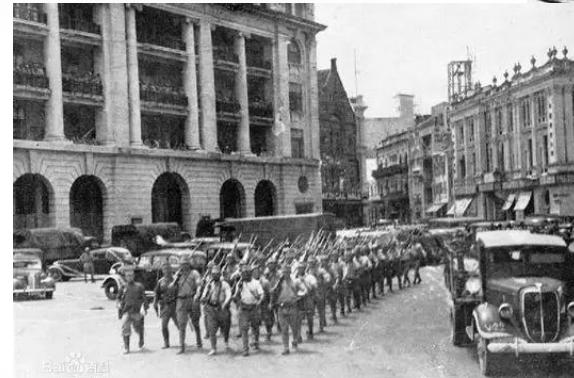


# L6 BECOMING LOCAL

Subtitle

- <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/video-on-demand/rememberthefall/i-remember-the-fall-of-singapore-7824362>
- “I remember the Fall of Singapore”
- “Singapore and Malaya”
- Decolonization



# Conclusion from T2

		Organizational structure	Purpose and function	Position and identity
1906	The Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce	Organized along bang line	Business	Tngsua identity Sino Japanese war
1895	Ee Hoe Hean Club	Individual	Networking	Tngsua identity Sino Japanese war
1937	Singapore Kwangtung Hui Kuan	Guangdong province, individual	Manifested the solidarity of all major dialect groups from Guangdong province	Tngsua identity, United front
1945-1965	<b>Period of Decolonization</b>			
1986	The Singapore Federation of Chinese Clan Associations	De-emphasized bangs/dialect groups  Committees divided by functions	Cultural and identity	Relevance of Chinese in the new nation state
2017	The Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre	Professional civil servant	Cultural and identity	

although did enable and bring tgt the urban-ish ppl, where the clan associations are,  
did not do much for the ppl living in rural areas

# War trauma Collective memory Sense of belonging & identity



# THE NEW AGE: TAKING ROOTS



- Tan Lark Sye (1897-1972)
- Took over leadership of Hokkien Huay Kuan in 1950. Concurrently, President of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce.
- Two centre issues
  - Identity
  - Education

# Identity

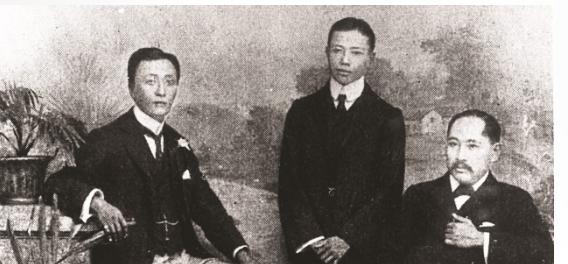
While the early Chinese pioneers who went abroad to earn a living would return home in a blaze of glory to honour their ancestors, the Chinese migrants after World War II had a different frame of mind.

Tan Lark Sye

# HERE IN SINGAPORE - MALAYA



- Municipal Council (City council)
- 18 / 27 elected
- Eligibility and voting rights
  - ✓ British subjects born in Singapore
  - ✓ Qualified to be British subjects



Straits- born Chinese vs. Chinese migrants

- February 1952, Chamber submitted memorandum on citizenship issue
- Total adult population in Singapore: 450 000
- China-born Chinese adults: 220 000
- Rejected.

# 1955 RENDEE CONSTITUTION – 25/32 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED





# Democratic Party



Tan Eng Joo, 1919-2011



# THE MALAYAN DREAM

Fight for citizenship

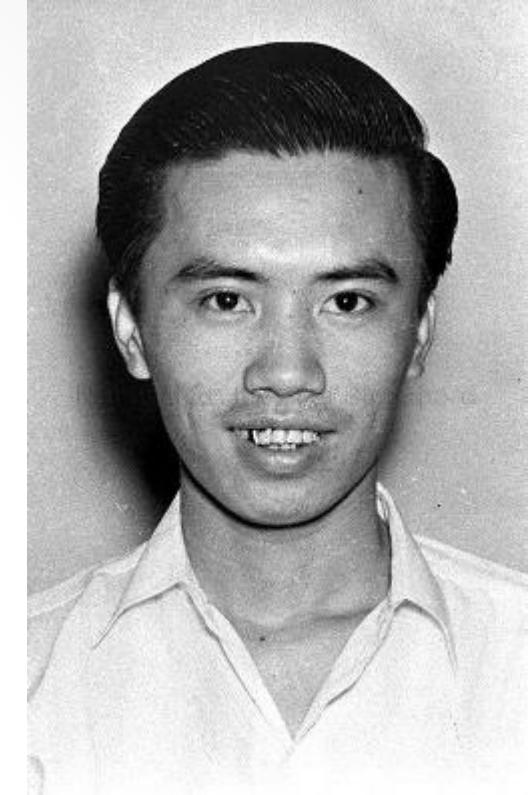
Right to multilingual education  
for all races

