



Quarterly

MALAY NEWS LETTER

TERANG



SVRAT KHABAR ORANG MELAYU SRI LANKA

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KANDY MALAYS

Elect their office bearers for the year 2000 / 2001

The Kandy Malay Association held its 24th Annual General Meeting at the residence of Saudara Feizal Dole, at No. 15, Mulgampola Rd., Kandy on the 16th of June, 2000 at 10.30 a.m.

As is the practice, the recital of Rasool Mowlood led by Saudara Jaam Cassiere ably assisted by his pupil. Saudara Rizvi Mohamed preceded the General Meeting. All members, both males and females joined in the recitals. The young ones too were there to participate in it. A large gathering was present since the association as a practice extends its invitation to the members, to bring along with them their families, friends and relations.

Lunch was served to all participants and 'niyath' rice distributed among the poor.

The office bearers were as follows:

Patron :

Sdr. J.A. Mustaffa

President:

Sdr. M. Feizal Dole

Vice Presidents:

Sdrs. T.A. Ussoof, M.N. Sherifdeen, T.S. Miskin, K.M. Hassan and Saudari B. Chunchee

Hony. General Secretary:

Alhaj Nizam Samath

Hony. Assist. Secretary:

Hajiani G. Seenar Samath

Hony. Treasurer:

Sdr. S.C. Yaheya

Branch Secretaries:

Sports & Welfare-
Sdr. T.S. Ahmadeen

Religious & Cultural -

Sdr. M. Jaam Cassiere

Women's Bureau -

Sdri. Doreen Buksh

Committee of Management:

Sdri. G.R. Azman,
S.N. Cassim, G.S. Cassiere,
M.B. Weerabangsa,
G. R. Samsudeen G.R. Raban,
Ayesha Hassan and Sdrs.
Roy Amit, Tony Hassan

Hony. Auditor:

Sdr. T. Rizvi Mohamed

"A GUIDE TO MALAY" published by Saudara B.D.K. Saldin (B.A Econ. /F.C.A) is now available at all leading book shops in Colombo and at the Sri Lanka Malay Association office, Padang Complex, Colombo. 02.

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A MUST FOR ALL STUDENTS AND ADULTS AS WELL.

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MARRIAGE - MALAY STYLE

I refer to Saudara Rahaman's comments on Sri Lanka Malays and marriage. His advice that partners to a marriage should be of the same social standing is quite practical. If not, states Rahaman, the partners of different social status will be constantly bickering. This is quite true in my case.

I am from a family of middle class status. My father was a Mudaliyar in Government Service. He had five children- two boys and three girls - and they were educated in fee-levying schools. My elder brother qualified as a Doctor and my younger brother was an Engineer. With this background my parents had no difficulty in getting my sisters married to Lawyers. I was the youngest daughter and being fat and short I was not accepted as a marriage partner.

As I was getting past thirty years in age, and not married, my parents agreed to a proposal made by a relative of ours. The prospective groom was an Executive in a Mercantile Company and lived, since his birth, in Slave Island. I was married to this un-educated Executive who was offered a thumping cash dowry.

The first few years were quite calm. We lived in my parent's house, where I gave birth to daughters. After my parents died my husband started to consume liquor at home. He spent most of his income on liquor and quarreled with me when I complain about shortage of funds to run the home. At these quarrels he displayed his low breeding. Dirty words often come out of his mouth.

I used to cry to myself and sleep hugging my two daughters, who were quite dumb-founded at their father's behavior. I prayed to Allah to release me of this misery and it was answered when my husband died of a heart attack, leaving no funds for his funeral. My elder brother helped me.

I often wondered why I ever married. I am now happy, living on the charity of my daughters, who are earning an income by sewing clothes

SRI LANKA MALAY ASSOCIATION CONTRIBUTES TO THE WAR FRONT

Members of the Persatuan Melayu Sri Lanka responded to the call to assist the valiant soldiers serving in the North in the defense of our Motherland in the ongoing conflict.

