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1923: Born on Sept 16 to Shell Oil Company depot manager Lee Chin Koon and Chua Jim Neo in his family's two-storey bungalow at 92, Kampong Java Road.



1935: Came in first in Telok Kurau English School in an islandwide exam and won a place in Raffles Institution, where he met future wife Kwa Geok Choo in 1939. He previously attended two Chinese-medium schools.

1940: Topped the Senior Cambridge exams in Singapore and Malaya, and won the Anderson Scholarship to read English, economics and mathematics at Raffles College.



1946: Began law school at the London School of Economics, but moved to Cambridge University the next year, when Kwa joined him. They married secretly on Dec 23, 1947, in Stratford-upon-Avon.

1950: Called to the Bar at the Middle Temple after graduating the year before. Returned to Singapore, joined law firm Laycock & Ong and married Mrs Lee officially on Sept 30. They had three children: Hsien Loong (born in 1952); Wei Ling (1955); and Hsien Yang (1957).

1954: Formed the People's Action Party, inaugurated at Victoria Memorial Hall on Nov 21.

1955: Elected legislative assemblyman for Tanjong Pagar on April 2.

Founded his own law firm Lee & Lee with Mrs Lee and younger brother Dennis on Sept 1.

1959: Sworn in as Singapore's first Prime Minister at the age of 35 after the PAP won 43 out of 51 seats in the General Election.

1960: Enacted a law to wipe out corruption and establish a clean and effective government.

1961: Set up the Economic Development Board to draw foreign investments to an industrialising Singapore.

1963: Malaysia formed, comprising Malaya, Singapore, Sabah and Sarawak.

Launched a home ownership scheme which enabled 91 per cent of Housing Board residents to own their homes by 1996.

1965: Singapore separated from Malaysia on Aug 9. Mr Lee wept on national TV, saying he had believed his whole life in the unity of the two territories.

Mr Lee overcame daunting challenges and delivered on his promise of a better life for Singaporeans

By **WARREN FERNANDEZ**
EDITOR

SINGAPORE'S founding father, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, has died, leaving behind the unlikely nation he and his colleagues built over five decades as his lasting legacy.

A brief statement from the Prime Minister's Office early this morning said: "The Prime Minister is deeply grieved to announce the passing of Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the founding Prime Minister of Singapore. Mr Lee passed away peacefully at the Singapore General Hospital today at 3.18am. He was 91."

A second statement two hours later said a week-long period of national mourning would be observed, with state flags flown at half-mast until Sunday. A two-day private family wake will be held at Sri Temasek in the Istana, followed by his body lying in state in Parliament until Saturday, for the public to pay their last respects. A State Funeral will be held on Sunday at 2pm, followed by a private cremation.

Mr Lee had been in SGH since Feb 5 with severe pneumonia, prompting an outpouring of good wishes as an anxious nation awaited updates on his deteriorating condition, hoping for a recovery.

He outlived several other titans from Singapore's tumultuous founding years - Goh Keng Swee, Lim Kim San, S. Rajaratnam, Devan Nair, Toh Chin Chye, Eddie Barker, Hon Sui Sen. Sadly, he will be greatly missed on Aug 9 as Singapore marks the 50th anniversary of the Republic he played so critical a role in shaping.

He leaves his two sons, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, 63, and Mr Lee Hsien Yang, 57, daughter Lee Wei Ling, 60, daughters-in-law Ho Ching, 61, and Lee Suet-Fern, 56, seven grandchildren and two siblings. His wife, Madam Kwa Geok Choo, died in 2010 at the age of 89.

He was widely regarded as the man most instrumental in shaping this country, from the time he and his People's Action Party colleagues pushed for self-government in the 1950s to their quest for merger with the Federation of Malaya, Sabah and Sarawak to form the new nation Malaysia in the early 1960s, and their efforts to secure the Republic's survival after independence was thrust on

it on Aug 9, 1965.

He famously wept on TV announcing the "moment of anguish", when Singapore was "severed" from Malaysia. Not only had he believed deeply in a unified Malaysia as a multiracial society, but he must also have sensed the enormity of the task for the new city-state to make a living in an inhospitable world.

He would lead a pioneer generation of Singaporeans to overcome a series of daunting challenges, from rehousing squatters in affordable public housing, to rebuilding the economy after the sudden pullout of British forces and the oil shocks of the 1970s, and a major economic recession in the mid-1980s. Through it all, he exhorted people to "never fear" as they looked forward to a better life.

"This country belongs to all of us. We made this country from nothing, from mudflats... Today, this is a modern city. Ten years from now, this will be a metropolis. Never fear!" he thundered at a grassroots event in Sembawang in September 1965.

He delivered on this promise, earning the trust of voters who returned his party to office repeatedly over the decades. He represented Tanjong Pagar for 60 years, since 1955, when he was first elected the area's assemblyman.

He stepped down as Prime Minister in 1990 after 31 years. He chose to hand over the premiership to Mr Goh Chok Tong while still in robust health at the age of 67, and took on the role of Senior Minister, serving as guide and mentor in the Cabinet.

Noting this unusual willingness to relinquish power, Time magazine said in 1991: "What really sets this complex man apart from Asia's other nation-builders is what he didn't do: He did not become corrupt, and he did not stay in power too long. Mao (Zedong), Suharto, (Ferdinand) Marcos and Ne Win left their countries on the verge of ruin with no obvious successor. Lee left Singapore with a per capita GDP (gross domestic product) of US\$14,000, his reputation gilt-edged and an entire tier of second-generation leaders to take over when he stepped down in 1990."

It added that as an elder statesman, his "views continue to be sought by statesmen and commentators who travel from all over the



NOVEMBER 1961: Mr Lee Kuan Yew with Tunku Abdul Rahman, who was Chief Minister of the Federation of Malaya from 1955 and the country's first Prime

Minister after its independence in 1957. The Tunku initially opposed the idea of a merger with Singapore, but changed his stand in 1961. PHOTOS: ST FILE

world to pay court to him in Singapore". Indeed, in a White House statement this morning, United States President Barack Obama called Mr Lee "a true giant of history who will be remembered for generations", and joined Singaporeans in "mourning the loss of this remarkable man".

When his son became Prime Minister in 2004, Mr Lee became Minister Mentor, taking a further step back, spending his time pondering the longer-term challenges facing Singapore.

His decades in office were not uncontroversial. Having survived life-and-death battles with the communists and communalists in Singapore's troubled early years,

he made plain that he was not averse to donning "knuckledusters" to take on and "demolish" his political adversaries.

He refused to be swayed by popular sentiment or opinion polls, believing that voters would come round when they eventually saw the benefits of policies he had pushed through.

As he said in an interview for the book, Lee Kuan Yew: The Man And His Ideas: "I'm very determined. If I decide that something is worth doing, then I'll put my heart and soul to it. The whole ground can be against me, but if I know it is right, I'll do it. That's the business of a leader."

He was both a visionary and a

Seven-day mourning

PRIME Minister Lee Hsien Loong has declared a seven-day period of national mourning for Singapore's founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, who died early this morning at age 91.

As a mark of respect, the state flags on all government buildings will be flown at half-mast for the mourning period, which starts today and ends on Sunday.

A private family wake will be held today and tomorrow at Sri Temasek, a statement by the Prime Minister's Office said today.

Mr Lee's body will lie in state at Parliament House from Wednesday to Saturday for the public to pay their last respects. They can do so from 10am to 8pm daily during that time.

A state funeral service for Mr Lee will be held at 2pm on

Sunday at the National University of Singapore's University Cultural Centre.

The service will be attended by the late Mr Lee's family, friends and staff; President Tony Tan Keng Yam; Cabinet ministers; Members of Parliament; and Mr Lee's fellow founding members of the ruling People's Action Party.