Inclusion of the non-English  
educated in the Legislative Assembly

the standard clan leaders although well respected, were not really supported for politics

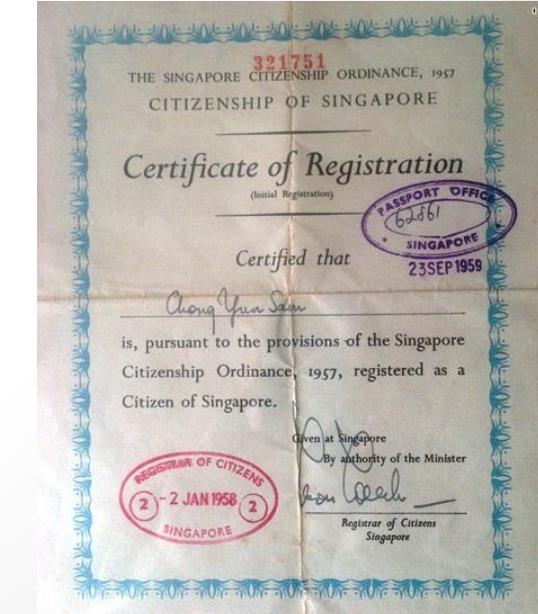
- Social influence not transformed into political popularity in the 1955 election.
- Did not win any seat.
- Chinese speaking voters supported a new generation of young leaders.

- Lim Chin Siong 林清祥 (1933-1996)
- Co-founded PAP in 1954
- Age 22 when he won the Bukit Timah seat in 1955
- Leftwing union leader
- Labeled as communist and detained



leaders of local chinese community are pushing hard for chinese community to be integrated into local politics

- July, 1957 – Singapore Citizenship Ordinance – 10 years residency
- Counter proposed: 8 years.
- Registration of voters by residents who had resided for more than 8 years began in November 1 1957
- From November 1957 to February 1958, assisted Chinese to register  
more local chinese to be registered







# From Medical College to a Comprehensive University

905

The Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States Government Medical School was established with \$87,000 from the Chinese and other non-European communities, led by the Honourable Tan Siau Kim. In 1920, the school became the King Edward VII College of Medicine following a bequest from the memorial fund honouring the monarch.

929

Raffles College, an institution of higher learning for arts and social sciences for students from Singapore and Malaya, was established by awards provided by the government and individuals such as Oei Tiong Ham, Tan Sevakaran, Liu Gou Sen and Sir Manasseh Meyer.

949

Raffles College and the King Edward VII College of Medicine were incorporated as the University of Malaya in Singapore.

956

Nanyang University or Nanyang, was born from contributions and resources pooled from the Chinese community.

62

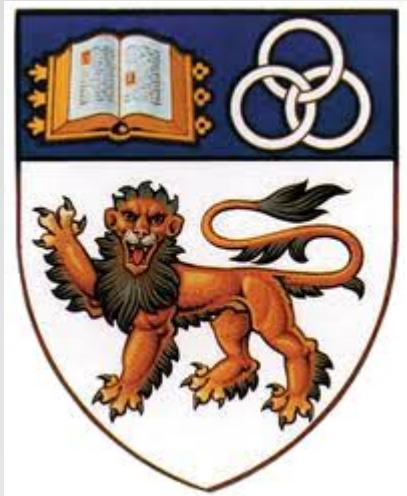
University of Singapore was formed when the Singapore and Kuala Lumpur Divisions of the University of Malaya became autonomous institutional universities.

10

National University of Singapore was formed through the merger of the University of Singapore and Nanyang University.