A substantial consignment of utility items contributed by the members to be distributed among the soldiers were handed over to the Officials of the Army Welfare

Directorate at the Padang Complex on the 21st of July, 2000. Chairperson (Social Service Branch S.L.M.A.) Deshabandu Saudari Chasnyn Musafer handed over the consignment to Major C.Methananda of the Army Welfare Unit. Chairperson (Women's affairs) Saudari Farida Deane, Secretary (Social Services) Haleema Booso and the President (SLMA) Thaliph lyne were also associated at the handing over ceremony

The Persatuan Melayu Sri Lanka had organized a Recital of 'KATHAM-UL-QUR'AAN'. On Sunday 1st October, 2000 at the 'PADANG' Complex in Memory of the MALAY BROTHERS who paid the supreme sacrifice with their lives in the ongoing conflict and for the safe return of those reported as 'Missing in Action'. The recital commenced at 10.00 a.m. which was followed by lunch. Representatives from the sister Associations were invited to participate in the ceremony.

INNA LILLAHI WA INNA ILAIHI RAJI-OON (To Allah we belong, and to Him is our return)

On behalf of our numerous readers, we extend our deepest sympathies to our long-time member of our pioneering Editorial Board and an active member of the RUHUNU MALAY ASSOCIATION, Saudara T.J.P. Ahamat (JP) and all his family the loss on 13th September, 2000, of his beloved wife, Saudari NONA FAREEDA AHAMAT of 12/3, Galwala, Hambantota, who also played a leading supportive role to her husband, in Malay Association activities.

MARRIAGE PROPOSALS

Upcountry parents seek a working bridegroom for only daughter aged 24 Tall, fair in complexion, employed as an English Montessori teacher in an International School. Religious minded and very homely. Own house and property at Nawalapitiya. Contact Saudara T.S.Hannan Factory Officer, Demodera Estate, Demodera - TP: 055-94101

SLAMA MALAM 1999

Oleh Captain Anwar Dole

Traffic on all roads was heading to Parramatta Town Hall, on the evening of 7th August, 1999, the venue of 'SLAMA MALAM' a memorable night to remember and dream of the spectacular dances and songs presented by the Cultural Troupe of SLAMA which thrilled and kept the audience in suspense throughout the evening. The hall was filled to capacity with a gathering of over 300 persons.

On this occasion, the Organising Committee including the three talented musicians, Fayis Lye, Ezmal Lye and Zareena Jalill, under the able guidance of the President of the Association, Nizar Sappideen, is to be congratulated for the success of the show. The Artistes, most of them members of the Association and a few friends should be proud of their performance, which could be largely attributed to their enthusiasm and keenness, regular attendance at practices and their participation with a determination to give of their best for the sake of the community and to uplift the image of SLAMA.

The function was the second of its kind since the formation of Sri Lanka Malay Association of Australia on 19th September 1998 and it was organised in accordance with one of its objective to impart to its younger members the very best of what they had received from their forebears combined with the knowledge and experience they had gained in Sri Lanka connected with the cultural heritage of Malays.

The entire show was compered jointly by Melati Wijewardane

and Rizwan Miskin, who displayed their prowess with their charm and friendly disposition when presenting the program.

The programme consisted of the following items

SLAMAT SLAMA

A song full of meaning and inspiration – lyrics and music composed by Zareena Jalill, ideally suited to be the theme song of SLAMA.

KEMBALI

A popular Malay Song which was sung during "Merdeka" celebrations in Kuala Lumpur in 1962

MOBIL DAN TARI

Performed by the Tiny Tots – Attractive costumes and the dance was beautiful to watch. The graceful movements and group formation of the dancing team with an Indonesian melody providing background music was presented in style and the dancers were highly praised for their performance. Those participating were trained by Surathi Sappideen.

TARI PAYONG

A popular traditional dance – the dancers were dressed in colourful Malay costumes and Parasol. A foral designed headpiece was also worn, which made the dances more attractive. The rhythmic movements with the graceful formations with precision timing of the parasol adds beauty to this dance sequence.

RANI ENCO

A duet sung with feeling to express each other's love. It is a haunting melody rendered in Sinhala.

GEYLANG SEPAKU GEYLANG

A popular Kampong song taught in schools which could be heard quite often sung by children at functions.

TARI POTHONG PADI

In order to celebrate a bountiful harvest, the farmers gather together to give vent

to their feelings to reform this simple dance.

