7 days of mourning

About 40,000 public officers involved
454,687 visitors paid respects
during Lying-in-State

1,020 volunteers

3:18

18 community tribute sites

THE RALLY CALL

13 landmarks

2,200 guests attended the Funeral Service

1.2 million visited the community tribute sites

2.5 million viewed live telecast of State Funeral Procession and Funeral Service

More than 100,000 lined the streets
Mr Lee Kuan Yew passed away peacefully while most Singaporeans were asleep.
I have no regrets. I have spent my life, so much of it, building up this country. There’s nothing more that I need to do. At the end of the day, what have I got? A successful Singapore. What have I given up? My life.
THE first of our founding fathers is no more. He inspired us, gave us courage, kept us together, and brought us here. He fought for our independence, built a nation where there was none, and made us proud to be Singaporeans. We won’t see another man like him.

To many Singaporeans, and indeed others too, Lee Kuan Yew was Singapore. As Prime Minister, he pushed us hard to achieve what had seemed impossible. After he stepped down, he guided his successors with wisdom and tact. In old age, he continued to keep a watchful eye on Singapore.

I am grieved beyond words at the passing of Mr Lee Kuan Yew. I know that we all feel the same way. But even as we mourn his passing, let us also honour his spirit. Let us dedicate ourselves as one people to build on his foundations, strive for his ideals, and keep Singapore exceptional and successful for many years to come.

May Mr Lee Kuan Yew rest in peace.
The Chief of Defence Force, supported by Commissioner of Police and Cabinet Secretary, collaborated with 38 public agency representatives to form the State Funeral Organising Committee (SFOC). The committee worked on the planning of state funeral arrangements, ensuring that plans observe tradition and protocol and at the same time, commemorate the contributions of our key leader and respect the wishes of the family.

This journal brings you to the heart of the operations behind the planning of the State Funeral for Mr Lee Kuan Yew. During the week of National Mourning, about 40,000 public officers were involved. In this journal, some of the officers share their personal reflections, reliving poignant moments of working together amidst a sense of loss, and finding inspiration at the same time, as the nation came together to bid farewell to our founding Prime Minister. The Singapore spirit shone the brightest during this period, as the nation bonded in times of grief. It was a shared memory for everyone involved, from those who ensured the entire operation went smoothly to those who queued patiently to pay their respects, and to those who lined the streets in the pouring rain to greet Mr Lee’s cortege as it made its way from the Parliament House to the University Cultural Centre.

3:18 The Rally Call is a tribute to our founding Prime Minister – documenting the moments, the memories, and the outpouring of grief and grace. At the same time, it celebrates his legacy and values, underscoring what it means to be one united people.
The work of the SFOC is supported by key officials from different Ministries, and when I stood up the SFOC in the early hours of 23 March 2015 after our founding Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew passed away, everyone went about to put the plans into action. It was the start of a momentous week.

In the course of the week of mourning, I saw a united Singapore. Our Government, our Public Service and Singaporeans all came together to give the most dignified farewell to Mr Lee. All officers involved went beyond the call of duty to ensure that Singaporeans were able to bid farewell to Mr Lee. Singaporeans, from all walks of life, rallied together in the long queues to give one another support.

The key components of the State Funeral for Mr Lee, such as the Lying-in-State, State Funeral Procession and Funeral Service, were a tribute to his work in bringing Singapore to where we are today, while the overwhelming outpouring of grief from Singaporeans was a testimony to how his work had benefitted and touched Singaporeans.

All of us in the SFOC, as well as all officers who gave their time and effort, have witnessed many stories during the week. These are stories worth telling so that we can remember and pass them on. This journal captures some of the images and stories of the work of the SFOC, and how the passing of Mr Lee has inspired and united everyone. It was an honour to work with a stellar team in our nation’s farewell and tribute to Mr Lee.

Ng Chee Meng
Lieutenant-General (NS)
Former Chief of Defence Force
Chairman
State Funeral Organising Committee (till 18 August 2015)

Carrying the torch

TOGETHER with former Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant-General (NS) Ng Chee Meng, Chief of Air Force, Major-General Hoo Cher Mou, Chief of Navy, Rear-Admiral Lua Chung Han, and Chief of Staff Joint Staff, Brigadier-General Chia Choon Hoong, we performed the first vigil guard duties on the morning of 25 March 2015. This was the first day of Mr Lee’s Lying-in-State. The traditional mounting of vigil guards during the Lying-in-State symbolised the highest form of respect accorded by the Nation to a demised dignitary. I was very honoured to be able to pay tribute to Mr Lee in this way.

As Chief of Army during that period, I was proud to see how our Army supported the SFOC by organising various phases of the State Funeral, such as Family Wake at Sri Temasek, Lying-in-State at the Parliament House, the State Funeral Procession, Funeral Service at the University Cultural Centre, and Cremation Service at Mandai Crematorium. We endeavoured to give the most befitting farewell to our founding Prime Minister, and we did. When Singaporeans and many others turned up, enduring long queues under the hot sun or through the night, to pay their last respects to Mr Lee, I was very heartened that our Army, together with officers from the Singapore Police Force (SPF) and the Public Service, were able to quickly adapt and provide assistance to the massive crowds.

I have since taken over as Chairman SFOC. Together with all committee members and officers of the SFOC, we are proud to have contributed during such important chapters of Singapore’s history. We will continue with the good work done under the leadership of former Chairman SFOC, Lieutenant-General (NS) Ng Chee Meng.

Perry Lim
Major-General
Chief of Defence Force
Chairman
State Funeral Organising Committee (from 18 August 2015)
A NATION MOURNS

The SFOC was mobilised immediately to set the plans in motion for the nation to bid goodbye to its founding Prime Minister and to lay him to rest.
The loss of a founding father

3.18 am, 23 March 2015. The day that Mr Lee Kuan Yew left the nation which he had built. He was 91 years old.

When Mr Lee was warded at Singapore General Hospital on 5 February 2015 for severe pneumonia, the SFOC began working on plans which could be implemented at a moment’s notice. When the time came, members of the SFOC overcame their grief and responded to the call to give a farewell befitting a great man.

By 6.00 am, the SFOC met at Sri Temasek within the Istana grounds to activate the plans like clockwork.

The first task within hours of Mr Lee’s passing was to ensure that Mr Lee’s body was safely moved from Singapore General Hospital to the Family Wake at the Istana.

I WOKE up at 0328 hrs on 23 March 2015, startled by the calls from the Cabinet Secretary and the Principal Private Secretary to Prime Minister. Our founding Prime Minister, Mr Lee, had passed away. By 0400 hrs on that Monday morning, I stood up the SFOC for the State Funeral preparations. It was the start of a momentous week.

Ng Chee Meng
Lieutenant-General (NS)
Former Chief of Defence Force
Chairman
State Funeral Organising Committee (till 18 August 2015)
I WAS the duty Team-in-Charge when Mr Lee passed away. The team was able to quickly respond due to weeks of preparation where the team had worked closely on the plans and procedures with various agencies such as Singapore General Hospital, Central Police Division, Prime Minister’s Office and Singapore Casket. Every single detail was carefully thought through and discussed. Details such as the selection of the best route to be taken from Mr Lee’s ward to the pick-up point in the Singapore General Hospital, to the way the body was to be transferred into the casket van at the pick-up point, had to be carefully deliberated to ensure a swift, safe and secure movement of the casket.

Yak Kim Cheong
Assistant Superintendent
Personal Security Officer
Singapore Police Force

WHEN the moment finally came on 23 March 2015, we were prepared. As the volunteer coffin bearer party commander, while I was operationally and mentally prepared, I faced great emotional challenges. The 15 of us comprising Mr Lee’s Personal Security Officers and Women Security Officers who had protected Mr Lee and Mrs Lee immediately gathered and reported to the SAF Warrant Officers from the Ceremonial Action Group (CAG). We had no time to grieve the passing of our principal, someone who had been so close to us, and someone who had done so much for the country. The time of activation was in the wee hours, so we hardly had any rest but we had to be ready in the morning to receive the casket when it arrived at Sri Temasek in the Istana.

Dave Lee Koon San
Inspector
Personal Security Officer
Singapore Police Force
Commander Coffer Bearer Party

A NATION MOURNS
The kampong spirit

THE best way to honour Mr Lee Kuan Yew's legacy was to bring Singaporeans together as one united people. At the People's Association (PA), we wanted to give all Singaporeans the opportunity to pay their last respects and reflect on Mr Lee's contributions, especially those who could not attend the Lying-in-State at Parliament House. That was our principal consideration in setting up the 18 community tribute sites across the island, including at the iconic sites of Marina Barrage and the Singapore Botanic Gardens.

PA staff and grassroots leaders were charged with a sense of mission and urgency, as many Singaporeans were eager to pay tribute to Mr Lee once they learnt of his passing. By 10.00 am the same day, we had set up the first two community tribute sites in Tanjong Pagar and Ang Mo Kio. With all 18 community sites ready by the second day, Singaporeans from all walks of life started streaming in to pen their tributes and reflect on how Mr Lee had impacted their lives.

Ang Hak Seng
Chief Executive Director
People's Association

Mr Lee served Tanjong Pagar residents as their Member of Parliament for 60 years, and many residents here had personally interacted with him. Working together, we managed to set up the tribute site at Tanjong Pagar Community Club (CC) within six hours and opened the site at 10.00 am on 23 March 2015.

Very soon after the community tribute site in Tanjong Pagar was set up, it was apparent that the outpouring of grief from our residents was overwhelming. Hence, we decided that the community tribute sites should stay operational for 24 hours to allow everyone to pay their respects. Many grassroots volunteers stepped forth and joined about 80 of my colleagues at the community tribute site. Together, we worked tirelessly in three shifts, and I stayed at the CC for about 20–22 hours every day to coordinate the entire operation.

Ang Hak Seng

Let me first explain our fundamental policy: home ownership for every family. If we had not helped our citizens to own their homes, Singapore would be very different. Society would not be so stable. Our lives would have been worse off. They have valuable assets in their homes to protect against riots and civil commotion.

Our families own their homes and are rooted to Singapore. Owning their homes gives everybody a sense of ownership. Moreover, with NS, every family must have a stake in a property to defend. As Singapore prospers, the value of their HDB homes also appreciates. Home ownership motivates Singaporeans to work hard and to aspire for a better future for their family.

Tang Ching Meng
Group Constituency Director
Tanjong Pagar Group Representation Constituency

MR LEE served Tanjong Pagar residents as their Member of Parliament for 60 years, and many residents here had personally interacted with him. Working together, we managed to set up the tribute site at Tanjong Pagar Community Club (CC) within six hours and opened the site at 10:00 am on 23 March 2015.

