

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SINGAPOREANS ARE ENCOURAGED TO USE THE NATIONAL SYMBOLS MORE OFTEN

Singapore's national symbols – the national flag, national anthem and Singapore lion head – are our most visible symbols of our sovereignty, pride and honour.

2 Singaporeans are encouraged to use these symbols to identify with the nation. The Prime Minister said in his National Day Rally speech that the rules for their use were being relaxed so that more people can use them as they are “powerful, rallying symbols for Singaporeans”.

3 The Prime Minister's Office has gazetted the new rules on the national flag and national anthem, under the Singapore Arms and Flag and National Anthem Act. These new rules replace the existing rules under the Act, and take effect from 1 January 2004.

4 Based on new rules, the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts (MITA) has also revised the existing guidelines on the use of the national symbols. These guidelines are part of the National Symbols Kit that is being sold in major bookstores. The new rules and guidelines are available on the eGazette website at <http://www.egazette.com.sg/egazette/current/sls/030650.pdf> and the Singapore Infomap website at www.sg/flavour/symbol.asp respectively. The new guidelines are also attached in the annexes of this press release.

What's New?

5 In regard to the flag and anthem, the key changes in the rules are:

(i) *Use and display of the national flag*

Under the new rules, Singaporeans and non-governmental buildings can display or fly the national flag throughout the year. In addition, the flag can be reproduced in pennant or miniature representations. Singaporeans may wave the flag at any event in which the Singapore identity is to be projected. It would promote *esprit de corps* among Singaporeans as they share a common expression of patriotism.

The flag should always be treated with dignity and honor. Outside the National Day celebrations period of August, the flag should be flown from a flagpole and should be properly illuminated if displayed or flown at night.

The flag shall not be used in any trademark, nor for any commercial or advertising purposes. It shall not be used in any furnishings, decoration,

covering, attire nor at any private funeral activity. No graphics or word should be superimposed on the flag. For more details, please refer to Annex A.

(ii) *Playing or singing of the national anthem*

Organisations can now play the national anthem on appropriate occasions, not just during National Day celebrations. When the national anthem is played, everyone is encouraged to sing it. Either the instrumental or vocal versions may be played. Besides the versions produced by MITA, other rearranged versions may also be used, provided that the tune and lyrics of the anthem are complete and performed with dignity. For more details, please refer to Annex B.

Singapore Lion Head

6 MITA has correspondingly revised the guidelines for the use of the Singapore lion head with immediate effect. From now on, an individual, organisation or company can use the lion head symbol for purposes of identifying with the nation. They can also use a design or trademark or logo incorporating the lion head, provided that the use of the design or trademark or logo is of good taste, and does not compromise on the integrity of the meaning and design of the Singapore lion head. Anyone using the Singapore lion head in their trademark or logo will not have exclusive rights to the lion head as that belongs to the Government of Singapore.

7 The revised guidelines for the use of the Singapore lion head are also released today (Annex C), together with the new guidelines for the use of the national flag and anthem.

Public Enquiries

8 For enquiries on use of the national symbols, please contact:

Ms Elizabeth Njo
Assistant Manager (Psychological Defence)
National Heritage Board
Singapore
Tel: (65) 6332 4495
Fax: (65) 6332 3525

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND THE ARTS
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The National Flag



The national flag is Singapore's most visible symbol of statehood, symbolising our sovereignty, pride and honour. It reflects the ideals, beliefs and values that we stand by as a nation amidst our rich and diverse make-up. It forms a crucial element of our national identity. As such, the national flag is to be treated with dignity and honour.

Its Origin

The national flag was unveiled on 3 December 1959, together with the state crest and the national anthem, at the installation of the new Head of State, the Yang di-Pertuan Negara. It was created by a Committee led by then Deputy Prime Minister, Dr Toh Chin Chye. It replaced the Union Jack, which had flown over Singapore for 140 years (1819-1959). Upon Singapore's independence in 1965, it was adopted as Singapore's national flag.

Its Meaning

The flag consists of two equal horizontal sections, red above white. In the upper left section are a white crescent moon, and five white stars forming a circle. Each feature of the flag has its own distinctive meaning and significance. Red symbolises universal brotherhood and equality of man. White signifies pervading and everlasting purity and virtue. The crescent moon represents a young nation on the ascendant. The five stars stand for the nation's ideals of democracy, peace, progress, justice and equality.

Guidelines for its use

Singaporeans and non-governmental buildings may display or fly the national flag to identify with the nation. Singaporeans are encouraged to do this during occasions of national celebration or national significance.