TARI KUMBANG ROJAH

A dance, which is a mixture of Western and Oriental modernised version of Ballet performed by a teen foursome – the finishing touches were given by the two female dancers who added colour to the dance sequence with flowers.

PERADIGA MUTHU ATAYA

It's a very popular Sinhala song. The lyrics are composed in praise of Sri Lanka.

It is a duet rendered by Surathi Sappideen and Izmir Dole.

SIRRINGIT

A lullaby describing the joys of nature.

TARI KIPAS

The highlight of the evening's show was the 'FAN' Dance. The dance group was led by Yolande Koch, who is an exponent in Oriental dancing.

KASEELA THREEMA

KASEELA

This song was composed by Zareena Jalill. It conveys the gratitude, thanks and appreciation of the Association to all its supporters, participants and all those who had taken time to attend this evening's entertainment.

With the exception of the Tiny Tots Dance, all other dances were choreographed by Yolande Koch and music for all the songs on this programme was provided by Fayis Lye (Organ) and Ezmal Lye (Guitar).

All those who were present were hosted to a sumptuous dinner followed by dancing which continued until midnight.

The evening's entertainment concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Nizar Sappideen, President of the Association.

SRI LANKA MALAY ASSOCIATION - RUPEE FUND

By Dalrina Burah - Hony. Secretary

Our work record and the achievements illustrate our commitments to our less fortunate members of the community.

The Fund is on its 47th year and it is no longer a charity oriented organization, but it has been diversified to include projects for development programmes as well. On entering the new millennium it is our fervent hope that we will be able to cater to the needs of the elderly as well by providing a DAY CARE centre for them.

We are happy to announce that our donors and sponsors continue to help us magnanimously in spite of many demands on them. Our thanks are due to the Founders of the Fund and the past members and past committees for their dedicated service to the community.

Pre-school centre - the numbers have increased to 61 since it was inaugurated 15 years ago. Miss. Renuka Delimagoda is in charge ably assisted by Misses Zarina Meerasa and Nilusha Dharshan. They work with dedication and enthusiasm. The sport meet was graced by the Hon. Alavi Moulana in spite of his busy schedule. He was highly impressed by the performance of the students and complimented the teachers by giving the School a personal donation of Rs. 5000/- and has promised to give more assistance in the future. Mrs. Virasmi Lye Perera from Australia donated ten chairs and a long table and Mr. Reno Saldin provided the paints for the furniture. The school is in need of further donations to get the flooring done which is in a deplorable state.

The Clinic Day was held in January this year at the Fund Centre. Dr. Scherouza Subood, Head of the Medical Division of Ceylinco SWIFTCARE spoke to the parents of the pre-school on the Nutrition and health Care and also advised them on the prevention of communicable diseases.

The Annual Treat for the Needy children was held on 18/6/99 the birth and

death Anniversary of our former President, Mrs. Mashmoom Lye. Mr. T.M.F.Dole, the Architect of the Rupee Fund building was our Chief Guest and Mrs. Ginara Dale from Australia, a life member and Mrs. Rowena Ahlip, a board member were the Guests of Honour.

Scholarships - besides the B.Zahiere Lye Memorial Scholarship awarded by the Rupee Fund in memory of our Founder President, Scholarships have been donated by Mrs. Delani Jainudeen, a former scholar, Mr. M.C.Raban in memory of his father, Mrs. Aileen Dane in memory of her late husband Col. Nizam Dane, who died in action, T.B.Jayah Scholarship and N.J.Rahim Scholarship donated by the Sri Lanka Malay (U.K.) Association, Mrs. Masooda Sabar Scholarship donated by Mr. M.K.X.Sabar in memory of his mother, Dr. Malik Deen, Rozani, Amir and Haroon Deen donated in memory of their parents. Scholarship to be known as "Deen Musfer Endowment". More than 85 students have been assisted since this programme was initiated. We congratulate scholar Siddique from Kurunegala who has completed his studies in Medicine. Presently we are assisting students in the following disciplines -

Degree of management studies - University of Kelaniya and Colombo

Degree of Physical Science - University of Kelaniya

Students from Hambantota, Chilaw and Kurunegala are being assisted to continue their 'A' Level studies.

Type-writing classes are being conducted by Mrs. Sutami Ratnavale and Mrs. Dalrina Burah on a voluntary basis assisted by Miss Fatima Kitchilan who is on the payroll.

