

HISTORY OF MALAYSIAN CEYLONESE CONGRESS

MALAYAN CEYLONESE CONGRESS THE BEGINNING

(Compiled by Dato' G. Vijayanathan DPMP, JSM, KMN, AMN, PJK – Chairman, 48th Anniversary / Tamil New Year Dinner & Dance Organising Committee – from the records available through the kind courtesy of Members, past Annual Reports, Bulletins of MCC, Minutes of CWC and CEC meetings etc).

The formation of the Malayan Ceylonese Congress in 1958 is the climax to the public life of Ceylonese in Malaya.

As a prelude to the history of the M. C. C. it is important to take notice of the growth of Jaffnese Associations in the early twentieth century. The impetus for the growth of such associations was to provide for the social, cultural, religious needs and sporting activities for the Ceylonese. In the major towns where the Ceylon Tamils settled, associations were formed, motivated essentially by the desire to preserve the cultural distinctiveness of their group.

The first organised Society which looked after the interests of the Ceylonese as a whole was the Selangor Ceylon Tamils Association founded in **1900**. The records of which meeting was then kindly supplied by the veteran school master, Mr. R. Thampipillay, J.P. who was then a sturdy young man of twenty-one, read as follows:-

“At 7.00 p.m. on the 24th day of December, 1900 about 53 Ceylon Tamils of Selangor assembled at the residence of Mr. V. Sinnappah, well-known and influential Station-Master, Kuala Lumpur and unanimously resolved to form the Selangor Ceylon Tamil's Association with the following objects;-

- (1) To build and maintain a Kandasamy Temple and the Cremation Ground (off Circular Road) which had been granted to the Ceylon Tamils by the Selangor Government and
- (2) To safeguard the general interests of the Ceylonese residing in Malaya.”

The Office-bearers and Committee members for 1900 – 1902 were:-

President	Mr. Visuvanathan (Vaddukuoddai) Head Overseer, P. W. D. Kuala Lumpur
Vice-President	Mr. S. Saravanamuthu (Udupiddy), Head-overseer, Sanitary Board, Kuala Lumpur.
Hon. Secretary	Mr. Kanagasabapathy (Mallagam) Clerk, Secretariat, K. L.
Hon. Treasurer	Mr. V. Sinnappah (Veeman Kaman, Tellipalai),

Station Master, Kuala Lumpur.
Committee Members Mr. C. Thambapillai (Tinnevely North)
Mr. S. T. Pillay (Urumparay)
Mr. Seenivasagam (Adchu Veli)
Mr. V. Sanmugam (Mulai)
Mr. Sittampalam (Araly)
Mr. S. Chellathamby (Trincomalee)
Mr. S. Thambyrajah (Kanderodai)
Mr. W. Wijaiaratnam (Araly)
Mr. V. Eliathamby (Urumparay)
Mr. R. Arumugam (Colombogam)
Rev. S. Abraham (Urumparay)

As years went by and Ceylonese population increased, the need for an organisation to represent all Ceylonese interests was keenly felt. Several discussions were conducted to form an Association to include all Ceylonese i.e. Tamils, Singhalese, Burghers, Moors and Ceylon Malays. Two definite attempts were made, the first in Kuala Lumpur at a meeting convened at the Town Hall and the second in Singapore at a meeting held in the Victoria Memorial Hall. Unfortunately both these meetings were unsuccessful.

In 1912 Mr. M. W. Navaratnam, who was the Secretary of the Selangor Ceylon Tamils Association, acquired a knowledge of our people in public life and made a bold attempt to form an Association. The following press report speaks for itself and gives a picture of the origin of the Association:-

A NEW BODY WITH JUSTIFIABLE AMBITION

“The Ceylon Association of Selangor, the youngest of the Ceylonese organisations in Malaya shows every sign of it becoming a very active and useful institution. We have seen its Constitution and we believe that there is ample scope for its aims and objects not only in Selangor but outside its limits.”

The following gentlemen comprised the Committee of Management for first years:-

President	Mr. M. W. Navaratnam
Vice-President	Mr. B. T. S. Naysadurai
Hon. Secretaries	Mr. M. A. Akbar
	Mr. P. Ratnadurai
Hon. Treasurer	Mr. C. O. La Brooy
Members of Committee	Mr. V. Chelliah
	Mr. W. W. Fernando
	Mr. J. C. Jayatilaka
	Mr. H. J. C. Kulasinghe

Mr. P. Mailvaganam
Mr. J. D. A. Puvirajasinghe
Mr. G. W. de Silva
Mr. F. A. Samaranayaka
Mr. J. S. Wijasuriya

At the inaugural meeting, the President, Mr. M. W. Navaratnam briefly explaining the purpose of the Association said, "The Ceylon Association of Selangor is formed with the intention of bringing together the various communities of Ceylonese residents in Malaya and this has been a long-felt want," and he then quoted what Sir Andrew Caldecott said while performing the opening ceremony of the Tamil Union Grounds in Colombo, "If you are going to be good Ceylonese, you must have Tamils, Singhalese, Burghers, Moors and Malay Clubs all of them."

Mr. Navaratnam further added, "Several unsuccessful attempts were made in the past, still undaunted by these failures, a few representatives of the various communities which make up the Ceylonese have gathered here today to inaugurate the Ceylon Association of Selangor."

Closely following the inaugural meeting of the Association, the Management Committee made an appeal to all Ceylonese of goodwill to join the Ceylon Association of Selangor and assist in the establishment of a Club House where all Ceylonese could assemble to discuss the common problems, get to know one another better and also strengthen the bonds of fellowship which existed between the Malayan Ceylonese and other communities in Malaya.

The material well being of the community was not neglected either. In order to prevent indebtedness and to encourage thrift among the Jaffna Tamils, the Jaffnese Co-operative Society (JCS) was established in 1924. It encouraged members to invest in the J.C.S. and loans at reasonable rates were granted for educational expense, medical treatment, funeral expenses and purchase of household necessities etc.

The Association did many things to prove its usefulness among which may be mentioned its sponsoring the performance of a play entitled "Princess of Malacca" in aid of the Malaya Patriotic Fund in November, 1940.

The Malayan Ceylonese Provident Fund was also planned and subsequently organised by the Association, and its Management Committee did a great deal to nurse it carefully during the period of its infancy. Within the next few years, this Provident Fund became very popular among the Ceylonese and its phenomenal growth necessitated the Fund being conducted as a separate organisation and the president of the Ceylon Association of Selangor, Mr. M. W. Navaratnam was also the president of the Malayan Ceylonese Provident Fund for well over 18 years.

In 1955 when the Malaysian deputation, under the leadership of Y.T.M. Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj left for Britain to seek Independence, the Ceylon Association of Selangor was the first Ceylonese

organisation to entertain the deputation to tea and pledged their loyalty while wishing God-speed and success.

