia Cassivelan Fancourt’s Mr Lim: “We felt that those in the queue would need proper food to sustain them throughout the long wait. We just wanted to do our part to make the queuing easier.”

Some 300 bowls were given out yesterday and the restaurant intends to hand out more this evening.

Speaking in Malay, on the Mosque Building Fund scheme proposed by Mr Lee Kuan Yew:

“I was invited with leaders of the Malay-Muslim community to the Istana in 1974, at a time when Singapore was undergoing rapid urbanisation. We had a frank discussion with then Prime Minister Lee and other Malay Members of Parliament.

Mr Lee expressed concern about the ability of the Malay-Muslim community to raise funds to build mosques in new housing estates without a stable source of income.

He then proposed that every Muslim worker contribute to mosque development through the deduction of their pay using the CPF mechanism. The result is an effective system of fund-raising. Today we are able to build our mosques on our own.

I am grateful that besides meeting the needs of our religious life, our mosques have also helped to raise the good name of Singapore – they are often cited as an exemplary model (for) fostering racial harmony.”

On Mr Lee’s advice that people of all races should have equal opportunities:

“His motivation is perhaps summed up in his advice to his son Lee Hsien Loong when he became Prime Minister.

Mr Lee reminded him of the situation that existed in Malaysia before Singapore became an independent state: Never do to the minorities in Singapore that which happened to us when we were a minority in Malaysia.

“Always make sure that the Malays, the Indians, have their space, can live their way of life, and have full equal opportunities and are not discriminated against. And at the same time, help them to upgrade, improve and move forward.”

On how Mr Lee wanted a multiracial Singapore, unlike other countries:

“One of Mr Lee’s greatest gifts to us was his firm belief in treating all races fairly and giving them a sense that Singapore belonged to all of us – Chinese, Malays, Indians, Eurasians and others – and not any one race in particular.

He was committed to the idea of building a model multiracial society, unlike what he had seen in other countries or experienced as a student in the United Kingdom, or growing up in pre-independence Singapore.

He was a pragmatic person who was able to understand the challenges that minority groups faced and yet the value that their diversity could bring to Singapore.”

Speaking in Mandarin, on how Mr Lee wanted to give each ethnic group space to develop:

“He implemented the bilingual education policy, and ensured that while we mastered the English language, we were able to learn our respective mother tongue languages to retain our core values. This policy gave Singaporeans a unique competitive edge in the global economy.

Mr Lee was always concerned about the development of the Chinese community. He fostered close ties and maintained frequent interactions with the Chinese community and the Chinese business community.

He encouraged the clans to pursue renewal and keep pace with the times.

He urged the Chinese community to assist the less fortunate, with the aim of promoting inclusive growth.

He spurred local Chinese businesses to expand overseas and to capitalise on new opportunities.

TRIBUTES: A NATION GRIEVES

Mr Lee Kuan Yew
1923 - 2015



A moment of silence is observed at the memorial service organised by the NTUC at the Singapore Conference Hall last night. Government, union and corporate leaders, past and present, were among the 800-strong audience at the event. ST PHOTO: KUA CHEE SIONG

Tough love meant Mr Lee put interests of workers first

Union leaders praise former PM for his firmness, foresight, mentorship

By AMELIA TAN and JOANNA SEOW

MR LEE Kuan Yew was not afraid of taking the unions to task if he felt they were doing things that were harmful to Singapore.

But even if he practised tough love, it was because he put the interests of the workers first, said union leaders at a two-hour-long memorial service last night.

Government, union and corporate leaders, past and present, praised Mr Lee, the first Prime Minister of Singapore, for his vision and foresight in ensuring industrial harmony, promoting productivity and enhancing the life of workers here.

He died on Monday morning, at the age of 91.

One of the clearest memories former labour chief Lim Boon Heng had of Mr Lee was that he was not afraid to put unions in their place, if they "went astray".

He told the 800-strong audience at the Singapore Conference Hall that they were in the same venue where Mr Lee held a tense meeting in 1981 with a group of Singapore Airlines (SIA) pilots.

Among other things, the pilots were unhappy with their pay.

"(He told the pilots and the management that) if the nonsense did not stop, he would not hesitate to close down SIA and start a

new airline," said Mr Lim. The pilots backed down.

For former President S R Nathan, who served as pioneer director of NTUC's administration and research unit from 1962 to 1966, Mr Lee's firmness in dealing with the trade unions was crucial in the turbulent days after independence.

"There were occasions he admonished us and addressed our destructive ways," said Mr Nathan. "Only to return to the management the right to manage their enterprises successfully, which in turn benefited us, the worker, with better incomes and working conditions."

Many of the 14 speakers in the service also lauded Mr Lee's foresight in anticipating problems and finding solutions to them.

One problem he anticipated clearly was the ageing workforce.

Former manpower minister Lim Boon Yang, said that soon after the Retirement Age Act was passed in 1993, Mr Lee was already asking him to raise the retirement age to beyond 60.

"We had barely taken the first step and he was already thinking of the next step. That is a measure of the man he was," said Mr Lee, who is also chairman of Singapore Press Holdings and Keppel Corporation.

Singapore National Employers Federation's former president

Stephen Lee agreed.

"He could see the outcome of a declining birth rate. He was already thinking of retirement age beyond 60. Today, we are looking at re-employment at 67," he said.

But for National Trades Union Congress secretary-general Lim Swee Say, Mr Lee was more than a just a leader; he was a mentor. "Once, when Mr Lim told Mr Lee that a foreign leader said that Singapore's method was difficult to learn, Mr Lee replied that countries should adapt good ideas and "come up with their own solution in an eclectic way".

He looked at Mr Lim and asked if he knew what that meant. Mr Lim said no, so Mr Lee gave him a dictionary.

"After a second or two, he asked, 'Do you know how to spell eclectic?'" he said to laughter.

"He then turned the books and showed me the meaning of eclectic, which is taking the best features from various systems and putting them together in a smart way that will work better for us."

Mr Lee also gave him personal advice when he took on the role as the NTUC secretary-general back in 2007, something that future union leaders will not have, said Mr Lim.

Choking back the tears, Mr Lim said: "Mr Lee spent his whole life ensuring Singapore's survival and the livelihood of the people. We are forever grateful for his devotion."

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SINGAPORE PERSONIFIED

With his departure, he leaves an indelible mark in the pages of our history, as someone who ably personified Singapore and the aspirations of us – his people.

– Former President S R Nathan

ON WORLD STAGE

He laid a strong foundation for Singapore to succeed in the global market long before globalisation became a buzzword. He brought the world to Singapore. More than that, he also connected Singapore to the world.

– Former manpower minister, Dr Lee Boon Yang

LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

Mr Lee is a no-nonsense Prime Minister and in all situations, he acted firmly, sternly and precisely. He has made Singapore a land of opportunity. He has sown the seeds for us to harvest.

– Founding president of Union of Power and Gas Employees Rahman Mahbob

”

Memorial photo pose ‘the most natural thing in the world’

By CALVIN YANG

IT HAD begun to drizzle and with the afternoon light fading fast, the outdoor shoot had to be scrapped, recalled Indonesian photographer Tara Sosrowardoyo of an assignment he had landed on Nov 23, 2004.

The photographer, who was given only 40 minutes for the session, had to find and light a location in the Istana where he could photograph Mr Lee Kuan Yew.

They ended up taking most of the photos in Mr Lee's office as well as along a corridor.

Mr Tara, 62, recalls that Mr Lee was a willing subject. "Nothing in his manner or body language showed otherwise. In fact, he seemed more amused than annoyed when asked to take up different poses," he said.

The shoot had been commissioned by the National Museum of Singapore for its collection, but one of the images from that day of Mr Lee resting his cheek on his hands, looking relaxed – has become the memorial portrait, used for his obituary, to accompany his coffin, and also at various tribute sites.

"It may seem that it took some audacity on my part to ask him to rest his right cheek on his clasped hands, but I didn't even think twice about it," said Mr Tara, who is mainly based in Kuala Lumpur. "It seemed like the most natural thing in the world to do."

Earlier in the day, Mr Lee had sat for an oil painting for the museum, which also wanted its own set of photo portraits for commemorative reasons.

Said Ms Lee Chor Lin, then the museum's director and now the

chief executive of Arts House Limited: "As a historian and curator, I knew too well the importance of symbols and images in connection with great historical events and great individuals, such as Mr Lee."