Senior civil servants, grassroots leaders and Singaporeans from all walks of life will also be attending the service, which will be followed by a private cremation at Mandai Crematorium.

Condolence books and cards will be available in front of the Istana main gate from today to Sunday, for those who wish to pen their tributes to the late Mr Lee. Condolence books will also be opened at all overseas missions.

radical thinker, and was instrumental in a host of major policies that have shaped almost every aspect of Singaporeans' lives, from promoting public housing, home ownership, racial integration in public estates, and later estate upgrading, to adopting English as a common language for the disparate races in Singapore.

He made multiracialism and meritocracy as well as economical sound and corruption-free government hallmarks of the Singapore way. He carried over his own frugal ways to the business of government and was relentless in his fight against the "cancer of corruption", making plain no one was beyond being investigated and ejected from office if they strayed.

He pushed for ministers and senior civil servants to be paid salaries pegged to private sector rates, despite that being controversial, believing it was necessary if Singapore was to continue to enjoy good, clean government.

And if this city gained a reputation worldwide for also being one of the cleanest and greenest, it was because the Prime Minister himself took a personal interest in enhancing the island's greenery, parks and waterways, long before such environmental consciousness became fashionable.

Mr Lee soldiered on with his public duties after retirement, and even after the loss of his wife of 63 years, Kwa Geok Choo, whom

he mourned deeply, but mostly in private. They had married secretly as undergraduates in Cambridge in 1947, and Mr Lee is said to have instructed, in a note to his children, that when the time came, their ashes should be mixed so they might be "joined after life as they had been in life".

His two-part memoirs, The Singapore Story, revealed how he and his colleagues believed that Malaysian leaders anticipated the day when an independent Singapore would fail and be forced to appeal for readmission to the Federation, on Malaysia's terms.

"No, not if I could help it," he once declared. "People in Singapore were in no mood to crawl back after what they had been through. The people shared our feelings and were prepared to do whatever was needed to make an independent Singapore work. I did not know I was to spend the rest of my life getting Singapore not just to work, but to prosper and flourish."

Asked once in an interview if he would have done things differently if he could live his life over, he replied: "All I can say is, I did my best. This was the job I undertook, I did my best, and I could not have done more in the circumstances. What people think of it, I have to leave to them. It is of no great consequence. What is of consequence is I did my best."

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PMO STATEMENT

THE Prime Minister is deeply grieved to announce the passing of Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the founding Prime Minister of Singapore. Mr Lee passed away peacefully at the Singapore General Hospital today at 3.18am. He was 91.

Arrangements for the public to pay respects and for the funeral proceedings will be announced later.

CABINET STATEMENT

DEPUTY Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Cabinet colleagues send our deepest condolences to Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and the family of our founding Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew. We will always remember his sound guidance, his constant questioning, and his fatherly care for Singapore and for all of us. Let us dedicate ourselves to Singapore and Singaporeans, in the way that Mr Lee showed us.

FOR HOTLINE, ONLINE QUERIES AND TRIBUTES FOR MR LEE

Go online to www.rememberingleekuanew.sg and www.facebook.com/rememberingleekuanew to leave tributes for Mr Lee, or to find out more about the funeral, and Mr Lee's life and contributions. Or call the official hotline on **6336-1166**, or e-mail queries@mci.gov.sg if you have any queries.

1967: Full-time National Service introduced to build Singapore's defence force ahead of British troops' pullout in 1971.



1990: Stepped down as Prime Minister after 31 years and succeeded by Mr Goh Chok Tong. Appointed Senior Minister on Nov 28.

1998: Published first volume of memoirs The Singapore Story. Second volume, From Third World To First: The Singapore Story, was launched in 2000.

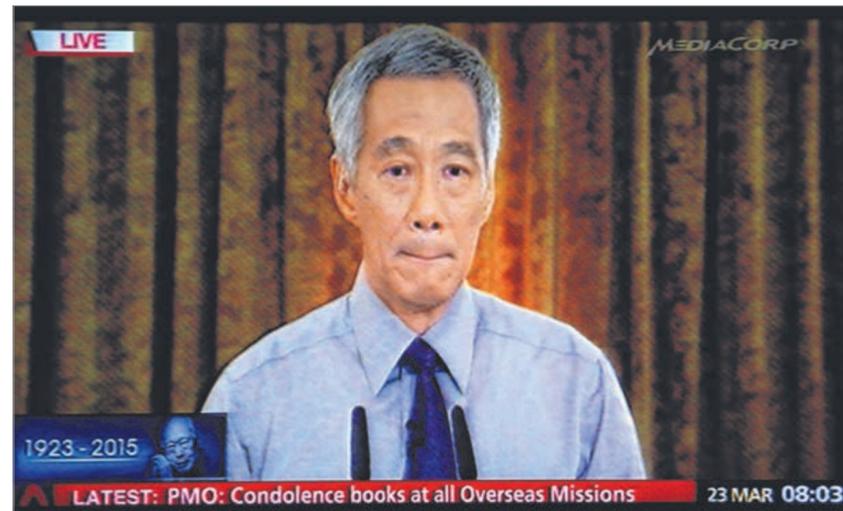
2004: Assumed the post of Minister Mentor after his son Hsien Loong became Prime Minister, and Mr Goh was made Senior Minister on Aug 18.

2010: Mrs Lee died on Oct 2 after a long illness caused by strokes.

2011: Stepped down from the Cabinet.

2015: Died today at 3.18am, leaving three children and seven grandchildren.

We won't see another man like him: PM Lee



Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong pausing to compose himself as he delivers the news to Singaporeans of the death of Mr Lee Kuan Yew this morning. The address was made at 8am. SCREEN GRAB FROM TELEVISION

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong addressed the nation on the death of former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew this morning. Delivering his televised speech in Malay, Chinese and English, he appeared emotional and paused on occasion, especially in his remarks in Chinese.

HIS REMARKS IN ENGLISH:

"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 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. And in old age, he continued to keep a watchful eye on Singapore. Singapore was his abiding passion. He gave of himself in full measure to Singapore.

"As he himself put it, towards the end of his life, and I quote: '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.'

"I'm grieved beyond words at the passing of Mr Lee Kuan Yew. I know that we all feel the same

gious society, and standing together as one united people, something which he had fought for all his life.

"May Mr Lee Kuan Yew rest in peace."

TRANSLATION OF HIS REMARKS IN MALAY:

"I am deeply saddened to inform you that Mr Lee Kuan Yew has passed away. Mr Lee was Singapore's founding Prime Minister. He had dedicated his whole life to Singapore. He built a nation where there was none, and fought tenaciously for Singapore's independence. His indomitable courage and resourcefulness carried the day on many critical occasions, and laid the foundations of Singapore's success.

"We have lost the man who had led us, inspired us and united us. As we mourn Mr Lee's passing, let us also honour his spirit and his life's work. Let us continue building Singapore, strengthening our multiracial and multi-religious society, and standing together as one united people, something which he had fought for all his life.

"May Mr Lee Kuan Yew rest in peace."

TRANSLATION OF HIS REMARKS IN CHINESE:

"Today, we lost our beloved leader, founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew. Mr Lee is irreplaceable in our hearts. He has a special bond with Singaporeans and was well loved by them. When he was hospitalised, people from all walks of life showed their care and encouragement in different ways.

"This was of great comfort to Mr Lee and my family. On behalf of my family, I would like to convey our sincere appreciation for your good wishes.

"Singapore's survival was Mr Lee's greatest concern throughout his life. He dedicated himself to Singapore, uniting us as one people and motivating us to be self-reliant. He took us from Third World to First, building a home that we can be proud of.

"His passing is a great loss to Singapore and my family.

"In this moment of grief, let us always remember Mr Lee's contributions.

"The best way to honour him would be to carry on his life's passion, and stay as one united people to keep Singapore prosperous and strong.

"May you rest in peace, Mr Lee."