Generations of donors who have contributed to our mission to transform the way people think, live, research and serve. Through their gifts, they have helped make history in Singapore and





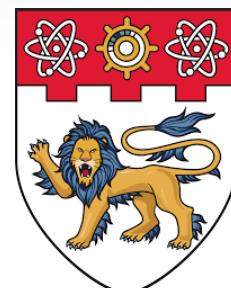
1949



1980



1962



1991



1955

# EDUCATION



English Medium Schools



University of Malaya

# EDUCATION



# CHINESE MEDIUM SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

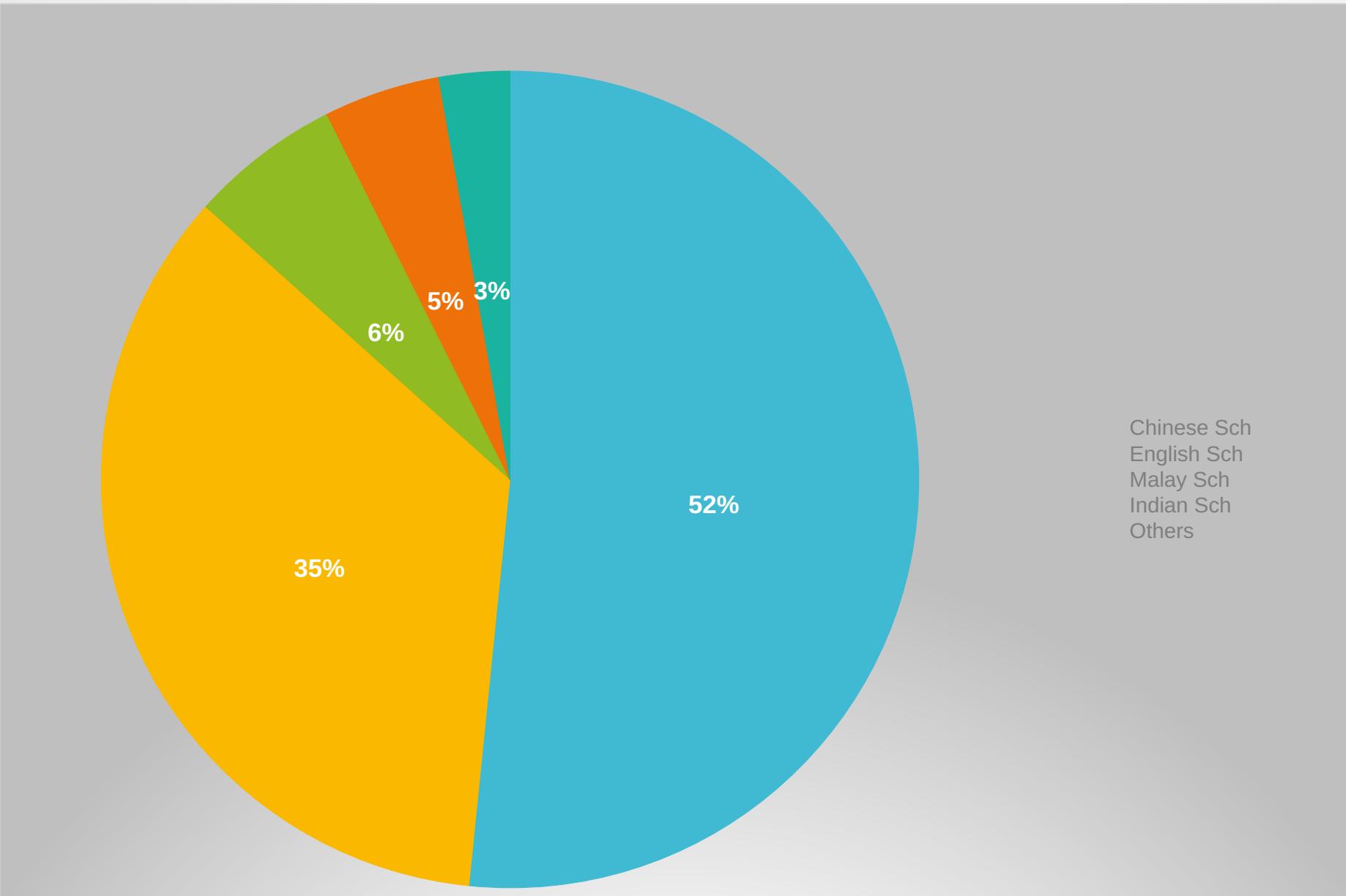
## ➤ Peninsula

- 1950: 1319 schools, 220 000 students
- 1957: 400 000 students

## ➤ Singapore

- 1950: 287 schools, 73 000 students
- 1959: 140 000 students

# 1950 SINGAPORE: 143 015 STUDENTS



1949



- 1905 King Edward VII Medical College
  - 1928 Raffles College
- 
- 1949 University of Malaya
  - Initial enrollment: 850
  - English proficiency a must



# THE TOWKAYS STEPPED FORWARD

- Tan Lark Sye: \$300 000 for setting a Chinese department
- Lee Kong Chian: \$500 000
- Tan Siak Kiu: \$100 000
- OCBC: \$100 000
- Lien Ying Chow: \$50 000
- Lim Koon Teck: \$26 000
- Eu Tong Sen: \$20 000
- Yap Cho Yi: \$250 000 for a Chinese library
- etc.