English classes are being conducted by Mrs. Urmiza Tegal on a voluntary basis and Mrs. David is on the payroll.

There are 36 students and many others had to be turned away due to lack of teachers. We could conduct daily classes if there were more volunteers.

Computer classes - were inaugurated last year. Miss. Rizana Hassan is conducting classes on a weekly basis. There are 18 students with one computer and a printer. The printer being donated by Mrs. Melati Lye. We wish there would be more donors for at least another computer and a printer, as the students have practicals for only ten minutes a week.

Dress making classes - are being conducted by Mrs. David with 5 students on roll.

The S.L.M.A. Rupee Fund - has been placed on the list of Approved Charities to receive regular donations from Sir Macan Marker Trust Fund, Forbes and Walker, Arpico Finance and Chemical Industries Ltd.

Annual distribution of sadaka - Food parcels and cash were distributed to 500 needy persons. A headcount of the elderly and needy persons were taken and home visits were undertaken to advise the parents of the services available at the Centre. Madam Salma Abdulla Samsoodin of the Malaysian High Commission and her children distributed the food parcels.

Monthly allowances to the Infirm and Elderly are being continued every month. 15 elders call over at the centre for their allowance.

Members here and abroad, the Embassy of Indonesia, The High Commission of Malaysia, ASLAAMA and USMA of Australia, Sri Lanka Malay (UK) Association have continuously assisted us to make our Fund viable and thereby enabling us to continue our programme of work. We look forward for the continued support not only from the Committee but members as well so that our efforts could reach greater numbers.

We are thankful to the Press and the "Terang" Newsletter for the publicity and unstinted support given to our cause.

What you have, learn to share with others as you may be the instrument chosen to be given wealth.

MALAYSIA

Contd.....

Other variations on plain boiled rice include **nasi lemak** (boiled rice in coconut milk and eaten with **sambal tumis** (a preparation of chillies, anchovies and coconut milk) **nasi ulam** (rice mixed with herbs and salted fish), and **nasi dagang** (rice mixed with thick gravy and fish) of Trengganu. Rice is sometimes boiled in small cases woven out of coconut leaves to make a ketupat. This is eaten with **rendang** (beef or chicken cooked over a slow fire in coconut milk, with chillies and certain condiments until the gravy thickens and dries into a delicious coating), or at any time with **satay** (small pieces of chickens or beef skewered on bamboo sticks and baked over a charcoal fire). **Satay** is coated with thick peanut gravy. Many Malays like satay dipped in chili sauce.

Chinese cuisine in Malaysia comes from different provinces of China, and extremely varied. But boiled rice or noodles is the basis of the daily diet.

Most Indians like highly spiced food. Rice is the main food of the people from South India while wheat is that of those from North India. Vegetables are frequently used in their cuisine.

RELIGIONS -Islam is the National religion but the Malaysian Constitution guarantees freedom of worship. The different number of religions in Malaysia is proof of religious tolerance in the country. As well as mosques, there are many Hindu and Buddhist temples and Christian churches throughout Malaysia. In fact, the main religions of the world, with their rituals, customs, and festivals are dominant features of Malaysia's multi-racial culture.

The majority of Malaysians are Muslims, belonging to the Sunni sect of Islam. Regular daily prayers and mosque attendance is an important feature in Islam. Muslims have a duty to pay alms to help the needy.

HARI RAYA PUASA - is the major Muslim festival. It marks the ending of the fasting month of Ramadan, a time of strict observances, when eating and drinking in daylight hours are forbidden. Every year, thousands of

Muslim Malays perform the HAJ (pilgrimage) to Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia.

The majority of Malaysian Indians are Hindus. There is a small Sheikh community. The two main Hindu festivals are Deepawali (festival of lights) and Thaipusam.

Buddhism has a substantial following among the Chinese. Wesak Day is important festival commemorating the three great events of the Buddha, namely his birth, enlightenment and death.

The main Christian denomination is Roman Catholicism. In addition, there are small numbers of Anglicans, Methodists, Baptists and other denominations. Christian Missions played a leading role in educating the people when Peninsular was a British Colony.