How it may be used

1. When the flag is displayed outside a building, it shall be displayed on or in front of the building. Outside the National Day celebrations period (month of August), it must be flown only from a flagpole, and if it is displayed or flown at night, it should be properly illuminated.
2. Within Singapore, it should take precedence over all other flags, subject to international practice. When displayed or flown with another flag, it must be in a position of honour. This means it should be positioned where practicable, either above all other flags or to the left of the other flags, as seen by a person facing the flags.
3. It may be reproduced in reduced size representations and displayed at all times, but it must be in its true form and colours, regardless of size.

How it cannot be used or treated

1. The flag cannot be used:
 - (a) in any trademark or for any commercial purpose;
 - (b) as a means, or for the purposes, of advertisement;
 - (c) as, or as part of, any furnishings, decoration, covering or receptacle;
 - (d) at any private funeral activity;
 - (e) incorporated or worn as part of any costume or attire; or
 - (f) on any private vehicle.
2. No person shall produce or display any flag which bears any graphics or word superimposed on the design of the flag.
3. The flag should be cleaned when dirty, and replaced if it has faded. After any washing, it should not be hung out to dry outdoors together with other laundry. Any worn out or damaged flag should be disposed properly, not left visible in dustbins.
4. The actual rules governing the use of the national flag can be found at the <http://www.egazette.com.sg/egazette/current/sls/030650.pdf> website.

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Ms Elizabeth Njo
Assistant Manager (Psychological Defence)
National Heritage Board

Singapore
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Fax: (65) 6332 3525

ANNEX B

The National Anthem

The national anthem, together with the national flag and the state crest, reflect Singapore's identity as a nation. The anthem echoes the enduring hope and spirit of Singaporeans to make progress. It rallies us together to succeed.

Its Origin

The national anthem was written in the wake of nationalism during 1956-57. Its composer, the late Encik Zubir Said, had written it on the basis of two words, "Majulah Singapura" which means "Onward Singapore". It was launched on 3 Dec 1959 together with the national flag and the state crest, at the installation of the new head of state, the Yang di-Pertuan Negara. Upon Singapore's independence in 1965, "Majulah Singapura" was adopted as the republic's national anthem.

Its Meaning and Lyrics

The national anthem was originally written in Malay, as follows:

MAJULAH SINGAPURA
Mari kita rakyat Singapura
Sama-sama menuju bahagia
Cita-cita kita yang mulia
Berjaya Singapura

Marilah kita bersatu
Dengan semangat yang baru
Semua kita berseru
Majulah Singapura
Majulah Singapura

Guidelines for its use

1. Public and private organisations can sing or play the national anthem, on any appropriate occasion. Singaporeans are encouraged to sing the anthem on occasions of national celebration or national significance.
2. Either the instrumental or vocal versions may be played. Besides the versions produced by MITA, other rearranged versions may also be used, provided that the tune and lyrics of the anthem are complete and performed with dignity.

3. Dignity and decorum should be observed whenever it is played or sung. Everyone must stand up as a mark of respect.

How the National Anthem cannot be used

1. It must not be incorporated into any other composition or medley.
2. It must only be sung following the original lyrics, not any translation of those lyrics.

The actual rules governing the use of the national anthem can be found at the <http://www.egazette.com.sg/egazette/current/sls/030650.pdf> website.

Public Enquiries

For enquiries on use of the national anthem, please contact:

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Assistant Manager (Psychological Defence)
National Heritage Board
Singapore
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Fax: (65) 6332 3525

ANNEX C

Singapore Lion Head Symbol



The Singapore lion head is intended as an easily recognisable national symbol that is less formal than the other national symbols. It can be freely used to promote our national identity.

Its Origin

On the records in the 13th century Malay Annals, a prince from Palembang was shipwrecked and washed ashore to island. There he saw a creature which he believed was a lion. So he named the island "Singa Pura" which means "Lion City", from which the name Singapore was derived.

Its Meaning

The lion head symbolises courage, strength and excellence, as well as resilience in the face of challenges. It is in solid red against a white background - the colours of the national flag. Its mane's five partings represent the same five ideals that are embodied in the five stars of the national flag, namely democracy, peace, progress, justice and equality. Its tenacious mien symbolises resolve to face and overcome any challenges.

Guidelines for its Use

- 1. An individual, organisation or company can use the lion head symbol for purposes of identifying with the nation.**
- 2. It should be used in good taste. Its design should not be modified in any way nor have any words or graphics superimposed over it. However, it may be depicted in outline form, be embossed or portrayed as a watermark.**

Public Enquiries

National Archives of Singapore

For enquiries on use of the Singapore lion head, please contact:

Ms Elizabeth Njo
Assistant Manager (Psychological Defence)
National Heritage Board
Singapore
Tel: (65) 6332 4495
Fax: (65) 6332 3525