Very soon after the community tribute site in Tanjong Pagar was set up, it was apparent that the outpouring of grief from our residents was overwhelming. Hence, we decided that the community tribute sites should stay operational for 24 hours to allow everyone to pay their respects. Many grassroots volunteers stepped forth and joined about 80 of my colleagues at the community tribute site. Together, we worked tirelessly in three shifts, and I stayed at the CC for about 20–22 hours every day to coordinate the entire operation.

Tang Ching Meng
Group Constituency Director
Tanjong Pagar Group Representation Constituency
A NATION MOURNS

THE RALLY CALL

DAY

AMMARCH

10.00
Keeping the Singapore spirit alive abroad

In communities all around the world, Singaporeans miles away from home felt no less grief. Many gathered at Singapore’s Overseas Missions to pay their last respects.

DISTANCE did little to ameliorate the sense of loss, no less profound 11,000 km away from home, when the news of Mr Lee’s passing broke on Sunday night in London. But time to grieve was a luxury I did not have. Work instinct kicked in. Even as we prepared overnight for the condolence book signing at Mission, we were unsure of the sentiments of the large Singaporean community, scattered throughout the UK, towards Mr Lee. How many would turn up to sign the book?

In the end, over 2,000 people of different ages, races and even nationalities came. Some in Europe made a detour to London, others were in transit. Students turned up in droves, sombre and reflective, despite being too young to have experienced Mr Lee’s leadership. They wrote heartfelt tributes attributing their privileges to Mr Lee, and pledged to keep his legacy alive. To keep up with demand, we opened eleven condolence books simultaneously.

It was a fitting farewell from afar here in the UK, where Mr Lee spent some of his formative years, that we fully honoured his memory in the best way we could.

Sheena Chan
First Secretary (Political)
London Mission
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
London, United Kingdom

Guangzhou, China

Tokyo, Japan

Bangkok, Thailand

Guangzhou, China

London, United Kingdom

Shu Qian
First Secretary (Political)
London Mission
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

"It did little to ameliorate the sense of loss, no less profound 11,000 km away from home, when the news of Mr Lee’s passing broke on Sunday night in London. But time to grieve was a luxury I did not have. Work instinct kicked in. Even as we prepared overnight for the condolence book signing at Mission, we were unsure of the sentiments of the large Singaporean community, scattered throughout the UK, towards Mr Lee. How many would turn up to sign the book?

In the end, over 2,000 people of different ages, races and even nationalities came. Some in Europe made a detour to London, others were in transit. Students turned up in droves, sombre and reflective, despite being too young to have experienced Mr Lee’s leadership. They wrote heartfelt tributes attributing their privileges to Mr Lee, and pledged to keep his legacy alive. To keep up with demand, we opened eleven condolence books simultaneously.

It was a fitting farewell from afar here in the UK, where Mr Lee spent some of his formative years, that we fully honoured his memory in the best way we could.”
Condolences at Istana

A week of National Mourning was declared. Across Singapore, flags flew at half-mast, a solemn mark of respect. By noon, hundreds had gathered at the gates of the Istana, leaving flowers and messages of tributes, appreciation and gratitude. Meanwhile, inside Sri Temasek (the official residence of the Prime Minister), a two-day private wake was held for family and close friends.

THAT dreadful day, we activated ourselves to help implement the SFOC plans. Our office was in charge of running the Istana operations room for the private wake. Throughout that week, we were also the liaison for Mr Lee’s friends and ex-staff. We asked for volunteers from other departments to run the operations together and were readily supported by them. Everyone just called very quickly together determined to give Mr Lee the best farewell he deserves. That mourning week passed by in a blur. We grieved together with the public, as the public displayed a genuine outpouring of grief and affection. There was a profound sense of emptiness and loss. For us, we had lost a great boss.

The reality of Mr Lee’s passing truly sank in only after the mourning week. We returned to the same physical office where there was still much work to be sorted out, but things felt very different with Mr Lee’s physical absence. We sorely miss Mr Lee, but we took heart that Mr. Lee had left us the way he wanted – painless and dignified.

We recognised that it was only a physical departure, as the fighting spirit of Mr. Lee and the virtues he embodied live on in Singaporeans. Mr. Lee will continue to inspire us to put in our best to serve Singapore and Singaporeans, in life and otherwise.

Lim Teck Kiat, Yeong Yoon Ying, Wong Lin Hoe, Florence Tan and Linda Chia
Office of Mr Lee Kuan Yew
When my team was informed of Mr Lee’s passing, a team of approximately 200 came forward on the morning of 23 March 2015 within an hour’s notice. As we watched the re-run of Prime Minister informing the nation of Mr Lee’s demise, despite being packed with team members, the room was utterly silent as we grieved the loss of our founding father, reminiscent of what was probably a familiar scene across the entire country that very morning.

When the re-run ended, the sequence of briefings and discussions ensued and a quiet sense of determination permeated. The team began the task of compiling a complex guest list for all events, calling thousands of guests, printing invitation cards and delivering them to all corners of the island, all the while dealing with many last minute changes. These responsibilities, though normally tedious and fraught with many challenges, were entrusted to us and performed without the need for extra motivation. There was no need for any pep talks nor encouraging words.

Mr Lee’s passing had unified us, along with the entire nation, as Singaporeans, towards a common objective.

The team worked through late nights to ensure the smooth invitation and management of guests for the entire tribute, from the Lying-in-State, to the Special Parliamentary Sitting and finally culminating with the Funeral Service. It was not all smooth sailing, with challenges of tracing long lost contacts, handling an overwhelming amount of public requests and overcoming the race against time. While the team remained resolute, we were especially heartened that Singaporeans were unequivocally gracious and forgiving in their reactions to our efforts. It only spurred us further to do our best so that Singaporeans could pay their last respects to Mr Lee.

Alfred Fox
Colonel
Chairman
Seating, Invitations, Guest lists and Ushering Committee
A NATION MOURNS

A NATION MOURNS

29

3:18 PM

DAY

MARCH

12.00
Strengthening our identity

In schools across the island, there were observance ceremonies during flag-raising and classroom sharing using a specially prepared lesson package on the life and work of Mr Lee. Across Ministries and Statutory Boards, internal reflection sessions were organised for public officers to come together to pay tribute.

And the whole purpose of education – from the kindergarten to primary school to secondary school on to university – is to lay a foundation, to give a man that start in the right direction. It depends so much upon the inculcation of good physical habits, the techniques of learning and of social and personal values. The Chinese, in their ideographs, represent these by three characters: Shen (身), the body; Xin (心), the heart or the mind; De (德), meaning virtue, but better translated as character.

Life is one unending series of tests and examination, varying in importance, varying in decisiveness on the rest of one’s life. If the process of learning and living means to hold oneself in readiness for that moment when one is put to judgement, then education really turns upon the teaching of those habits which make a man lead an effective life.
The most poignant scenes emerged during reflection sessions held by public agencies. Some invited alumni and pioneers to share on their experiences of working under Mr Lee. Across the ranks, senior leaders and support staff, officers young and old, came together to remember what Mr Lee was like as a leader and a man, and his contributions to various facets of Singapore. There were few dry eyes.

As I reflect on that week, there are a few things which moved me. First, the values that Mr Lee embodied and which shaped the Public Service – Integrity, Service, Excellence – were borne out in the way the SAF and Public Service came together to support the nation in its grief. Many of us were also reminded of why we joined the Public Service in the first place.

Second, a unique strength of our Public Service is that sense of ‘one-ness’, where people across agencies work efficiently and with the heart.

Third, that week reminded me how we are a country built on ideals. Our governance beliefs – meritocracy, multiracial, among others – are what define us and make us special.

Melissa Khoo
Director (Civil Service College)
Public Service Division

You survived the war
And had the courage to serve the nation
With great foresight and a big heart
Your every breath was for Singapore
With ideas so bewildering and impossible,
It made flying to the moon seem easy
But you were persistent
And took nonsense from no one
Fifty years forward,
These seemingly out-of-the-world ideas
Have paved the way for modern Singapore
You had another side, beneath the strong front
Conversations with trees
Tea and snacks with the people
Only the people you loved dearly
Would have witnessed
And on a quiet Monday morning
You took your last breath
The streets flooded with tears
Young or old, it didn’t matter
I promise you,
What you have done for the people
This small red dot
Would forever be etched in our hearts

Myron Ng
Student
St Andrew’s Secondary School

This was different from any of the other lesson packages we had done before. This one was special, because it was about the man who was an icon, a leader of our nation like none other. We felt the weight of the task on our shoulders as we wanted our students and teachers to be inspired by the life and work of Mr Lee in shaping our nation, and motivated to sustain his legacy for our future. We knew this was no routine task but we had little idea how his passing would impact us all at the national level, and also at a deeply personal level.

We worked on two packages for three levels – primary, secondary and pre-university. The first package focused on Mr Lee’s life and his achievements in building this nation against all odds. This package was sent out within a day of Mr Lee’s passing. The second package, developed and sent out later in the week of mourning, was to help students understand Mr Lee’s impact on us, our nation and the world, and to inspire a sense of optimism and confidence in Singapore’s future.

Our work on the lesson packages became our personal tribute to Mr Lee. It was no longer merely a responsibility that we were tasked with. It became an honour that made us proud to be Singaporeans and inspired in us a strong commitment to do our best always, and in our role as educators, to protect and preserve the legacy of Mr Lee.

Melissa Khoo
Director (Civil Service College)
Public Service Division
Perpetuating his legacy

The National Library Board (NLB) worked round the clock to put together an exhibition on the key milestones of Mr Lee’s life, told through his inspiring quotes, at the lobby of the National Library building. A specially curated gallery of books and a multimedia display of archival photos, newspaper articles, recordings and transcripts of Mr Lee were also set up at Level 7 of the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library. At the 25 public libraries across Singapore, book displays featuring books on Mr Lee were also set up, together with the Singapore Memory Project tribute collection booths for the public to pen fond memories of Mr Lee.

NLB also worked with volunteers, comprising students, home-makers, working professionals and seniors, to digitally archive the heartfelt and moving tributes collected from the Istana, Parliament House, 18 community tribute sites and public libraries across Singapore.

**DURING** the mourning period, we noticed library users, including the young, browsing through the books and quickly snapping up these publications. The Public Libraries’ team continually replenished the display with other copies.

We observed library users who dropped by to pen their memories of our nation’s founding father. Children left behind drawings and artwork. Some wrote their own tributes in other languages and left flowers, photos and other items at the booths. We also heard from colleagues that some members of the public had to compose themselves while writing. These tribute cards at the libraries eventually became the first of many waves of public tributes that poured in from all the community tribute sites around Singapore.

**Special exhibition**

The National Library Board (NLB) worked round the clock to put together an exhibition on the key milestones of Mr Lee’s life, told through his inspiring quotes, at the lobby of the National Library building. A specially curated gallery of books and a multimedia display of archival photos, newspaper articles, recordings and transcripts of Mr Lee were also set up at Level 7 of the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library. At the 25 public libraries across Singapore, book displays featuring books on Mr Lee were also set up, together with the Singapore Memory Project tribute collection booths for the public to pen fond memories of Mr Lee.