# THE MALAYAN DREAM

- Disillusioned by the British performance in defending Singapore
- War casualties in defending the land
- Cut of ties with China
- Coming to age of **local born** second/third generation
- Development of all races in Malaya vs. Continuation of British rule

In Malaya today, there are more than **2000** graduates from the English stream every year. The Chinese schools serve almost **400 000** students from primary to senior secondary level but the secondary school graduates have nowhere to go for further studies. The University of Malaya cannot even accept all of the 2000 English school graduates; how can it accept any significant number of Chinese stream graduates?



Tan Lark Sye, 1897-1972

It is reported that there are thousands of Chinese secondary school graduates every year, most of whom have **no chance of receiving higher education locally**, and **their numbers are growing each day**. We have to find ways to remedy such a distressing situation. It is of the utmost urgency to make sure that these graduates are not prevented from advancing in their studies.

- Lee Kong Chian (1893-1967)



even though name is nanyang, the uni has nothing to do with China, meant all for the locals, so the British side stepping them would mean that those who went there for chinese medium education would be forced to go China which was never their intention since they just wanna be in SG

It should be known that there are many students today who have been forced to study overseas. Over the past few years, those from Chinese schools have not had the courage to go to China for this, because if they did so, they **would not be permitted to return to Malaya.**

Why is the government forcing those students who defy this policy to remain in **China** and serve her but not their **own country?**

# APRIL 7, 1953, NANYANG UNIVERSITY MANIFESTO

## ➤ Missions

- To provide secondary school graduate with opportunities for further studies
- To train secondary school teachers
- To produce specialist talents for Malaya
- To meet the needs of the growing population in Malaya

- Two special characteristics
  - To serve as contact between **Eastern and Western** cultures
  - To contribute to the development of a **Malayan** culture

# EDUCATION

- Tan Lark Sye proposed to the Hokkien Huay Kuan the building of a tertiary institute
- Huay Kuan pledged 523 acres of land off Jurong Rd
- Tan Lark Sye donated \$5 000 000
- Positive responses from Singapore and Malaysian Chinese, across dialect and class lines
- Between August 1953 and August 1954, more than 80 fund-raising activities

