

EMBARGOED FOR PUBLICATION TILL 7 P.M.

SUNDAY, 9TH JUNE, 1968.

STATEMENT FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

Over the years, we have added to the number of public holidays. With self-government, Vesak and other religious holidays were added. Then, with Malaysia, more Muslim holidays were added. It is time to rationalise the position back to 11 holidays, which is what the industrial worker has always enjoyed. This will now be made applicable to all, including Government servants and Ministers.

The Prime Minister met members of the Inter-Religious Organisation on Thursday, 6th June, to discuss the choice of the 11 annual public holidays under the Holidays Ordinance and the new Employment Act when the Bill becomes law.

The choice of whether the one Hindu holiday annually should be Thaipusam or Deepavali has been referred to the Hindu Advisory Board at the request of the Hindu member on the Inter-Religious Organisation.

The choice of the two Muslim holidays annually has been referred to the Muslim Advisory Board at the request of the Muslim members on the Inter-Religious Organisation.

The Prime Minister also discussed with members the abatement of noise nuisance. This subject has been discussed in several previous meetings.

As from the 15th June, 1968, a police permit will be required for any amplification of sound, other than in an enclosed place, and other than in the hours of daylight between 6.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Except for special occasions, permits will not be issued for the amplification of sounds between sunset, 6.30 p.m., and sunrise, 6.30 a.m. All places of worship are being informed of this new ruling.

Permits for loudspeakers for 'wayangs' and other shows in open places will be under the condition that only the space designed for spectators will be covered by any amplification system.

The firing of crackers, without permits, will also be prohibited
between the hours of 6.30 p.m. and 6.30 a.m.

Date : 9th June, 1968.

(Time Issued : 1400 Hours)

National Archives of Singapore