The National Library Board (NLB) worked round the clock to put together an exhibition on the key milestones of Mr Lee’s life, told through his inspiring quotes, at the lobby of the National Library building. A specially curated gallery of books and a multimedia display of archival photos, newspaper articles, recordings and transcripts of Mr Lee were also set up at Level 7 of the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library. At the 25 public libraries across Singapore, book displays featuring books on Mr Lee were also set up, together with the Singapore Memory Project tribute collection booths for the public to pen fond memories of Mr Lee.

**The main aim of the memorial exhibition is for Singaporeans and other visitors to have the opportunity to reflect on Mr Lee’s contributions to Singapore. What we really want people to get is a sense of the ideas and convictions that he had.**

Daniel Tham
Curator
National Museum of Singapore

**WHILE** the Red Box is a new item that has recently been brought to public attention, I think that over time, people will start to appreciate it more and see how it is very much related to Mr Lee’s contributions to Singapore. It has come to symbolise his work ethics and how he had worked to bring Singapore to where it is.

Jervais Choo
Senior Assistant Director
National Museum of Singapore

The National Library Board (NLB) worked round the clock to put together an exhibition on the key milestones of Mr Lee’s life, told through his inspiring quotes, at the lobby of the National Library building. A specially curated gallery of books and a multimedia display of archival photos, newspaper articles, recordings and transcripts of Mr Lee were also set up at Level 7 of the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library. At the 25 public libraries across Singapore, book displays featuring books on Mr Lee were also set up, together with the Singapore Memory Project tribute collection booths for the public to pen fond memories of Mr Lee.

NLB also worked with volunteers, comprising students, home-makers, working professionals and seniors, to digitally archive the heartfelt and moving tributes collected from the Istana, Parliament House, 18 community tribute sites and public libraries across Singapore.

**THE** main aim of the memorial exhibition is for Singaporeans and other visitors to have the opportunity to reflect on Mr Lee’s contributions to Singapore. What we really want people to get is a sense of the ideas and convictions that he had.

Daniel Tham
Curator
National Museum of Singapore
A NATION COMES TOGETHER

After the two-day private wake at the Istana, Mr Lee’s casket was moved to the Parliament House for the four-day Lying-in-State, where the world witnessed an unprecedented outpouring of grief and gratitude – a response fit for a man who gave Singapore his all.
Faithful devotion

For five decades, Mr Lee worked tirelessly in his office at the Istana six days a week until 6.30 pm, when he would then begin his daily exercise regime at the Istana grounds.

On the morning of 25 March 2015, the State Flag was draped over Mr Lee's casket, signifying the highest State honour accorded to a leader. Placed in a ceremonial gun carriage, and flanked by a 48-man Line of Honour from the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Military Police Command, it made one final drive around the Istana compound. Istana staff who had served Mr Lee lined the route to bid their final farewell.

My daily routine is set. I wake up, clear my email, read the newspapers, do my exercises and have lunch. After that, I go to my office at the Istana, clear more papers and write articles or speeches. In the afternoons and evenings, I sometimes have interviews scheduled with journalists, after which I may spend an hour or two with my Chinese teachers.

I have made it a habit to exercise daily. I began to play more golf to keep fit, but later on turned to running and swimming, which took me less time to achieve the same amount of aerobic exercise. Now, I walk on the treadmill three times a day – 12 minutes in the morning, 15 minutes after lunch and 15 minutes after dinner. Before dinner, I used to swim for 20 to 25 minutes. Without that, I would not be in my present condition physically. It is a discipline.

I continue to make appointments to meet people. You must meet people, because you must have human contact if you want to broaden your perspective.
Bidding Adieu

President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong alongside staff from the President’s Office, the Prime Minister’s Office, and a line-up of 24 Ceremonial Guards from the Military Police Command stood in front of the Istana Plaza to pay their respects.

On the rooftop, a lone bagpiper from the Singapore Police Force played the solemn tune of Auld Lang Syne in the background as the ceremonial gun carriage at last came to a stop.

FEW people might be aware of the significance behind my suggestion to play the tune Auld Lang Syne. It was a song, widely viewed as a call to remember long-standing friendships, that Mr Lee had requested to be played when he bade farewell to two groups of guests in 2012 – the advisory boards of American bank JP Morgan and French oil and gas company Total. Both boards had held their meetings in Singapore to accommodate an ageing Mr Lee who no longer travelled long distances, and he had hosted them to dinner at the Istana. The old folk song, which was played from the top of the main Istana building, was particularly symbolic as Mr Lee stepped down from both boards soon after.

Anthony Tan
Former Special Assistant (2011 – 2014) to Mr Lee
The rehearsals went on for hours and hours. Even though our morale was low and our bodies were yelling for a break, we continued to push on. All of us knew that all this training is ultimately for the one man that mattered, Mr Lee.

On the first day we were deployed, I was tasked to be one of the 24 ceremonial guards that lined the front gate of the Istana. At first, it felt like a routine parade. However, as time went by, more and more people turned up at the front gates of the Istana and the atmosphere had a weird tinge of sadness. People of all ages were present and an hour after we had lined the front gates, we had a glimpse of the ceremonial gun carriage carrying Mr Lee’s body from a distance. The mere sight of the gun carriage sparked off a commotion among the public and soon after, cries and bemoans from the general public could be heard from behind me.

As the ceremonial gun carriage crept into my line of vision, the outpouring of emotions and cries grew even louder and uncontrollably, tears started to well up in my eyes.

That day, I went back home a proud and honoured soldier. I was proud that I could call Singapore my home and honoured that I had the rare and golden opportunity to be able to mount a Line of Honour for the late founding Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew.

Lim Wei Cong Joshua
3rd Sergeant
Military Policeman
Ceremonial Guard
24-man Line of Honour
Holding vigil

Stoic guardians

Round the clock at the Lying-in-State, a team of five uniformed officers served as vigil guards to keep watch over and protect Mr Lee’s casket. One guard stood at each corner with his or her head bowed, back turned away and the ceremonial sword inverted. They were led by a senior officer, who stood at the head of the casket facing inwards.

PROTECTING OUR PROSPERITY

Speech in honour of National Servicemen given at a dinner held at Tanjong Pagar Community Centre

15 September 1968

There are not many countries in South and Southeast Asia that have military service as part of the education of their citizens. Before implementing National Service, a government must trust its people. Otherwise, the regime recruits only the select, those whom they think they can trust with guns, and around this officer cadre they build up a full-time regular force. We have decided that this was not the way for us. We must and can trust our people. As we train every young man and woman in the handling of weapons and the deployment and logistics of armed units, we put power in the hands of our younger generation. We did this because we have confidence in their judgment, in their loyalty, in their discipline.

One of the objectives is to involve the whole community in not just building a prosperous community, but of making them conscious that they must be fit and disciplined to protect the prosperity they are creating. Every citizen has a dual role. He is a worker contributing to his country’s economy, he is a fighter contributing to his people’s security.
AS a professional soldier, I was part of the Ceremonial Action Group, as the Chief Trainer for the Coffin Bearer Party 1. We began preparing and rehearsing for the State Funeral in advance at Clementi camp, hoping that we would not have to execute the plans. Unfortunately, it did not happen the way we wanted and we heard the news of the passing of our founding father in the early hours on 23 March 2015. With sadness, my team of trainers and I were activated as planned. We met up with Mr Lee’s Personal Security Officers and trained them within two hours to receive Mr Lee’s body at Sri Temasek in the Istana.

Everyone involved kept their emotions in check and professionally executed their tasks. I was also honoured to have been part of the pioneer group of Senior Warrant Officers to perform Vigil Guard duty at the Parliament House.

To me, it was a great honour and service to the nation to be part of the Ceremonial Action Group.

Tamizh Kannan
Senior Warrant Officer
Chief Master Trainer
Ceremonial Action Group

As Mr Lee’s casket was solemnly placed on the catafalque in the Parliament House, every vigil guard was in their ‘Ready’ positions; two hours before our turn to march into position.

We wanted to show our sincere gratitude and respect to the man. Words could not express our emotions but our actions showed how we felt. It was our personal gift to Mr Lee; a gift we wanted to show to the world. He deserved this very recognition.

He was a man of exceptional foresight, daring to create dreams that others dare not even fathom. He might have been mortal like everyone, but what he left behind – his spirit, his values, his legacy – is immortal and prodigious.

Rizwan bin Abdul Bakar
Major
Vigil Guard

As a professional soldier, I was part of the Ceremonial Action Group, as the Chief Trainer for the Coffin Bearer Party 1. We began preparing and rehearsing for the State Funeral in advance at Clementi camp, hoping that we would not have to execute the plans. Unfortunately, it did not happen the way we wanted and we heard the news of the passing of our founding father in the early hours on 23 March 2015. With sadness, my team of trainers and I were activated as planned. We met up with Mr Lee’s Personal Security Officers and trained them within two hours to receive Mr Lee’s body at Sri Temasek in the Istana.

Everyone involved kept their emotions in check and professionally executed their tasks. I was also honoured to have been part of the pioneer group of Senior Warrant Officers to perform Vigil Guard duty at the Parliament House.

To me, it was a great honour and service to the nation to be part of the Ceremonial Action Group.

Tamizh Kannan
Senior Warrant Officer
Chief Master Trainer
Ceremonial Action Group

As Mr Lee’s casket was solemnly placed on the catafalque in the Parliament House, every vigil guard was in their ‘Ready’ positions; two hours before our turn to march into position.

We wanted to show our sincere gratitude and respect to the man. Words could not express our emotions but our actions showed how we felt. It was our personal gift to Mr Lee; a gift we wanted to show to the world. He deserved this very recognition.

He was a man of exceptional foresight, daring to create dreams that others dare not even fathom. He might have been mortal like everyone, but what he left behind – his spirit, his values, his legacy – is immortal and prodigious.

Rizwan bin Abdul Bakar
Major
Vigil Guard
Vigil companions and chorales

Friends and former colleagues of Mr Lee held vigil during the Lying-in-State. They were joined by various branches of government, trade unions, grassroots organisations and other groups, as a reflection of his extensive and diverse contributions to nation-building. Each vigil companion group, comprising about 20 people, held vigil for 30 minutes. More than 25 companion groups held vigil over the four days of Lying-in-State.

During the Lying-in-State, vigil chorales performed their renditions of Home and other musical pieces, filling the Parliament House with the warmth of their voices. 19 groups from different schools (including St John’s College, University of Cambridge) and organisations sang.

It was significant that St John’s College performed at the Lying-in-State as Mr Lee was formerly from the University of Cambridge.

As I sat in my seat, a few metres away from the late Mr Lee, I looked upon all the people who came to see him – people young and old, from different races and religions, from all walks of life, etc. All these people came to pay their last respects to Mr Lee. At that moment I realised, that at the end of his time, he has achieved a successful Singapore – a united Singapore. It is a reminder for all of us that we come together not simply to mourn his death, but to celebrate his life.