EDUCATION - The system of formal education in Malaysia consists of four levels, graded according to the age of the students. The four levels are - primary, secondary (lower and upper), post-secondary and tertiary.

Children in Malaysia begin primary education at the age of six and continue for six years. There are three types of primary schools. The National Primary School uses Malay as the language of instructions. Chinese and Tamil schools use Chinese and Tamil, respectively as the basic language. More than 90 p.c. of children of primary school age complete primary education.

In lower secondary school the main subjects are Bahasa Malaysia (the Malay language), Art, English, General Science, Geography, History, Health and Physical education, Living skills, and moral or Islamic education.

After three years, students sit for the Lower Sijili Rendah Pelajaran (Certificate of Education) Examination. Successful students, who continue for two years of Upper Secondary education, take the Sijili Pelajaran Malaysia (Malaysian Certificate of Education) or the Sijili Pelajaran Vokasional Malaysia (Malaysian Certificate of Vocational Education). Students who wish to go to University then study for two more years

and sit the Sijili Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia (Malaysian Higher School Certificate) Examination.

Malaysia has seven Universities. The oldest is the University of Malaya. It was founded in Kuala Lumpur in 1959 although it can trace its origins back to the King Edward VII College of Medicine, established in, 1905 the Raffles College, which began in Singapore in 1929, and the University of Malaya, in Singapore in 1949. The university of Technology Malaysia and the University of Agriculture Malaysia founded in early 1970's also originated from earlier institutions.

The university of Penang opened in 1969 and the Universiti Kebangsaan (National University) in Bangi began in 1970. In 1982, the government assisted in founding the Universiti of Islam Antarbangsa (International Islamic University) in Petaling Jaya. In 1984, Universiti Utara (Northern University) opened in Kedah.

Two other important institutions for higher education are Majlis AmanahRakyat (MARA) (Trust council for the Indigenous People) Institute of Technology, and Tunku Abdul Rahman College. They offer a wide range of semi professional and professional courses, leading to certificates or diplomas. They also offer degree-level courses jointly with universities in the United States. The Ministry of Education also runs a number of polytechnics and 27 teacher-training colleges. The total student enrolment in the universities and the colleges in Malaysia is about 80,000. The government bears over 95% of the cost of university education in Malaysia.

National celebrations - August 31 is celebrated as Malaysia's National day to mark the country's independence. Parades and exhibitions are held to mark this event. Another important national celebration is held to mark the birthday of the Yang Di-Pertuan Agong (King of Malaysia) on June 5th.

Several important religious festivals are celebrated nationwide by all Malaysians. But most have special significance for the particular ethnic group.

The Malays who are Muslims celebrate festivals of the religion of Islam throughout Malaysia. Ramadan is marked each year by fasting from sunrise to sunset. Eid-ul Fitr is the festival that culminates a month's fasting. Eid-Mubarak is the festival celebrating the end of the Hadj Pilgrimage.

The Hindus of Malaysia celebrate the festivals of Deepavali and Thaipusam. Chosen people walk on paths of fire with no apparent ill effects. Others have their skin pierced with long needles. They carry heavy ornaments over great distances into the temples. The Batu Caves, just outside Kuala Lumpur, are the main center for the annual Thaipusam festival.

The main Chinese religious festival is held to celebrate the start of the Chinese New year. It usually falls in late January or early February. The celebrations start on the first day of the new moon after the winter solstice. Families pray together. They thank the Gods for the year gone by. They also celebrate with noisy rejoicing and feasting. The Chinese exchange gifts wrapped in paper. They consider red a lucky color. They let off firecrackers, light candles, burn joss sticks and pray for their ancestors.

Another important event in the Chinese year is the Moon festival. The celebrations on the 15th day of the 8th Moon of the year. City dwellers join in the celebrations. But it is essentially a time of thanksgiving for the harvest. They eat moon cakes and other delicacies at the festival time.