**FLASH BACK TO DECEMBER 1955
A MEMORABLE FUNCTION**

Guests at the Main Table from right:-

Tan Sri Haji Sardon bin Haji Jubir, P.M.N., Tan Sri Justice S. Chelvasingam Ma Intyre, Mr. M. W. Navaratnam, A.M.N., J. P., Y.T.M. Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj, KOM., Puan Sri Mac Intyre, Tan Sri Ong Yoke Lin, P.M.N., Tan Sri V. T. Sambanthan, P.M.N.

The Chief Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman (left) wearing a garland, shares a joke with Mr. M. W. Navaratnam, president of the Ceylon Association of Selangor and Mr. S. C. MacIntyre, the only elected Ceylonese representative in the Federal Legislative Council, at a tea party in Kuala Lumpur. The party which was given by the Association was in honour of the Chief Minister and Mr. MacIntyre – Malay Mail picture by Ng Beh Leow

On the left:- Mr. K. L. Devaser.

The Hon'ble the Chief Minister, Federation of Malaya, Tunku Abdul Rahma and Hon'ble Mr. S. Chelvasingham MacIntyre, the newly elected Ceylonese in the Federal Legislative Council were entertained at a tea party on Friday, December 9th 1955 by the Ceylon Association of Selangor.

Mr. M. W. Navaratnam, President of the Association in welcoming the guests of the evening said that the large gathering present was a testimony to the importance of the occasion and the popularity of our guests. Our Chief Minister, he said has already endeared by his bold political initiative since he took office and by the absolute fairness and broad minded patriotism. There is no doubt his mission to Britain to obtain **Merdeka** will be a complete success.

The Chairman next referred to Mr. Chelvasingham MacIntyre as the worthy son of an illustrious father who shed glory in the public life of Malaya during his time. There is no doubt that his son will follow in the footsteps of his father and bring credit as the only elected Ceylonese member in the Federal Legislative Council.

Mr. L. C. Jayatilaka Vice-President in a humorous speech wished the mission to Britain all success and hoped that as the centre forward of the team Tengku will shoot straight and hard and secure resounding victory.

Mr. A. B. Samuels Hon. Secretary wished the Chief Minister all success in his talks about the future in Malaya in Britain. May God grant the members of the mission health, wisdom and understanding so that they could conclude the great work with perfect success concluded Mr. Samuels who pledged pledges the loyalty of true Malaysians of Ceylonese origin.

In replying the Chief Minister thanked the President and the Association for the entertainment and hoped that Ceylonese will play their part nobly when Malaya achieves Independence. He pledged that there would be a part for every one in Malaya after Independence.

“At the moment the country had very little to offer to the people because it was a protected state. After Independence the status of the country would be different and all those who were loyal to the country would have a part in it,” he said.

He said the British would not hesitate to give self government to Malaya because the people were now learning to unite into a single nation.

The country which was divided among itself was a thing of the past, he added.

Now the people have been taught to look upon themselves as the citizens of the country, he concluded amidst applause.

After Malaya attained independence, the Ceylon Association of Selangor followed suit in common with other organizations as U.M.N.O., M.C.A., and M.I.C. to establish the Malayan Ceylonese Congress

The following is a press report of the inaugural meeting:-

Extracts from “Malay Mail.”

“There is a great lack of unity among the Ceylonese population in Malaya,” said Mr. Navaratnam, the president of the newly-formed Malayan Ceylonese Congress,

. “There are a number of Ceylon organisations in this country today with the object of safeguarding Political, Social and Cultural interests connected with the Ceylonese population but none of these organisations co-operate with others. The disunity amongst the Ceylonese is due to the few who put their own interests first and even show jealousy and mutual dislike instead of general good will. If we continue in this way we are bound to suffer at the hands of the Government in the matter of legislation. The non-inclusion in the Federal Constitution of a member to represent the Ceylonese in the Parliament was a typical case in point.”

“If Government is aware that the Ceylonese are active and prepared to safeguard not only their own rights but the rights of all good citizens we would never have been passed over. If we are disunited we will be regarded as worse than a minority community and we will be a miserable community which can be left to stew in the bitter juice of our own dissension. We are now going through a period of transition in the history of this country. Great changes are about to take place and with such changes occurring we should unite and act with singleness to safeguard our rights and claims. We would like to be in the vanguard of progress and should look upon the people of this country as a united people whatever their race, religion or language.”

Mr. Navaratnam then concluded his presidential address by announcing the winding up of the Ceylon Association of Selangor and the **BIRTH OF THE MALAYAN CEYLONESE CONGRESS.**

BIRTH OF THE MALAYAN CEYLONESE CONGRESS

THE YEAR 1958:

It is understood that the party was formed as an opposition party to the Ceylon Federation under the leadership of the late Sir Clough Thuraisingam. The Ceylon Federation of Malaya was the only party which was recognized by the government at that time and enjoyed the privilege of a seat in the Senate. It was also represented in all representative bodies and was invited to attend all social functions.

The President of the Ceylon Federation of Malaya (CFM) was the sole representative of the community in all these functions. This party was held as “secular” by all other members of the Ceylonese Community.

Mr. M. W. Navaratnam, the President of the Selangor Ceylon Tamil Association (founded in 1900) announced the birth of the Malayan Ceylonese Congress (M.C.C.) on the 24th day of February 1958 with address of No: 54, Pudu Road, 5th Floor, Ng Keat Thong Building, Kuala Lumpur and registration number PPM/WP/66/58.

The purpose for which M.C.C was created is to promote and safeguard the **Political, Educational, Social** and **Cultural** interests of the Malaysian Ceylonese Community.

A reconciliation attempt was made to resolve the matter. It was unfortunate that at a second meeting, both the leaders became uncompromising. The reconciliation meeting ended in a failure.

THE YEAR 1966:

In 1966, when the new Societies Act was brought into effect, the constitution of the Congress was revised and registration was obtained on the 6th of June 1966. (Ref: RSM66/58/(24) ARS/ registration No: 1238 (Sel)).

Ref: R.S.M. 66/58 /(24) ARS

THE SOCIETIES ACT 1966

Name of Society: Malayan Ceylonese Congress
Address: No: 48, Thamby Abdullah Road, Kuala Lumpur.
Registration No: 135 (Selangor)

It is hereby certified that the set of rules, copy whereof is appended hereto, has been approved under the above-mentioned Society, this 6th day of June, 1966.

Dated this 1st day of July, 1966.

Sd./.....
(Kassim b. Haji Mohd Amin)
b.p. Registrar of Societies
Malaysia

(Seal affixed here)

Mr. M. W. Navaratnam continued as President of M.C.C. with a few changes in the committee till 1967, when a new Executive Committee was elected.

MALAYAN CEYLONESE CONGRESS Members of the Congress Executive Committee

Seated (Left to Right) Mr. A. Arunasalam, Hon. Treasurer; Mr. L.C. Jayatilaka, Vice-President; Mr. M.W. Navaratnam, AMN, JP, President; Mr. V. Kanapathy Pillai, Chairman, Committee for Literary & Culture; Mr. A.B. Samuels, Secretary General.