Muhammad Alfian B Anan
Student
Raffles Institution
Part of the vigil companions

Although I have never met you in person, I have an unmeasurable amount of respect for you and I had the honour to perform my last tribute and bid my final farewell to you yesterday. It was really emotional when we sang, as I thought about how much you have sacrificed for our nation and cried. Many people out there are crying for you Mr Lee. You will be deeply missed and Singapore will not be the same without you.

I hope you have reunited with your beloved wife and I just want to say that I am proud to be a Singaporean and we will definitely work hard to defend our Singapore, and carry on your legacy.

Evangeline Ng
Student
Xin Min Secondary School
Part of the vigil chorales
Overcoming challenges

People came in droves, braving the sun, to pay their last respects. Queues snaked further across the city, extending all the way to Hong Lim Park. The SFOC originally planned for the public to pay their respects at the Parliament House from 10.00 am to 8.00 pm. By 1.30 pm, the SFOC had to extend the hours to midnight. By 3.40 pm, the Lying-in-State was extended to 24 hours. The SFOC also issued hourly updates on the waiting time for the lines. The Land Transport Authority worked with SBS and SMRT to provide public transport services overnight while the PA rallied its staff and volunteers to man the community tribute sites around the clock.

Despite challenges of preparing for the 28th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games at the same time, all different government agencies involved in the State Funeral took things in their stride and toggled between fulfilling both requirements concurrently. While cancelling rehearsals for the SEA Games Opening or Closing Ceremonies would be an easy option to free up capacity, all involved persisted as they felt Mr Lee would want them to continue with the Games’ preparations and make Singapore proud.

Reservoirs were my domain. The moment we separated in 1965, I felt that we would need to conserve as much of our water as we could collect because we never could predict how they would move to pressure us. Every now and then, they’d say: ‘Stop the water.’ So we dammed up all the rivers, created Upper Peirce and Upper Seletar. We had many new reservoirs and expanded the water catchment. The Marina and the cleaning up of the rivers was my top agenda. I pressed the PUB, with Lee Ek Tieng, the Chief Water Engineer. I said: ‘We will do this whatever its cost.’ So we cleaned up the city. All the open drains were for clean rain water to be channelled eventually into reservoirs. That took 15, 20 years, but it was done. Now we’re going to have the Marina together with the Singapore and Kallang rivers as a reservoir. With reverse osmosis, we can now safely use the water in the Marina.

The crowds were overwhelming. Nobody expected these kind of numbers. I remembered when we were planning for 30,000, maximum, turning up in a day. It ended up being about five times that number. I actually think that the media – television, in particular – played a very important part in shaping the public response. I mean, you could see it from the crowds. The first day, the crowds were largely older. But by the final day, the crowd was overwhelmingly younger people. You could see the composition of the crowd change on a day-to-day basis. And I think in part, the younger people were mesmerised by what they saw on television. What we had over the seven days was kind of a telescoping of our history. We saw our history dramatised through the very vivid life of one man. And suddenly you could see, you could understand – very powerfully and very immediately – what it was that went into the making of Singapore.
As they say, even the best-laid plans often go awry.

The number of people that came to Parliament House during the Lying-in-State way surpassed our planning norms. I remembered having to join CDF in trying to find the start of the queue, but we couldn’t. We underestimated the public response, but it was a good outcome that we quietly accepted.

Out of concern for public safety, on 25 March 2015 around 1.30 pm, CDF gave the orders for the closing time to be extended from 8.00 pm to midnight. But the queues continued to grow.

To control the crowd, we made Hong Lim Park a holding area for the public. At about 3.00 pm, seeing that large groups of people were still coming to the Parliament House, CDF gave another order; for the Lying-in-State to go on 24 hrs.

On the night of 25 March, the SFOC approved a change of the holding area to the Padang. It was bigger and gave us better crowd and queue control. The only problem was shelter. At that time, no contractor was able to set the tentages for us by day break. The answer lies with the SAF. Our soldiers were activated to set up our modular tentages and overnight, the Padang was transformed into what was later known as ‘Camp Padang’.

Paul Neo
Senior Lieutenant Colonel
Head
SFOC Secretariat Group
Keeping the public informed

An official website and Facebook page were set up within two hours at 5.30 am on 23 March 2015 for the public to express their condolences and share their memories of Mr Lee. The public was also kept informed of regular updates of the queue through the website and Facebook page. There was also a 24-hour hotline for the public to call for enquiries.

www.rememberingleekuanyew.sg
www.facebook.com/rememberingleekuanyew
rememberingleekuanyew

REMEMBERING LEE KUAN YEW WEBSITE
350,000 unique visitors per day

REMEMBERING LEE KUAN YEW FACEBOOK
4,402,432 visitors
88,480 shares
29,478 comments

6336 1166 HOTLINE
22,037 emails and calls providing feedback
24-hour hotline
4 languages

Ensuring success

To determine if the 25-pounder howitzer would malfunction during heavy rain, a water trial was conducted on the gun by Chairman, State Funeral Procession, Colonel Lawrence Lim at Lim Chu Kang Training Area on 26 March 2015. During the trial, water was poured into the barrel through the muzzle, to simulate a moderate-to-heavy downpour, before firing.

The trial concluded the ceremonial gun would still fire during heavy rain. This gave the SFOC assurance the 21-Gun Salute could go on even in adverse weather conditions.
Long waiting hours did not deter the crowd from queueing. The decision to designate a large holding area at the Padang, for people waiting in line, on the second day of the Lying-in-State was critical for smooth crowd control. The queue eventually grew so long that a new holding area was designated at the floating platform on the third day of the Lying-in-State.

Lines of respect

Long waiting hours did not deter the crowd from queueing. The decision to designate a large holding area at the Padang, for people waiting in line, on the second day of the Lying-in-State was critical for smooth crowd control. The queue eventually grew so long that a new holding area was designated at the floating platform on the third day of the Lying-in-State.

The biggest challenge for the SPF was to ensure the safety of the large number of Singaporeans coming to the various events. We were particularly concerned about public safety as the line snaked its way across several major junctions in the city, and there were elderly and children in the long queue that would take several hours in the hot sun to clear.

At the same time, we had to ask our officers deployed for the procession from Istana to the Parliament House to stay on for additional hours to manage the unexpected queue. They went beyond the call of duty.

It was a particularly interesting operation because we had to rely on members of public posting their selfies at various queues on their Facebook and Twitter accounts. This ‘crowdsourcing’ of information enabled the Police to figure out the real-time ground realities as the queues were very dynamic.

Looking around the area, we knew that the largest real estate we had was the Padang. However, the SAF needed it for their gun salutes on the last day for the State Funeral Procession. So, we had to work with the SAF to figure out whether it was possible for them to set up the place quickly after clearing the last queue for the Lying-in-State.

In the end, a joint decision was made at the SFOC to proceed with the Padang plan as we wanted to enable as many people as possible to come pay their respects. This was also the reason why we extended the queue to 24 hours. While it meant we had to recall a large number of additional officers at the last minute for queue management, no one complained. Instead they rose to the call of duty to serve.

Lau Peet Meng
Deputy Commissioner of Police
Director (Operations)
Singapore Police Force
THE RALLY CALL

A NATION COMES TOGETHER

PHOTO: CNA

PHOTO: SPH
Camp Padang

With the holding area moved to the Padang, shelter from the sun and rain was an immediate problem. No contractor would be available at such short notice. About 500 soldiers were activated to put up tentages through the night. By morning, the Padang had become “Camp Padang.”

The men did not flinch. They gamely took on anything that came and worked throughout the next morning, eventually building close to 300 tentages. Having the immediate satisfaction of seeing our tentages provide shade for fellow Singaporeans gave us the reason to work hard and fast.

Quite a few people came up to thank my soldiers for setting up the ‘Camp Padang’ and barricades - demonstrating a level of graciousness that I did not expect. I was also pleasantly surprised to see so many volunteers stepping forward to distribute water, umbrellas and even cookies. As mentioned on social media, even in his passing, Mr Lee did something for Singapore. He brought Singaporeans together, uniting a nation and bringing out the best in us.

Lin Yuanfeng, Joseph
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding Officer
3rd Battalion Singapore Guards

26 March 2015, 7.00 am
Capitol Building
PH
Camp Padang

The Float @ Marina
Asian Civilisations Museum
25 March 2015, 6.00 pm
Padang
Hong Lim Park
2000 pax (Holding Area)

Liang Court
45m
1hr
2hr
2.5hr
3hr
4hr
4.5hr
5hr
8hr
1hr
2hr
3hr
3.5hr
4hr
5hr
6hr
1.5hr
2hr
3hr
3.5hr
4hr
5hr
5.5hr
5hr
25 March 2015, 10.00 am
Esplanade Bridge
Asian Civilisations Museum
Fullerton Hotel
UOB Plaza
Clarke Quay
Esplanade Park
The Adelphi

PH
Parliament House

PHOTO : SPH

LTA Concourse
1hr
2hr
8hr
3hr
26 March 2015, 7.00 am
Camp Padang
PH
Asian Civilisations Museum
Capitol Building
City Link Mall
Priority Queue

PH
Collyer Quay
Asian Civilisations Museum
Fullerton Hotel
UOB Plaza
Clarke Quay
Esplanade Park
The Adelphi

PH
City Hall MRT
A NATION COMES TOGETHER

PHOTO: SPH
Special Parliamentary Sitting

Parliament sat for a special sitting for Parliamentarians to pay homage to Mr Lee. This Special Parliamentary Sitting was unprecedented in the history of Singapore. Previously, tributes from the Parliamentarians were given only at the next sitting of Parliament following a State Funeral.

A total of 11 members – Dr Ng Eng Hen, Mr Seng Hian Thong, Mr Low Thia Khiang, Mr Wong Kan Seng, Mr Thomas Chua, Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Mr Vikram Nair, Ms Sim Ann, Ms Chia Yong Yong, Mr Christopher de Souza and Ms Indranee Rajah – spoke of the achievements and policies implemented under Mr Lee.

Civil servants, members of Singapore’s Old Guard, unionists, grassroots leaders, students, a broad spectrum of society comprising Singaporeans from all walks of life, and members of the media were invited to this special sitting. Participants wore black ribbons to mark the occasion.

GREAT strength of character, determination and integrity. Lee Kuan Yew had all of these qualities and more. He kept his promises. What he said he would do, he would and more – whether it was for individuals or an entire nation.

As we honour his memory, we resolve to learn from his example to be men and women, individually and collectively as a nation, of great strength of character, integrity and determination. These values, as Mr Lee emphasised, would see us through difficult times. We must maintain, as he put it, “restless minds, forever probing and testing, seeking new and better solutions to old and new problems, (so) that we have never been, and I trust never shall be, tried and found wanting.”