"The most difficult part was getting an appointment with Mr Lee, explaining our intention and getting him to agree to it."

On the appointed day, Mr Tara and assistant Rechy Agus Rachim had early access to the Istana to stage and light the outdoor portrait.

But their plans had to be abandoned when the weather refused to cooperate.

Mr Tara knew that he had to get over the setback quickly. "The primary strategy was to not fiddle with the technical stuff, but instead to... engage and gain Mr and Mrs Lee's trust just enough to establish the rapport needed," said Mr Tara, whose allotted 40 minutes ran to an hour in the end.

He said he has asked other subjects to strike the same pose of resting their cheek on their hands, including his father-in-law, Malaysia's former prime minister Mahatir Mohamad, in 2010. Mr Tara is married to Dr Mahathir's eldest child, Marina, 57.

He said: "It just seems natural that everyone should rest their head on their hands from time to time, if anything, to relieve the weight of one's head on one's neck. It's just relaxing, no?"

"In Mr Lee's case, it lent him a warm, avuncular air, which in turn, drew out that benign expression which I feel is how many Singaporeans will choose to remember him."

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Getting Mr Lee to pose with his cheek resting on his hands "lent him a warm, avuncular air", says photographer Tara Sosrowardoyo (below). PHOTOS: KEVIN LIM. COURTESY OF HAGA TARA



Lee Kuan Yew: The Man And His Ideas was the first book that tried to capture the essence of Mr Lee and his ideas that shaped Singapore.

An e-book extracting parts of the book is now out on The Straits Times Star E-books app. It is FREE FOR DOWNLOAD

To get the e-book:
■ Go to Apple App store on your iPad or Google Play Store on your Android tablet or smartphone
■ Type "The Straits Times Star" to search for The Straits Times Star E-books app
■ Download it onto your iPad or Android device
■ You will find Lee Kuan Yew: The Man And His Ideas inside
The app is designed to work on iPad devices running iOS 6 and above. It is best viewed on tablets. Because of its size, you might want to download it using a wifi connection.

e-book revives key ideas

WHAT were some of Mr Lee Kuan Yew's key ideas that shaped modern Singapore? In October 1997, Lee Kuan Yew: The Man And His Ideas was launched.

It was the first book that tried to answer these questions, through interviews with Mr Lee, who was then Senior Minister, as well as his speeches.

Excerpts of Lee Kuan Yew: The Man And His Ideas, are now available in the form of an e-book on The Straits Times Star app. It is published jointly by The Straits Times and Times Publishing as a public service to commemorate the life and work of Mr Lee. It is free for download.

The original book was published by Times Editions, part of

Times Publishing Group, and The Straits Times Press, part of Singapore Press Holdings. It was written by ST journalists Han Fook Kwang, Warren Fernandez and Sumiko Tan. Times Editions is now part of Marshall Cavendish, which belongs to Fraser & Neave.

The e-book extracts the introduction and three chapters of the original book, and has 24 speeches and extracts of interviews.

Mr Fernandez, ST editor, said: "The book sums up Mr Lee, what he stood for and why. We thought a younger generation of Singaporeans might be interested in this. But as this book is out of print, we decided to revive it, and decided to do so in a form that the young might find more engaging."

Minister for Law and Foreign Affairs K. Shanmugam yesterday paid tribute to the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew in a memorial event held at the hard court beside Yishun MRT station. This is an excerpt of his speech.

MR LEE was a very frugal man, and I explain that because that's the way he ran the country.

Once, I was on a trip with him to the United States. I was at his table for dinner. At the end of dinner, we were given dessert. I asked for ice cream, and we were given ice cream.

This was the United States – they gave me three large scoops. I hadn't expected it. I don't eat much dessert, so I took one scoop and I left the rest behind.

He saw that. He told me off. He said, you are wasting food.

I told him, this is what they served. I didn't ask for this. He said: You should have found out how much they would serve and should have ordered only what you could have eaten.

He said that – even though we were being hosted by the United States, and it didn't matter to him that it was the Americans who were paying for it.

It was not a question of money. He believed as a principle that there should not be waste.

It's a simple illustration. But this was central to the way he thought. Both in his personal life and in government.

His exercise shorts, for example. For 17 years, he wore the same shorts. And when it broke or tore – he patched it up, or his wife patched it up for him.

And he was very careful with government money in the same way. Because it is your money.

Every week, we have a Cabinet meeting. Every week. Even this week, Prime Minister (Lee Hsien Loong) called for a Cabinet meeting.

We meet first for lunch. Sometimes not, but almost always, we meet for lunch. And this is not a social lunch, we discuss government business. Cabinet meeting is after the lunch.

Mr Lee does not attend the lunch. But his rules are, because you have to eat lunch anyway, he says you have to pay for the lunch even though you are coming to Cabinet to discuss Cabinet matters. You have lunch, you pay for the lunch. The Government doesn't pay for the lunch.

We must be the only Cabinet in the world that does that, when we meet to discuss government business.

But it is good, because in every way, we are reminded every day that public money should be carefully spent.

Many of you know he was strict about his exercise. Again, I say this not because I want to tell you about his exercise routine, but because of his iron discipline.

My friend, who was 30 years younger than Mr Lee, was in a foreign country on a trip with



Law and Foreign Minister K. Shanmugam thanking members of the public at the Padang yesterday, for paying their respects to Mr Lee. In a speech at Yishun, he spoke of Mr Lee's iron discipline and frugality, saying the Cabinet was "reminded every day that public money should be carefully spent".

ST PHOTO: DESMOND WEE

Mr Lee. At about 6am in the morning, on the day they got in, my friend was jet lagged and very tired.

If my friend was jet lagged, 30 years younger than Mr Lee, it would have been far worse for Mr Lee. But at 6am, he heard some sounds in the courtyard below. So he went to the window to look, and Mr Lee was in his exercise gear running around, with his security officers next to him.

That was the discipline he brought in politics, in government, in everything that he did.

He gave me advice, and he was a mentor to many. Let me share two pieces of advice he gave me about becoming a minister.

He asked me, when I was in my 30s, what career I was thinking

about. I told him I saw myself as a lawyer. I told him I didn't see myself as a full-time politician. I saw myself going the usual route that lawyers take.

He told me this very seriously. "I know you," he said. "You are a good lawyer. You are successful, and you will be even more successful. But you should serve Singapore."

He told me: "Don't spend all your time staying purely in the law. You can help your clients, you can make more money. But you can do much more for your country. If everyone stays outside, who is going to work in the public service? You should serve the people in a broader way."

And he told me: "You can do it. As a minister, you can make a

bigger difference to the lives of the people." I remembered it.

When I was in my early 40s, the question of becoming a minister came up again more seriously.

He asked me if I was concerned about taking a big pay cut in becoming a minister. He was very direct, he didn't beat about the bush. I told him I did think about the pay cut. But I was prepared to take a pay cut.

But I think he sensed that while I had decided to agree to a pay cut, it was not easy for me when I was 41, 42. He said: "You are still young. You should stay in law practice a bit longer. You can come later into Government."

That was how he was: practical, direct, honest – he understood people.

A growing tribute fit for a visionary

By CALVIN YANG

MR LEE Kuan Yew was scheduled to plant a young tree at Gardens by the Bay earlier this year. But the former Prime Minister, who was hospitalised for severe pneumonia on Feb 5, was unable to do so.

Yesterday, as a tribute to the visionary behind Singapore's transformation into a Garden City, around 100 staff members of the Gardens took part in a ceremony to plant a 13m-tall young tree.

Dr Tan Wee Kiat, chief executive officer of the attraction, said: "Mr Lee spearheaded the Garden City movement and he did it by planting the first tree."

He was supposed to plant this tree here, and so, we felt it was appropriate to finish this proposed act."

A plaque acknowledging Mr Lee as the father of Singapore's Garden City was also unveiled at yesterday's ceremony.

Mr Lee began planting trees 52 years ago as part of his efforts to keep Singapore green, and every year since then, he never failed in carrying out the annual tradition.

The Sepetir daun tebal, a timber tree of a species native to primary forests here, was planted at the Golden Garden, near the main entrance to the attraction.

The attraction also has to have grown to more than 70m, the equivalent of 25 storeys. This is higher than Gardens by the Bay's tallest man-made supertree, which stands at 50m.