Standing (Left to Right) Mr. S. Velautham, Chairman, Membership Committee; Mr. N. M. Vasagam, PJK, MBE, Chairman, Sports Committee; Mr. P. S. Thilliampalam, Chairman, Committee for Variety Entertainment; Mr. P. Mailvaganam, Chairman, Committee on Finance & Business-Manager; Mr. V.G. Thalayasingam, Chairman, Publicity Committee (Not in the picture, Mr. S. Durai Raja Singam, Chairman Committee on Records.)

At the Eighth Annual Session of the Congress held in October, 1977 a resolution was unanimously passed to seek affiliation with the UMNO-MCA-MIC Alliance and the matter was actively pursued by the Executive Committee of the Congress as the Malayan Ceylonese Congress was the only political body representing the Malaysian citizens of Ceylonese origin, which was then over a thousand strong.

The flow of membership continued with the whole hearted support of the Ceylon Association in Seremban, Taiping and Johore Bharu and Ceylonese from other states where such Associations did not exist.

Their thoughts naturally turned to the spirit which moved the founders of these organisations and which had sustained and developed the service to the community from small beginnings.

THE YEAR 1969:

By early 1969 a few of the Committee Members passed away including Mr. M. W. Navaratnam and the M.C.C. became inactive. Subsequently due to lack of interest and internal problems, the M.C.C. was not functioning.

In the meantime the Registrar of Societies (ROS) had written a letter to the M.C.C. to show cause why M.C.C. should not be deregistered.

Members at a subsequent meeting then decided to support M.C.C. as a political body. Action was taken immediately by the Secretary with the R.O.S. upon Dato Dr. C. Sinnadurai accepting the position of President. With the explanation given, the show cause letter was withdrawn.

THE YEAR 1970:

Then in 1970 there was an attempt to revive the M.C.C. After a few informal meetings held by interested parties, an AGM was held at the Girls Guide's Organisation in Pantai, Kuala Lumpur.

Tan Sri Dato' C. Sinnadurai, a prominent Physician (a retired Government pensioner) took over the leadership.

Under the leadership of Tan Sri Dato' Dr. C. Sinnadurai, the organization grew to seventeen Branches. The President was appointed to the Senate and represented the

M.C.C. and its situation in the Senate. He made great strides to unite with the Tamils in Malaysia.

Tan Sri Dato' Dr. C. Sinnadurai held a series of meetings and decided on the following programmes:-

a) Registration of Branches:

First Branch was formed in Petaling Jaya followed by other branches stretching from Penang to Johore Bharu. Almost twenty branches were registered.

b) Census of the Community:

Census forms were prepared and distributed to all members of the community irrespective of whatever party they belonged to for completion and return.

c) Education Foundation:

Mr. C. Selvarajah lawyer from Ng Ek Teong and Partners was appointed to draft the Education Foundation which was later prepared and studied.

d) Merger:

The Committee decided to make a final attempt to merge the Singhalese Association and Ceylon Federation with M.C.C. The former (Singhalese Association) flatly rejected the approach. Two meetings were held with the Ceylon Federation, the last being held at the Victoria Institution Old Boys' Association (VIOBA). M.C.C. was represented by Mr. Chelvarajah and Mr. S. Vellupillay (Secretary General) whilst Ceylon Federation was represented by Sir Clough Thuraisingam, Mr. V. Selvanayagam and Mr. Robert Sundram.

After considerable discussions, the meeting ended in a failure.

PERIOD 1975 / 1976:

INTRODUCTION:

With the change in name from “Malayan Ceylonese Congress” to “Malaysian Ceylonese Congress” under the Constitutional amendments accepted at the Central General Assembly held in October 1975 and subsequently approved by the Registrar of Societies, the MCC has forged ahead and was becoming increasingly popular. With National President, YB. Senator Dato (Dr) C. Sinnadurai, being a Senator representing the ‘minority communities’ of Malaysia, the MCC had emerged as the sole spokesman of the Malaysian Ceylonese community who formed the majority of the minority races, voicing their opinions, aspirations and problems at the highest possible platform, the Dewan Negara.

Branches:

The MCC. had twenty (20) branches in some six states of Peninsular Malaysia and the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur. The MCC had grass root level organisational contacts with the majority of the Malaysian Ceylonese who were mainly concentrated in these areas. The MCC then had some individual members from Penang, Kedah, Kelantan, Trengganu and even Sabah.

MCC National Youth Council:

A pro-tem MCC National Youth Council was set up to assist the Central Executive Council in organising Youth Sections in other branches and to convene the first MCC National Youth Assembly. However due to various problems, the Pro-tem Council was dissolved in accordance with the decision made by the Central Executive Council on 1st August 1976 and the Central Executive Council directed the Central Working Committee to organise the MCC National Youth Assembly.

Malaysian Ceylonese Unity:

A select committee comprising of Mr. K. Somasundram and Mr. Arthur G. Lee with Dr. S. Apputhurai as alternate member was set up to further re-organise discussions with the Ceylon Federation of Malaya. The Malaysian Sinhalese Association was to be invited to the meeting so as to pave the way for a summit meeting.

However the Malaysian Sinhalese Association President had indicated that his association could ‘come-in’ only as a joint alliance and would send delegates from the Association.

The Select Committee arrived at some concrete proposals and reported back to their respective organizations..

Revolving Scholarship Fund:

Arising from the resolution made at the Central General Assembly held on Saturday 18th October 1975, a sub-committee was set up to draw up the Rules and Regulations for the scholarship fund.

The Rules and Regulations of the MCC Scholarship Fund was accepted at the 1st Central Executive Council meeting held on 11th June 1976 and subsequently approved by the Registrar of Societies.

With the setting up of the revolving scholarship fund, the MCC had taken positive steps towards the realization of one of our fundamental objectives of the MCC. The fund stood then at RM3,266.71

National Monument Restoration Fund:

The MCC Headquarters initiated a fund raising project to collect money for the National Monument Restoration Fund and with the support of the branches presented to the then Menteri Besar of Selangor, Dato Harun Idris a sum of Ringgit One thousand and one (RM1,001.00)

MCC PRESIDENT IN THE SENATE:

The MCC President Dato (Dr) C. Sinnadurai had on many occasions raised important matters pertaining to the Malaysian Ceylonese in particular and the minority communities and others in general. Amongst the matters raised by him included:

- a) Higher Education opportunities and training;
- b) Participation in land schemes and agro-based ventures;
- c) Constitutional amendments in respect of provisions dealing with religious institutions;
- d) Drug Abuses;
- e) Third Malaysia Plan – our participation and involvement
- f) Ceylonese representation in Statutory bodies, Boards,
- g) Employment opportunities
- h) Citizenship and related problems
- i) Tribute to the late Tun Abdul Razak
- j) Compulsory service of medical practitioners.