ARTS & CRAFTS-The traditional arts of Malaysia include folk dances, which represent scenes of adventure, battles or love. These dances are accompanied with percussion instruments including drums, gongs, and a bamboo instrument called **anklong**. Other instruments include **suling** (a bamboo flute) and the **rebab** (a two

string violin). Dances include the **joget**, which is probably the most popular dance in Malaysia. This dance is performed in cultural festivals, weddings and other social functions. Its origins can be traced to the Portuguese folk dances that were introduced to Melaka during the era of the booming spice trade in the 1500's. The **joget** is performed by couples who combine fast hand and leg movements. Other performing arts include **tariang inang** - the dancers moving quickly moving colorful scarves, dance dramas, **tari payung** (umbrella dance), **Tari cinta sayang** (love dance), shadow puppet plays (**wayang kulit**) is an ancient theatrical form. Puppets made of buffalo hide are held between a white cloth screen and an oil-lamp light source, casting a dark shadow seen by the audience on the opposite side of the screen.

The **mak yong** dance drama is a comprehensive theatrical form, combining dance opera, drama and comedy. Its origins go back several hundred years.

Competitions are held at the end of harvest time to test the skills of musicians beating the **rebana ubi** (giant drum) made out of hollow log about 0.6 metre in diameter. Points are awarded on timing, rhythm and style of the drummer, as well as the tone of the rebana itself.

HANDICRAFTS - Malaysian handicrafts include wood carving, silver work and working with textiles. The states of Kelantan, Terangganu, Sarawak and Sabah are particularly

rich in handicraft tradition. The people of Kelantan are expert at the dying process called **BATIK**.

SPORTS AND PASTIMES- Sports played in Malaysia range from archery to windsurfing. Malaysia has produced world champions in badminton and hockey. Basketball, table tennis, golf, squash and tennis are also popular. The most popular sport is soccer.

Malays also enjoy many traditional sports. A favorite game is **Sepak raga** (also known as sepak takraw), in which the players kick and head the **raga** (a ball woven with strips of rattan) so that it moves from one player to another without touching the ground. The loser is the player who fails to keep the ball in the air. The game could be played with a center player and other players forming a circle around him. It is also played in the fashion of a volleyball match between two teams with the net drawn between.

Wau (kite flying) is particularly popular on the east coast of Malaysia. People build elaborate kites and hold contest to see whose kites can fly highest and stay longest in the air. In other parts of Malaysia **main gasing** (top spinning) is a popular sport. Teams of adults compete with each other to see which team can keep most tops spinning for along period.

Another popular sport is **pencak or silat**. It is a traditional combination of dancing and self-defense. Yet another fond pastime of the rural folk is cock fighting.

A GUIDE TO MALAY

BY B.D.K.Saldin

Since his first book "Sri Lankan Malays and their Language", was published the author has been inundated with requests for tuition in Malay. Being mindful of the early experience he had of conducting lessons where the attendance gradually petered out as is the case when anything is given free, he thought it would be better if he put his lessons down in book form. For one thing it would reach a wider audience, and for another the book would be available for later reference should the initial interest in learning the language wane. At the moment Malay is not being taught in the school curriculum and it is hoped that this book, which has been approved by the National Institute of

Education as a text for Malay for the GCE Examinations, will be of help to the students.

The Sri Lankan Malays have lost the ability to read and write unlike their forefathers, who used the **gundul script** ie: the Arabic script with the additions of five other sounds which is not found in Arabic. The **gundul script** was what the Malays of Indonesia, Malaysia and other Malay speaking countries of the world used till 1928 when the script was roman zed. This book helps you to read, pronounce and write Malay in the Roman script.

The author is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka. He was a Director/Secretary of Forbes and

Walker Ltd., until his retirement in 1988. He has been keenly interested in the Sri Lankan Malay language as a vehicle for preserving the identity of his community in Sri Lanka. He is a regular contributor to the 'TERANG', a quarterly journal issued by the Kandy Malay Association. He successfully concluded a pilot project in teaching adults to read and write Malay under the auspices of the Sri Lanka Malay Association.

He has presented papers on the language of Sri Lanka Malays at the Hari Sastera 93 Conference at Selangor, Malaysia, in June 1993, at the Symposium of Malay Polynesian elements in the Commonwealth in Kuala Lumpur in November 1998 and at the Conference of Litterateurs of the Malay world in Johore Baru in April 1999. Recently he has been appointed as member of the International Council for the Malay Language with its Headquarters in Malaysia.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE MALAY LANGUAGE IN MALAYSIAN

The Government of Malaysia has established an International Council for the Malay Language in Kuala Lumpur. This council is responsible for coordinating programmes and activities related to the Malay Language and letters at the international level.

