

**Nathan Bids Farewell As Singapore's Longest-Serving President**  
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SINGAPORE -- Sellapan Ramanathan, better known as S. R. Nathan, bade farewell on Wednesday as Singapore's longest-serving president.

Nathan, 87, had served for 12 years after being sworn in first on Sept 1, 1999 as the republic's sixth president.

He was re-elected in an uncontested election in 2005 for a second six-year term.

Nathan is scheduled to hand over the post to Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, who won the election last Saturday, at the Istana today.

Yesterday evening, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and the Cabinet hosted a farewell reception for the outgoing president.

Nathan had said that his greatest achievement as president was the ability to bring Singaporeans of different races and religions together.

(Bernama)

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