S'poreans grieve as tributes pour in

By RACHEL CHANG and THAM YUEN-C
ASSISTANT POLITICAL EDITORS

ON THEIR way to school and work this morning, several Singaporeans took a detour to the Singapore General Hospital to stand witness to the passing of a giant.

Personal assistant Roslina Majid, 45, and her two daughters, aged 11 and 14, wept at the hospital where Mr Lee died early today, aged 91. "We came to bid our goodbyes," she said.

Many Singaporeans gathered to grieve for Mr Lee at SGH, his Tanjong Pagar ward, and the Istana, as tributes poured in from leaders and groups in Singapore and around the world.

Student Andy Tan and full-time national serviceman Ivan Tan, both 19, were among the first to arrive at SGH.

"He's a good role model for us," said Mr Ivan Tan. "We can't even begin to describe how much he sacrificed for Singapore."

At Tanjong Pagar Community Club, in the ward Mr Lee represented for 60 years, property manager Eunice Ng, 41, was the first to arrive at an area set up by grassroots leaders for tributes.

"He's not just a father, he's the State's father," she said, holding back tears.

Security supervisor S. N. Pillai,



Personal assistant Roslina Majid (above) at SGH with her daughters Sarah Allysa Norhisam (centre) and Sophia Amella Norhisam (left) earlier today. ST PHOTO: MARK CHEONG

Raffles Institution students (left) observing a minute's silence. ST PHOTO: LIM SIN THAI

50, headed for the Istana's gates as soon as his shift ended at 7am. "There would be no Singapore without Mr Lee," he said.

The Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry issued a statement paying tribute to Mr Lee's contributions, as did Malay/Muslim self-help groups Mendaki and Association of Muslim Professionals, and the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore.

Mendaki said the community's progress was possible because of Mr Lee's vision and genuine concern for the community.

Singapore and world leaders also issued tributes and condolences. In a condolence letter to Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Singapore President Tony Tan Keng Yam said of Mr Lee: "Few have demonstrated such complete commitment to a cause greater than themselves."

Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong, who succeeded Mr Lee as Prime Minister in 1990, called him "my leader, mentor, inspiration, the man I looked up to most. He made me a proud Singaporean".

United States President Barack Obama said he "joined the people of Singapore in mourning the loss

of this remarkable man".

Calling him a "visionary and devoted public servant", Mr Obama said Mr Lee's insights were respected by many, "and no small number of this and past generations of world leaders have sought his advice on governance and development".

"He was a true giant of history who will be remembered for generations to come as the father of modern Singapore and as one of the great strategists of Asian affairs."

Other world leaders who sent their condolences included Prime Ministers David Cameron of Britain, Tony Abbott of Australia and John Key of New Zealand.

NTUC called Mr Lee a "dear brother to our workers" since his days as a lawyer fighting for better pay and terms for them.

"Because of his care and concern for the people, countless workers have benefited from fair treatment, higher wages and better conditions at the workplace. It is because of him that we, as a people, can lay claim to better jobs, better lives and brighter futures ahead," it said.

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Condolences from President Tan and ESM Goh

Excerpt from **President Tony Tan Keng Yam's** letter of condolence to Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

'HE DEDICATED HIS ENTIRE LIFE TO SINGAPORE'

"Mr Lee dedicated his entire life to Singapore from his first position as a legal advisor to the labour unions in the 1950s after his graduation from Cambridge University to his undisputed role as the architect of our modern Republic. Few have demonstrated such complete commitment to a cause greater than themselves..."

"Many aspects of our lives bear Mr Lee's imprint - be it our HDB estates, our gardens, or the SAF. Without his remarkable foresight and relentless pursuit of Singapore's development, the Singapore that we know today would not exist. Singapore was his passion, and he continued serving Singapore till the last days of his life. Singaporeans owe an eternal gratitude to Mr Lee Kuan Yew. The greatest tribute that Singaporeans can pay him is to treasure and build upon the legacy that Mr Lee and his team have left us, and make Singapore an even better home for our future generations.

"Our thoughts are with you at this time of sorrow."

Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong paid tribute to Mr Lee Kuan Yew in a Facebook post shortly after news of his death.

'HE WAS MY LEADER, MENTOR, INSPIRATION'

"My tears welled up as I received the sad news. Mr Lee Kuan Yew has completed his life's journey. But it was a journey devoted to the making of Singapore. He has bequeathed a monumental legacy to Singaporeans - a safe, secure, harmonious and prosperous independent Singapore, our homeland. He was a selfless leader. He shared his experience, knowledge, ideas and life with us. He was my leader, mentor, inspiration, the man I looked up to most. He made me a proud Singaporean. Now he is gone. I mourn, but he lives on in my heart. On behalf of Marine Parade residents, I offer our profound condolences to PM Lee Hsien Loong and his family."

THE LEE KUAN YEW I REMEMBER

HIS SON, LEE HSIEN YANG, 57

GROWING up, my family used to bathe using large dragon-motif ham dan gong, or salted egg jars in Cantonese. We would fill them up with water and ladle it out to wash ourselves at our home on Oxley Road.

My parents did this for almost six decades since my father moved into the house in 1945, and my mother, in 1950. It was only after my mother had her first stroke in 2003 that a shower was installed in their tiny bathroom. I think it was in part because they were so set in their ways. But it was also because my father neither cared for material things, nor coveted them. He lived in a simple spartan way; his preoccupations and priorities lay elsewhere.

Some people collect watches, shoes, pens, rare books, antiques or art, but not my father. When people gave him all sorts of gifts, he kept almost none of them. He paid for and gave some of these items to my wife and me, and I selectively kept a few... and he would sometimes take pleasure in seeing them in my home, recalling the occasion and the giver.

He also had no idea what the cost and value of things were. He did not go to the supermarket to buy things or pay for his meals at restaurants, so he had no reference point as to how much things cost. Material things did not matter to him; Singapore did.

How would I like my father to be remembered? Well, he never worried about winning any popularity contest. He would speak his mind. He fought for what he believed was best for the country and the people of Singapore. He always had the best interests of the country at heart. And at home, it was always the interests of his children and our mother.



UNION RABBLE ROUSER

AS A newly minted lawyer who had just returned home from Britain, the young Mr Lee Kuan Yew devoted time to helping the unions and other vulnerable groups in their run-ins with the British.

His first major case was the postal workers' union, for whom he secured wage increases. These cases rarely raked in the big money, much to the chagrin of his firm, Laycock & Ong. He once asked for a token \$10 for a case when another lawyer wanted to charge \$15,000.

Soon, Mr Lee built a reputation as a champion of society's underdogs. He became legal adviser to more than 100 unions and associations within two years. That reputation reaped political capital. Many workers whom he helped became fervent campaigners when he first ran for election in 1955.

Later, he became uncomfortable with the strident unionism of the leftists within the People's Action Party. Their strikes often ended in violent action and detentions – such as during the Hock Lee bus strike.

After becoming Prime Minister in 1959, Mr Lee continued to take a keen interest in industrial relations, often stepping in personally to mediate between workers and management.



1952 POSTAL STRIKE: Mr Lee meeting postal workers at their quarters in Maxwell Road (above). He secured for them salary increases from the colonial government through a combination of strikes, negotiations and favourable press coverage. When the city's 500 postal workers were on strike, trishaws (right) were used to ferry parcels and mail to collection centres, which residents had to visit to collect their mail.



1963 HARBOUR WORKERS' UNREST

(above): Mr Lee speaking to workers from the Singapore Harbour Board. When members of the Singapore Harbour Board Staff Association decided to proceed with a strike after he promised a \$2 million award for wage claims, he deregistered the union on July 22, 1963.

