# Let's show the world Singaporeans will stay united: PM Lee

The nation will need unity and resilience more than ever as the crisis is far from over, he says

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adversity since the nation's birth is

tional Day Parade (NDP) in 1966, yesterday morning. Singaporeans have come together without fail to celebrate the making beyond the call of duty and shown too, despite various precautions. of this nation, and to renew their great generosity, such as retired doc- "It will most likely take a year or effort to keep their workers, and commitment to it, PM Lee said in tors and nurses who volunteered to two before a vaccine is widely avail- not drop them at the first sign of his televised National Day message. serve at hospitals and migrant able and the threat of the virus is trouble. This will build loyalty, and yanliang@sph.com.sg

joice in our progress, and look for- they were joined by migrant work- be alone." ward to a better future together. In ers playing their part to support difficult years, we still hold Na- these operations, said PM Lee. tional Day Parades, to renew our re-

why he is confident the Republic portunity to salute those on the ence to our response to Covid-19." demic, as it has previous crises, many who have stepped up to help and resilience more than ever as working with employers to create back on these times and say yes, address, which came ahead of the Many countries brought infections reer pathways. "It will ensure that Every year since the first Na- scaled-down parade at the Padang under control and eased restric- every worker is treated fairly and

"Their help was deeply appreci-

tions only to see cases surge again, with dignity, especially when job He hailed the many who have gone something that can happen here losses cannot be avoided," he said.

blunted," he said. "Until then, we have to maintain our vigilance and their employers rebuild when conresolve, to keep ourselves, our loved ditions improve," he added. ones and our neighbours all safe." PM Lee, who has attended almost

The economic climate will also be every NDP since the first in 1966, tough in the near term, with busi- also recalled being on the Padang ness closures, retrenchments and as it rained during the 1968 parade. unemployment all likely to go up in "The rain poured down, but the the coming months. Singaporeans contingents stood steady, and are thus understandably anxious marched past proudly, drenched, and worried, said PM Lee.

But Singapore has weathered multiple economic crises in the last quar- School, PM Lee played the clarinet ter-century alone, including the in the combined schools brass Asian financial crisis in 1997, the afterband. Founding prime minister Lee math of the Sept 11 terrorist attacks in Kuan Yew had decided the show the United States in 2001, and the would go on that year, despite the global financial crisis in 2008. "Each time the outlook was omi-

nous, and we feared the worst, but Despite the coronavirus, Singa- worker dormitories, donning per- each time we worked hard to se- rugged people, and had the steel in poreans have been determined to sonal protective equipment to do so. cure our position, gritted our teeth, us to stand firm in adversity," said Thousands of public-spirited Sin- and came through together," he unity as a nation – a unity more im- gaporeans also volunteered to be said. "I am confident we will get portant than ever, given the severe trained in swab operations and through this current crisis too, economic challenges ahead, he said. served in hot zones like dorms and though it may take longer. All of us experience has brought Singapore-"In good years, our parades re- community care facilities, where must do our part, but none of us will

ment is actively helping people find Malaysia and independence had new jobs and acquire new skills, The determination of Singaporeans solve to weather the storm and take ated by our SAF, Home Team and with the Jobs Support Scheme and to stand firm together in the face of Singapore through to better days." public officers," he said. "These self-Self-employed Person Income Re-This year's NDP was also an op- less acts have made all the differ- lief Scheme to ease the burden on employers and individuals. will get through the Covid-19 pan- front line fighting Covid-19, and the Singapore will need this unity The labour movement is also

PM Lee outlined how the Govern-

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong others in need, PM Lee said in his the crisis is far from over, he added. job training programmes and cathis generation stood together, sac-PM Lee added: "Let us show the world that whatever the chal-"Employers too must make every lenges, Singaporeans will stay

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Then a student at Catholic High

"We showed ourselves and the

world that Singaporeans were

ans closer together and will deepen

their bonds as one united people,

als ahead, so that many years from

now, when our grandchildren cele-

brate National Day, they will look

torrential downpour.