Extracts from President's Page:

“On occasions one is asked “Why the MCC? It is widely known that majority of our people do not belong to any political group and that we lack a single strong organisation. Our past weaknesses are now beginning to tell on us and our children. Hitherto, we had been fortunate to obtain places in the various institutions of Higher learning. To many parents this has now become a real nightmare and they are faced with other problems too! It is the community as a whole that is to be blamed for the situation we are in today. They are still refusing to re-orientate themselves and move with the times for in politics when the train is moving, you have to get on. It doesn't come around a second time.”

“So one notes there is a degree of ‘Despair’ causing principally depression and it is very little one individual can do, hence the need for an organization like the M. C. C. which is now gaining momentum. The M.C. C. could look into your problems and prospects, but to be effective there should be strong basic support. This is why the Malaysian Ceylonese Congress has set up Divisional branches all over the country and we would once again appeal to our community to enroll themselves as members for herein lies our strength and solidarity. We need your active participation at all levels.”

“You know these are very hard times for us. They are times that require the closest co-operation. They also require the dedication of every one of us to our common National interest. The Government's recognition of the M. C. C. has already re-awakened our faith and hope. We have the capability to overcome the hard realities of our times, if only we have the will and if our past mistrust and recrimination give way to mutual understanding, respect for each other, and a meaningful co-operation and operate beyond the narrow circle of self-interest. Then you and I can be optimistic about the future. Much remains to be done. It is through our enterprise and diligence only we can hope to provide our children with wider opportunities for education and economic security.”

“Our beloved Prime Minister has assured us the Government will continue to safeguard the rights of the minorities, hence our choice is clear and our responsibility compelling. We have a pledge to honour. Let us join hands and demonstrate to future generations that our vision was equal to our children.”

“M. C. C. is like a family, capable of healthy growth, through tolerance, forbearance and greater understanding of our ‘people and problems’.”

MARCH 1975 – “A RED-LETTER DAY”

The 22nd of March, 1975 went down in the History of the MCC as a red-letter day, for it was on this day that the Nirwana Ballroom of the Kuala Lumpur Hilton saw the largest gathering of Ceylonese together with those at the helm of the Government.

For it was on that day that the MCC organised a tea-reception in honour of the Hon'ble Tun Abdul Razak to congratulate the Tun for the landslide victory of the Barisan Nasional and to rejoice over the appointment of Datuk (Dr) C. Sinnadurai as a Senator to represent the Malaysian Ceylonese.

The occasion marked the beginning of true rapport between the MCC and the Government.

In his speech, Tun said that he was pleased to have been able to attend the function and greatly appreciated the support given to the Barisan Nasional by the Malaysian Ceylonese.

Quote: "I would like to thank the members of the Malaysian Ceylonese Congress for their support and activities which they carried out, which brought about success in the elections. I would like to say that in order to preserve this victory, we must work and give all our support to the policies and programme which are being implemented by the Government."

In congratulating Datuk (Dr) C. Sinnadurai on his appointment as a Senator, Tun said the following:

"Datuk (Dr) C. Sinnadurai has been in the Government service for a long time and although he is getting on in age, he is still active in the welfare and political fields. The appointment is in recognition of his many good qualities. He is now the representative of the Ceylonese community in the Dewan Negara."

Datuk (Dr) C. SinnaduraiSinnaduraiSiinadurai in his speech gave an insight into the role of Ceylonese participation in the development of Malaysia and the role they played. He also paid tribute to Tun Razak for his dedication and devotion inspired leadership, optimistic personality and democratic liberalism which had all jointly instilled trust and confidence in the hearts and minds of all Malaysians thus winning the elections with ease and grace."

As to his appointment as a Senator, he said;

"My appointment to the Upper House by His Majesty on the advice of the Prime Minister has given me a great personal satisfaction for which I am truly thankful and grateful. This recognition has added both pride and lusture to the MCC."

**HEADQUARTERS' SUITE
THE VOICE OF THE MALAYSIAN CEYLONese IN THE DEWAN NEGARA:**

The Biennial General Assembly held on 10th October, 1976 had approved the following

Resolution:-

“That the Malaysian Ceylonese Congress set up a Building Fund with the view to erecting a building in Kuala Lumpur for the Congress”

PERIOD 1978 TO 1980:

Branches:

Of the 20 branches that existed originally, some had been deregistered and some were in a state of inactivity. The President said that the branches like Kuala Selangor, Kuala Kubu and Muar did not have any Ceylonese residents and as such it was difficult to maintain a branch in these districts.

Scholarship Fund:

No special effort was made to boost this fund which remained at RM6,179.51 as at 31st December 1980. During the period under review two education grants were given to Mas. P. Thavendran of Petaling Jaya and Miss N. Kanasar of Kajang to continue H. S. C. studies.

Life Members:

There were 33 Life Members on record.

M.C.C. National President Honoured:

Our National President Tan Sri Dato (Dr) C. Sinnadurai was conferred with the Doctor of Science (Hon) by the University of Jaffna for his loudable contribution in the fields of science and medicine. He was also re-appointed to the Senate by Duli Yang Maha Mulia Yang DiPertuan Agong.

The Second Biennial Central General Assembly 1979:

The Second Biennial Central General Assembly was held on Sunday 18th March. 1979 at 9.00 a.m. at Balai Raya, Jalan Selangor, Petaling Jaya. There were over 200 participants including 60 delegates, observers and members from the various Branches and Sates.

The National President, Senator Tan Sri Dato Dr. C. Sinnadurai in welcoming the delegates thanked them for their presence, continued support and co-operation. He was particularly happy to note the professional group now showing interest and added that this augurs well for the future and in maintaining our traditional values and identity.

Appended below are extracts from his speech:

He said, "Some seem to falter and doubt what the M. C. C. could achieve and added that the doubting mind normally questions the wisdom of going after – the two in the bush leaving the one in the hand."

It is said that here he referred to the few who suggested that the M.C.C. should join forces with other political parties and this was causing a dilemma.

He went on to say, "True we had a glorious past but now we seem unprepared for the future and face the challenge of the times and adjust to the changing political conditions. Hence our youth have to face an unknown future."

He stressed, "We the Ceylonese have neither political power nor economic strength hence the need for an organisation like the **Malaysian Ceylonese Congress** so that our voice could be heard in and outside Parliament, which means we have to strengthen ourselves. How many are really interested in the general welfare of the community and think that it was mainly due to lack of foresight and planning. Some people linger after power. Yes power is sought but the burden that comes with power is not welcome except by a few."

He requested the members to be rational, realistic, and to work towards a common destiny which means more members, more branches, and more dedicated people. Only then could we serve as a potent force and through our collective efforts be able to achieve something better than minority representation in some of the district councils and few extra places for our children in the institutions of higher learning. His theme for the day was "**Planned Togetherness.**"

In summing up he said, "MCC has a definite role to play. It was up to the members to give the headquarters the confidence, greater co-operation thereby making the MCC more dynamic and progressive. The members must help to improve the general shape of our preferable future. If they prefer to remain in isolation and leave things to fate, I can only recall what the Prime Minister of Singapore said some years ago:"

He had said, "If a group of people are not organised into a community and always depending on the government to do things for them, that group of people will ultimately perish."

