

National Day Rally 2022

PM Lee Hsien Loong delivered his National Day Rally (NDR) speech on 21 Aug. In his speech, he highlighted how as we emerge from the pandemic, we must be prepared for the profound impact of geopolitical dangers and economic uncertainties.

Strategic Challenges Faced by Singapore

1. Worsening US-China Relations



- Both powers are divided over many issues, such as their rival ideologies and systems of government, China's growing global influence, trade disputes, Hong Kong, and Taiwan.
- Although they need to work together on many global issues, neither side expects their tense relationship to improve any time soon.
- Miscalculations or mishaps can make things much worse very quickly.

2. Russia's Invasion of Ukraine



- The invasion has profound implications for the world, including Singapore.
- It violates the UN Charter and fundamental principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity. Our security -- and existence -- relies on countries upholding these principles.
- We cannot condone any country arguing that another country's independence is the result of "historical errors and crazy decisions".
- It has created deep hostility between Russia and other states, especially US and NATO countries.
- It affects security in the Asia Pacific. It has complicated US-China relations and more geopolitical contestation is expected in the region -- some countries in the region will choose a side.

Get Real, Get Prepared Psychologically



What can we do about these external dangers?

- Stand firm on fundamental principles of international law.
- Work with other countries to uphold a rules-based order.
- Take National Service seriously, and keep the SAF and Home Team strong and credible.
- Stay as one united people, and never allow ourselves to be divided.
- Stay alert against foreign actors who are looking out to exploit our vulnerabilities and influence us for their own interests.

Securing Our Future

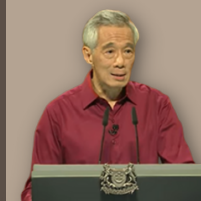
In his speech, PM Lee spoke about Forward Singapore, a conversation launched by Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong to build consensus on the kind of Singapore we want to see. He emphasised the following "enduring imperatives" for Singapore:

- We must take pride in being Singaporeans, strengthen our national identity, and understand where our national interests lie.
- We must stay open and connected to the world.
- We must build a world-class talent pool.

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We must stay one united people. Never allow ourselves to be divided – whether by race, religion, income, social differences, or place of birth.

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- PM Lee in his NDR on 21 Aug 2022

PM Lee also spoke about the following:

- How our brand of quality, reliability and efficiency gives us a competitive edge. Singapore must seize the window of opportunity this brings us, to secure our place in the post-COVID-19 world.
- The repeal of Section 377A of the Penal Code and the amendment of Singapore's Constitution to protect the Parliament's right to define marriage.
- Singapore's long term infrastructural plans and the important roles of our seaport and airport, which connect us to the world and keep Singapore a thriving business and trading hub.

Read the full NDR speech here:

<https://www.pmo.gov.sg/Newsroom/National-Day-Rally-2022-English>



Sources: PMO, ST, CNA, TODAY, 21 Aug

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