

**Lee Launches Singapore's Former President S R Nathan Memoirs**  
**Bernama**  
**September 19, 2011**  
**By Tengku Noor Shamsiah Tengku Abdullah**

SINGAPORE, Sept 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong Monday launched 'An Unexpected Journey: Path to the Presidency', the memoirs of former President S R Nathan.

Published by Editions Didier Millet (EDM), the memoir is a readable and frank account of Nathan's remarkable life journey, relating in forthright terms his path from humble beginnings all the way to presidency.

Speaking at the event, Lee said Mr Nathan's memoir's were significant for several reasons.

"Firstly, they are a historical account of Singapore's development, where the people came from and what brought the country to what it is today.

"In this way, Mr Nathan's memoirs contribute significantly to nation building," Lee said adding that Nathan's memoirs also helped the country to understand what it meant to be Singaporean.

Nathan decided to write his memoirs after persistent prompting from his family and friends, who, after hearing various anecdotes from his childhood and early career, were keen to know more.

Generous financial support for the book was offered by the Lee Foundation, which ensured the book could reach fruition.

Nathan stressed that 'An Unexpected Journey' was a personal memoir: "This book is not a comprehensive or 'official' history of modern Singapore."

Rather, he hoped his book would offer unique personal insight into the laying of the foundations of modern Singapore by men such as Lee Kuan Yew, Dr. Goh Keng Swee and S. Rajaratnam.

Comprising 672 pages, 'An Unexpected Journey' provides Nathan's detailed recollections of many events in Singapore's recent history.

He talks in depth of his difficult childhood, recounts his experiences of the Japanese occupation during World War II, offers his personal observations on Singapore's relationship with Malaysia over the years, talks of his role in the Laju hijacking incident and discusses life as an international diplomat.

Finally, in the last chapter, Nathan speaks frankly of his time as President of Singapore: the nature of the role, his part in its evolution and how he sees the institution developing in the future.

'An Unexpected Journey: Path to the Presidency' is available at all leading bookstores island-wide and its retail price is \$45.00 (excluding GST).

Nathan is donating all royalties from the sales of An Unexpected Journey: Path to the

Presidency to the S R Nathan Education Upliftment Fund.

Royalties from the sale of the book and donations received will go towards the fund, which has so far reached S\$8 million.

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