Life Membership Fees:

It was on the proposal of Petaling Jaya that the existing Life Membership fee of one hundred dollars (RM100/-) was amended to fifty-two dollars (RM52/-) and that this could be paid in full or by six monthly installments or less.

Youth Seminar:

The MCC National Youth Section organised a successful seminar on 20th April, 1980 at the Faculty of Education, University of Malaysia.

The following were the persons who presented papers:

- i) Mr. Uvais Ahamed from the U.N.E.S.C.O. and a former Director of Education in Sri Lanka presented a paper on “Bridging the Human Gap – New Prospective in Learning for Development.”

He pointed out that teaching youngsters is nowadays linked a great deal more to stimulating the independent “learning” process of the young. Innovation should be encouraged at every level.

- ii) Mr. Ong Sang Kuang from Bank Negara gave an enlightening speech on “Trends in Malaysian Economy.”
- iii) Mr. John Doraisamy of the University of Malaya presented a stimulating paper on “Development on social consequence and possible remedy.” In which he commented on the difference between material standards as well as quality of life in considering the development of society.

There was a very provocative question and answer session. Representatives from MCC, MIC, MCA and the press attended.

PERIOD 1983 / 1984:

The Fourth Biennial Central General Assembly of M. C. C. was held on Sunday 4th September 1983 at 9.30 a.m. at Dewan CUEPACS, Jalan Thamby Abdullah, Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur.

Extract from the President's Speech – Senator Tan Sri Dr. C. Sinnadurai.

“It is easy to speak of unity but it is another matter to practice it, for there are some who act like thorns in the flesh. All the same we need an organization to look after our interests and voice our wants; though there are a few who are advocating our people to join other parties. We all know the Malaysian Ceylonese Congress is recognised by the Government and so, if our people are genuine and sincere, should come forward and make the Malaysian Ceylonese Congress an effective party.”

“You will agree that the secret of success is a certain degree of heartiness and fellow-feeling – a sense of belonging and oneness. Let us be true to ourselves and truthfulness is the cornerstone of character”.

“Know thyself by thyself and through others.”

“The richest bequest any man can leave to his Youth is that of a shining spotless example. Every man is the architect of his own character and likewise everyman's hopes and aspirations be in himself. True, changes are needed and change means progress but it should be constructive and always with the future in mind; and the best preparation for the future is the present well seen to, the last duty – well done.”

“We need to set goals for ourselves which are attainable for in life everything has a ‘realistic limit’. Being humans we all suffer from ‘ego-weakness’ and lack the unifying moral force. I do hope someone will make positive efforts to keep the organization in a healthy condition and so today let us elect a good Committee of Management, for success requires not only creative leadership but conjoined efforts, for you will agree the future is purchased by the present and therefore your personal participation counts.”

“Let us together develop a pattern of life for our children to follow. Let us not tarnish our hearts by our own actions, nor cast a shadow in the minds of others by our words or deeds: Ladies & Gentlemen – I feel the time has come for me to step down and give way to a younger man to lead us – a man of influence and one who is acceptable to you. I may have not achieved much but I have carried out my duties with a clear conscience. I thank you all for the support given to me over the years. You all did really make the Malaysian Ceylonese Congress something.”

“I do hope that the in-coming President and the Committee will reassess our problems and get our priorities right and would look at the larger issues of life and work for the promotion of common values, community's welfare and National progress. Always think of the Malaysian

Ceylonese Congress and its future. In life what you are matters, not what others think of you and what we need most is not so much to realize the ideal as to idealise the real.”

Election of Pro-tem Chairman, National Youth:

Due to lack of participation of Youths from the various Branches, it was not possible to form the Official National Youth Committee. As such a pro-tem Organising Committee for the year 1983 was formed with the following members:

Mr. K. Karunamoorthy was the Chairman of the pro-tem committee.

Directory:

The Youth Committee undertook a project to compile an information Directory of various Ceylonese professionals. The object of this Directory was to identify these professionals so as to seek their assistance in their future activities.

Election of Pro-tem Chairman, National Women:

Miss Theresa D. Joseph was elected pro-tem Chairman of National Women's Section by a show of hands. The other candidate nominated was Miss T. Kandavanam

Christmas Party:

Under the distinguished patronage of Y.B. Dato Sharir Abdul Samad, Minister of the Federal Territory, a Christmas Party was organized on 15th December, 1984 at the Brickfields Railway Club, Kuala Lumpur.

More than hundred children from the Orphanages, handicapped and Spastic homes attended this Party and enjoyed themselves very much in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

The MCC National Women's Council was reactivated after a lapse of seven years. The General Assembly was officially declared open by Deputy Minister Y.B.Bhg. Puan Sharifah Dorah from the Prime Minister's Department on 16th December, 1984 at the Selangor Girl Guide's Association, Jalan Sultan Abdul Samad, Kuala Lumpur.

The success of the MCC National Women's Council, which is a consultative and co-ordinating body for the Women's Section, can only be possible through whole hearted support and co-operation of its Women's Section. With added strength in membership and continued support and active participation of members, the NWC can look forward to a more fruitful and challenging future.

At this B.C.G.A., Tan Sri Dato'Dato'Datuk Sri V. Jeyaratnam was declared duly elected unopposed as the National President.

The two other nominations – Tan Sri Dato’ Dr. C. Sinnadurai and Dr. D. M. Thuraiappah withdrew.

Permanent Adviser:

Tan Sri Dato’ Dr. C. Sinnadurai was unanimously accepted as a Permanent Adviser to the Malaysian Ceylonese Congress.

A Vote of Thanks:

The following proposal was unanimously adopted:

“This Fourth Biennial Central General Assembly of the Malaysian Ceylonese Congress held on 4th September 1983, records with deep appreciation the sincere, dedicated and valuable services rendered by the past National President Tan Sri Datuk Dr. C. Sinnadurai for the betterment, development and progress of the Malaysian Ceylonese Congress for the last 13 years. His contribution is hereby acknowledged.”

The new President:

Tan Sri Datuk Seri V. Jeyaratnam thanked the members for having elected him as the National President. He said he had known Tan Sri Sinnadurai for the past 20 years and he praised him for the good work he had done for the Malaysian Ceylonese Congress. He also urged the members for unity and co-operation. He said that he will play his part to enhance the good name of the community and whatever role he may be called upon to play for the betterment of all.

THE REPORT:

Tan Sri Dato' Seri V. Jeyaratnam thanked the members for having elected him as the National President. He said he had known Tan Sri Sinnadurai for the past 20 years and he praised him for the good work he had done for the Malaysian Ceylonese Congress. He also urged the members for unity and co-operation. He said that he will play his part to enhance the good name of the community and whatever role he may be called upon to play for the betterment of all.

THE REPORT:

Being the voice of a minority community and in realisation of the fact that the community lacks political clout in terms of numerical strength, efforts were geared towards forging unity within the community towards achieving the organisation's aims and objects. The Malaysian Ceylonese Congress, though not as yet a component party of the Barisan National had pledged its full hearted support for the Barisan National.