1955 HOCK LEE BUS RIOTS

(right and far right): Mr Lee meeting unionists during the Hock Lee bus strike. Led by leftists Fong Swee Suan and Lim Chin Siong, the strike turned violent, leaving four dead, and was the first in a series of incidents that convinced Mr Lee that his partnership with Fong and Lim had to end eventually.



PHOTOS: ST FILE



1955 CITY COUNCIL STRIKE: Mr Lee speaking to 8,000 striking workers from the City Council Labour Unions Federation. He was legal adviser to the workers during the 15-day strike, which ended with concessions on public holiday pay, annual leave and allowances.



1963 NURSES' UNREST (above and below): A strike among nurses is called off after a 75-minute meeting between Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and representatives of the nurses.



SETTING UP THE PAP AT OXLEY ROAD



NOVEMBER 1954: Straits Times senior executive artist Miel recreates the meeting of the founding members of the People's Action Party brainstorming to come up with the logo for the new political party. The PAP was conceived in the basement dining room of Mr Lee Kuan Yew's Oxley Road home. Founding members included (clockwise from top right) Messrs Ismail Rahim, Lee Kuan Yew (standing), K.M. Byrne, S. Rajaratnam, Devan Nair, Toh Chin Chye, Goh Keng Swee and Samad Ismail.

SINGAPORE'S FIRST PRIME MINISTER

MR LEE Kuan Yew became the first prime minister of Singapore after his People's Action Party won a landslide victory in the 1959 election – Singapore's first election under full internal self-government.

As then PAP chairman Toh Chin Chye and Organising Secretary Ong Pang Boon later recalled, he got the post only after beating comrade Ong Eng Guan by one vote at a post-election central executive committee meeting. Mr Lee disputed this, pointing to a letter Dr Toh later wrote that said the decision had been unanimous.

By 1963, Mr Lee had led Singapore to independence through a merger with Malaysia. During the Malaysia years, he retained his job title as prime minister, rather than changing it to "chief minister" – a point of unhappiness with then Malaysian Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman.

The Tunku's personality clash with Mr Lee, as well as their divergent views on race relations, caused Singapore and Malaysia to part ways in 1965, making Mr Lee the first prime minister of a fully independent and separate Singapore.

Over the next 2½ decades, he was able to govern decisively. He opened up the economy to free trade and multinational corporations, which brought about dramatic growth. He also placed special emphasis on meritocracy, multiracialism and a corruption-free society and government. But his hardline approach to political opponents drew some criticism at home and abroad.

He retired in 1990 after 31 years as prime minister, and was succeeded by Mr Goh Chok Tong. He became Senior Minister and then Minister Mentor, before stepping down from the Cabinet in 2011.



PHOTOS: ST FILE, COURTESY OF LAI KUI FANG

JUNE 5, 1959: (Above) A painting of Mr Lee's swearing-in by artist Lai Kui Fang, with last governor of Singapore William Goode to the right and an aide-de-camp to the left. (Left) Mr Lee and some members of his first Cabinet leaving City Hall after the swearing-in ceremony. From left are Dr Goh Keng Swee, Dr Toh Chin Chye, Mr Yong Nyuk Lin, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, Mr Ong Eng Guan and Mr Ong Pang Boon.



MALAYSIA YEARS



OCT 1, 1962: Mr Lee meeting Malayan Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman (centre) in Kuala Lumpur a year before the merger. With them is former Singapore Chief Minister Lim Yew Hock. Mr Lee called the merger a "historical necessity" and the Tunku said the idea "caught the imagination of all the peoples concerned".



MAY 25, 1965: Mr Lee talking to members of the PAP delegation at the opening of the Federal Parliament in Kuala Lumpur. Mr Lee described the PAP delegation as "cross-benchers" – neither part of the Government nor part of the opposition.

MOMENT OF ANGUISH: AUGUST 1965 INDEPENDENCE



AUG 9, 1965: Mr Lee broke down during a TV press conference to announce Singapore's separation from Malaysia. Holding back his emotions, he said: "For me, it is a moment of anguish because all my life... you see, the whole of my adult life... I have believed in merger and the unity of these two territories."



MARCH 10, 2001: Senior Minister Lee and Minister for Community Development and Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs Abdullah Tarmugi at a closed-door meeting with Malay leaders and the Malay community in Parliament House.

THE LEE KUAN YEW I REMEMBER

FORMER COLLEAGUE
ABDULLAH TARMUGI, 70

LEE Kuan Yew is one who follows the rules. When I was Speaker, for example, sometimes MPs do not come to sittings, and if you do not attend, you are supposed to inform me or write in.

Lee Kuan Yew was someone who even if he didn't come for one afternoon, he would write me a note. In fact, he was the only one who did that. To his credit, he made sure he followed the rules, you couldn't fault him.

I remember during the severe acute respiratory syndrome (Sars) outbreak, every time we went into Parliament, we had our temperatures checked.

He was coming in, and people were intimidated. I remember there was this security officer who hesitated because this was Mr Lee after all. So he didn't take the temperature. And Mr Lee wound down his window screen and asked the guy: "Why aren't you checking me?" He was the sort of person who would follow the rules.

His contribution to Singapore is undeniable. Whatever you may disagree with him, he brought us to where we are now. People argue that he could have done it differently, or done things a certain way, but you can't deny his significant contribution.

He was a man of his time. In that context, he did what he could as a leader, and he did well.

PORT



AUGUST 1963: (above) Four new deep-water berths at the Singapore Harbour. Mr Lee understood the potential benefits from sea trade and carefully developed Singapore's ports, in time replacing the island's lost hinterland of Malaysia with a much larger one – the world.



MAY 1972: (right) A container crane at the PSA wharf.

EARLY YEARS: PORT, HOMES, INDUSTRY

JOBs and housing were Mr Lee Kuan Yew's most urgent priorities when his People's Action Party took power in 1959. Many lived in unhygienic slums. The economy, while prosperous compared to other South-east Asian cities, had not industrialised and struggled to generate jobs for the baby boomers.

Early on, Mr Lee sought to connect Singapore to the world by making the sea port more efficient, reforming its shift-work system. It was later upgraded and mechanised into the world's second-busiest port. With the help of his economic czar Goh Keng Swee, Mr Lee also encouraged the growth of job-intensive industries, including an oil refinery in Pulau Bukom and manufacturing in Jurong.

He also pursued a massive public housing plan, implemented by former businessman Lim Kim San. Some 26,000 flats were built by the new Housing Board in three years – more than its predecessor, the Singapore Improvement Trust, had built in 32 years.

By the time Mr Lee stepped down as PM in 1990, gross domestic product per capita had grown seven times in real terms to nearly US\$14,711, and eight in 10 Singaporeans were living in public housing.

PUBLIC HOUSING



SEPT 18, 1959 (above and left): Mr Lee touring a housing estate after National Development Minister Ong Eng Guan announced a five-year plan to build nearly 84,000 units of public housing. A rapid expansion in home ownership quickly became the hallmark of his socialist democratic government.

MARCH 15, 1963 (far left): Mr Lee and Mr Lim Kim San viewing models of the upcoming Cantonment Road housing estate.

PHOTOS: ST FILE

INDUSTRY



OCTOBER 1962 (above): Mr Lee inspecting a vacant plot in Jurong, soon to be the heart of Singapore's manufacturing sector. Initially dubbed "Goh's Folly" as cynics doubted the venture led by Deputy PM Goh Keng Swee would take off, Jurong became Singapore's most important generator of jobs. Five decades on, the economy has expanded into services. Manufacturing now accounts for one-fifth of Singapore's total GDP.

MAY 1964 (below): Mr Lee touring Jurong industrial estate. He is accompanied by Yang di-Pertuan Negara Yusof Ishak and Economic Development Board chairman Hon Sui Sen.



JULY 1961: A view of the \$30 million Shell Oil Refinery on Pulau Bukom, which opened in July 1961 after being constructed in a world-record time of 12 months.

LEE KUAN YEW ON...