The attraction also has a rain tree planted by Mr Lee at the former Marina City Park in 1986. It was kept even with the development of the Gardens.

Mr Ng Boon Gee, director of Gardens operations, said a team spent three days preparing for yesterday's tree planting.

They brought the tree from a nursery to the site, prepared the ground and also produced the plaque.

Mr Ng said: "Mr Lee has contributed so much to Singapore. We wanted to do something to remember him by."

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In honour of Mr Lee's vision, Gardens by the Bay yesterday planted a 13m-tall young tree. Those who took part in the ceremony included Dr Tan Wee Kiat, the CEO (second from left), with members of the board of directors (from left) John Tan, Quek Suan Kiat, Tan Wah Yew, Mildred Tan and Gerald Tan. ST PHOTO: CAROLINE CHIA

No to flag displays on home fronts, okay to carry it at procession

By KASH CHEONG

IT IS no go for a call to allow Singaporeans to display the national flag in front of their homes tomorrow, when the state funeral of Singapore's first Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew is held.

Mr Lawrence Wong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, has turned down the suggestion from a group of East Coast GRC grassroots volunteers, following public feedback that the move may not set "the right tone" for the day of the state funeral.

But members of the public can carry the flag along the procession route, said Mr Wong, noting that this was allowed under current rules.

Displays of the Singapore flag in front of homes are allowed only during the National Day period, from July 1 to Sept 30, according to guidelines in the Singapore statutes and the National Heritage Board's website. At other times, the national flag must be flown from a flagpole and illuminated at

night. The Straits Times understands that the guidelines are to protect the integrity of the flag, a national symbol, and make sure it is cared for.

In a Facebook post yesterday, Mr Wong commented the spirit of the grassroots volunteers who had suggested displaying flags in front of homes tomorrow to express national unity and confidence in Singapore's future. "I think it's very good to have such ground-up initiatives and I strongly encourage this spirit of expression to pay tribute to Mr Lee," he said. "At the same time, I've received feedback from several members of the public that having flags displayed all over our HDB blocks may not be the right tone for the day of the state funeral."

Academic Yusuf Ali, 36, one of the grassroots leaders who mooted the initiative, was disappointed, but "respected the decision".

"The funeral procession will not pass by many places like East Coast or the north. It would have been nice to express confidence in

the future by flying the flag all over Singapore and everybody gets involved," he said. "At the same time, there are those who think that this might be inappropriate and that view needs to be considered too."

IT services manager Calvin Tan, 34, thought the long lines at Parliament House already said it all. "Expressing grief and unity is important. But look at the queues for Parliament House, that is the ultimate expression of our appreciation for Mr Lee," said Ms Tan, who will be standing along the procession route tomorrow.

As for wearing black or white tomorrow, a matter of some discussion online, Mr Wong said: "We all express our emotions in different ways. And we all want to say our final farewells to a great man in our own ways. So I encourage Singaporeans to be inclusive and embrace these different actions. Amid our diversity, let us all come together as one to honour Mr Lee's spirit and legacy."

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Brisk sales for books on Mr Lee

BOOKS about the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew have been flying off the shelves this past week, according to publishers and bookshops here.

A representative from Kinokuniya bookstore told The Straits Times that while Mr Lee's books have been selling briskly in the past month, sales have come to a noticeable peak this week.

It was a development that was also seen at other large bookstores such as Popular and Times, which reported a sharp uptick in sales this week for books by and about Mr Lee.

RWS, MBS to close casinos tomorrow

CASINO operators Resorts World Sentosa (RWS) and Marina Bay Sands (MBS) will close their casinos from 2pm to 6pm tomorrow, as a mark of respect for Mr Lee Kuan Yew.

RWS will also suspend most of its business operations from 2pm to 2.05pm tomorrow. In a circular to its staff yesterday, RWS senior vice-president Seah-Khoo Ee Boon asked staff to "wear sombre

colours on Sunday. Alternative attire will be arranged for those with brightly coloured uniforms".

RWS will also screen the live telecast of Mr Lee's state funeral on television screens in the resort from 12.30pm.

RWS has cancelled its night shows – Crane Dance and Lake Of Dreams – from March 23 to March 31. The Hollywood Dreams Parade and Lake Hollywood Spec-

tacular in Universal Studios Singapore will also be cancelled today.

MBS has cancelled its light and water show – Wonder Full – at the Event Plaza for a week. The 13-minute show will resume on March 30 at 8pm.

RWS said on its website: "Together with the rest of the nation, we mourn the loss of a great leader... We apologise for any inconvenience caused."

TRIBUTES: A NATION GRIEVES

Mr Lee Kuan Yew
1923 - 2015



MNCs laud business-friendly policies

Corporate leaders voice confidence and commitment to Singapore

By MOK FEI FEI

A VISIONARY leader, an exemplary statesman and a strategic thinker.

Tributes for Mr Lee Kuan Yew continued to pour in as head honchos of multinational corporations (MNCs) sent their condolences. Many lauded him for transforming Singapore into a prosperous metropolis, with a far-sighted plan to modernise the country through urban industrialisation.

"Singapore's founding Prime Minister, Mr Lee, was a visionary leader whose life's work laid the foundation of what Singapore is today; a thriving global city with people who are talented, hard-working and diligent," said Rolls-

Royce chief executive officer John Rishton.

Mr Lee made the decision to open up Singapore's economy to foreign companies in the 1960s, at a time in the post-colonial era when there was widespread suspicion over the exploitation of local resources.

Such fears were not well founded as large-scale capital investments by MNCs contributed to providing employment to citizens, while the companies themselves also achieved success.

Firms took the opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to the Republic and express their confidence in its economy.

Mr Anshu Jain, co-chief executive officer of German banking

Procter & Gamble chief A. G. Lafley highlighted Mr Lee's emphasis on building long-term partnerships with corporations.

"He made Singapore into a global economic power, and a great place for international companies to invest and conduct business."

IBM chief executive Ginni Rometty also spoke of the business-friendly policies Mr Lee institutionalised, such as having an open market, ensuring free trade and putting in place a clean and efficient government.

"Mr Lee passed this legacy to his successors, which is why Singapore continues to flourish as it approaches the 50th anniversary of its independence."

Firms took the opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to the Republic and express their confidence in its economy.

Mr Anshu Jain, co-chief executive officer of German banking

giant Deutsche Bank, attended the wake yesterday.

He said: "Mr Lee was a visionary global leader who, through his inspiring lifelong commitment to the economic development of Singapore and the welfare of its citizens, leaves behind a towering achievement - that of a dynamic and prosperous country with an assured future."

MasterCard chief executive Ajay Banga also weighed in, saying: "MasterCard believes that the infrastructure and business climate in Singapore are very business friendly and, going forward, is committed to continue to invest significantly in Singapore as a country and as a regional hub."

The outpouring of tributes by global corporate leaders underscores the impact Mr Lee had on the business community and the level of respect they had for him, said Economic Development

Board (EDB) chairman Beh Swan Gin. Recounting the meetings that Mr Lee held with top business leaders, Dr Beh observed that many wanted to tap Mr Lee's views on financial and geopolitical matters.

"All these CEOs, each time they were sitting there - either as a note-taker or in those roundtables - they were all like school-boys, they all listened with rapt attention," said Dr Beh.

Aside from being a highly regarded statesman, he said, Mr Lee was also a remarkable salesman in pushing the corporate interests of the nation.

"For many EDB officers, we would remember Mr Lee as a passionate supporter of the work that we do. He helped us market Singapore," he said.

"In fact, I would say that the opportunity of CEOs to meet him often made the difference in their

decision-making about whether or not to make an investment in Singapore."

A lasting legacy that Mr Lee left to EDB, noted Dr Beh, was his pragmatism in dealing with various issues.

Even as the EDB paints a bold economic vision for the nation, it stands ready to fine-tune its strategies if the operating environment changes - an approach that reflects Mr Lee's own outlook.

"This mix of clarity and purposefulness of what we are doing for the long term, with this ability to be nimble and to adapt to changing circumstances, I think this combination is actually a very powerful one."

"I believe that this does reflect Mr Lee himself and this certainly has made a difference to our ability to operate as an economic development agency."