The Barisan National has provided good support to the Ceylonese Community relatively and continues to be the only party that could guarantee the future of the Ceylonese and other minority communities in the country.

With the National President, a prominent lawyer in addition to being the Chairman and Director of several companies and numerous Welfare Organisations, further enhanced the activities of the Congress towards leading our community towards greater progress.

Scholarship Fund:

The Scholarship Fund remained at RM4,984.31 as at 31.12.1983. The Council approved a study loan of RM2,000/- to Miss Rajeswary Shanmugarajah of Kajang and RM1,000/- to Miss Pauline D. Nesarajah of Port Dickson both of whom were from poor families to study at the University of Malaya.

The Central Executive Committee at a meeting on 24th June, 1984 unanimously agreed to the National President's proposal that the Malaysian Ceylonese Congress join hands with the Malaysian Ceylonese Education Fund (MCEF) which had a license under Section 24 of the Company's Act and had also obtained tax exemption to start a Lottery to raise funds for Scholarships.

It was decided to name it the Malaysian Ceylonese Education Lottery Fund and to print half a million (500,000) tickets at one dollar each. Dr. V. Sivaloganathan was appointed the Executive Chairman, Ad hoc Committee Lottery Fund.

A **CLARION CALL** made by the National President on this subject is extracted below:-

MALAYSIAN CEYLONESE EDUCATIONAL LOTTERY FUND TO ALL MALAYSIAN CEYLONESE

This is the President of the Malaysian Ceylonese Congress addressing you. In my view the three important questions confronting us immediately are:-

- (i) Is MCC a political party?
- (ii) What is the political strength of MCC?
- (iii) What is the present and future role of MCC?

The answer to question (i) is “Yes”. To question (ii) the answer is “Almost nil”, at the present time but we could muster ourselves to be a force to reckon with.

It was based on the answers to the first two questions that my Council and I addressed ourselves to answer the third question. How best can the MCC serve the Malaysian Ceylonese effectively?

We are a minority community and hence we have little political strength in numbers. This is compounded by a lack of unity amongst us. So how best can we strengthen ourselves? First there must be unity. For unity there must be a common purpose. What is this common purpose?

The desire to ensure the welfare and well-being of all Malaysian Ceylonese – at least up to the time when ethnicity will not be the basis of politics and Government policies in our country.

It would indeed be a red letter day when we can all be just Malaysians without the added appellation. Malays, Chinese, Indians, Ceylonese, etc., and all activities both in Government and private sectors will be carried out without any regard to ethnic origin. Until such time, we are forced to take action to see the well-being of this community is ensured and the future not bleak.

Since we have no political muscle in numbers, how then can we gain strength? By being in a position to contribute maximally towards the well-being and development of our country. History has shown that, that has been our forte’.

How can this be achieved? Through proper and disciplined education to produce loyal and effectively productive citizens. **We should not be and must not be a liability.** Hence our first priority is **EDUCATION.**

One area where immediate attention is needed is in the realms of higher education. There is very little problem with primary and secondary education. It is only when tertiary education is considered that problems surface. One of them is the paucity of available financial assistance to some of the candidates who have gained admission to institutions of higher learning. Our concept now is that, any child who has gained admission to a recognized institution of higher learning through merit should not be deprived of the opportunity to continue the education through lack of funds. How can this be done? By executing some form of revolving aid fund. Towards this end we are directing our immediate attention and efforts.

There are some Ceylonese organizations which are already providing this kind of assistance. When we studied this in depth we found that it was not enough. In fact, if we can pool all our resources we can strengthen ourselves considerably. The Malaysian Ceylonese Education Foundation is one such organization which has been providing this kind of service for the last 7-8 years. This was started by a group of concerned professionals through their own

contributions and from funds collected from individuals. Their initiative and efforts are commendable indeed. Their unblemished track record is worthy of consideration.

We are closely collaborating with the MCEF to boost up the finances, so that adequate financial aid can be made available to all deserving candidates. The immediate one put into action is the Malaysian Ceylonese Education Lottery Fund. Half a million tickets are on sale now at one dollar each. I urge each and every one of you to participate in this wholeheartedly to make this a complete success. You can do this by buying some tickets yourself and also by helping to sell them. This in fact is a test of our unity – unity for a good cause and for self help. In this success will depend our future and more ambitious efforts.

Proper rules and guidelines will be drawn up to ensure that all deserving children will get some form of assistance from this service with limits.

Needless for me to emphasise, that, by implementing and properly carrying out this activity, we will be supplementing and complementing the efforts made by our Government and also, hopefully, to eliminate any inequities.

This worthy cause, I am sure, will merit your considered, concerned and wholehearted support.

Cordially yours,
Sd. (Tan Sri Datuk Sri V. Jeyaratnam)
Chairman
Malaysian Ceylonese Education Lottery Fund'
President,
Malaysian Ceylonese Congress.

Tamil Relief Fund:

The Central Executive Council proposed and agreed to set up the Tamil's Relief Fund. In this respect the following were appointed as Trustees:

Dr. Guna Sittampalam-	Medical Practitioner
Mr. T. Thanapalan	- Accountant
Mr. S. Kandasivam	- Lawyer
Mr. A. Kanesalingam	- Lawyer

The Tamil's Relief Fund was set up and the Trustees had all executed a Trust Declaration which was duly stamped. A current account was opened with the Standard Chartered Bank. Five thousand (5,000) appeal letters were sent out to Malaysians of Tamil origin. It is learnt that only 150 persons responded and about RM27,000/- was received. Of this amount RM2,000/- was paid out towards printing and postage expenses.

Headquarters Address:

The Central Executive Council at its meeting on 2nd December, 1984 approved the change of address to No: 11, Jalan Emas, 3 ½ mile Jalan Sungei Besi, Kuala Lumpur.

A wall to wall carpet room with modern furniture, typewriter, telephone and other facilities were given free of charge by the Deputy President, Dr. D. M. Thuraiappah.

Encik S. Rajadurai a Council MemberMembers from Ipoh offered a sum of RM200/- per month to a Part-Time clerk.

Branches:

It was noted with regret that of the 20 Branches which existed originally, only 13 Branches were functioning and some in a state of inactivity.

The 13 active Branches were:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Johore South | 8. Pudu |
| 2. Malacca | 9. KL South / Damansara |
| 3. Seremban | 10. Petaling Jaya |
| 4. Kuantan | 11. Klang |
| 5. Temerloh / Mentakab | 12. Segamat |
| 6. Raub | 13. Central Perak |
| 7. Sentul | |

EXTRACTS FROM "THE STAR" – Thursday 16th August, 1984.

"The Malaysian Ceylonese Congress will co-operate with the M.I.C. in all areas of mutual interest, especially in education, culture and business."

"Congress President Tan Sri V. Jeyaratnam said here today Malaysians of Ceylonese origin should continue to support Maika Holdings, the investment arm of the MIC, because it was a praiseworthy project."