HIS LIFE'S WORK

"Would I have been a different person if I had remained a lawyer and not gone into politics? My work experience would have been more limited and my horizons narrower. In politics I had to range over the whole gamut of the problems of human society. As the Chinese saying goes, 'The sparrow though small has all five organs.' Small though we may be, our needs are the same as those of any large country, domestically and internationally. My responsibilities gave me a wide perspective of human societies and a worldview that a lawyer would not have."

– From *Third World To First*



RUNNING THE COUNTRY

"Over 100 years ago, this was a mudflat, a swamp. Today, this is a modern city. Ten years from now, this will be a metropolis. Never fear!"

– Speech on Sept 12, 1965, just a month after Independence

RUNNING THE COUNTRY

"We had been entrusted with the people's fate. The first duty of the leader is to fulfil this trust whatever the danger to himself personally, or he should not have sought this position. Those who look for soft options in crises are not leaders; history will condemn them as cowards; their friends and relatives will be ashamed of them, long before the judgment of history."

– PAP's 25th anniversary publication in 1979



RUNNING THE COUNTRY

"Running a government is not unlike conducting an orchestra. No prime minister can achieve much without an able team. While he himself need not be a great player, he has to know enough of the principal instruments, from the violin to the cello to the French horn to the flute, or he would not know what he can expect from each of them. My style was to appoint the best man I had to be in charge of the most important ministry at that period, usually finance, except at independence when defence became urgent."

– From *Third World To First*

RUNNING THE COUNTRY

"The single decisive factor that made for Singapore's development was the ability of its ministers and the high quality of the civil servants who supported them... We soon discovered that they needed to have other qualities besides a disciplined mind able to marshal facts and figures, write a thesis for a PhD, or be a professional. Leadership is more than just ability. It is a combination of courage, determination, commitment, character and ability that makes people willing to follow a leader."

– From *Third World To First*



RUNNING THE COUNTRY

"If there was one formula for our success, it was that we were constantly studying how to make things work, or how to make them work better. I was never a prisoner of any theory. What guided me were reason and reality. The acid test I applied to every theory or scheme was, would it work? This was the golden thread that ran through my years in office."

– From *Third World To First*

HIS LIFE'S WORK

"I have never been over-concerned or obsessed with opinion polls or popularity polls. I think a leader who is, is a weak leader. If you are concerned with whether your rating will go up or down, then you are not a leader. You are just catching the wind... you will go where the wind is blowing. And that's not what I am in this for. Between being loved and being feared, I have always believed Machiavelli was right. If nobody is afraid of me, I'm meaningless."

– *The Man And His Ideas*



FAMILY LIFE

"Loong is a different personality from me. He's more, how would I say, equable – less intense than my daughter who takes after me. Ling is very intense... She gravitated to an activist role... She should have married and had two children, then things would have happened differently. But what to do? She was happy as she was, so that's that. They lead their own lives."

– Mr Lee on his daughter Wei Ling, in *Hard Truths*



PEOPLE

"The problem is that the human being is unable yet to assess this thing called 'character'. You can assess a man's intelligence: set him tests, then rate his IQ... It is amazing the number of highly intelligent persons in the world who make no contribution at all to the well-being of their fellowmen. And it is this unmeasurable quality called 'character' which, plus your mental capacity or knowledge or discipline, makes for leadership."

– Speech at a youth and leadership conference, April 10, 1967



PEOPLE

"I believed that a deep sense of property was instinctive in a person. During the riots of the 1950s and early 1960s, people would join in the rioting, stone windshields, overturn cars, and burn them. When riots broke out in the mid-1960s, after they owned homes and property, they acted differently. I saw young men carrying their scooters parked on the roads to safety up the stairs of their HDB blocks. I was strengthened in my resolve to give every family solid assets which I was confident they would protect and defend, especially their home. I was not wrong."

– From *Third World To First*



PEOPLE

"We would have been a grosser, ruder, cruder society had we not made these efforts to persuade our people to change their ways. We did not measure up as a cultivated, civilised society and were not ashamed to set about trying to become one in the shortest time possible. First, we educated and exhorted our people. After we had persuaded and won over a majority, we legislated to punish the wilful minority. It has made Singapore a more pleasant place to live in. If this is a 'nanny state', I am proud to have fostered one."

– From *Third World To First*



PEOPLE

"In Singapore, a society barely above the poverty line, welfarism would have broken and impoverished us... I have developed a deep aversion to welfarism and social security, because I have seen it sap the dynamism of people to work their best. What we have attempted in Singapore is asset enhancement, not subsidies. We have attempted to give each person enough chips to be able to play at the table of life. This has kept the people self-reliant, keen and strong."

– *The Man And His Ideas*

HIS LIFE'S WORK

"What are the things important to me in life? My family and my country. My family, my wife looked after. She brought up the children. I spent some time with them, trying to impart some values... But Singapore is an ever-going concern. Singapore is my concern till the end of my life."

– *Hard Truths To Keep Singapore Going*

FAMILY LIFE

"Her last wish she shared with me was to enjoin our children to have our ashes placed together, as we were in life... I have precious memories of our 63 years together. Without her, I would be a different man, with a different life. She devoted herself to me and our children. She was always there when I needed her. She has lived a life full of warmth and meaning. I should find solace in her 89 years of life well lived. But at this moment of the final parting, my heart is heavy with sorrow and grief."

– Mr Lee's eulogy to his wife Kwa Geok Choo (left) at her funeral on Oct 6, 2010

SINGAPORE'S FUTURE

"No geographic or political boundary can contain the implications of what we set out to do when we succeed. And, there is no reason why given patience, tolerance, perseverance, we should not – in this hub, in this confluence of three, indeed four, great civilisations – create a situation which will act as a yeast, a ferment for what is possible, given goodwill, forbearance and good faith."

Every year, on this 9th August for many years ahead – how many, I do not know – we will dedicate ourselves anew to consolidate ourselves to survive; and, most important of all, to find an enduring future for what we have built..."

– First National Day Rally, Aug 8, 1966

SINGAPORE'S FUTURE

"Friends tell me many young Singaporeans believe Singapore's best years are behind us. Because we made it from Third World to First in one generation they believe that there will be no further dramatic transformations in their lifetime, that the best pickings of cheap standalone houses that their elders got are no longer available. They are pessimists and wrong. Singapore is like an aircraft flying at 30,000 ft. We have another 6,000 ft to rise to 36,000 ft, the height top US and EU airlines are flying. Furthermore we have not reached First World standards in the finer things in life, music, culture and the arts, the graces of a civilised society. The generation now in their 30s to 50s can take Singapore there in the next 15 to 20 years. The best is yet to be."

– Speech at Tanjong Pagar GRC Lunar New Year dinner on Jan 30, 2004

SINGAPORE'S FUTURE

"So, friends and fellow citizens, we got a little island – 600 sq km. You unwind this, you will not drop down on soft paddy fields, it is hard hard concrete, your bones are broken and it's kaput. And if you want to know why I am tough, it's because I know what happens. I travel and I am not looking at the tourist sites... And you know that Singapore has only one chance and that is to go up – tighter, more discipline, up the ladder. You unwind this, it's curtains for everybody."

– National Day Rally, Aug 16, 1981

LEAVING THE SCENE

"Let me give you a Chinese proverb: 'Do not judge a man until you've closed his coffin.' Do not judge a man. Close the coffin, then decide. Then you assess him. I may still do something foolish before the lid is closed on me... The final verdict will not be in the obituaries. The final verdict will be when the PhD students dig out the archives, read my old papers, assess what my enemies have said, sift the evidence and seek the truth? I'm not saying that everything I did was right, but everything I did was for an honourable purpose. I had to do some nasty things, locking fellows up without trial..."

Barisan Sosialis leader Chia Thye Poh was detained in 1966.