We must aspire to these qualities that Mr Lee asked of us, because that would be the greatest tribute to the memory of Lee Kuan Yew, of what he stood for, fought against and desired for the good of Singapore and Singaporeans.

There will not be another Lee Kuan Yew who made us better than we are or could be. Mr Lee Kuan Yew founded, moved and lifted a nation. Because of his unwavering devotion and a life poured out for Singapore, he has made all our lives better and for many generations to come. Few mortals have accomplished so much in their lifetime. We in this House are honoured to have lived and served with him. His legacy will live on through us and through this nation.

Dr Ng Eng Hen
Minister for Defence
Leader of the House
Tribute Speech at the Special Parliamentary Sitting
ENSURING AN EFFICIENT PUBLIC SERVICE

Speech at the opening of the Civil Service Study Centre
15 August 1959

Whether an administration functions efficiently and effectively in the interests of the people as a whole or in the interests of a small section of the people, depends upon the policies of the Ministers. But it is your responsibility to make sure that there is an efficient civil service.

We the elected Ministers have to work through you and with you to translate our plans and policies into reality. You should give your best in the service of our people. Whatever your views on socialism, capitalism, liberalism, communism, whether they be progressive or conservative, your task and mine for the next five years are exactly the same, that is, to demonstrate that the democratic system can produce results.

If we do not do our best, then we have only ourselves to blame when the people lose faith, not just in you, the public service, and in us, the democratic political leadership, but also in the democratic system of which you and I are working parts. And when they lose faith, then they will look for alternative forms of government.
A NATION COMES TOGETHER
It is necessary to remind people now and again to be courteous, so that eventually it is part of their lives. This takes time. One way is to start with the children in the schools. They are younger and more impressionable. We can teach them through the teachers and the principals. The children will bring the message home to the parents. Parents and adults can also be reached through television, radio, the cinemas and the newspapers. Courtesy is good for the tourist trade and our economy, the hotels, shops, taxi drivers, and all those who cater for them. But, more important, politeness is a hallmark of a cultivated society. Living means you have to rub against each other. That causes friction, unless you lubricate life with courtesy.

Manners reflect a history of a people. Our effort to be courteous is not solely meant to boost the tourist trade. We want people to be polite because that makes life more agreeable for everyone—a courteous, tolerant, forbearing and agreeable society—not a hard, unfeeling, selfish, brutish society.

Speech at the NTUC Courtesy Campaign Committee Dinner held at Hotel Malaysia 15 May 1971
Selfless dedication

With the help of the Land Transport Authority and the Traffic Police, roads near the Parliament House were closed from 12.00 am to 5.00 am to facilitate the rehearsals for the State Funeral Procession.

To minimise inconvenience to the public, all rehearsals for the State Funeral Procession were conducted during wee hours of the morning while the days were spent conducting component level training for groups, attending briefings, refining plans and disseminating orders. Everyone in the State Funeral Procession down to the last man on the ground pulled their weight and worked very hard. Most had very little sleep, but the lack of rest clearly did not bother anyone. We were all quietly energised by an inner passion and dedication that I have not seen in my entire life. There was a general feeling of deep satisfaction and immense pride that we were doing this to honour Mr Lee. It was our way of paying respects to our founding father, and it felt very good to be part of this together.

Lawrence Lim
Colonel
Chairman
State Funeral Procession Committee

THE mission of the State Funeral Procession team was to ensure the dignified, safe and secure passage of the casket of Mr Lee throughout the State Funeral. This complex operation involved more than 150 vehicles and 5,000 personnel from the many different Ministries and agencies.

When you have a button, there must be a purpose. When you click it, the light goes off. So that is what it is for. When you want the light on, you make sure you click it and it is on. I want to make sure that every button works. And even if you are using it only once in a while, please make sure every morning that it works. And if it doesn’t when I happen to be around, then somebody is going to be in for a rough time because I do not want sloppiness.

I do not ask of you more than I am prepared to give myself. And I say: it does you no harm whatsoever just to make sure that the thing works. And don’t be kind. If you want to be kind to your people, to our people, then you have got to be firm, and at times, stern to those who have a duty to perform, to see that the duty is performed.

REMEmBERING
LKY
PURSUING EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING WE DO

Speech to Senior Civil Servants and Officers, Singapore
25 September 1965

When you have a button, there must be a purpose. When you click it, the light goes off. So that is what it is for. When you want the light on, you make sure you click it and it is on. I want to make sure that every button works. And even if you are using it only once in a while, please make sure every morning that it works. And if it doesn’t when I happen to be around, then somebody is going to be in for a rough time because I do not want sloppiness.

I do not ask of you more than I am prepared to give myself. And I say: it does you no harm whatsoever just to make sure that the thing works. And don’t be kind. If you want to be kind to your people, to our people, then you have got to be firm, and at times, stern to those who have a duty to perform, to see that the duty is performed.

THis mission of the State Funeral Procession team was to ensure the dignified, safe and secure passage of the casket of Mr Lee throughout the State Funeral. This complex operation involved more than 150 vehicles and 5,000 personnel from the many different Ministries and agencies.
A NATION MOURNS

THE RALLY CALL

2.00 AM
MARCH
DAY 27
In response to overwhelming crowds, a live video feed of the Lying-in-State was set up so that the public could follow what was happening inside the Parliament House.

When waiting time exceeded 10 hours, the queue had to be temporarily suspended at 11.00 pm on 27 March for the safety and well-being of those in line.

People continued to pay their respects while the rehearsals carried on.

While performing my duty, I came across thousands of grieving Singaporeans. School children, teenagers, and even the elderly queued to pay their respects to Mr Lee despite long queues and hot weather. Many cried while others carried a solemn look on their faces. Many brought flowers, letters and posters to thank Mr Lee for his sacrifices.

With the overwhelming outpouring of grief, many waited for up to 11 hours before they could enter the Parliament House to pay homage. But long waiting time did not deter them as they were adamant in wanting to bid their final farewell to the nation’s founding father.

Rahamad Mazelan
1st Warrant Officer
Usher
Lying-In-State Committee
It was a challenging task for my team. It required us to work closely with many agencies that we normally would not work with – e.g. Mediacorp, logistics and event companies – and to harmonise all our efforts, under the glare of live telecast, to a huge number of Singaporeans and foreigners. We knew that we cannot fail; millions of Singaporeans all around the world would be witnessing the live telecast of this event, and it would be attended by many foreign dignitaries. To complicate the challenge, it also required us to know stage design, choreography and curation – skills that were not stated as pre-requisite when we signed up as soldiers. Looking back, I am truly amazed by the commitment from every single member of my committee.

For example, the wife of a team member gave birth during the mourning week. Instead of taking the usual paternity leave, this member came back to work the following day after visiting his wife and newborn in hospital. I thank him and his wife for such sacrifice.

Tjhin Poi Chung
Military Expert 7
Chairman
Funeral Service Committee
A global statesman

Mr Lee’s global influence put us – “a little red dot” – on the world map. About 170 foreign dignitaries spanning 27 countries, regions and international organisations came to pay respects during the Family Wake, Lying-in-State and the Funeral Service.

These included world leaders such as Australia’s former Prime Minister Tony Abbott, Sultan of Brunei His Majesty Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah, Indonesia’s former Presidents Megawati Soekarnoputri and Dr Suharto, Malaysia’s Prime Minister Najib Razak, People’s Republic of China’s Vice President Li Yuanchao, Thailand’s Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, United States’ former President Bill Clinton and close friends such as former United States Secretary of State Dr Henry Kissinger.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS was cognisant that foreign governments and leaders held Mr Lee in the highest esteem and regard, and considered him a leading statesman and astute leader. However, the extent to which they had gone to pay tribute to him was beyond expectation. Many sent high level official representatives to the Lying-in-State and Funeral Service, published laudatory reflective editorials or passed special parliamentary motions on his contributions and accomplishments. Two governments flew their state flags at half-mast to identify with Singapore’s grief and loss. 170 foreign dignitaries – including 24 Heads of State, Heads of Government and Royalty – attended the Lying-in-State and Funeral Service. I had also witnessed foreign dignitaries such as Dr Henry Kissinger, former US Secretary of State who was Mr Lee’s contemporary and close friend, shedding tears and trying in vain to control his emotions. I was awed and deeply moved by the respect and grief that these world leaders had felt for Mr Lee. The compliments from foreign dignitaries and delegations on the efficiency and positive experience at the Lying-in-State and Funeral Service were testimony of the Singapore brand name that Mr Lee had doggedly built up. We were relieved that we had maintained the benchmark.

Michael Tan
Chief of Protocol
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3rd ROW – FROM LEFT TO RIGHT
Professor Pieter Winsemius and Mrs Aeyelts Averink-Winsemius
Tribute by Ms Megawati Soekarnoputri, former President of Indonesia
Mr Li Yuanchao, Vice President of the People’s Republic of China and Mr K Shanmugam
Ms Megawati Soekarnoputri, former President of Indonesia

2nd ROW – FROM LEFT TO RIGHT
Mr S Dhanabalan, former Minister for National Development and Mr K Shanmugam
Mr Bill Clinton, former President of the United States

BOTTOM ROW – FROM LEFT TO RIGHT
Mr Steven J Green, former US Ambassador to Singapore
Tun Daim Zainuddin, former Finance Minister of Malaysia
Tribute by Mr Li Yuanchao, Vice President of the People’s Republic of China

4th ROW – FROM LEFT TO RIGHT
Mr Hau Pei-tsun, former Premier of Taiwan and daughter
Dr Henry A Kissinger, former US Secretary of State
Tribute by His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan

TOP ROW – FROM LEFT TO RIGHT
Tribute by Professor Pieter Winsemius, son of the late Dr Albert Winsemius who was the economic adviser to Singapore
Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, former President of Indonesia
Mr Chiam See Tong and family, with Dr Vivian Balakrishnan
His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, King of Bhutan

3:18  THE RALLY CALL

A NATION COMES TOGETHER

PHOTO: Mediacorp
PASSING ON PROVEN METHODS

In the long run, as a government, we shall be judged not just by our own performance, but by whether we have provided for continuity in the quality and the verve of political leadership for our society. It was said of a much-loved Asian prime minister that he was so long in office that when he died, it was as if a banyan tree had fallen and no young sapling, ready to take its place, was growing under or around him – so complete was his dominance and that of his generation over their whole country.

Younger talent there is and always will be. And we must pass on to that young talent the knowledge, the know-how, the tried and proven methods of good government. Only then can new ability, dedication and sincerity of purpose find expression and relevance in the necessarily different mood of a younger generation. In so far as it is humanly possible, we must ensure that there will be enough trained ability for a team that can give Singapore that pride in achievement, which ability, dedication and sincerity, when combined with iron will, can give.

Speech in Parliament on Election of the President of the Republic of Singapore
30 November 1967

When the queue re-opened at 6.15 am on Saturday, crowds were still streaming into the Padang for the last chance to pay their respects.

Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean went to the Padang at 6.15 pm to thank the people in the queue and to also inform them the queue had to be closed at 8.00 pm. This is to allow time to clear those already in line, and also prepare both the Padang and the Parliament House for the State Funeral Procession. PM Lee also arrived at the Padang to thank the crowd.

At 8.00 pm, the queue was officially closed. Those who could not make it in time were handed cards to thank them for coming and to provide them with information on alternative ways they could pay tribute to Mr Lee.

About 1,000 soldiers from two battalions were mobilised to clear up the Padang to prepare for the State Funeral Procession by 6.00 am the next day. All 360 tents were dismantled, 2,000 barricades were collected, and piles of umbrellas stacked up for storage. The National Environment Agency also stepped forward to deploy more staff, cleaners and volunteers to help clean up the area.

WHAT happened during the Lying-in-State was extraordinary. Frankly, I did not anticipate and had never seen a crowd of such magnitude. I was very impressed by the way our commanders and soldiers adapted and dealt with the challenging situation. Clearly, we have good people who are capable and tenacious, and my personal take is that such traits do not just emerge suddenly. The work ethics and quality of our servicemen and servicewomen have been shaped and nurtured over time by a set of strong institutional practices and values.

Mission success is never left to chance. The excellent inter-agency cooperation that enabled this operation is a product of strong leadership, months of team-building and detailed planning.

Have we become stronger? I think as a country and as a people, we have emerged from this episode stronger, more cohesive and more confident. It was very heart-warming to see how Singaporeans and those who came to pay their respects helped one another, during the long queues. It is a bit like the kampong spirit, really. Yes, we were all sad but we were equally determined to continue the journey and build a stronger Singapore.

Chiang Hock Woon
Brigadier-General
Chairman
Lying-in-State Committee

"WHAT happened during the Lying-in-State was extraordinary. Frankly, I did not anticipate and had never seen a crowd of such magnitude. I was very impressed by the way our commanders and soldiers adapted and dealt with the challenging situation. Clearly, we have good people who are capable and tenacious, and my personal take is that such traits do not just emerge suddenly. The work ethics and quality of our servicemen and servicewomen have been shaped and nurtured over time by a set of strong institutional practices and values.

Mission success is never left to chance. The excellent inter-agency cooperation that enabled this operation is a product of strong leadership, months of team-building and detailed planning.

Have we become stronger? I think as a country and as a people, we have emerged from this episode stronger, more cohesive and more confident. It was very heart-warming to see how Singaporeans and those who came to pay their respects helped one another, during the long queues. It is a bit like the kampong spirit, really. Yes, we were all sad but we were equally determined to continue the journey and build a stronger Singapore."
Crowds thronged the streets despite the pouring rain. Despite having waited for hours, they were determined to honour Mr Lee. Some openly wept; others chanted his name as the ceremonial gun carriage drove past.
One united people

Faces from all walks of life lined the streets along the 15.4 km State Funeral Procession route. As the ceremonial gun carriage departed from the Parliament House, the skies opened but the crowds were undeterred by the torrential rain.

Over the past six days of mourning, though the skies were overcast, it did not rain at all, allowing Singaporeans and many others to pay their last respects.

The heavy downpour on the final day seemed to bear an apt testament to the people's shed tears. Snatches of the familiar tune Home were heard as they waited, eager to give a great man the farewell he deserved.

Today, together with my kids and colleagues, I braved the rain and lined Esplanade Drive as the cortege passed. Standing just a few metres away from the casket with the State Flag draped over, I saw so many Singaporeans from all walks of life standing together to pay their last respects. It truly touched me how the passing of one man has truly brought out the Singapore spirit. I couldn't help but cry, not because I was sad, but because I felt an immense sense of pride to call myself a Singaporean, to personally witness this moment in history. He may have passed on, but his legacy will definitely live on. This is a country our forefathers have built, and it is now our time to make sure all their sacrifices will not go to waste. We are where we are because of men like Mr Lee. Thank you, Sir.

Siti Nurbaizura
Teacher
Rahayu Secondary School
CLOSE to 2,000 officers were deployed in full force in the heavy downpour on the final day of the State Funeral. It was heart-warming to see police officers drenched by the rain because they had given up their raincoats to members of the public.

Devrajan Bala
Deputy Assistant Commissioner of Police
Deputy Director (Operations)
Singapore Police Force

SUNBURNS, cracked lips, blisters (caused by new drill boots) were common sights, and yet no one complained and asked to be replaced. Most people would think that the younger generation of citizens would not even care about Mr Lee, much less know about how he brought Singapore from a Third World to a First World nation within 50 years. I was proven wrong.

Throughout the rehearsals, I observed soldiers who dearly wanted to be part of the send-off parade for Mr Lee. Some were replaced as they just could not execute the right drill movements even though they tried. They cried. I saw adults crying because they were taken out to be reserves. They wanted very much to be part of the contingent.

On a particular day, we were notified by the SFOC there would be a rehearsal at the Parliament House which would take place only after midnight, with CDF vetting the rehearsal. That became the longest day ever for the contingent participants. The rehearsal commenced from 8.00 am and stretched all the way till about 5.00 am the next day, with only a short break in-between when transiting from Clementi Camp to the Parliament House. Yet I did not hear any complaints from the contingent participants.

On the actual day, we were blasted by gushing cold winds and heavy rain beating down on our faces. I could hear soldiers in the contingent shiver with their teeth chattering. While the crowds were using umbrellas and cardboards to shield themselves from the heavy downpour, our soldiers continued to lift their heads high in honour because they were doing it for Mr Lee.
WE undertook several hours of tough and physically demanding training and preparation. Some of us had to ice our swollen shoulders every evening and bandage our shoulders before rehearsals, but none of us complained. It was a great honour and we only wanted to give our best to a man who had given his life to this nation.

The day of the final send-off was surreal. There was a deep sense of palpable sorrow as many Singaporeans lined the streets for hours amidst a heavy downpour. As we retrieved the coffin of Mr Lee from the catafalque, many of us whispered our thanks to him for all that he had done for us. When we marched past the crowds that were lining the streets, their emotions were raw and real as they shouted their thanks. When the gun carriage passed the crowds, I noticed umbrellas being lowered, in a mark of respect and so as not to obstruct the view of those standing behind.

It was poignant that the military was responsible for the State Funeral Procession as Mr Lee had been the strongest advocate of the SAF from day one.

Dinesh Vasu Dash
Colonel
Coffin Bearer Party
Giving the highest honour

21-gun salute

Thundering booms from a 21-Gun Salute by four 25-pounder howitzers reverberated through the heavy rain as the ceremonial gun carriage journeyed over the grounds of Padang.

These four ceremonial guns were from the 21st Battalion Singapore Artillery. Special permission was granted for the 21-Gun Salute to be performed outside of the National Day Parade as it is an honour usually reserved for sitting Heads of State. The last time that the Salute was accorded was in 1981 at the State Funeral of then President Dr Benjamin Henry Sheares.

We have no NATO alliances which guarantee super-power support if we are attacked. So the more prosperous Singapore is, the more likely that she will be gobbled up if she was weak.

We have a lot to protect, and everything to lose, if we are unable to defend ourselves. The only way we can defend ourselves with a small population is the way other small countries have done: by compulsory military service, and building up through the reserves of an armed force of considerable numbers if the reserves are mobilised. For such a force to be credible, an elaborate programme of reservist training is essential.

Our economic advance has been won the hard way. It can be sustained if we keep up the verve and vitality, if we remain a well-organised society, with a well-trained defence force. We must cultivate an attitude to life where nothing is taken for granted. Alertness, cohesiveness and the determination to stand up for our rights will decide whether in fact we have to fight and die for them. The strange thing is that the more people know you are prepared to fight, and can fight well, the less likely it is necessary to do so.

‘GUN 1 STAND BY! GUN 1 FIRE!’ This is the beginning of the gun salute, the highest honour we can give to our late founding father, Mr Lee.

The whole proceeding for the 21-Gun Salute was no walk in the park. We practised hard all day, every day. Training ended late at night and took place under the fury of the sun. We embraced the heat and endured the excruciating pain in our knees, constantly reminding ourselves that we were put through the toilsome training for only one reason—to accomplish our mission with perfection.

On the day of our gun salute, the public’s sorrow could be vividly heard and their grieving inevitably affected us with feelings of despair. The weather did us no favour with its sudden heavy downpour. As we stood behind our guns, drenched, we shivered not only because of the cold winds that were blowing but also because we experienced first-hand how the passing of a great leader can cause so much grief and sadness. We endured the arduous weather. Thus, if there was a value passed on by Mr Lee to us, it would be determination and willpower.

Loy Suan Sheng, Siner
21st Battalion Singapore Artillery

’GUN 1 STAND BY! GUN 1 FIRE!’ This is the beginning of the gun salute, the highest honour we can give to our late founding father, Mr Lee.

The whole proceeding for the 21-Gun Salute was no walk in the park. We practised hard all day, every day. Training ended late at night and took place under the fury of the sun. We embraced the heat and endured the excruciating pain in our knees, constantly reminding ourselves that we were put through the toilsome training for only one reason—to accomplish our mission with perfection.

On the day of our gun salute, the public’s sorrow could be vividly heard and their grieving inevitably affected us with feelings of despair. The weather did us no favour with its sudden heavy downpour. As we stood behind our guns, drenched, we shivered not only because of the cold winds that were blowing but also because we experienced first-hand how the passing of a great leader can cause so much grief and sadness. We endured the arduous weather. Thus, if there was a value passed on by Mr Lee to us, it would be determination and willpower.

Loy Suan Sheng, Siner
21st Battalion Singapore Artillery

’GUN 1 STAND BY! GUN 1 FIRE!’ This is the beginning of the gun salute, the highest honour we can give to our late founding father, Mr Lee.

The whole proceeding for the 21-Gun Salute was no walk in the park. We practised hard all day, every day. Training ended late at night and took place under the fury of the sun. We embraced the heat and endured the excruciating pain in our knees, constantly reminding ourselves that we were put through the toilsome training for only one reason—to accomplish our mission with perfection.

On the day of our gun salute, the public’s sorrow could be vividly heard and their grieving inevitably affected us with feelings of despair. The weather did us no favour with its sudden heavy downpour. As we stood behind our guns, drenched, we shivered not only because of the cold winds that were blowing but also because we experienced first-hand how the passing of a great leader can cause so much grief and sadness. We endured the arduous weather. Thus, if there was a value passed on by Mr Lee to us, it would be determination and willpower.

Loy Suan Sheng, Siner
21st Battalion Singapore Artillery

’GUN 1 STAND BY! GUN 1 FIRE!’ This is the beginning of the gun salute, the highest honour we can give to our late founding father, Mr Lee.