"He said the Ceylonese community should feel proud of the MIC, especially of party president Datuk S. Samy Vellu, for paving the way to greater national unity by seeking to enhance the role and participation of Malaysians of both Indian and Ceylonese origin."

"Maika Holdings will give tremendous investment opportunities to Indian and Ceylonese Tamils who, by reason of holding shares in it, will be able to take part in its activities," he added.

“Tan Sri Jeyaratnam said Maika Holdings would provide Indians with job opportunities which had been limited.”

“He said the MIC had opened the doors to Ceylonese Tamils by appointing Tan Sri C. Selvarajah as Maika Holdings chairman.”

“The Ceylonese cannot remain in isolation and should co-operate with Indians so that, as a group, we will be strong economically and can make a valuable contribution to the country’s economy.”

“Although we are one of Malaysia’s smallest communities, we have played an important role in the country’s development.”

“We pledge to do our utmost to contribute to national unity and progress, added Tan Sri Jeyaratnam.”

PERIOD 1987 / 1988:

REPORT:

Members from almost all Ceylonese based organisations/organizations have fully supported and enthusiastically participated and attended the various functions and activities organised/organized by the MCC Branches and MCC Headquarters. This attitude augurs well for the unification and progress of MCC.

At the closing ceremony of the Pan Malaysian Ceylonese Games Carnival held in Seremban, the President of the Negri Sembilan Ceylonese Association and Chairman of the meet, Mr. K Gunaratnam in his speech said that the future political and socio-economic progress of the Malaysian Ceylonese to a great extent lies with the M. C. C. and urged every Malaysian Ceylonese to support the MCC by enrolling as a member of MCC.

His speech was well received by the audience including the several leaders of the various state Ceylonese Associations in the country.

With the election of YB Dato’ (Dr) N. Arumugasamy as the President of MCC, the main aim of the MCC was to create an awareness not only within the Ceylonese Community, but with other communities in Malaysia of the existence of MCC as a political party. To a certain extent the MCC was able to achieve a certain measure of success in this direction with more and more Ceylonese participating in the activities of the MCC.

The MCC took pride on being recognised and received invitations from the Government and the ruling party in Malaysia, the Barisan Nasional, for the MCC to participate in various functions and activities.

Education:

The MCC played an active role in the running of MCEF with three of its nominees sitting in the Board of MCEF. They were YB Dato' (Dr) N. Arumugasamy, Dr. D. M. Thuraiappah and Mr. I. G. Chandran.

Dato (Dr) N. Arumugasamy was also the Vice-President of MCEF and the MCC was able to have a certain measure of influence in the running of MCEF. MCC Headquarters was the central collection centre for the various MCC Branches.

MCC Headquarters also offered its services as central collection centre for the various MCC Branches.

With the close co-operation established with the MCEF and with successful implementation of the MCEF activities, the MCC had a moral obligation to raise funds for the Foundation.

Seminar:

Theme: "Strategy for our participation in our country's Economic Activities and the creation of Employment Opportunities."

This seminar was held at Kuala Lumpur Merlin Hotel for two days on 8th and 9th August, 1987 from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

About 103 members of the Ceylonese community including representatives from seven Ceylonese-based organisations participated on paying a registration fee of RM75.00 per participant.

Extract of messages from the Souvenir programme:**a) Tan Sri Datuk Seri V. Jeyaratnam:**

"In the wake of the present myriad of complex economic problems facing our community, I am pleased to note that the choice of the theme of today's Seminar is most timely and appropriate. With slower national economic growth and the rapidly diminishing employment opportunities available to our Youth, I feel that by addressing ourselves to these problems, we may be able to arrive at some pragmatic solutions, and a positive framework for future action."

"Whilst I concede that the Seminar is not an instant panacea to all our ills, it would provide the National Council with a blueprint around which we could shape our future course of action."

b) Mr. M. Rajasingam, Chairman, Seminar Organising Committee:

“Our community which has been very proud of its past is now at the cross-roads. We are now compelled to take very difficult decisions within a very narrow range of options available. The quality of the decisions we take will set the direction of our future. This Seminar is, therefore, both appropriate and timely. Our concerns are mainly in the economic field especially in the area of employment for the youth, This is also the time when significant changes are taking place around us with new challenges and opportunities ahead of us. How we react to all these both individually as well as collectively will determine our place in the economic mainstream of our country.”

“We are confident that this Seminar will serve as a watershed in the life of our community and that the conclusions of this Seminar will constitute a springboard and frame for our community’s active participation and contribution to the further economic progress of our country.”

Various topics were discussed at this seminar as detailed below:

Topic 1: “Taking Stock of Existing Enterprises and Developing Them.”

Speaker / Presenter: Mr. M. Rajasingam (Retired Director General of Posts)

Topic 2: “Investment Opportunities in the Corporate Sector”

Speaker / Presenter: Mr. C. Rajendram (Adviser Bank Negara)

Topic 3: “Openings in Finance and Banking.”

Speaker / Presenter Dr. R. Thilainathan (General Manager, Bank Buruh Bhd, KL)

Topic 4: “Participation in the Agricultural Sector”.

Speaker / Presenter: Mr. M. Sivanesar (Deputy Director, Cocoa & Coconut Development, Department of Agriculture).

Topic 5: “Opportunities in the Transport Section”

Speaker / Presenter: Mr. S. Navaratnam (Lecturer, Transport Studies, Malaysian Centre For Transport MARA Institute of Technology).

Topic 6: “Participation in Agricultural and Manufacturing Section”

Speaker / Presenter: Mr. J. Jegathesan (Director, Industrial Promotion, Malaysian Industrial Development Authority).

Recommendations of the Seminar:

The Seminar having taken cognizance of the views presented in the various working papers submitted and expressed by the participants emphasizes the need for unity and concerted action by our community for a stake in the Malaysian economy through active participation in all areas of the country’s economic activities and to provide employment opportunities for members of our community.

This very educational and innovative seminar was organized by the MCC Petaling Jaya Branch.

ACTING PRESIDENT:

Tan Sri Datuk Seri V. Jeyaratnam resigned as President a few months before the Biennial Central General Assembly and Dr. D. M. Thuraiappah was appointed as Acting President.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ACTING PRESIDENT'S SPEECH (6th Biennial Central General Assembly held on Sunday 27th March, 1988

“The MCC is here, and here to stay. As future leaders of the Congress, all of us have a duty and obligation to all our members in our various branches back home to use the power of our minds, the power of our speech and our votes to apply this inherent obligations for the betterment of our Community as a whole and not to promote vested interests. It is the drawback of communal parties that it is unable to cater for individual ideologies or philosophies. As such, a communal party such as ours has a duty to have broad-based objectives and the central body must be seen to carry them out fairly and justly.”

“ There must be flexibility within the margins of doing right but we should NOT aimam to do the wrong nor be seen to condone or encourage wrong avenues of conduct; wrong avenues of conduct involves argument and waste of time and effort and the futility of effort frustrates and discourages people from positively serving our members.”