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Mr Alan Choe (left), HDB's first architect-planner, pointing to a model while briefing Mr Lee, Mrs Lee and their son Hsien Loong on urban renewal. PHOTO: COURTESY OF ALAN CHOE

An exacting boss who drove his people to do their very best

AFTER Mr Lee retired as Prime Minister, he would invite officers to the Istana for lunch.

Those lunches were brain-picking sessions. During one session, he asked me: "How is architecture? How is urban development?"

So I said: "Everything is fine, except we have an archaic ruling that requires all HDB bathrooms and kitchens to have windows on external walls for natural light and ventilation."

But our flats were so small that the important external walls that should belong to living rooms were being taken up by kitchen bathrooms.

In hotels and other countries without this rule, artificial lighting worked very well.

He said: "I'll have a word with (then Minister for National Development S.) Dhanabalan."

I said: "Mr Lee, Dhanabalan is doing an excellent job, I don't want him to feel I am squealing on him behind him." Mr Lee smiled. He didn't reply.

But within a week of that day, a circular went out by Building Control Division (of the former Public Works Department) that the rule had changed. We can now have bathrooms with artificial lighting.

That was the kind of man he was. He listened to you, noted your view and acted immediately.

He drove into those of us who worked under him the spirit of perfection, to do the best we can.

Before you meet him, you go sleepless, because of what you hear of his exacting standards for civil servants.

Many of us would try to read up on everything to anticipate what he was likely to ask. And

quite often, we missed it!

I used to write him reports that were three to four pages long. His personal assistant was very kind and one day told me: "PM seldom reads more than 1.5 pages of a report. Try and keep it within that."

Because of that, I would rewrite and rewrite my reports until I found the concise way to interpret a longer sentence and still keep the exact meaning. I stopped trying to beat about the bush.

I'm now better at writing reports than before I had the chance to work with Mr Lee.

~ The Housing Board's first architect-planner, founder of the Urban Redevelopment Authority and former Sentosa Development Corporation chairman, Mr Alan Choe, 84, recounting what it was like working for Mr Lee Kuan Yew



Children from The Salvation Army's childcare centre (above), bearing cards and flowers, visited the tribute centre at the Singapore Botanic Gardens' Botany Centre yesterday. Over the past few days, people have paid their personal tributes to Mr Lee there in the form of cards, drawings, handwritten notes and bouquets. ST PHOTOS: CAROLINE CHIA

GE chairman hails Mr Lee's foresight

INSURER Great Eastern (GE) held a special tribute session for Mr Lee Kuan Yew yesterday, attended by chairman Koh Beng Seng, director and acting group chief executive Norman Ip, as well as its management, staff and distribution force.

A minute's silence was observed.

Mr Koh, a former deputy managing director at the Monetary Authority of Singapore, said Mr Lee had the foresight to build Singapore into a global financial hub 40 years ago.

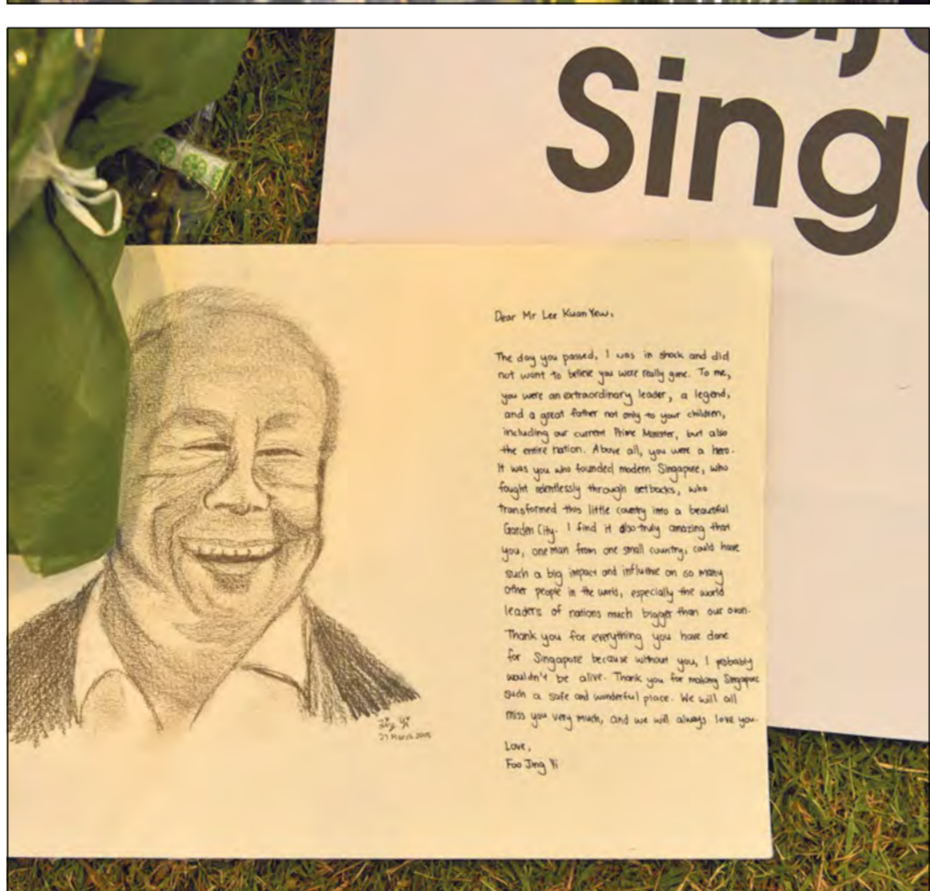
"You all know that many countries aspire to be a financial centre but few succeed. In such a competitive environment, what enabled Singapore to... succeed as a financial centre are the capability of our people, good infrastructure as well as a sound legal and regulatory system that Mr Lee and his team have built over the years."

In his tribute, Mr Ip said that among Mr Lee's values were being a life-long learner who "never relented on upgrading and improving himself".

Mr Koh led the 600-strong GE contingent to community tribute site Hong Lim Park to pay their respects to Mr Lee. GE is donating \$50,000 to the Lee Kuan Yew Education Fund.



The 600-strong Great Eastern contingent, bearing condolence boards as well as stalks of white roses, paying their respects to Mr Lee at the Hong Lim Park tribute site yesterday. PHOTO: GREAT EASTERN GROUP CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS



At Sembcorp Marine's tribute ceremony, officials recalled Mr Lee had attended Sembawang Shipyard's book launch in 1998 even though he had his stent operation just a few days earlier. PHOTO: SEMBCORP

Shell attributes success to Singapore's prosperity

Oil giant to carry on Mr Lee's legacy by helping country to thrive

By BEN VAN BEUREN

SHELL has a friend in Mr Lee Kuan Yew. Many of my colleagues in Singapore regarded him as an ally and an advocate.

Shell has been in Singapore since 1891. While we are a multinational company, we are enormously mindful that we have spent 124 years in Singapore and have come to be regarded like a Singaporean company. We believe the best way to carry on Mr Lee's legacy is to continue to help Singapore and Singaporeans thrive.

Royal Dutch Shell owes much of our success in Singapore to the decades of prosperity Mr Lee had helped to nurture. The eldest son of Lee Chin Koon, once a depot manager for Shell, Mr Lee had ties with the company throughout his lifetime. Perhaps because of this, Shell had the honour of his presence at several key events in our local history.

Mr Lee launched the inaugural Singapore Shell Traffic Games in 1958 and was on hand to present prizes to the student champions.

Later when he became Prime Minister, he helped solve Singapore's high unemployment rates through large-scale export-oriented industrialisation, transforming this island, which was then heavily reliant on entrepot trading.

Such a transformation benefited companies like Shell: His then economic adviser Albert Winsemius, a Dutchman, had formulated an economic strategy that eventually drew multinational companies like us to locate key operations in Singapore.

One of the major investments in the early years of Singapore's self-governance was Shell's construction of the island-state's first refinery on Pulau Bukom in July 1961.

From the 1960s to the 1980s, Shell witnessed the oil refining and supply sector becoming the cornerstone of the young nation's astounding industrial lift-off. In just three decades, Mr Lee's government had catapulted Singapore into a global oil refining and trading hub, despite not having any oil resources in the country.



Finance Minister Goh Keng Swee (centre) at the new \$30 million Shell refinery on Pulau Bukom on July 26, 1961. It was built in just 13 months. ST FILE PHOTO

Our Bukom asset is now Shell's largest wholly owned refinery in terms of crude distillation capacity globally. Bukom also houses Shell Eastern Petrochemicals Complex, integrating refining and petrochemical operations on one site.

