SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PRESS STATEMENT INFS.DE.69/59/TTS

TEXT OF SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. LEE KUAN YEW, AT "ANEKA RAGAM RA'AYAT" AT THE CITY HALL STEPS ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1959, AT 7 P.M.

Tonight is the grand finale of Loyalty Week. It has been a memorable week, full of joy, vitality and verve, in which the mass of the ordinary people demonstrated their jubilation at the new phase that the people of Singapore has entered into, and their determination to live together in peace and harmony, in tolerance and understanding of each other's differing cultures, ways of life and political views. It is fitting that a grand performance of Aneka Ragam Ra'ayat should be the last item for this week. In this variety show, we bring to you the cultures, songs, music, dances and the artistic expressions of our various peoples - Chinese, Malay, Indian, Ceylonese, Eurasians and others. Gradually, through the process of action and inter-action, each influencing the other and in turn being influenced, we shall slowly evolve a truly Malayan culture and consciousness.

National Archives of Singapore

I wish to take this opportunity tonight to thank the hundreds of cultural bodies and associations who have helped the Government make Loyalty Week so full and complete. Without their efforts, the civil servants and elected members of the Government, particularly those in the Ministry of Culture, would not have found their hard work so rewarding. But, most important of all, is the splendid manner in which the people of Singapore responded to Loyalty Week. In their thousands and thousands they came to join our celebrations. They were not just mere spectators watching something being performed for them. They were participants, each and every one, in a spiritual experience which will bring our people closer together and make them more coherent, and more loyal to each other and the State which belongs to us all.

Finally, let me pay a tribute to all those whose imagination and drive and hard work made Loyalty Week such an unforgettable event in our lives.

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