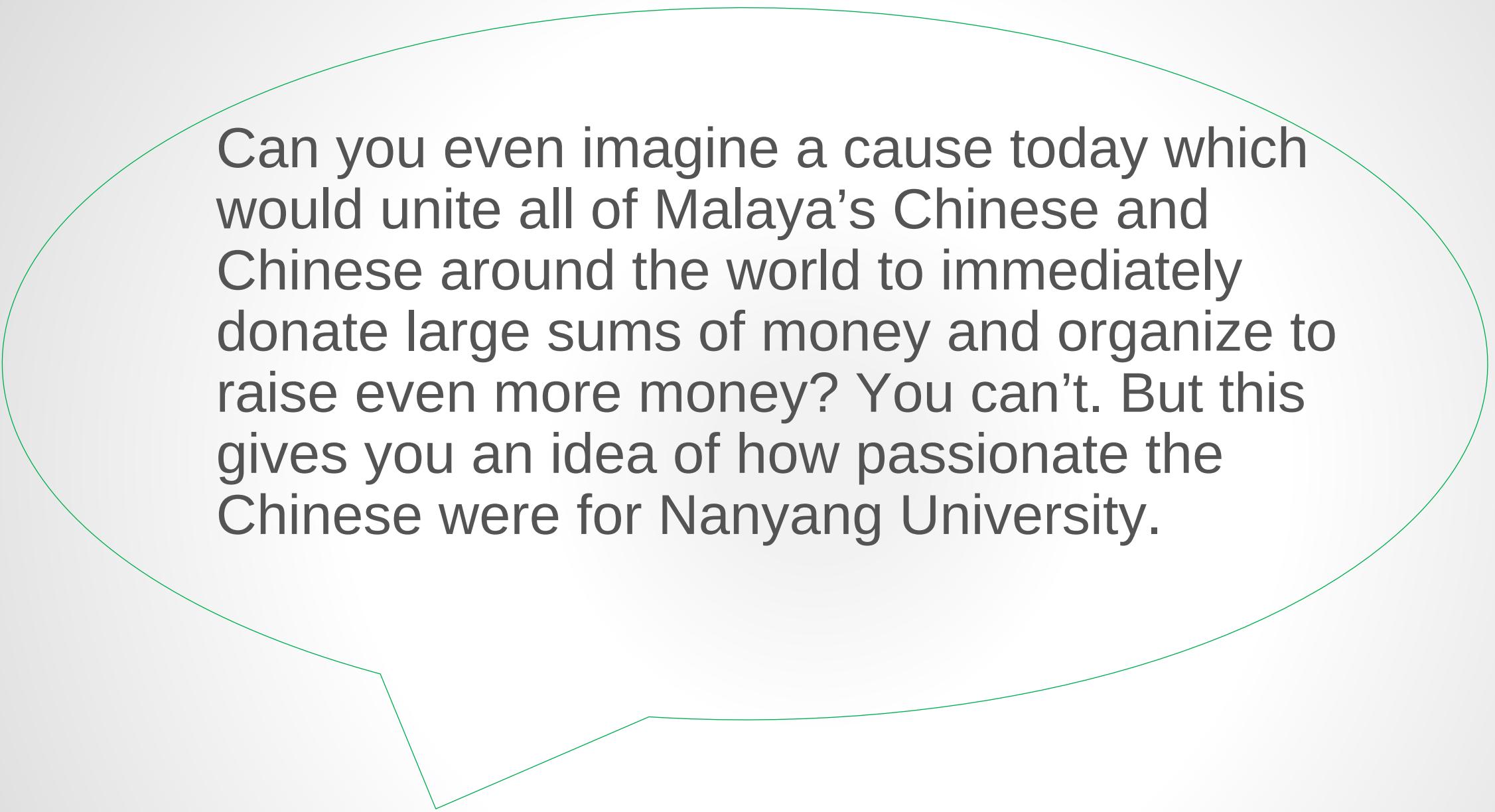
a much more successful fund raising activity, since it is much closer to home and can see the impact of the disillusion against the British  
- a lot more successful since all dialect groups helped out

Everyone gave money; the millionaires some millions, the peddlers of the Singapore food market a week's earnings every month. How many oyster omelets, sliced crab, and noodles of all kinds went into Nanyang University? The trishaw peddlers of Singapore and Malaya pedaled for three days and turned in all they earned for Nanyang University, and theirs was the greatest sacrifice, for they were so very poor. Rubber tappers flocked to give; they knew that their children would never have a chance to go to university; but it was a gesture of cultural identity. **It was incredible and magnificent, and it must be remembered.**

cut across dialects and even class divide

Han Suyin 1917-2012





Can you even imagine a cause today which would unite all of Malaya's Chinese and Chinese around the world to immediately donate large sums of money and organize to raise even more money? You can't. But this gives you an idea of how passionate the Chinese were for Nanyang University.

P.J. Thum

- Obstruction from the British colonial government – “**Nanyang University Limited**” under the Company Act
- Early 1954, U.S. government decided to support the idea of a Chinese university
- Six months later, told the British that they wanted to “explore the **anti-communist potential**” of Nanyang University, cooperate with British to prevent “undesirable elements” from taking over the university, students of Nanyang University to be educated about the “democratic principles” of the West.
- Change in tone of colonial officials in public statements. But status of Nanyang University remained.



Flag-raising ceremony on Nanyang University campus to mark the first day of school on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1956.

passionate but unrefined speeches



founding of nanyang uni was the last major chinese effort.

since after that the local govt (1960s) taken over and then started to take care of the locals better, (registration of marriage etc) things which the huay guans were in charge of last time

-the start of the weakening of huay guan

Tan's citizenship had been cancelled by the authorities after the 1963 General Election



(Tan) supported several Nantah alumni running as candidates under the banner of Barisan Sosialis, the main opposition party to the People's Action Party (PAP). The PAP won that election.

"The late Mr Tan Lark Sye was deprived of his Singapore citizenship in 1964. He had engaged in activities prejudicial to the security and public order of Malaya and Singapore, in particular, in advancing the Communist cause.

There has been no change in his Singapore citizenship status since then."

# TAN TOCK SENG TO TAN KAH KEE TO TAN LARK SYE

- The Baba, the Sinkeh, the (once) Singaporean
- Products of their times, limitations in their visions (in hindsight), significance of their contributions
- Markers and makers of important era in the history of Chinese in Singapore