– Mr Lee in an interview with *The New York Times* on Sept 1, 2010



EARLY YEARS: BARISAN WALKOUT, BRITISH PULLOUT, SOCIAL SHAKE-OUT

AFTER Separation, Mr Lee faced the grim prospect of having to fight the pro-communists without the help of the Malaysian government, while trying to govern a new country without a hinterland or a decent defence force.

A Barisan Sosialis walkout from Parliament raised the possibility of chaos, as there was talk of them taking the fight into the streets.

As it turned out, however, the manoeuvre gave Mr Lee and the PAP the space to decisively roll out policies that helped pull Singapore up by the bootstraps.

Conscription at 18 for the entire male population – termed National Service – began within the second year of independence, a move that would prove vital for the nation's defence when the British pulled out their troops in 1971.

Meanwhile, Mr Lee sought to build not just the country's hardware but also its software, moulding the moral make-up and social graces of Singaporeans through several campaigns.

BARISAN WALKOUT



PHOTOS: ST FILE

BRITISH PULLOUT



OCT 29, 1971 (above): A farewell parade at Kangaw Barracks in Sembawang, where the Union Jack came down for the last time, marking the end of British military command since the first British soldier, Major William Farquhar, arrived in Singapore with Sir Stamford Raffles on Jan 19, 1819.



MARCH 28, 1967 (right): Four years before the British pullout, which left the defence of Singapore in its own hands, youths were called up for National Service. The first batch consisted of 9,000 youths born between Jan 1, 1949 and June 30, 1949.

AUG 9, 1966 (far right): Thousands took part in the first National Day Parade, among them the police and other security forces, which assembled at the Padang before proceeding along St Andrew's, North Bridge, South Bridge and Tanjong Pagar roads.



SOCIAL SHAKE-OUT



A CLEAN AND GREEN SINGAPORE: Mr Lee sweeping streets in 1959 in a mass clean-up campaign (above, left) and planting a mempat tree (above, right) on Tree Planting Day in 1963, the latter a tradition he kept up annually for the next five decades. A tidy city, he believed, pointed to an orderly government, and a people with good social habits and pride in their surroundings. There were campaigns to not litter, spit, chew gum, deface or destroy the spruced-up new look. Citizens were exhorted to Keep Singapore Clean, Use Your Hands, Queue Up For Buses, Don't Waste Water, Stop At Two and Speak Mandarin. Mascots like Teamy the productivity bee, Singa the courtesy lion and Bobo the water-saving elephant appeared to give a soft touch to pushing change.



THE LEE KUAN YEW I REMEMBER

BUKIT HO SWEE FIRE VICTIM
JAMES SEAH KOK THIM

MY PARENTS, two elder sisters and I lived in Beo Lane at the Bukit Ho Swee kampung until I was 13. On May 25, 1961 – it was a public holiday – when the big fire broke out, my mother and I were at my second auntie's house. We reached home before the fire reached it and my mother managed to take away a sarong with our birth certificates. My family was among the 16,000 fire victims left homeless that night.

DEC 8, 1965: Yang di-Pertuan Negara Yusof Ishak addressing a half-full House after the Barisan Sosialis contingent of 13 MPs decided to boycott Parliament. Parliament would be made up entirely of PAP MPs from this point until 1981.

Mr Lee Kuan Yew promised that in nine months we would all have new flats to live in.

The Housing Board (HDB) had taken over from Singapore Improvement Trust (SIT) for only three months. SIT, after over 30 years, had built only 23,000 flats. So people were asking if the PAP Government and Prime Minister Lee would be able to do better than the British government.

So when we got the Jalan Bukit Ho Swee HDB flat less than a year later, we were really grateful. We were saying, at least this Government can keep its promise.

In 1962, Mr Lee visited our estate to see how the fire victims had settled in. My friends and I followed him around. A neighbour had a provision shop in the kampung, so he made his new flat like a shop. We bought flavoured ice tubes, sweets and cookies for 10 cents from him.

The Prime Minister was quite understanding. It was not right but people had to make a living. He also inspected the communal toilets. He was a very simple guy. When he visited, he wore short sleeves.

Many from the kampung were very poor, uneducated, a lot of coolies, port workers. They approached the Prime Minister with job problems. Kampung people keep their gratitude in their hearts, they didn't say it. But the respect we have for him is because Mr Lee got things done. He was not the kind who cared about popularity...

He gave my family a house, he was our benefactor.



ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

IF ANYONE blazed the campaign trail, it was Mr Lee Kuan Yew. He was a fiery orator who roused the crowds with his legendary speeches. Whether he was sketching a vision or socking it to an opponent, Mr Lee often had his audience transfixed.

He led the ruling People's Action Party through 14 General Elections and he had campaigned at each one since 1955. In 2011, on Nomination Day, at age 88, he promised his Tanjong Pagar voters he would take care of them for another five years. By then, he had done so for 56 years.

In 1961, he forced himself to pick up Hokkien when he found the communist leaders were masterly Hokkien orators whose speeches could move the masses. His Fullerton Square rallies were marquee events, where at one election - 1980 - he stood through 65 minutes of rain arguing against those who put Singapore's future at risk.

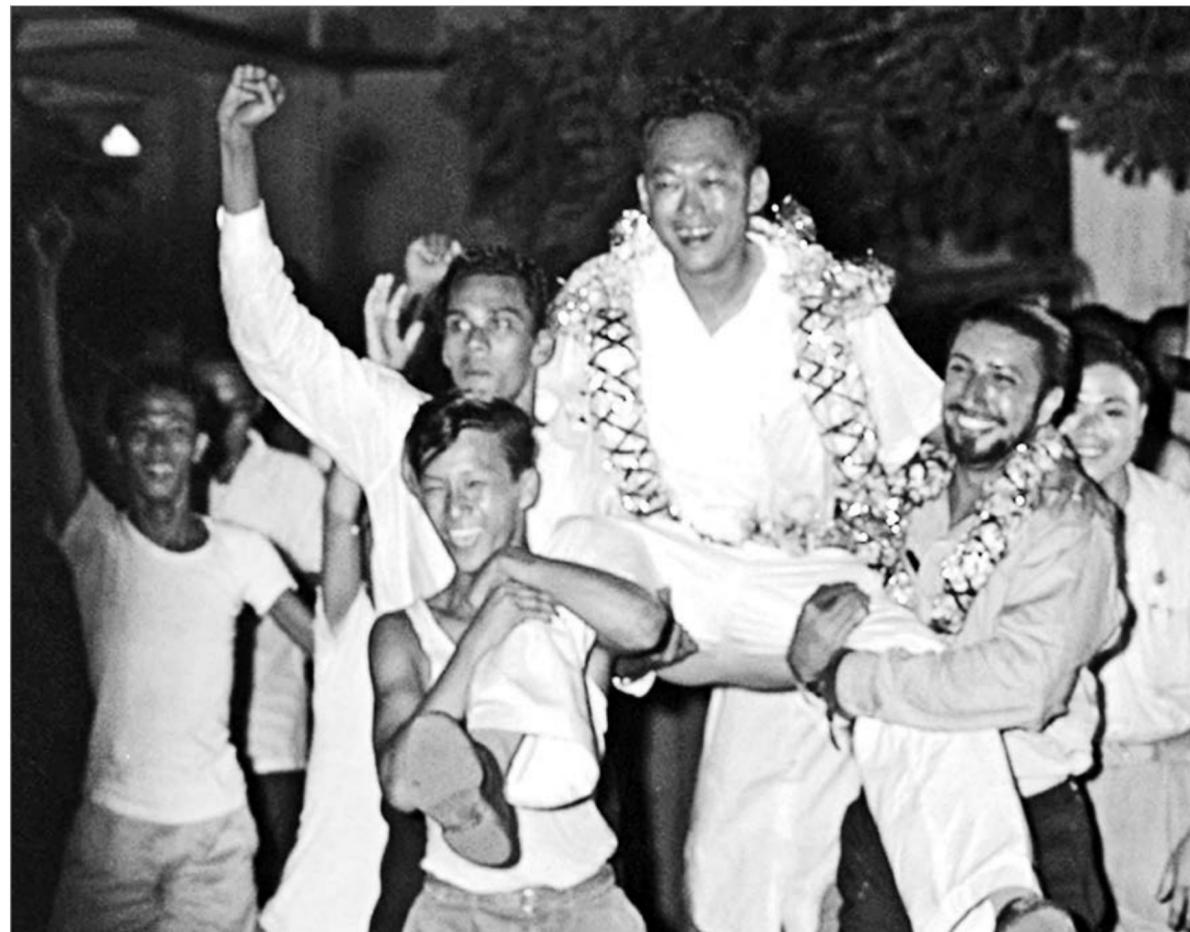
Maintaining that "no party or group of men, however powerful, can be more powerful than the people from whom a party derives its right to rule", he sought the moral authority to lead at every contest.