The whole proceeding for the 21-Gun Salute was no walk in the park. We practised hard all day, every day. Training ended late at night and took place under the fury of the sun. We embraced the heat and endured the excruciating pain in our knees, constantly reminding ourselves that we were put through the toilsome training for only one reason—to accomplish our mission with perfection.

On the day of our gun salute, the public’s sorrow could be vividly heard and their grieving inevitably affected us with feelings of despair. The weather did us no favour with its sudden heavy downpour. As we stood behind our guns, drenched, we shivered not only because of the cold winds that were blowing but also because we experienced first-hand how the passing of a great leader can cause so much grief and sadness. We endured the arduous weather. Thus, if there was a value passed on by Mr Lee to us, it would be determination and willpower.

Loy Suan Sheng, Siner
21st Battalion Singapore Artillery
Ceremonial sail-past

The Fearless-class patrol vessels (RSS Dauntless and RSS Resilience) from the Republic of Singapore Navy and two coastal patrol crafts (Hammerhead Shark and Mako Shark) from the Police Coast Guard conducted a ceremonial sail-past as the ceremonial gun carriage carrying the body of Mr Lee crossed the Esplanade Bridge.

The ships sounded three prolonged horn blasts of 10 seconds each. These represent three bows to honour Mr Lee. At the same time, Navy and Police Coast Guard personnel dressed in their ceremonial uniform lined the ships’ decks and stood at attention to salute Mr Lee at the sounds of the Boatswain’s pipe.

The ships sailed from both ends of the Singapore Strait along the southern coastline, passing key coastal landmarks such as Marina Barrage, Sentosa and Changi Airport. Besides flying the State Flag at half-mast, the ships also flew a black flag, which signifies mourning, and three signal flags corresponding to the letters L, K, and Y. These maritime flags communicate the Navy’s and Police Coast Guard’s highest salute to Mr Lee on his final voyage.

I HAD the privilege to be part of more than 100,000 from schools and public agencies who lined the streets for Mr Lee. I was glad that I could play my part in bidding our founding Prime Minister farewell standing alongside my fellow airmen in the pouring rain, whilst the 25-pounder guns were firing in the background. I immediately thought of what Mr Lee said during the 1968 NDP: “The world is watching to see what we are made of. We will brave on.” And brave on we did.

Marcus Chey
Corporal
Street Liner
Republic of Singapore Air Force

Missing Man formation

The Republic of Singapore Air Force Black Knights had plans to fly a Missing Man formation as the ceremonial gun carriage drove past City Hall at 1:00 pm. This formation is a traditional solemn aerial salute to honour deceased dignitaries or military airmen. It was to be a four-aircraft flying formation where one aircraft would peel away from the formation and head off to the west, signifying the deceased’s final flight in the direction of the sun.

Due to torrential rain and low visibility, the four F-16C fighter jets could not carry out the formation. Instead, the Black Knights did an aerial flypast to honour Mr Lee.

While the crowd at the Padang could not witness the flypast due to the low cloud cover, the aerial salute was executed as a mark of respect for Mr Lee.

The Republic of Singapore Air Force Black Knights had plans to fly a Missing Man formation as the ceremonial gun carriage drove past City Hall at 1:00 pm. This formation is a traditional solemn aerial salute to honour deceased dignitaries or military airmen. It was to be a four-aircraft flying formation where one aircraft would peel away from the formation and head off to the west, signifying the deceased’s final flight in the direction of the sun.

Due to torrential rain and low visibility, the four F-16C fighter jets could not carry out the formation. Instead, the Black Knights did an aerial flypast to honour Mr Lee.

While the crowd at the Padang could not witness the flypast due to the low cloud cover, the aerial salute was executed as a mark of respect for Mr Lee.

The Republic of Singapore Air Force Black Knights had plans to fly a Missing Man formation as the ceremonial gun carriage drove past City Hall at 1:00 pm. This formation is a traditional solemn aerial salute to honour deceased dignitaries or military airmen. It was to be a four-aircraft flying formation where one aircraft would peel away from the formation and head off to the west, signifying the deceased’s final flight in the direction of the sun.

Due to torrential rain and low visibility, the four F-16C fighter jets could not carry out the formation. Instead, the Black Knights did an aerial flypast to honour Mr Lee.

While the crowd at the Padang could not witness the flypast due to the low cloud cover, the aerial salute was executed as a mark of respect for Mr Lee.
A life well-lived, a life well-loved

2,200 people attended the Funeral Service, held at the University Cultural Centre (UCC) at the National University of Singapore. Amongst the diverse crowd gathered to pay their respects were Mr Lee’s family members, President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament and about 170 foreign dignitaries from about 27 countries, regions and international organisations. Ten moving eulogies were shared that summarised Mr Lee as a leader, a teacher, a grandfather and a father.

"If I decide that something is worth doing, I’ll put my heart and soul into it. I’ll give everything I’ve got to make it succeed. So I would put my strength, determination and willingness to see my objective to its conclusion. Whether I can succeed or not, that’s another matter — but I will give everything I’ve got to make sure it succeeds. If you have decided something is worth doing, you’ve got to remove all obstacles to get there.

What I’d like to do now is to give this Government the benefit of my experience in avoiding mistakes. I can’t tell them what to do as their great achievements, their great breakthroughs. That’s for them to work out with younger Singaporeans. But I know that certain things are sure paths to trouble, so avoid them.

It is not by accident that we got here. Every possible thing that could have gone wrong, we had tried to pre-empt. I consider this is the best contribution I can make, the most worthwhile thing to do."

Lee Hsien Loong
Prime Minister

"Mr Lee Kuan Yew built Singapore. To those who seek Mr Lee Kuan Yew’s monument, Singaporeans can reply proudly: ‘Look around you.’"

Lee Hsien Loong
Prime Minister
On Sunday, I had the great honour and privilege of representing Anderson Junior College at the Funeral Service at the UCC. In penning this reflection after the funeral on Sunday, I realised that no amount of words could ever be enough to pay tribute to this giant of a man, who built our prosperous nation out of nothing, who made us feel proud to call Singapore our home.

Throughout the whole day, I was pleasantly surprised at the graciousness shown by all those I came into contact with. From the National Servicemen on duty to the Singaporeans attending the funeral, not a single person acted out of line on this special day. Despite the slow and snaking queues of people present when I was entering and exiting UCC, everyone was courteous and gracious, giving way to others and showing a compassionate spirit in distributing beverages. In the theatre, attendees showed the utmost respect for the occasion, reflecting, tearing, and even reciting the pledge with gusto. Mr Lee would have been proud.

Joel Yeo Wei Jie
Student
Anderson Junior College
ABOVE all, Lee Kuan Yew was a fighter. In crises, when all seemed hopeless, he was ferocious, endlessly resourceful, firm in his resolve, and steadfast in advancing his cause.

... I said the light that has guided us all these years has been extinguished. But that is not quite so. For Mr Lee’s principles and ideals continue to guide this Government and guide our people. His life will inspire Singaporeans, and others, for generations to come.

Lee Hsien Loong
Prime Minister

WITH integrity as our nation’s bedrock, Mr Lee forged a cohesive society that shares common values and experiences across races and religions.

... Many individuals and businesses offered shelter and refreshments to those who had been waiting in line, lending a helping hand to fellow Singaporeans. This would have made Mr Lee very proud. This was what he had worked for his whole life – to build a united people, who respect and care for one another as fellow citizens.

We are held aloft by Mr Lee and our founding generation. They have given us the foundation, the ability and the confidence to look forward to the future, to shape an even better Singapore for all Singaporeans.

Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam
President

HE would want us to move on with the Singapore Story. He would want us to fight our own battles and conquer our own peaks. He would want Singapore to succeed long after he is gone. We must honour him.

... Let us stay united, across race, language, religion, across young and old, across rich and poor, across our whole society, to write an exciting sequel to his and our Singapore Story.

Goh Chok Tong
Emeritus Senior Minister

HE spent every moment thinking of how he could improve Singapore and Singaporeans’ lives. Once he decided that a policy was in the interest of Singapore, he would implement it even if it meant making himself unpopular.

... Everything he did was to make Singapore better. Throughout his life, he was always wholeheartedly fighting for the best interest of this small and vulnerable nation.

Ong Pang Boon
Former Cabinet Minister
(Translated from eulogy delivered in Mandarin)
HE was a pragmatist, yet in a very deep sense he was an idealist. He was obsessed with not only what would work in Singapore, but what the feel and timbre of our society should be … He was convinced that for our nation to be distinct and different from other nations we had to be multilingual with English as the main language of administration and commerce. But each racial group must maintain its cultural identity with their mother tongue as a second language. To convert Chinese schools into national type schools and push for Mandarin against Chinese dialects were the acts of an idealist, not the acts of a pragmatist …

S Dhanabalan
Former Cabinet Minister

MR LEE believed in frugality, both in his personal life as well as nationally. And he walked the talk … There is also a Malay saying or pepatah Melayu: Harimau mati tinggalkan belang, manusia mati tinggalkan nama. This is a Malay saying which means that a person who has done many great deeds will always be remembered. Mr Lee, we would like to assure you that your legacy remains intact. We shall always thinking about the people and he expected us to put their interest above our own. Even though Mr Lee is no longer with us, his legacy is something that we Singaporeans will always remember.

Leong Chwee Leng
Tampines G-Park Community leader

MR LEE believed that one must do correctly what one is told, and everyone should do their own work. If a third person is asked to do the job, the impact would not be right. If it is our job, we should not pass it on to others. This is how a leader should be.

G Muthukumarasamy
Trade Unionist

THAT was how he lived his life: very simply and frugally, and always putting the country first and his own creature comforts second …

… Mr Lee, thank you for everything. Some days I cannot believe how fortunate I am to have been born a Singaporean. We don’t have everything, but we have more than most, because of your lifelong labour. On behalf of young Singaporeans everywhere, I’d like to say: thank you.

Cassandra Chew
Former Journalist

SINGAPORE has lost the father to our nation. For my family we have lost our beloved father and grandfather … Perhaps in different circumstances, he would have been a very successful businessman or an entrepreneur, but he chose to dedicate his life and serve the people of Singapore and to build a better future for all …

… We have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of grief and affection. We have been touched beyond words by the many Singaporeans who have braved the elements to pay their last respects at all hours of the night and day …

… Please accept my family’s inadequate but deep and heartfelt thanks. We know our loss is your loss too, and that the loss is deep and keenly felt. We are humbled that so many have come forward to demonstrate your affection for, respect of and gratitude to — my extraordinary father, a father we share — with Singapore.

Lee Hsien Yang
2nd son of Mr Lee Kuan Yew

THE RALLY CALL
THE FINAL JOURNEY
We, the citizens

After the eulogies, a lone bugler from the SAF Military Band sounded the Last Post, representing the final salute to Mr Lee.

At 4.30 pm, the Singapore Civil Defence Force sounded the siren over the nationwide public warning system, as a rallying call for Singaporeans to observe a minute of silence together. The siren sounded again to end the minute of silence and Singaporeans across the island recited the pledge and sang the national anthem.