redeveloped site (above), which will also allow for activities (right) such as dragon boating, canoeing and kayaking, in addition to having a swimming pool and water play areas open to the public. PHOTOS: MINDEF, MND AND WOHA



## NS Square to be focus of new Marina Bay downtown

A permanent space for large-scale NS Square will also be a commuopen all year round, with supporting events that will also pay tribute to nity space for everyone, young and Singapore's national servicemen old, to enjoy, he said. will take the place of the popular Ma-Hsien Loong in his National Day message yesterday

hold our National Day Parades pact of Covid-19. The upcoming NS Square, due to there," he added. be completed by end-2025, will coninue to host future National Day Pa- tional Development (MND) and the new National Stadium was under rades, said PM Lee in his televised Ministry of Defence (Mindef) jointly construction, The Float @ Marina National Day message before this announced that the NS Square Bay has hosted the event nine times year's parade at the Padang, a project had been awarded to a consince 2007, and was due to do so this smaller-scale event held in the midst sultant team led by Woha Archi-year, before the coronavirus outof the Covid-19 pandemic.

PM Lee yesterday unveiled the NS The Singapore-based firm was se- In 2017 – the 50th year of national Square's design for the first time. Its lected to act as the principal consulservice in Singapore - PM Lee anlow activities such as dragon boatgrandstand seating can hold up to tant following a design consultancy nounced that the floating platform 30,000 people, compared with the tender held from May last year to would be redeveloped into a permation to having a swimming pool and current capacity of 27,000 at The Julythis year.

There will be a gallery, with a mix that a tiered, curved seating area will cruits currently hold their passing of open and enclosed spaces, to hon- wrap around the stage "to provide out parade at the floating platform, our the contributions of national ser- an uninterrupted line-of-sight to the and this helps them to understand provide the community with greater vicemen past and present. It will also feature community spectators closer to the 'action'". sports facilities, such as a swimming Other than NDP, the space could men have been willing to serve and the ministries.

will improve pedestrian connectiv- certs, performances, sporting activiity in the area, forming a loop around ties and competitions, they said.

"The platform will become a red development. rina Bay floating platform and will dot, shining bright in our city. NS Redevelopment work is schedbe the central focus of the new downtown area, said Prime Minister Lee our new downtown," said PM Lee. though the project scope and time-"And of course, we will continue to line may be adjusted due to the im-

Last month, the Ministry of National Day Parade venue while the

Yesterday, the two ministries said He noted that national service restage from all angles as well as bring what they are defending, and why access to water-based recreational pool and water sports centre, as well also be configured for events of dif-sacrifice.

break made it unfeasible.

we remind ourselves that Singapore is a nation whose story is worth celebrating, whose history is worth cher-A lower promenade area will be ishing, and whose future is worth food and beverage outlets and retail

outlets being considered for the new When the NDP is held at the Padang, or at the floating platform, the audience can see the Marina Bay Marina Bay used to be open sea, but the land around it was reclaimed, and it was turned into a Initially built as a temporary Na-

> "Looking out across the Bay, you can immediately see how far Singapore has come, and imagine the possibility and promise that Singapore holds," he added.

MND and Mindef said the development will take advantage of the site's waterfront location, and will aling, canoeing and kayaking, in addiwater play areas open to the public.