The council's members are drawn from among the heads of departments and senior lecturers of the Malay studies from higher learning institutions around the world and from among activists of Malay language and culture. The Council will convene annually and held its first convention from 21 - 24 August, 2000.

Saudara B.D.K.Saldin, immediate past president of the Sri Lanka Indonesia Friendship Association and Vice President of the Sri Lanka Malay Association, has been invited to be a member of this council. Saudara Saldin has been a pioneer in trying to restore the Sri Lankan Malay Language to its written form. The Sri Lanka Malays have lost the ability to read and write their language. A group of concerned Malays are trying to revive their language and Saudara Saldin has been in the forefront. He is the author of two books, "The Sri Lankan Malays and their Language" and "A guide to Malay".

The International Council for the Malay Language has been established to coordinate linguistic activities (the Malay Language and let-

ters) at international level including the planning and implementation of developmental, promotional, preservation and reinforcement activities of the Malay language and letters with the objective of: -

- * Promoting research program, the teaching and learning of the Malay language and letters at institutes of learning or academic institutions, international research and cultural institutions
- * Working together to create a network of the Malay language and letters at international level by promoting exchange programs of experts researches as well as students, dissemination of materials, research, translations and publication and sharing of resources
- * Promoting the development of the Malay language as an important language of communication in the South Asian nations and neighboring countries in an effort to raise its status at international levels.

Each council member is required to prepare a report for the Executive session

- a) Including the status of the development of Malay language in the respective nations giving data on;

- * The estimated population of Malay speaking people
- * The number of educational institutions offering Malay language/studies
- * The number of students following the Malay language/studies offered at these institutions
- * The number of staff teaching the Malay language/studies
- * Teaching materials and references used in teaching Malay language studies
- * Associations of Malay language or Malay studies
- * Activities to promote Malay language/letters and civilizations by institutions, Associations and other corporations (e.g. seminars, conventions, colloquium, research etc.)
- * Contribution or cooperation offered by Malaysia, Indonesia and other nations.

b) Furnish proposals on

- * New promotional activities of Malay language/letters
- * Improvements on existing activities
- * Improvements on methodology of teaching and learning of the Malay Language
- * Research on Malay language and studies

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AALUL MAHFIL UNION

(FOUNDED IN 1932)

Persatuan itu Kurnia

The Aalul Mahfil Union and its affiliate, the Janaza Fund, held its 66th Annual General Meeting on 14th May, 2000 at the Padang Complex, Slave Island, Colombo 02, to elect the office bearers for the ensuing year.

<i>Patron</i>	:	Saudari M.Z.Nallawangsa
<i>Vice Patrons</i>	:	Saudaras: M.T.Ousmand, A.T. Ousmand, F.T.Ousmand, H.T.Ousmand (Snr), H.T.Ousmand (Jnr), N.T.Ousmand J.Borham, T.H.Jumar, T.K.Amit, T.S.Amit, M.H.Sallay, Capt., T.A.Dole, Saudaris T.Z.Allang, M.H.Samsudeen, K.Borham and T.N.Y.Amit
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A CELEBRITY OF MALAY POLITICS

ONN BIN JA'AFAR, DATO (1895 - 1962)

Onn bin Ja'afar, Dato, was the most outstanding political and administrative figure in Malaya before the country gained independence from British rule in 1957. In 1946, he founded the **UNITED MALAYS NATIONAL ORGANISATION (UMNO)** as a political party. He worked in opposition to the British colonial government, and in 1948, was successful in achieving the formation of the Federation of Malaya. In 1951, Onn bin Ja'afar resigned from **UMNO** because of policy differences within the party. He formed **Parti Negara (National Party)**, which cooperation among races. Onn bin Ja'afar lost the election in 1955, two years before Malaya gained its independence. But historians agree that he played an important part in the independence movement of his country. Onn bin Ja'afar was born in Johor Baru. He was educated in Johor Baru, at the Malya College in Kuala Lumpur, and in the United Kingdom. He joined the Johor administration, then turned to journalism in the 1930's, becoming editor of *Warta Malaya*, the first independent Malay newspaper. Later, he became Chief Minister of Johor.

M. A. Sourjah

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