



*Prime Minister  
Singapore*

23 August 2016

*Dear Mrs Nathan,*

Please accept my deepest condolences on the passing of your husband S R Nathan.

Mr Nathan's life is an inspiration to all of us. His life was a story of how a young boy strove to triumph over his circumstances, rising through the ranks of the public service, to one day occupying the highest office in the land as our longest-serving President.

It was a story of how Mr Nathan always put his nation before self, often at great personal sacrifice. It was a story of perseverance, duty, and a man's indomitable will.

Mr Nathan had a varied and stellar public service career. Mr Nathan's career took him to the unions where he played an instrumental role in preventing the Communists from taking over Singapore. After independence, he joined the newly-formed Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and helped build up our diplomatic networks. When we needed to build up the Security and Intelligence Division (SID), Mr Nathan was again our choice because of his savvy judgement and moral courage. He then returned to MFA as Permanent Secretary before retiring from the civil service.

Most Singaporeans will remember Mr Nathan as our longest serving President who served Singaporeans with dignity and distinction. He impressed visitors with his knowledge of world affairs. He was a warm and approachable President who endeared himself to Singaporeans. During his Presidency, he established the President's Challenge to help the less fortunate in our society.

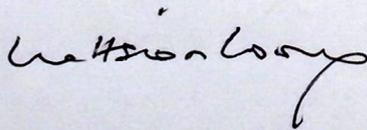
After two terms as President, he stepped down in 2011 and was finally able to devote more time and attention to his family. Even so, Mr Nathan never stopped giving back to Singapore. He joined the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies and the Nanyang Technological University's S Rajaratnam School of International Studies as Distinguished Senior Fellow, and was generous in sharing his experiences and insights with a younger generation of diplomats, students and Singaporeans.

I have known Mr Nathan for almost 40 years. I remember him as a man who lived his life guided by a deep sense of duty to the nation. Without fail, he stepped up each time. He was a true son of Singapore.

My thoughts are with you and your family during this time of sorrow.

With my deepest sympathies,

*Yours sincerely*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee Hsien Loong', with a stylized, flowing script.

LEE HSIEN LOONG