"(The water sports) facility, part of a larger network of water sports facilgenerations of national service- options in central Singapore," added

as a new waterfront promenade that ferent scales and types, such as con-PM Lee said: "Every National Day, mzlim@sph.com.sg

### Apart, but in one voice for Anthem Moment

For  $1^{1}/_{2}$  minutes yesterday morning, Singaporeans at different locations across the island came together to sing Majulah Singapura

in the solemn Anthem Moment by President Halimah Yacob from the Padang, in a collective voice echoed at seven other places, shortly after

Apart yet one, the nation was led

Ministers at these locations, each representing a key sector, spoke of how the pandemic had changed the tenor of this year's National Day. But they said the sacrifices and re-

silience shown in the fight against Covid-19 have made the nation's 55th birthday more meaningful. Also at the Padang were Prime National Day Parade held at the Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Deputy Padang yesterday. She led the nation Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat, in the solemn Anthem Moment. Senior Ministers Teo Chee Hean ST PHOTO: NG SOR LUAN and Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen and a number of MPs, including Work- split up between the Padang and ers' Party (WP) chief and Leader of the seven locations. the Opposition Pritam Singh.

Other ministers and MPs were



President Halimah Yacob at the

representing housing and the com-

munity, National Development nity and Youth Minister Edwin their sentiments. At North Vista Secnormal".

At Kampung Admiralty, a venue as one united people," he said.

have had to put in place for every- munity, how we live together, how Louis Chua, both from the WP. Also present was Culture, Commu-

want to age together as well." Leaders at other locations echoed made it more meaningful.

Minister Desmond Lee said the An- Tong, who said National Day this ondary School, Education Minister the crucible but we have not failed. them Moment itself reflects a "new year was no less meaningful for be- Lawrence Wong thanked all educa- We have prevailed, and we have ing held in a decentralised manner. tors at a ceremony also attended by emerged stronger as a nation." "Despite the restrictions that we Mr Tong said: "It represents a com- Sengkang GRC MPs Jamus Lim and At the NTUC FairPrice Hub in Joo one's health and safety, which keep we play together, and the vision that Mr Wong, who also co-chairs the Chan Chun Sing said this year's Naus physically apart, we will con- we have for the future, the commu- multi-ministry Covid-19 task force, tional Day is a very special one for tinue to find ways to come together nity we want to build, and how we said while "Singapore Together" is a all Singaporeans. He paid tribute to

He said: "We have been tested in Koon, Trade and Industry Minister common refrain, the pandemic has essential service workers who have "worked quietly behind the scenes Manpower Minister Josephine Teo leading the Anthem Moment at the Lifelong Learning Institute in Paya Lebar yesterday. ST PHOTO: JOEL CHAN

to allow us to live life as normally as are high". "Together with other logistic and building up Singapore as an air hub, "The road to recovery will be long are always placed at the centre." supply chain players, they have and Covid-19 decimated aviation... and tough. But I am confident the

sential services and items."

"air traffic may be low, but spirits Singapore's Covid-19 fight, Health persons with disabilities repre-"We spent more than 40 years healthcare workers.

Transport Minister Ong Ye Kung, status," he told reporters.

Minister Gan Kim Yong thanked sented "the ethos of our social ser- by how people have stepped for-

regaining and reviving our air hub termination and unity," he said. trol tower and spoke to staff, said tious Diseases, a critical facility in Masagos Zulkifli said the venue for

He added that he was heartened

helped to keep our supply chains go- We hope that in the months, weeks Covid-19 virus will not break our Sin- Healthcare workers and guests at the ing, providing us with food and es- ahead, we will start the process of gapore spirit of grit, resilience, de- flag-raising ceremony at the National Centre for Infectious Diseases. Health At the Enabling Village, Social Minister Gan Kim Yong thanked the who visited Changi Airport's air con- At the National Centre for Infec- and Family Development Minister staff. ST PHOTO: SHINTARO TAY

> vices sector" where beneficiaries ward to help the vulnerable and support front-line and migrant work-

us. Even as this pandemic has caused major disruptions to our lives, I am glad that the community has stepped up to support our fel-

"Crisis often brings out the best in

At the Lifelong Learning Institute in Paya Lebar, leaders from business, the labour movement and the Government represented Singapore's unique tripartite relation-

ship supporting its workforce. Manpower Minister Josephine Teo said there was still much to be grateful for, including Singapore's low Covid-19 fatalities and the resilience of Singapore's people, busi-

Speaking to reporters after the event, Mrs Teo said Singapore's diverse workforce will continue to face challenges, but she is confident of its ability to weather the crisis.