At Shell Singapore's 120th anniversary in 2011, Mr Lee was a very special guest whose presence reinforced the long partnership between Singapore and Shell.

He recalled during the dialogue held before the gala dinner that he had been "intrigued" by Shell's management system of global talent.

To attract the best talent into the government, he said, he had studied the recruitment processes of many multinational corporations and had finally adopted Shell's system of judging individu-

als by their powers of analysis, imagination and sense of reality. Shell has been using this system to assess employees' Current Estimated Potential.

When asked about his perspective on life, he told us: "Life is what you make of it. You are dealt a pack of cards. Your job is to make the best of the cards that have been handed out to you. If you ask me to make my living as an artist, I will starve because I just cannot draw. But if you ask me to do mathematical questions or to argue a point out, I will deal and get by. Now those were the cards I was handed out, and I made use of them."

My colleagues in Singapore and I wish to pay tribute to Mr Lee the way he would have wanted it: Know what we are good at, make the best of what we have been given and continue to help nurture Singapore's global status.

His pragmatic and forceful leadership created a city whose global stature now far exceeds its scale. We are thankful for the great legacy he has given us.

Singapore celebrates its 50th year of independence this year. In 2015, we are proud to say that Shell Singapore has become the global headquarters for two of our businesses - global commercial and integrated gas.

Mr Lee's pro-business policies have built the foundation for global companies like ours to have the faith to continue investing here.

Many of my colleagues in Singapore call this beautiful city home and are deeply invested in its future. We do so with Mr Lee's inspiration in mind.

The writer is chief executive officer of Royal Dutch Shell

Sembawang Shipyard staff recall CNY visits

WHEN Sembawang Shipyard was publishing its first book in 1998, Mr Lee Kuan Yew wrote in its foreword thus: "The history of Sembawang Shipyard, like the history of Singapore, shows how a determined people were able to overcome the odds because management and workers were prepared to meet new challenges in an intelligent manner."

When the book was to be launched in December that same year, Mr Lee attended even though he had his heart stent operation just a few days earlier. These and several other anecdotes were shared by top officials of Sembcorp Marine yesterday as the company held a tribute for Mr Lee.

"For Sembawang Shipyard, we had the double privilege of Mr Lee visiting us not once or twice but on every second day of Chinese New Year for many years," said Ms Wong Lee-Lin, executive director of Sembcorp Marine's subsidiary Sembawang Shipyard.

"He would visit unannounced - just driving through the shipyard. Why he did that every year is not known to us but perhaps he just wanted to remember the roots of his political career when he was the legal adviser of the Naval Base Labour Union."

The tribute ceremony, attended by 400 people, was witnessed by Sembcorp Marine chairman Mohd Hassan Marican and president & CEO Wong Meng Sun.

Singtel's tribute streamed live

SINGTEL's memorial service for Singapore's founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew was streamed "live" to Singtel's 20,000 staff at various locations in Singapore and Australia.

Education Minister Heng Swee Keat, who was a director at the company from 2003 to 2010, paid tribute to the late Mr Lee in a speech, along with Singtel chairman Simon Israel and Singtel group chief executive Chia Sock Koong.

"Mr Lee's push for deregulation and competition had been painful, but necessary for Singtel and the industry. It exposed us to true market challenges and we had to adapt quickly or risk being marginalised. That is truly 'tough love'," Ms Chua said at the service, held at Singtel Centre in Exeter Road.

"Today, Singtel is a fully competitive communications provider... (and) we have all benefited from his wisdom and actions. 'We must do our part to live and preserve his legacy,' she added.

JACQUELINE WOO

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TRIBUTES: A NATION GRIEVES



American artist Rafael Maniago has Mr Lee looking just a little bit quizzical.
PHOTO: MANDALA FINE ART GALLERY



Chinese artist Ren Zhen Yu catches Mr Lee in a light-hearted moment.
PHOTO COURTESY OF REN ZHEN YU



Local artist Boo Sze Yang's oil on canvas has Mr Lee in a no-nonsense mood.
PHOTO COURTESY OF DIRECTIONS GROUP

In their own way, they're all drawn to pay tribute

The arts community mourns in its own way, by celebrating Mr Lee's life

By AKSHITA NANDA
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THEY began by observing a moment of silence before performances and by delaying or cancelling shows but the arts community in Singapore is now commemorating Mr Lee Kuan Yew in the way it knows best: with artists expressing themselves.

Artists are initiating discussions of the founding Prime Minister's legacy and creating new art, from poems to pictures inspired by the late politician's life and shared on social media.

Although some of these artists' Facebook profiles now sport an icon being used to denote mourning for Mr Lee – a black ribbon framing his face – this has not held them back from critiquing his politics and policies.

"People will respond in whatever way fulfils them emotionally. As writers, we respond by writing," poet Alvin Pang told The Straits Times. "Like it or not, he was such a big part of life. It's like you wake up and the mountain is gone. It's us responding to this great shift... to our personal feelings about the situation."

He has posted his reactions to Mr Lee's death – from a poem after the news broke, to a Facebook response yesterday to an opinion piece by former Nominated Member of Parliament Calvin Cheng.

Mr Cheng criticised the view in

the Western media that Singapore had sacrificed certain freedoms to attain wealth and security. Pang, 43, disagreed, writing that Singaporeans must acknowledge the trade-offs made to get the country to where it is today.

"Compulsory military conscription. Censorship. The list goes on... To be able to discuss these soberly, from different informed, constructive perspectives: that IS democracy, IS civilisation, and furthermore, does honour to (Mr Lee's) memory," Pang wrote.

Creative writing inspired by Mr Lee is rare, though Epigram Books published last May and this February two picture books commemorating Mr Lee's life for children aged three to eight.

A Boy Named Harry: The Childhood Of Lee Kuan Yew and Harry Builds Up: The Early Years Of Lee Kuan Yew by Patrick Yee have nearly sold out at local bookstores.

The artist is rushing to finish a third instalment, Harry Builds A Nation, and on hearing of Mr Lee's death also created on his cellphone a short clip-art video commemorating "the love story of Mr Lee Kuan Yew and Madam Kwa Geok Choo".

"He was the founder and the spirit of our home. He's a hero," said Yee, 51, who exhibited the art from the books at the National Library Board building last month.

Separately, there are two ongoing exhibitions featuring portraits of Mr Lee, one at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts by China-

born Singaporean artist Fan Shao-hua until April 8; the other by Lebanese-British artist Laudi Abilama at Sana Gallery until April 26.

Abilama, 29, created 11 screen prints on linen and paper based on historic press footage of Mr Lee. She told The Straits Times she has long admired Singapore's success and Mr Lee as the strongman who united an island of diverse cultures. Her works are priced between \$6,000 and \$14,000 and half have already been sold.

Among the recent art events inspired by Mr Lee was last year's The Father by Boo Sze Yang. Boo sold several pieces priced at \$9,000 and above even before the show opened.

In performing arts circles, tributes to Mr Lee included a moment of silence before Monday's concert by the Philharmonic Winds ensemble and Tuesday's performance by the visiting Choir of St John's College, Cambridge.

Mr Ong Keng Sen, festival director of the Singapore International Festival of Arts 2015, extended his condolences to Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and the Lee family, saying: "You have lost a father, father-in-law and grandfather – we, the people of Singapore, have lost a leader who inspired us to stretch out and reach for the stars. Now we have to chart our own destinies."

The National University of Singapore cancelled all its arts festival events from March 25 to 29, while Yavuz Gallery at Gillman Barracks postponed an exhibition of South-east Asian artists from March 28 to April 18.

The well-known Bhaskar's Arts Academy also delayed a landmark concert. Raga Sandhya, origi-

nally scheduled for March 29 and meant to highlight the Indian arts group's little-known youth orchestra, will now be held on April 3.

"We felt this was necessary as our relationship with the nation's leader goes way back and his vision and policies have made it possible for us to call Singapore our home," said a spokesman for the group, which was set up in 1952.

Meanwhile, humorists Colin Goh and Felix Cheong have been inspired by the snaking queues to Parliament House, where Mr Lee's body lies in state. On Facebook, film-maker and comics creator Goh, 45, posted a cartoon of the queue with the quote, "Keep Calm And Carry On", a nod to the famous "Keep Calm And Carry On" poster used by the British government to reassure its citizenry during World War II.

