

Singapore Government **PRESS RELEASE**

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Archives & Oral History Department
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PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE MINISTER FOR CULTURE
MR S DHANABALAN AT THE LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF
THE NATIONAL FLOWER VANDA MISS JOAQUIM HELD ON
15 APRIL 1981 AT 3.00 PM AT THE MINISTRY OF
CULTURE CONFERENCE ROOM

Many nations have flowers as national emblems. Some of these have been officially adopted while others have been sanctioned by tradition.

As part of an overall effort to foster national pride and identity, a Committee comprising representatives from the Ministry of Culture, Parks & Recreation Department, Singapore Tourist Promotion Board, Singapore Institute of Standards and Industrial Research and the Orchid Society of South East Asia was set up to select a representative flower for Singapore.

Since Singapore has gained a worldwide reputation as an orchid centre, the orchid logically stands out from a variety of other flowers as the ideal choice of a representative flower for Singapore.

Because of its great variety of shape and size, a specific species of orchid had to be selected to serve as a symbol. A specific species which is popularly known, free flowering, colourful and attractive is preferred.

I am pleased to announce that the orchid, Vanda Miss Joaquim has been officially adopted as the national flower of Singapore.

The Vanda Miss Joaquim is a natural hybrid and indigenous to Singapore. It was named in memory of Miss Agnes Joaquim in whose garden it first appeared. The hybrid was greeted with great enthusiasm in local horticultural circles.

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Countless numbers of cuttings were propagated from the original plant. From then on, it has been extensively grown in Singapore as a cut flower, and sprays of Vanda Miss Joaquim can commonly be found everywhere. It blooms freely throughout the year and is attractive both in colour and shape.
