

# WE, THE **CITIZENS**

**WHAT DOES THE  
NATIONAL PLEDGE  
MEAN FOR US  
TODAY?**

# 2026 marks **60 years** of the Pledge

WE, THE CITIZENS OF SINGAPORE,  
PLEDGE OURSELVES AS **ONE UNITED PEOPLE,**  
**REGARDLESS OF RACE, LANGUAGE OR RELIGION,**  
TO BUILD A **DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY**  
BASED ON **JUSTICE** AND **EQUALITY**  
SO AS TO ACHIEVE HAPPINESS, PROSPERITY  
AND PROGRESS FOR OUR NATION.



Image: National Archives of Singapore (1966)

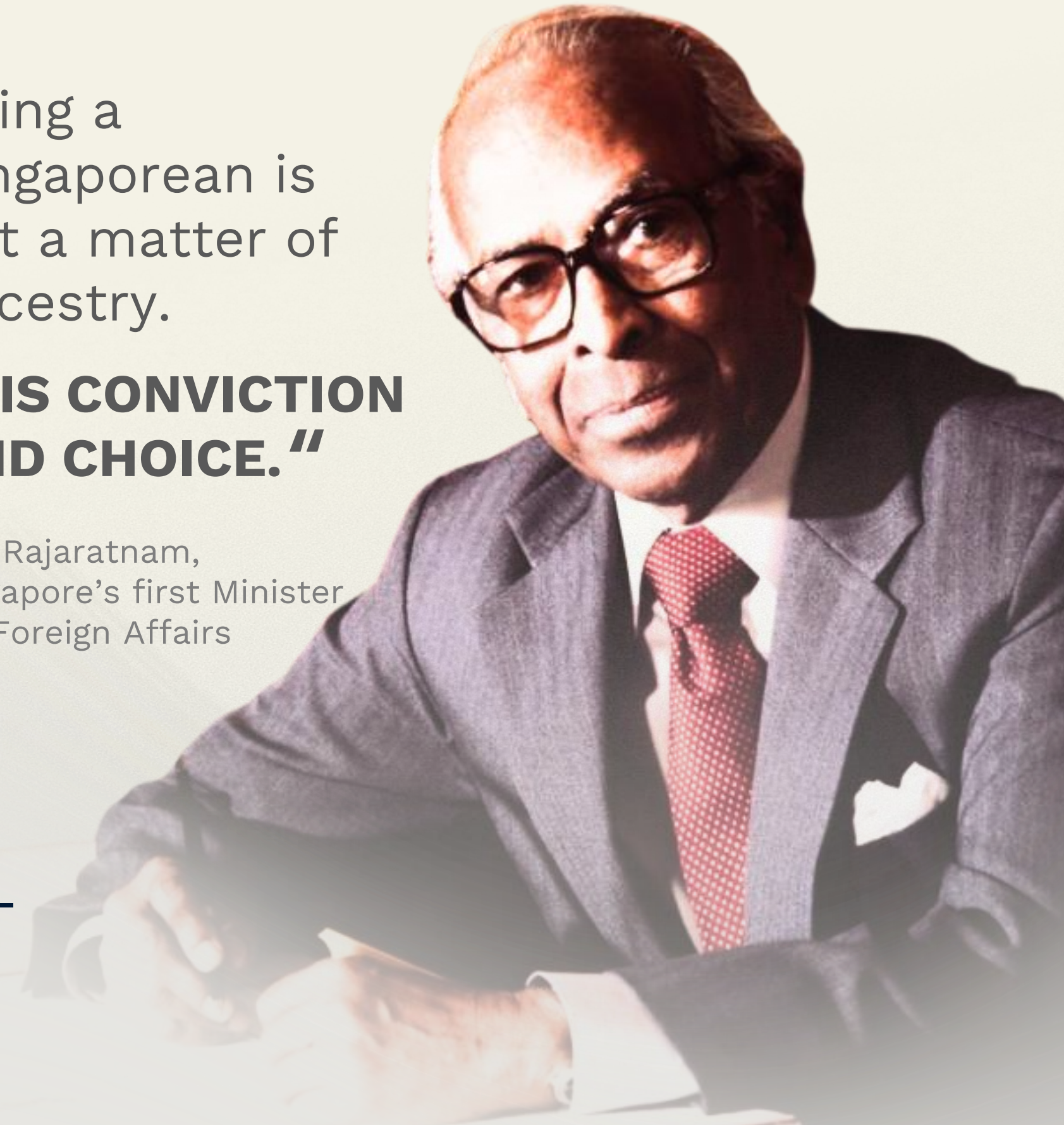
# Origins



Being a Singaporean is not a matter of ancestry.

**IT IS CONVICTION AND CHOICE."**

- S. Rajaratnam,  
Singapore's first Minister  
for Foreign Affairs



**1950s & 1960s**

**Communal tensions and series of racial riots**

**16 Sep 1963**

Singapore's merger with Malaysia

**9 Aug 1965**

Singapore gained independence following separation from Malaysia

**18 Feb 1966**

S. Rajaratnam suggested text for the Pledge to recite at school flag-raising ceremonies, in a letter to then-Minister for Education Ong Pang Boon

**24 Aug 1966**

**First recitation of the Pledge by 500,000 students**

# Values

## Multiculturalism

*regardless of race,  
language or religion,*

Every Singaporean belongs as an equal member of society

## Democracy

*to build a democratic society...*

Every citizen has a voice and a stake in shaping Singapore's future

## Justice

*...based on justice...*

Every individual is treated fairly and with dignity

## Equality

*...and equality...*

Every Singaporean has a fair opportunity to fulfil their potential, regardless of starting point



Image: Ministry of Education

**Origins of  
the Pledge:  
An Animation**



# ONE united PEOPLE

From our earliest years, Singapore made **a deliberate choice that diversity would be a source of strength, not division.** This conviction has shaped our policies, institutions, and way of life.

**Multiculturalism is not a natural state – it is a daily practice.** As our society becomes more diverse and as global forces test social cohesion everywhere, sustaining harmony will require us to continually deepen mutual understanding and broaden our common spaces.



Image: MCCY

2020

# We supported one another when COVID-19 shook Singapore



Images: Costa Ris RC, gov.sg, Martin Lim, Singapore Kindness Movement, The Straits Times

2026

# We came together to **bring Singaporeans home** during the Middle East conflict

Images: Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CNA



# “WE, THE CITIZENS”

The Pledge reflects our commitment across generations – to place the **collective good above individual interests.**

It is not just something we say, but **something we choose to live out** – through acts of care, respect, and responsibility in everyday life.

**“WHEN THE WHOLE IS STRONG,  
EACH OF US BECOMES STRONGER TOO.”**

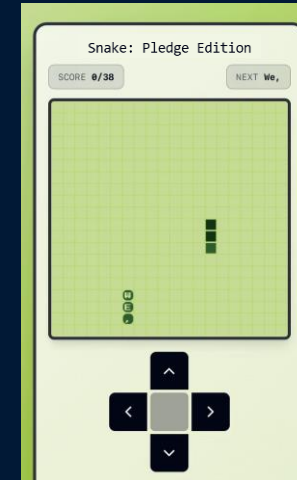
– Prime Minister Lawrence Wong’s National Day Rally 2025 speech

# Learn more:

## 1 NDP2026 album



## 4 Play Snake: Pledge Edition



## 2 Opinion: Marking the National Pledge at 60



## 5 Visit the Albatross File: A Special Showcase on the Origins of the National Pledge

Note: Website will be available by 30 Jun 2026 or earlier



## 3 National Symbols of Singapore



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