Writer Cheong, 51, who is known for his short fiction satirising life in Singapore, compared the current mood to that in Britain after the sudden death of Princess Diana in 1997. His Facebook post reads: "If this is hysteria, so be it. A good cry is as powerful and needed as a good shouting match. Every country deserves a Diana moment. This is ours. And we do it our way."

"This is a special gesture. The Saudi king was in power, Lee



China-born Fan Shao Hua's portrait of Mr Lee is titled A Great Man From A Small Country. PHOTO: FAN SHAO HUA



Local artist Sukeshi Sondhi's distinctly Warholian pop art take on Mr Lee. PHOTO: SUKESHI SONDI



Van Gogh was the inspiration behind local artist Jeffrey Koh's painting of Mr Lee. PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFFREY KOH



Boo Sze Yang adds some mystery to this image by letting paint run down the canvas. PHOTO: BOO SZE YANG



Another shade of stern, as seen by Boo Sze Yang who tries to capture the many sides of Mr Lee. PHOTO: BOO SZE YANG

By RAVI VELLOOR
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CHINA is sending Vice-President Li Yuanchao while Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Vietnamese Premier Nguyen Tan Dung confirmed their attendance for tomorrow's funeral service for Mr Lee Kuan Yew, Asia's best-recognised elder statesman.

The Chinese announcement yesterday followed intense speculation on who Beijing would send for the ceremony, which is to be attended by a host of other leaders, including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Indonesian President Joko Widodo and South Korean President Park Geun Hye.

After initial talk of a trip by President Xi Jinping, speculation had centred on Executive Vice-Premier Zhang Gaoli, co-chair of the Sino-Singapore bilateral cooperation mechanism, as the chosen envoy.

"The top two national-level posts, strictly speaking, are the president and the vice-president. While Zhang Gaoli is ranked higher in the party, his attendance will

be as a government official, while Li will convey China's respect as a country," Professor Sun Jingfeng, an expert on Sino-Singapore relations at Henan Normal University, told The Straits Times.

Britain, which this year hosted its first Singapore state visit in 50 years, is sending Mr William Hague, Leader of the House of Commons and the First Secretary of State, while Canada's representative is Governor-General David Johnston.

In a rare gesture, Britain yesterday released condolences con-

veyed by Queen Elizabeth II to President Tony Tan Keng Yam over Mr Lee's death.

The United States presidential delegation is led by former president Bill Clinton and includes Dr Henry Kissinger, who was secretary of state in the Nixon administration and an old friend of Mr Lee.

"Mr Lee's achievements as Prime Minister were fundamental to making what Singapore is today, and his long and distinguished service can only be admired," the Queen wrote.

"He had many friends around the world, and my country was foremost amongst them.

"Philip and I send our deepest sympathy to you and the people of Singapore."

Condolence messages continued to pour in from around the world, with many national figures travelling to their local Singapore missions to write in condolence books.

Among those who did so was Philippine President Benigno Aquino in Manila.

In Thailand, no fewer than

seven former prime ministers signed the book at the Singapore embassy, while Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn sent condolences.

Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha is leading the country's delegation to the funeral, while Malaysia's monarch, Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah, is representing his country.

As the world's media and leading commentators continued pondering Mr Lee's legacy, the mourning for him has sometimes been

spotted in the oddest of places.

Reports said that in several towns and villages of the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu, billboards of Mr Lee have come up and people have joined street processions to mourn his passing.

Tamil Nadu sends large numbers of workers to Singapore and families that depend on their remittances were keen to show their gratitude to Mr Lee.

Mr Lee's political career began in trade unions.

This week, tributes also flowed from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva, which recognised Mr Lee's contribution to tripartism.

ILO director-general Guy Ryder, in a tribute made at the governing board, said Mr Lee's contributions had been so important in addressing the concerns of the working people.

"With his passing, the international community has lost a global statesman and a leader of the region," Mr Ryder said.

Additional reporting by Nor Kian Beng in Beijing

China sending V-P to attend funeral service

Regional leaders confirm attendance; Queen sends condolences in rare move

India declares day of mourning



Members of various organisations remembering Mr Lee during a solemn procession in Thanjavur in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu on Thursday. India has announced a day of national mourning and the Indian flag will be lowered to half-mast across the country tomorrow. PHOTO: THE HINDU

INDIA announced a day of national mourning for Mr Lee Kuan Yew in an unprecedented gesture of appreciation for his life and work.

The Indian flag will be lowered to half-mast tomorrow across the country and there will be no official entertainment on the day, New Delhi announced yesterday as Prime Minister Narendra Modi prepared to travel to Singapore for the state funeral.

"We deeply valued his conviction in India's role in Asia's future

and to the success of India's 'Look East' policy," said External Affairs Ministry spokesman Syed Akbaruddin.

Analysts say it is unusual for India to honour a person who had retired from national leadership for nearly a quarter-century. The last time India accorded a foreign leader this recognition was in January, when Saudi king Abdullah bin Abdulaziz passed away.

"This is a special gesture. The Saudi king was in power, Lee

Kuan Yew was not," said Professor S.D. Muni, a South Asia expert. "This is a compliment to Singapore's contribution in promoting ties between India and the Asia-Pacific."

People familiar with Indian government thinking said India was signalling its recognition of Mr Lee's ties with its leadership, starting from pre-independence days.

Mr Lee had known India's founding prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, his daughter Indra Gan-

dhi, Mrs Gandhi's son Rajiv, who succeeded her as prime minister, and Rajiv's son Rahul Gandhi, currently vice-president of the Congress Party. Former prime minister Manmohan Singh also sought his counsel on global issues.

"This is as much in recognition of his contribution to wider Asia as for the future of India-Singapore ties," said a senior official.

Additional reporting by Nirmla Ganapathy

About 60 to 70 Singaporeans will gather tomorrow from 1pm at Somerset Place Seoul serviced apartments to watch the telecast.

In Australia, which like the UK also hosts a substantial Singaporean community, Singaporeans have been flocking to the High Commission and government offices to sign condolence books and have organised weekend memorial services across the country.

"We thank the many Singaporeans and friends of Singapore who came to sign the Condolence Book in Canberra," the High Commis-

sion in Kuala Lumpur, there will be a live screening of the funeral procession at the Singapore High Commission. The screening will begin at noon and is open to the public. Those who want to sign the condolence book can do so today and tomorrow from 9am to 6pm.

Additional reporting by Jonathan Eyal, Chang Hui Chon, Jonathan Pearce, Tan Hui Yee, Nor Kian Beng and Asrul Hadi Abdullah Sani

were not anti-Western but pragmatists. They stood up against the West when it suited them and cooperated with Western governments when they needed to. Singapore has always been ultimately omni-directional, projecting in all directions and degrees that serve its national interest.

But in the early 1990s, when ASEAN was coming into its own, Singaporeans who grew up under Mr Lee's watch gave confidence to many South-east Asians that they could be as smart, eloquent and erudite as those in the West.

Third, Mr Lee turned his regional leadership into global statesmanship that rendered South-east Asia as a region to be reckoned with. After Indochina was lost to communism in the 1970s, the West turned away from a divided South-east Asia. It was in the 1980s and 1990s, when ideological barriers gave way to a full-bodied, 10-member ASEAN, that international attention turned to the region again due to its soaring growth and burgeoning regional organisation. Mr Lee was instrumental in leading South-east Asia

to be registered on the map and minds of the world. As a leader of a small island, he was greeted and treated in awe on a par with those from major powers.

The lesson for nearby countries like Thailand is not what Mr Lee did then but how Singapore works now with its multi-ethnic base and well-embedded electoral system that allowed the opposition to gain ground and democratic processes to run their course.

Overall, the country Mr Lee left behind will be more and more like the country he did not want it to be during his prime. Yet Singapore as a more grown-up nation with normal problems and less as a nanny state where all things are smoothed over is perhaps what Mr Lee's most admirable legacy. As Singapore will transcend him and his era, Mr Lee may well be a happy victim of his exceptional success.

The writer teaches International Political Economy and directs the Institute of Security and International Studies at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok. An earlier version of this article appeared in The Bangkok Post.

