

“And with God’s blessing shall be for ever a sovereign democratic and independent state founded upon the principles of liberty and justice, and ever seeking the welfare and happiness of its people and the maintenance of a just peace among all nations...”

**Tunku Abdul Rahman,
Prime Minister**



Aug 31, 1957: Tunku Abdul Rahman proclaiming independence for Malaya at the Merdeka Stadium in Kuala Lumpur, after reading the declaration. Seated behind him on the dais are (third from right) the first Yang di-Pertuan Agong (Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negri Sembilan); His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, who is representing Her Majesty, the queen and head of the Commonwealth; Sir Donald MacGillivray; the Sultan of Selangor and the Raja of Perlis (partly hidden).

Birth of a NST 31/8/12 MS 6
NATION



These are the scenes that frame our understanding of sovereignty. The dusky black and white images from the declaration of independence exactly 55 years ago. They are, without doubt, comforting, reassuring reminders that we are custodians of a precious legacy, and in our hands, a beautiful land and beautiful people. These images represent only the peaceful beginning of our journey as a nation. Along the way, we would win some, and lose some, yet always know that such a journey never ends because nationhood is now.



May 9, 1957: Tunku Abdul Rahman and some members of the Malayan delegation to London, to secure Malayan Independence, waving goodbye at Kuala Lumpur airport. Also in the picture are Tun V.T. Sambanthan, minister of labour, Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, minister of education, Tun Omar Ong Yoke Lin, minister of transport and Datuk Mustafa Albakri, the Keeper of the Rulers' Seal.