JUNE 18, 1961 (above): "Merdeka!" Mr Lee thundered thrice, using the Malay word for "independence" at a by-election rally in Anson.



DEC 15, 1962 (right): Mr Lee, seen here in Thomson, revived grassroots support for the PAP by touring all 51 constituencies in 10 months. The groundswell of enthusiasm made it seem like he was "a political pop star", he recalled.



PHOTOS: MINISTRY OF CULTURE, ST FILE

MAY 30, 1959: Mr Lee became Singapore's first prime minister when the PAP swept 43 out of 51 seats to form the country's first fully elected government under the new

Constitution. "The people's verdict is clear and decisive. It is a victory of right over wrong, clean over dirty, righteousness over evil," he said at a press conference.



DEC 20, 1976: Mr Lee's lunch-time rallies at Fullerton Square, where he delivered his most memorable speeches, were the highlight of election campaigns.



DEC 24, 1980 (above, right): Mr Lee thanking Tanjong Pagar residents for their support during his victory tour. He won 92.74 per cent of the vote.



DEC 23, 1996: Mr Lee celebrating with his Tanjong Pagar Group Representation Constituency team members - Prof Koo Tsai Kee, Dr S. Vasoo, Mr Chay Wai Chuen, Mr Lim Swee Say and Dr Ow Chin Hock - and PAP colleagues after they were returned unopposed on Nomination Day.



NOV 11, 2001: Another victory for Tanjong Pagar Group Representation Constituency, which has been uncontested since 1991. Garlanded in red, white and purple blooms, Mr Lee shared his victory with (from left) Prof Koo Tsai Kee, Ms Indranee Rajah, Mr Chay Wai Chuen, as well as (not in picture) Mr Khaw Boon Wan and Dr Chong Weng Chiew.



APRIL 2011: (above) Mr Lee lending his support to his former principal private secretary Heng Swee Keat as he made his electoral debut in Tampines GRC. Others in the GRC present included Mr Mah Bow Tan and Ms Irene Ng.

(left) Mr Lee's supporters clad in T-shirts with his picture on Nomination Day, April 27.

THE LEE KUAN YEW I REMEMBER

HIS FRIEND HENRY KISSINGER, 91

ONE evening in 1967, a young Lee Kuan Yew walked into a lion's den and emerged with a friend for life.

At a dinner with Harvard University scholars, the liberals were taking turns to brand US President Lyndon B. Johnson a "war criminal" and a "psychopath" for escalating conflict in Vietnam.

But when it came to Mr Lee, he made it clear they could not be more wrong. America's stand was crucial for the future of a non-Communist South-east Asia.

Recalls Dr Henry Kissinger, who was meeting him for the first time: "His first words were 'you make me sick'. Which took great courage." That display won over the former US Secretary of State, who was then a Harvard don. Thus began one of the world's most high-powered and enduring friendships between two masters of realpolitik.

From the beginning, Dr Kissinger says, "he impressed me with his clarity of analysis, with his strength that he showed in facing his challenges, and with the courage in which he defended his position".

As much as Mr Lee is known for his force of personality, Dr Kissinger is adamant his friend did not gain the influence he did by charm or cultivating personality.

"He did it, and insists on doing it, by performance," he says.

Their friendship has been marked by regular phone calls and visits, but Dr Kissinger insists it was never a "sentimental" one. Ever the realist, he says: "When Lee Kuan Yew and I meet, we don't protest each other's friendship to each other. We have shown it in our actions to each other."



MAY 13, 1969: Mr Lee with United States President Richard Nixon during his visit to Washington, where they exchanged views on security in South-east Asia. He saw Mr Nixon as a "serious geo-political conceptualist with a clear grasp of the world and of America's place".



JAN 19, 1980: Singapore's enduring friendship with Brunei began in 1960 when Mr Lee first visited the late Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddin and the two countries began a partnership in defence, economics and education. Mr Lee hosted Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah (left) and his brother Prince Mohamed (second from right) to a dinner at the Istana during their five-day visit. They were accompanied by Senior Minister of State (Foreign Affairs) Lee Khoon Choy (right).



AUG 23, 1982: Mr Lee and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad at a press conference after a two-day meeting in Kuala Lumpur. They announced plans for a natural gas pipeline from Terengganu to Singapore. It was completed 10 years later in January 1992.



MAY 10, 1976: Despite his failing health, China's Chairman Mao Zedong gave Mr Lee a 15-minute meeting during his two-week goodwill visit to Beijing, as well as Yanan and Shanxi provinces.



NOV 12, 1978: Mr Lee called China's elder statesman Deng Xiaoping - whom he met during this three-day trip to Singapore - "a great historic figure who saved 1.2 billion people from disaster and chaos".

GLOBAL LINKS



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF LEE KUAN YEW, ST FILE

EVEN as he cared little for the label, other world leaders regarded Mr Lee Kuan Yew as a statesman whose views were sought after.

He was also someone who had seen it all, from being a child of the British empire to a leader who fought against colonialism and steered a small developing country to chart a path for itself amid the big powers.

He approached relations with a firm view to advancing Singapore's interests and saw the world for what it was rather than what it ought to be, observers have said.

In helping to raise Singapore's profile on the world stage for nearly five decades, he met leaders of revolution, from Mao Zedong to Nelson Mandela to Gamal Abdel Nasser, and he forged close ties with regional leaders such as Suharto.

Some relationships blossomed into deep friendships. There is the fabled bond between Mr Lee and his three friends - former US secretaries of state George Shultz and Henry Kissinger, and former West German chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

"A small state must seek a maximum number of friends, while maintaining the freedom to be itself as a sovereign and independent nation," he said in 2009.

SEPT 7, 1982: Mr Lee's legendary "four-eye meetings" with Indonesian President Suharto over 31 years from 1967 to 1998 helped to foster strong bilateral ties and contribute to

peace and stability in the region. Mr Lee shared a close friendship with Mr Suharto, and was the first foreign leader to visit him in a Jakarta hospital before his death on Jan 27, 2008.

OCT 8, 1985:

Mr Lee said in his toast at the White House dinner hosted by US President Ronald Reagan (far right) that relations between the US and Singapore were "at their best". They are seen here with (from left) Mrs Lee and Mrs Nancy Davis Reagan by the grand staircase of the White House.



OCT 9, 1985:

On the same trip, Mr Lee hosted a black-tie dinner in honour of US Vice-President George Bush at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, DC. From left: Mr Lee, Mr Bush, Mrs Lee, Mrs Barbara Bush, Mrs George Shultz and another of his good friends, Secretary of State George Shultz.



OCT 30, 2009:

Mr Lee called on US President Barack Obama at the White House during a 10-day visit to New York and Washington. He also met top US diplomat Hillary Clinton, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke and the White House's National Economic Council director Lawrence Summers.