Mr Lee Kuan Yew
1923 - 2015



LEE KUAN YEW AND THE WORLD

Mr Lee Kuan Yew
1923 - 2015

Mr Lee's friendship with Mr Suharto helped Singapore and Indonesia to forge close ties. Even after Mr Suharto resigned from office in 1998, Mr Lee remained a good friend. At left, Mr Lee with a Bird of Paradise during a visit to a bird park with Mr Suharto on Sept 9, 1982. Mr Lee was paying a three-day visit to Indonesia. At right, Mr Lee and Mr Suharto waving to journalists after their meeting in Jakarta on Feb 22, 2006. PHOTOS: ST FILE, AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE



By ZUBAIDAH NAZEER
INDONESIA BUREAU CHIEF
and WAHYUDI SOERIAATMADJIA
INDONESIA CORRESPONDENT
IN JAKARTA

TO MANY Indonesians, Mr Lee Kuan Yew's sincere interest in understanding them as well as his humility stand out from the long list of attributes they admire about him.

"Mr Lee understood how to build relations with big neighbours like Indonesia," said Mr Agus Widjono, former Indonesia Armed Forces chief of territorial affairs.

"He understood the culture of Indonesia's political system and this is very important because the political situation often depends on the personalities of the leaders," he added, crediting the close ties between Indonesia and Singapore to the foundation that Mr Lee had laid as a result of his close friendship with Indonesia's second president Suharto.

"That friendship was so deep that when Mr Lee flew to Jakarta in 2008 to see the ailing Suharto before he died, the Singapore leader was allowed to scrub in and sit by his bedside, a privilege usually accorded only to close members of the family.

Ms Siti Hedati Hariyadi "Titiek" Suharto, who with her two sisters had just returned from Singapore after paying their respects, remembered how Mr

Lee had encouraged her father, who resigned from office in 1998. "When Pak Harto stepped down, a lot of politicians were allergic to meeting him. Pak Lee made an effort to come to Jakarta to meet Pak Harto. He didn't care what other people said. Pak Harto was just recovering from a stroke. They hugged each other when they met," she told The Straits Times.

"Pak Lee said, 'You shouldn't be sad and disappointed because you have done a great job. There are still millions and millions of other people who love you and think about you. They will always remember you,'" she added.

Defence Minister Ryamizard recalled that Mr Lee put him at ease. Then an army chief, he had asked Mr Lee if he could speak Bahasa Indonesia to him.

"My English isn't good, not fluent. May I speak Bahasa with you?"

"Lee Kuan Yew said 'go ahead. I have no problem with that,'" Mr Ryamizard told reporters after he signed the condolence book at the Singapore Embassy on Wednesday.

Mr Lee then told him: "Just so you know, Pak Ryamizard, I speak Bahasa with only two people - Pak Harto and now you."

The Defence Minister described Mr Lee as a humble leader who, he said, reminded him of Indonesian President Joko Widodo. "Mr Lee talked humbly, down to earth. He always thought about his people. If Lee Kuan Yew didn't exist, Singapore would not exist. Even China managed to advance itself because they learnt from Singapore," he said.

Indonesia watchers pointed out that Mr Lee made a significant move to improve ties - one that also showed his magnanimity - in 1973 during a state visit.

He visited the graves of two Indonesian marines who were hanged in Singapore for the bombing of MacDonald House in 1965. That attack, which killed three people and injured 33, took place during the Konfrontasi from 1963 to 1966.

To signal that Singapore was moving on in its relationship with its largest neighbour, Mr Lee scattered flowers over the graves. Said Mr Hayono Isman, who was youth and sports minister in the Suharto government: "He was a leader who respected his own country's laws, as well as respected Indonesia, a neighbour which mourned the two soldiers sentenced to death in Singapore."

He added: "That shows extraordinary character." Leaders such as Vice-President Jusuf Kalla recalled how Mr Lee's candour caught them off guard. "As we emerged from our

two-hour discussion, he told me that it is a pity Pak Kalla is only a V-P because he understands the problems in Indonesia and what needs to be done," Mr Kalla told The Straits Times. He was also Vice-President from 2004 to 2009 when Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was President.

"That caused a political storm but I understand that it was just his spontaneous comment," Mr Kalla said with a chuckle.

Mr Lee's straight-talking nature gave him credibility, said analysts. "People appreciated his thoughts on Indonesia and on its relations with Singapore," Mr Jusuf Wanandi, vice-chairman of the board of trustees of Jakarta's Centre for Strategic and International Studies, wrote in a tribute in The Jakarta Post.

"Sometimes he could comment on what Indonesians could not even say during the Suharto years

about themselves," he added, describing Mr Lee as a "sage" and "giant" for advancing the region.

Many Indonesians who had studied in Singapore, including its political elite, felt they had directly benefited from Mr Lee.

In her tribute, "RIP the Founding Father of Singapore", published in Kompas daily on Thursday, former trade minister and respected economist Mari Elka Pangestu said: "I experienced first-hand the education system in Singapore that was filled with discipline, toughness and fierce competition that taught me not only to be good academically, but also in sports and community service, among other activities."

Dr Pangestu studied at St Margaret's Secondary School in the 1970s and won an award for being the best all-rounder.

And so, since Mr Lee's death on Monday at age 91, many Indonesian leaders, dignitaries and analysts have been writing commentaries or posting on social media their reflections of the Singapore leader, remembering him as a close friend of Indonesia.

"Despite the ups and downs in bilateral relations, Indonesia has always remained comfortable with the leadership of Mr Lee Kuan Yew... in a large part, a result of Mr Lee's personality," said Mr Agus. "I am not sure there will be another leader like him."

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Indonesians mourn loss of a close friend

Mr Lee understood political culture of its big neighbour, they say

Staying fit anywhere, in any way

Mr Lee stuck to a strict exercise routine even on overseas trips, and well into his 80s

By LINETTE LAI

MR LEE Kuan Yew loved eating, and had a soft spot for fried chicken.

He also liked fish - grilled or fried, but not steamed or poached unless it was very fresh.

"I can eat anything and enjoy it, if it is good to eat," he said in an interview in 1992, when he was 68.

As he grew older, Singapore's first Prime Minister turned to more modest meals.

Breakfast might be a cup of unsweetened soy-bean milk and a small bowl of bean curd.

Lunch was also simple - chicken soup and tofu, for instance, or a small portion of meat with lots of fruit and steamed vegetables.

His love for food was matched by his dedication to keeping fit.

Mr Lee became health conscious after taking office in 1959, and remained active well into his twilight years. He started off playing golf but, ever pragmatic, switched to running because it was more efficient.

"Golf takes so long," he said in 2008. "The running takes 15

minutes. Let's cut out the golf and let's run."

He stuck to this routine even on overseas trips, with his security officers keeping pace beside him. Mr Lee also swam and cycled to keep in shape.

"I try to cycle and swim even when I am travelling," he said during a wechat in 2000. "It helps me feel and work better."

Even well into his 80s, Mr Lee stuck to a strict exercise routine - 12 minutes walking on the treadmill every morning, 15 minutes after lunch, and another 15 minutes after dinner.

"Without that, I would not be in my present condition physically," he had said.

"It is a discipline."
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A soft spot for Britain, but never a 'colonial nostalgic'

By JONATHAN EYAL
EUROPE CORRESPONDENT
IN LONDON

IT IS by now largely forgotten that the first electorate Lee Kuan Yew ever had to face and the first votes he ever canvassed were not, as one may expect, in Singapore but in Britain.

Soon after graduation from Cambridge, Mr Lee and his wife volunteered to help a university friend who was then standing as parliamentary candidate for the Labour Party in Totnes, a charming, rural part of western England. The fight was hopeless: The constituency had been a bastion of the Conservatives for at least one century, and remains so to this day.

Still, the young Mr Lee plunged into the electoral campaign with gusto and, although "voters were intrigued to see a Chinese speaking" - as Mr Lee subsequently recorded in his memoirs - they listened to him intently. Mr Lee and his parliamentary candidate friend were duly defeated, but the British sense of fair play and Britain's openness to foreigners were qualities which Mr Lee always praised about the British.

That first parliamentary battle also showcased his other side: a willingness - some would say even an irresistible desire - to criticise the British whenever he thought they were erring.