I would like finally, if I may, just to speak not to you but really to the people of Singapore. Many things will go on just as usual. But be firm, be calm. We are going to have a multiracial nation in Singapore. We will set the example. This is not a Malay nation; this is not a Chinese nation; this is not an Indian nation. Everybody will have his place, equal; language, culture, religion.
His values live on

THE quiet moment the SFOC had before the State Funeral Procession was a time for our own tributes and mourning. The Parliament House was strangely serene and peaceful unlike the previous days of intense activity. As we stood before Mr Lee with heads bowed, a flood of emotions poured out. I whispered a tearful prayer for Mr Lee and thanked him for his work in creating Singapore as we know it today. While I mourned, at another level I also rejoiced. I rejoiced because I saw that in death, Mr Lee brought out a renewed spirit of unity and togetherness in Singaporeans. We should build on this foundation to ensure Singapore’s continued success.

Ng Chee Meng
Lieutenant-General (NS)
Former Chief of Defence Force
Chairman
State Funeral Organising Committee (till 18 August 2015)

Mr Lee Kuan Yew was also singularly instrumental in creating the Public Service ethos that we have today – clean, efficient, effective and indeed exceptional. As a young civil servant, Mr Lee’s leadership left a deep impression on me and I had the great privilege of watching, from close up, the way he handled many important issues, such as relations with major countries, in both good and bad times. Those of our colleagues who have worked closely with him speak of his legendary attention to detail, his exacting performance standards and the clarity of purpose he applied to every problem. They also found a side of him that was a caring boss.

But underpinning all this was Mr Lee’s unwavering dedication to keeping Singapore successful. For Mr Lee, if something was worth doing for Singapore and Singaporeans, it was worth doing it very well.

As we mourn the passing of a great leader, an astute statesman and an exceptional Singaporean, let us seek to emulate his passion and dedication in serving Singapore and Singaporeans. Let that be Mr Lee’s legacy to the Singapore Public Service.

Peter Ong
Head
Civil Service

Mr Lee Kuan Yew was also singularly instrumental in creating the Public Service ethos that we have today – clean, efficient, effective and indeed exceptional. As a young civil servant, Mr Lee’s leadership left a deep impression on me and I had the great privilege of watching, from close up, the way he handled many important issues, such as relations with major countries, in both good and bad times. Those of our colleagues who have worked closely with him speak of his legendary attention to detail, his exacting performance standards and the clarity of purpose he applied to every problem. They also found a side of him that was a caring boss.

But underpinning all this was Mr Lee’s unwavering dedication to keeping Singapore successful. For Mr Lee, if something was worth doing for Singapore and Singaporeans, it was worth doing it very well.

As we mourn the passing of a great leader, an astute statesman and an exceptional Singaporean, let us seek to emulate his passion and dedication in serving Singapore and Singaporeans. Let that be Mr Lee’s legacy to the Singapore Public Service.

Peter Ong
Head
Civil Service
Retracing the footsteps of a giant

Journey in the State Funeral Service

The State Funeral Procession was started from the Old Parliament House, leading through the historic streets of Singapore on its way to the Parliament House on Sunday, 29 March 2015 at 12.30 pm.

After the four-day Lying-in-State, the funeral cortege left the Old Parliament House with the coverage of the press and the public.

The procession began at the Parliament House, with the cortege led by four Guard of Honour contingents from the SAF and the SPF. More than 2,000 police officers were deployed to ensure the smooth journey of the cortege from the Parliament House to the University Cultural Centre.

The State Funeral Procession was planned to be a walk down memory lane, winding through key locales representing milestones in Mr Lee’s early political journey.

Journey to the State Funeral Service

The procession began at the Parliament House, with the cortege led by four Guard of Honour contingents from the SAF and the SPF. More than 2,000 police officers were deployed to ensure the smooth journey of the cortege from the Parliament House to the University Cultural Centre.

City Hall and Padang

City Hall and Padang are the historic meeting places where Mr Lee gave his final speeches before the people of Singapore.

Britannia House

Britannia House was the site of Mr Lee’s first political address in 1949. It was also where he delivered his last address in 1990.

City Hall and Padang

City Hall and Padang are the historic meeting places where Mr Lee gave his final speeches before the people of Singapore.

Britannia House

Britannia House was the site of Mr Lee’s first political address in 1949. It was also where he delivered his last address in 1990.

City Hall and Padang

City Hall and Padang are the historic meeting places where Mr Lee gave his final speeches before the people of Singapore.

Britannia House

Britannia House was the site of Mr Lee’s first political address in 1949. It was also where he delivered his last address in 1990.

City Hall and Padang

City Hall and Padang are the historic meeting places where Mr Lee gave his final speeches before the people of Singapore.

Britannia House

Britannia House was the site of Mr Lee’s first political address in 1949. It was also where he delivered his last address in 1990.

City Hall and Padang

City Hall and Padang are the historic meeting places where Mr Lee gave his final speeches before the people of Singapore.

Britannia House

Britannia House was the site of Mr Lee’s first political address in 1949. It was also where he delivered his last address in 1990.

City Hall and Padang

City Hall and Padang are the historic meeting places where Mr Lee gave his final speeches before the people of Singapore.

Britannia House

Britannia House was the site of Mr Lee’s first political address in 1949. It was also where he delivered his last address in 1990.

City Hall and Padang

City Hall and Padang are the historic meeting places where Mr Lee gave his final speeches before the people of Singapore.

Britannia House

Britannia House was the site of Mr Lee’s first political address in 1949. It was also where he delivered his last address in 1990.
2,200 guests attended the Funeral Service.

13 landmarks along procession route.

15.4 km State Funeral Procession route.

100,000 people lined the streets.

2.5 million viewed live telecast of State Funeral Procession and Funeral Service.

82 foreign dignitaries protected and escorted by the SPF.

Port of Singapore

Mr Lee transformed Singapore from a small shipping port into a global maritime hub. Under his leadership, he made a bold decision to build a container terminal at Tanjong Pagar in 1969, which was the only second container terminal in Asia then.

HDB estates along Tanjong Pagar, Bukit Merah, Commonwealth and Queenstown

When Singapore gained full self-independence in 1959, the government faced an acute housing shortage. The majority of Singaporeans lived in crowded squatter settlements with poor sanitation. Mr Lee and his colleagues, notably the late Mr Lim Kim San, embarked on a massive programme to house a nation. Mr Lee championed home ownership for every family. He felt that this would give Singaporeans a sense of belonging to the community and the nation, and provide them with an asset that would grow as Singapore grew. The home ownership rate in Singapore today stands at over 90 per cent, one of the highest in the world. This was one of Mr Lee's most significant achievements.

Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau

In the early days, corruption was rampant. Mr Lee was convinced that corruption would deter economic progress in the country. He decided to start with a clean slate. In the 1959 election, the People’s Action Party (PAP) campaigned against the then-Government’s corrupt practices. His team turned up in all-white as a promise to the people that their leaders would not stand for corruption and would be “whiter than white”. He made it a priority to eradicate corruption from Singapore. Laws were tightened. Today, Singapore ranks as one of the least corrupt nations in the world.

CREATING A FINANCIAL HUB

Our first objective was to get the economy going, to provide jobs, to feed the people so that people can live. We were not interested in theories. Of course, the prevailing theory then was that multinationals were exploiters of cheap labour and cheap raw materials and would suck a country dry. We had no raw materials for them to exploit. All we had was the labour. Nobody else wanted to exploit the labour. So why not, if they want to exploit our labour? They’re welcome to it. And we found that whether or not they exploited us, we were learning how to do a job from them, which we would never have learnt. We were learning on the job and being paid for it. We were in no position to be fussy about high-minded principles. We had to make a living and this was a way to make a living.


ENDURING ZERO TOLERANCE AGAINST CORRUPTION

There is no way a Minister can avoid investigations, and a trial if there is evidence to support one. The effectiveness of our system to check and to punish corruption rests: first, on the law against corruption contained in the Prevention of Corruption Act; second, on a vigilant public ready to give information on all suspected corruption; and third, on a CPIB which is scrupulous, thorough, and fearless in its investigations.

For this to be so, the CPIB has to receive the full backing of the Prime Minister under whose portfolio it comes. The strongest deterrent is in a public opinion which censures and condemns corrupt persons, in other words, in attitudes which make corruption so unacceptable that the stigma of corruption cannot be washed away by serving a prison sentence.

Speech at the Parliamentary Session 26 January 1987
Mr Lee's enduring legacy for Singapore was its system of meritocracy and bilingualism. Today, every Singaporean has an equal opportunity for upward mobility regardless of race, language, religion, social status or wealth. The bilingual policy introduced in the 1960s ensured that Singaporeans would have the language of commerce in the global economy, yet still be rooted culturally.

Singapore's most valuable resource. Educating young minds was his priority. His early leaders built schools, overhauled the fragmented system inherited from the British, invested heavily in education and implemented robust policies. Despite high levels of illiteracy in the 1960s, Singapore now tops global school rankings for the quality of its education standards.

RAISING EDUCATION STANDARDS

8 August 1967

Television Address to the Nation

Our schools will train students in the classrooms, in the playing fields to make them healthy and robust. But even more important, they will teach our students purpose and group discipline, prepared to work and to pay for what they want, never expecting something for nothing.

And we have to invest in them more than any other sector. Changes are taking place. The sky has turned brighter. There is a glorious rainbow that beckons those with the spirit of adventure. And there are rich findings at the end of that rainbow. To the young and the not too old, I say, look at the horizon; find that rainbow, go after it. Not all will be rich; quite a few will find a vein of gold; but all who pursue that rainbow will have a joyous and exhilarating ride and some profit.

DISCOVERING THE RAINBOW

7 June 1996

Speech to the Singapore Press Club at Raffles Hotel

Today's Singapore.

The Kampong spirit.

Perpetuating his legacy.

A monopol task.

A global statesman.

The loss of a founding father.

Giving the highest honour.

Selfless dedication.

One united people.

Retracing the footsteps of a giant.

Overcoming challenges.

Faithful devotion.

Lines of respect.

Drawing the final curtain.

Kindred spirits.

Overcoming challenges.

Two united peoples.

International recognition.

A life well-lived, a life well-loved.
Mr Lee Kuan Yew fought for self-Government from our British colonial masters and later led Singapore into merger with Malaysia believing that this was the best option for Singapore’s future. When merger did not work out, he took Singapore out of Malaysia and built a nation from nothing during our most difficult years. He built up a strong defence capability to protect our sovereignty, a vibrant economy which created good jobs, a sound education system and excellent infrastructure, housing and environment. He transformed Singapore from a Third World to First World country. The way he went about his work also mattered – he was meticulous, persistent, with tremendous drive and spirit, never quitting. He also saw to the continued success of Singapore beyond him through leadership succession.