

## **IPS Survey to Find Out Public's Perceptions of Singapore's History**

The survey's objective is to "understand how Singaporeans look at the past, as a way to illuminate on the future," said IPS' senior research fellow Dr Leong Chan Hoong.

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Singapore: The creation of Singapore's pledge in 1965, the SARS crisis in 2003 and the moment in 1965 when then-Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew announced Singapore's separation from Malaysia were some of the historical events that Singaporeans ranked as the most important, according to the preliminary findings of a survey of 1,500 people by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS).

IPS is holding the poll to find out the public's perceptions of Singapore's history, before and after independence. Said IPS' senior research fellow Dr Leong Chan Hoong: "Singapore has travelled a long way from Third World to First in the last 50 years. And what we are trying to do here is really to understand how Singaporeans look at the past, as a way to illuminate on the future."

In the survey, the public was asked to give their take on the importance and relevance of 50 historical events. These included the 1960s racial riots, the opening of Changi Airport and the escape of Jemaah Islamiyah leader Mas Selamat.

"I think important key takeaways from this study would also be to ascertain the kind of events, whether they are symbolic events or tangible events. What kind of events actually would enhance a sense of belonging among Singaporeans and will galvanise them to work as a collective?" said Dr Carol Soon, research fellow at IPS.

The survey is expected to be completed by the end of October. The findings will be unveiled in January at an IPS conference called Singapore Perspectives, in conjunction with Singapore's SG50 celebrations.