Mr Lee always regarded such criticism as just friendly advice to a close friend, and he shrugged off warnings that many British politicians did not relish the experience. Yet few of his British critics - of which there were many -

were ever aware of how deeply personal and how enduring his links with Britain really were.

It was British education which fashioned his adult life, a conscious choice he made despite the availability of many other options, and one repeated by both his sons.

It was in Britain that he tied the knot with his lifelong partner, Madam Kwa Geok Choo; their decision to marry at the registry office in Stratford-upon-Avon, Shakespeare's birthplace, was a tacit acknowledgment of their love for British literature.

Throughout their adult lives, they came back to Britain to relax, and to be photographed in the same spot, on the same bridge in Cambridge, recalling that black-and-white picture taken in the first, carefree year of their married life.

Notwithstanding all these extraordinary links, Mr Lee was never a "colonial nostalgic", if only because, as veteran commentator Philip Bowring noted, "he saw enough of British failures not to want to ape them."

He admired Britain's National Health Service, the prototype of a state-funded welfare system copied by most other industrial nations, and recounted his surprise when, during his Cambridge days, he was given a pair of spectacles and dental treatment for free. But he also swiftly concluded the system was unaffordable, and that it discouraged economic enterprise.

Yet one of the most important lessons which he drew from the British - and one which, sadly, is seldom recalled today - is that independence neither required a



The young Mr Lee sent this photo, taken when he was a student at Cambridge, to then girlfriend Kwa Geok Choo, with these words: "To Dearest Choo, Love Harry."

complete break with the old colonial power, nor was it an automatic ticket to prosperity.

"The choice lies between a communist republic of Malaya and a Malaya within the British Commonwealth led by people who, despite their opposition to imperialism, still share certain ideals in common with the Commonwealth," he told a group of fellow

student members of the Malaysian Forum in London in 1950.

The overwhelming majority of the British politicians who coincided with Mr Lee's tenure in power are now gone: Out of the 10 prime ministers who governed Britain since Mr Lee was first swept into office in 1959, only four are alive today, and all took power after he stepped down as

Prime Minister in 1990.

Yet one relationship stands out as unique: that between Lady Margaret Thatcher and Mr Lee.

"Prime Minister, an hour's talk with you is itself worth a journey halfway round the world and farther still," she said at an Istana banquet held in her honour in April 1985. "There is no other world leader I have met in my time in office whom I have admired more for the strength of his convictions, the clarity of his views, the directness of his speech and for his vision of the way ahead."

Both leaders fervently believed in the creativity of market economies, and both knew good governance cannot be accomplished by doing only what is popular.

After she resigned as prime minister, Mr Lee was one of the first foreign leaders to pay her tribute. "I admired and respected her combativeness. There's a certain willingness to rough it out with the toughest around the place and to take on all corners," he said.

And, again, fate added a strange twist. For different reasons and circumstances, both stepped down from office on exactly the same day - Nov 28, 1990. He was the world's longest-serving Prime Minister; she was Britain's longest-serving premier of the 20th century. They remained close friends for life.

Britain honoured Mr Lee in every official way. Queen Elizabeth II undertook no fewer than three state visits to Singapore in 1972, 1989 and 2006, a rare honour bestowed on only a few other countries.

But it is also true that, as the

decades since independence went by, fewer and fewer of Britain's politicians knew of their links with Singapore, or of the enormous contributions Mr Lee personally made to nurturing them.

British knowledge of Singapore remains poor. As British newspapers marked Mr Lee's departure, they recycled all the usual clichés about Singapore, such as the "banning" of chewing gum or the allegedly draconian fines.

But in all the obituaries published on Mr Lee, only one mentioned Britain's decision to break a promise and pull back its forces from Singapore, exposing the island-state to economic and security problems. For the Brits, this "East of Suez" withdrawal is history best forgotten; to Mr Lee, this rankled for long.

Still, as Singapore's founding father embarked on his last journey this week, all the ceremonies - the gun carriage, the music, the troops, the lone bagpiper playing Auld Lang Syne and the lying in state - were British-inspired. Mr Lee would have approved, for he believed that the best example of a secure nation is one which does not run away from its history.

Nor can one forget an episode back in the late 1960s when, during a garden party, Mr Lee started criticising the rotten state of modern Britain before the visiting British Foreign Secretary.

Mr George Brown listened with an amused grin and, when Mr Lee finished, he turned to him, saying: "Harry, you're the finest Englishman east of Suez." For one of the rare moments in his life, Mr Lee was stumped for words.

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Globetrotting Mr Lee Kuan Yew on the trot (clockwise from top left): in Chengde, China, 1980; Cornwall, England, 1979; Queensland, Australia, 1983; Kunming, China, 1983; Venice, Italy, 1988; and Australia, 1982.

PHOTOS: THE STRAITS TIMES, LEE KUAN YEW, NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA



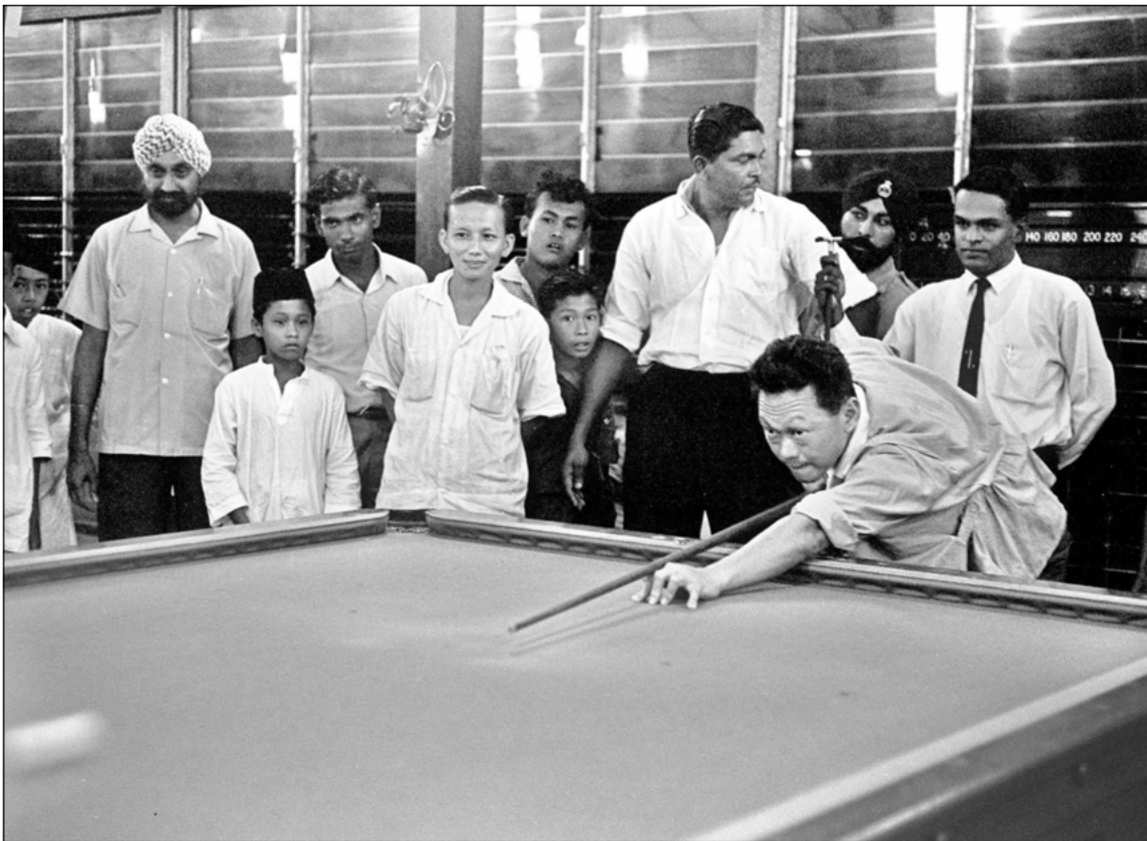
Mr Lee putting the ball with the help of younger son Hsien Yang. PHOTO: COURTESY OF LEE KUAN YEW



Mr Lee working out on a stationary bicycle at the Istana in 1992. LIANHE ZAOBAO FILE PHOTO



Mr Lee returning a ball during a game of table tennis at Tanah Merah holiday camp in 1960. ST FILE PHOTO



Mr Lee taking a shot during a game of billiards in Sembawang in 1963. PHOTO: MCI COLLECTION