OCT 10, 1989: Queen Elizabeth II at a state banquet hosted by President Wee Kim Wee (right) during a three-day visit. At the dinner, she paid tribute to Mr Lee for proving to be "one of the Commonwealth's sturdiest sheet anchors, prudent in counsel and wise in judgment". Singapore would have undoubtedly been a very different place without him, she added.



SEPT 3, 1966: Mr Lee visited Indian PM Indira Gandhi four times between 1966 and 1971 to nurture cultural, commercial and strategic relations with the world's largest democracy.



AUG 11, 1981: Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang's arrival at the Istana on his three-day visit, the first official trip by a Chinese prime minister to Singapore. It marked the beginning of rapid trade growth between the two countries, from \$1.99 billion in 1980 to \$22 billion in 2000.



JUNE 8, 2001 (left): Mr Lee receiving a book on China from Chinese President Jiang Zemin during his visit to Suzhou Industrial Park (SIP), a joint development between Singapore and China started in 1994. He presented Mr Jiang with a copy of his memoir From Third World To First and a book on the SIP entitled In Unison.



NOV 14, 2010 (left): In Singapore to mark 20 years of bilateral ties, Chinese Vice-President Xi Jinping, who is now China's President, unveiled a bronze statue of the late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping together with Mr Lee at a ceremony in Parliament House. The bust is now located along the Singapore River.

SEPT 1, 1988: Mr Lee gave First Deputy Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong (second from right) his vote of confidence at this lunch-time rally in Fullerton Square as he urged voters to give his successor "a ringing endorsement". This election was different because voters would be casting their verdict not on his own performance, but that of Mr Goh's, he said. And they had to decide if they approved of Mr Goh's more consultative approach to governing, he added. Voters responded by returning the PAP to power with 63.2 per cent of the vote. From left: Mr S. Jayakumar, Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Dr Yeo Ning Hong, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, Mr Goh Chok Tong and Mr George Yeo.



PHOTOS: ST FILE, BT FILE

GROOMING YOUNGER LEADERS

AT 67, Mr Lee Kuan Yew stepped down voluntarily after 31 years as Prime Minister. Political renewal was a key task he had set for himself since the 1970s, inducting younger, better-educated talent to replenish the ranks even if at times it rankled some of his Old Guard comrades. Mr Lee had worked towards a smooth, orderly transition after seeing too many Third World nations come to grief without such discipline. When he handed over the reins to Mr Goh Chok Tong in November 1990, there was no crashing of the gears, as he put it, because so carefully had the succession been planned. Mr Lee became Senior Minister and then Minister Mentor, sharing his databank of a lifetime of experience with the Cabinet. Succession planning is now accepted as a given. Mr Goh handed over the reins to Mr Lee Hsien Loong after 14 years. Mr Lee Hsien Loong, 63, who does not want to stay beyond 70, is searching for Singapore's fourth PM.



APRIL 27, 2011 (left): Mr Lee with PAP new face and fellow Tanjong Pagar GRC candidate Chan Chun Sing on Nomination Day at Singapore Chinese Girls' School. Mr Chan, who is now Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for Defence, is part of Singapore's fourth generation of leadership.



NOV 28, 1990 (above): Mr Goh Chok Tong was sworn in as Singapore's second Prime Minister at City Hall Chamber. He passed the mantle of premiership to Mr Lee Hsien Loong in August 2004 after 14 years, and was Senior Minister until 2011.



AUG 12, 2004 (left): Mr Lee congratulating his son Lee Hsien Loong (centre) after he was sworn in as Singapore's third Prime Minister at the Istana. Mr Lee, who was Senior Minister, received his appointment as Minister Mentor from then President S R Nathan (at right).



FAMILY MAN

AWAY from the public eye, Mr Lee Kuan Yew had a loyal, caring side. He was a family man who kept in close contact with his siblings, worried after his children and loved his wife deeply.

The eldest of five siblings born into a middle-class Straits Chinese family, he said he knew "they will not let me down" if he were ever in trouble. He outlived his two brothers Dennis and Freddy and is survived by sister Monica and brother Suan Yew.

Mr Lee was deeply attached to his wife Kwa Geok Choo, who was his academic rival at Raffles Institution in 1939 before they were re-acquainted later and romance blossomed. While studying in England, they married in secret. They exchanged vows officially again in Singapore in 1950. They had three children: Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, paediatric neurologist Lee Wei Ling and businessman Lee Hsien Yang; and seven grandchildren.

When Mrs Lee died in 2010, he said in a moving eulogy for his wife of 63 years: "Without her, I would be a different man, with a different life."

SEPTEMBER 1946:

(Top) A family photo taken the night before Mr Lee left to read law in England. Front row: Mr Lee's parents, Mr Lee Chin Koon and Madam Chua Jim Neo. Second row from left: Ms Monica Lee, Mr Dennis Lee, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, Mr Freddy Lee and Dr Lee Suan Yew.

(Right) He also took a series of photographs with his beloved Kwa Geok Choo to remember her by. Although she promised to wait three years for his return, they were reunited the next year in 1947 after she won a Queen's Scholarship, which paid for her university education in Britain.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE LEE FAMILY, ST FILE



1989: Mr and Mrs Lee had one granddaughter and six grandsons, who were occasionally seen running around the rolling greens of the Istana. From left: PM Lee Hsien Loong's youngest son Haoyi (on Mrs Lee's lap), a few months old, Mr Lee Hsien Yang's sons Shengwu, four, and Huanwu, three, and PM Lee's second son Hongyi, two.



OCT 6, 2010: Mr Lee bade a final farewell to his wife of 63 years by kissing his fingers and placing them on her cheeks twice at the end of a private funeral held at Mandai Crematorium. She died on Oct 2, 2010, two years after she suffered two consecutive strokes in 2008.

THE LEE KUAN YEW I REMEMBER

HIS SISTER MONICA LEE, 85

I KNOW best what my brother liked to eat. He loved our mother's Nonya cooking and sometimes he would crave his favourite dishes.

When he lost weight after Mrs Lee died in 2010, he called me and said: "Mon, I've lost 2½ pounds. What can you teach my maid to cook so I can put the weight back on?"

So I taught his Indonesian cook how to prepare satay, gado gado, mee siam and rojak. And to help him build up an appetite, I presented the food on beautiful dishes that I carried by hand back from Italy.

When he saw the way the food was laid out, with vegetables on the side and fruit in the middle, he called out to his daughter, who calls me Gu Ma (aunt in Mandarin): "Wei Ling, come and see what your Gu Ma has done. Come and join me!"

Sometimes he would call with a special request. Once he asked for a Dutch-style chicken but I did not know how to prepare it. See, whatever he wants to eat, he thinks I'm such a great chef I'm able to produce it! Thankfully, I could and it came out perfectly.

Later, he decided he would put on weight by eating dessert. He asked me to prepare tiramisu, caramel pudding and soufflé for him. These were the sweet treats he used to have when he was in Cambridge and London. But I had not made soufflé for 35 years!

I took care of my brother in his old age because he took care of all of us when we were young. He looked after everybody's affairs, and whenever he saw that I was sad or unwell, he would call me into his office to find out why.

Even until recently I see my heart doctor... He wanted to make sure that as long as he was alive, we were alive too,

my youngest brother Suan and I. We were all very close, and he was more like a mother to us than our own mother.





PHOTO: ST FILE

AUG 9, 2012: Mr Lee arriving for the National Day Parade at The Float@Marina Bay to a standing ovation, as Singaporeans cheered for the man who overcame the odds to take Singapore from Third World to First.

LEE KUAN YEW: A tribute

- Get the latest updates in our live blog on the website
- Pen your favourite memories of Mr Lee on the ST Tribute Wall
- Follow us on the ST app in your smartphone and tablet
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for more on Mr Lee's work, vision and life