She noted that younger workers are willing to adapt to the labour market and are creative in contributing to the workforce digitally.

For middle-aged workers, the focus is on helping avoid permanent damage to careers based on current

temporary setbacks, she said. Reflecting on the past few months, including recent inroads

in the Covid-19 situation at the migrant workers' dormitories, Mrs Teo said "every small win" is celebrated during such a difficult journey, while staying vigilant against unexpected challenges.

"Our ability to quickly assess the situation and organise ourselves in order to mount as best a response as we can – that must remain part of the Singapore DNA," she said.

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## Six patrol vessels equipped with thermal cameras and drones

#### Aw Cheng Wei

Six patrol vessels equipped with multi-sensor marine thermal cam- sail-past. eras, chemical gas detectors and drones were launched yesterday as 20-year hiatus to underscore the impart of the Republic's thrust to keep its waters safe. The Maritime and Port Authority

place the existing fleet which has been in service since 2012. Senior Minister of State for Transport and Foreign Affairs Chee Hong out targeted enforcement and re-Tat attended the launch. He told The Straits Times that the MPA had

Ocean to build the vessels. He added that through such partnerships, the Government helps support local companies in an econ-

Covid-19.

The new vessels, which have already been deployed, made an apations. pearance at the maritime sail-past during the National Day Parade yes- ted with a man overboard recovery terday, along with other vessels system and their towing capabilifrom the Republic of Singapore ties can support search-and-res-

Navy, Police Coast Guard and the Singapore Civil Defence Force. It was the first time the MPA has taken part in a National Day Parade The sail-past returned after a

portance of maritime agencies that

have been keeping Singapore's waters safe and supply chains secure of Singapore (MPA) said in a stateduring the Covid-19 pandemic. ment that the 17m vessels will revessels are equipped with predictive capabilities using both realtime and historical data to "carry sponse mitigation".

Mr Chee said that the new vessels are more durable and resilient comworked with local company Lita pared with their predecessors and they come with more compact

He added that they are designed omy that has been badly hit by to help MPA officers better carry out their tasks – from responding to oil spills to search-and-rescue oper-

The vessels have a rescue boat fit-



The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore's next-generation patrol craft, launched yesterday, have multi-sensor marine thermal cameras, chemical gas detectors and drones. PHOTO: MPA

cue operations. Their dispersant spray system and containment booms allow them to respond to oil

"Integrating data analytics with

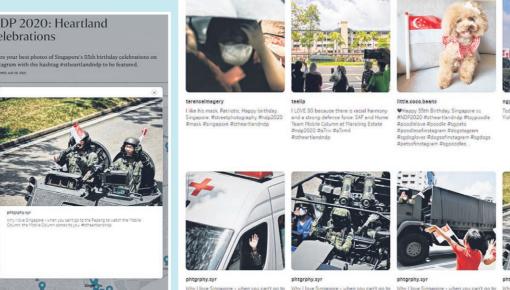
onboard surveillance, navigation and communication systems also improves information relay from the craft to shore-based command centres and increases MPA port inspectors' situational awareness of ground activities," the MPA said. MPA port master Kevin Wong said that officers' feedback was integral to the design of the vessels. He added that "MPA consistently explores and adopts new technology to meet our operational needs and improve our front-line capabilities".

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#### Relive NDP 2020

#### **HEARTLAND CELEBRATIONS**

As this year National Day Parade celebrations spread to the heartland areas, Singaporeans all over the island joined in the fun and shared their favourite photos. str.sg/stheartlandndp



#### LIVE BLOG From the Red Lions

in the morning, to the fireworks display at night here a recap of the highlights. str.sg/ndp2020





#### WATCH Catch all action at the Padang and various heartland locations islandwide.

str.sg/amlive

See the fireworks displays from five different locations. str.sg/pmlive