“I would like to see this aspect of raising funds, especially donations from well-wishers, like Mr. Ananda Krishnan, who promised to donate \$100,000.00 towards the (scholarship) fund. In this way, we would do our bit to help our people so that the perennial question of 'What has the MCC done for the people' may be a biennial or triennial or a question of the past.”

“We have in the past expected the Government to give us more recognition like restoring the Senatorship, giving us a voice, but our strength in membership is diminishing. To ask for a voice, we need to build up our membership. It seems to be a 'Catch Twenty-two' situation.”

“It would seem that, while we would still apply our resources to re-instate our presence in the Senate and thereby having a voice in Government, we would at the same time build up our fluctuating membership by promoting life membership and we would seek to amend our Constitution to that effect to make it easier for members to stay on the roll.”

“I see a bright future for the MCC. With the co-operation of all or members, especially the professionals, other Ceylonese organisations like the JCS, JCHS, MCEF and also with dialogue with the MCC the next two years would be challenging. Our existence as the communal party has to be tailored to co-exist with the other races. Our Community has a wealth of minds, leadership, education and on harnessing such characteristics could prove to be seen to achieve what we want. We should be seen to be positive in our attitude not our self-destruction.”

NATIONAL MCC WOMEN COUNCIL:

i) Hari Raya Contribution:

In recognition of the great sacrifice of our country's soldiers and policemen to the nation, the NWC joined hands with the other women affiliates of NCWO under the distinguished chairmanship of the wife of the Malaysian Prime Minister, YB Datin Sri Siti Hasmah in bringing the festive cheer to these men.

ii) "Omopodi":

On 12th May 1987, the Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, YB Dr. Siti Zaharah Sulaiman honoured the NWC with her esteemed presence during the packing of the "Omopodi" by members from the various branches in and around Kuala Lumpur.

The MCC women contributed 3,000 packets of 'Omopodi'.

iii) National Council of Women's Organisation (NCWO)

In line with the aims and objectives of the Malaysian Ceylonese Congress, the NWC affiliated itself to the National Council of Women's Organisation (NCWO) through which it gained much experience through involvement in its activities.

The NWC was represented at NCWO by NWC Chairperson Miss Theresa Joseph and Miss Rajeswary Rajaratnam.

PERIOD 1990

In order that the MCC could play a more effective role in the well being of the community in this country, a formal application was made to the Barisan Nasional for admission as a direct member of the Barisan Nasional.

The MCC Council worked hard to ensure that its voice was heard in the right places. It cannot be denied that the future political and social economic progress of the Malaysian Ceylonese, to great extent lies with the MCC, working with the other races in the multi racial society of our country.

The 7th Biennial Central General Assembly:

The 7th Biennial Central General Assembly held on Sunday 24th June 1990 at the Continental Hall, Grand Continental Hotel, Jalan Raja Laut, Kuala Lumpur.

Members of the Reception Committee pinning the 'corsage'
on Dato' Seri S. Samy Vellu, President of M. I. C. (right)
and Dato' N. Arumugasamy, President of M. C. C. (left)

Opening address by Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri S. Samy Vellu.

Dato Seri thanked the President and member of MCC. for having invited him to address and declare open the 7th Biennial Central General Assembly of MCC. He said, "There was close links between the Indian and Ceylonese and this invitation to-day goes to strengthen these ties. There was no reason for both the communities not to work together. The Ceylonese Community has made and was making contributions to the development of this country."

Extracts from the address of the President, Dato Dr. N. Arumugasamy

"This morning's official opening of our 7th Biennial General Meeting was also crowned with unprecedented glory. It reflects no doubt on all our goodwill and support that we enjoy from other Malaysians."

"On the subject of education, the Scholarship Fund has been admirably managed. Our representatives in the Malaysian Ceylonese Education Foundation must be given credit for the part they played these past two years. So far, no request for scholarships from Branches has been rejected."

"It is however sufficient for me to say that tertiary education for our children is the only salvation for a small community like ours to survive well in our country. We should be self-supportive and self-sufficient and reliant, and upgrade ourselves in a class of professional executives and business entrepreneurs. We are almost there but we must hold the torch for the growing generation who are being increasingly deprived of tertiary education. It is no use banging our heads against the Government policies on quotas. Let us show that we can look after ourselves. After all, we are a fairly affluent community and if each and every one of us makes an effort to contribute effectively, we can lick the problem."

"We made an impact in the political arena at the Ceramah held in Teruntum during the recent by-election there. Both Dr. Reginald Ananda and I addressed the Ceramah on behalf of the Barisan candidate. The Menteri Besar of Pahang, YB Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob and Menteri Buruh Malaysia, YB Dato' Lim Ah Lek praised us for our role in this by-election and also recounted the contributions by our forefathers towards the development of the state of Pahang. Surely this will stand us in good stead as being politically useful."

"What we must remember is that we may not have the numbers but then, we have the quality and by this, I mean the doctors, lawyers and other professionals in the community who can help in the voting in any election."

“Politics, as you know, is a numbers game and we do not belong to the same league as the component parties of Barisan Nasional. So our best strategy is to further develop and forge our links with the Malaysian Indian Congress and thus hope to derive further benefits for the community. We have in the past tended to be divisive in our thinking, wishing compartmentalization as Ceylonese or become labeled under ‘Others’. What I am trying to say is to minimize the exclusivity of our own community.”

“Leading members of our communities have always worked closely with the current MIC leadership, and in fact, we should be proud that some of them serve on bodies like the MAIKA. I feel we should extend our assistance to the MIC leadership. We can then achieve higher goals for the community and believe me; we can be assured of just rewards if we did so.”

ECONOMIC BUREAU:

The Economic Bureau in co-operation with the Jaffnese Cooperative Society (JCS) was to establish a data base of all Malaysians of Jaffnese origin. The purpose of this survey is to develop a demographic profile of the community. The development of this comprehensive database is absolutely vital if we are to plan for the advancement of the Jaffnese Community into the twenty-first century.

MCC NATIONAL WOMENS' COUNCIL:

Children's Party cum Mini Sports:

The Women's Council organised the above event for the children of our members and the children of the orphanage in Petaling Jaya. The party cum Mini Sports was held at the Sithi Vinayagar Temple in Petaling Jaya on 22nd April 1990.

Yg. Bhg. Dato (Dr) N. Arumugasamy and Datin Mariayee Arumugasamy graced the occasion with their presence. Datin Mariaee Arumugasamy was called upon to give away the prizes.

About 140 children attended the function making the event a success. Each child was given a gift and all those present were treated to "High Tea".

Visit to the Orphanage:

In conjunction with Deepavali, the Council members organised a Tea Party for the under privileged children of the Ozanam Home in Petaling Jaya on 4th October 1990.

The children participated in games organised by the Council Members and then they were given gifts and sweets. A bicycle was also donated to the boys of the 'Home' which thrilled them tremendously.

The Supervisor of the 'Home', who turned 75 years old on 4th October, was presented with a Birthday Cake. After the cake cutting 'ceremony' the children were treated to the food and drinks donated by the Council members.

PERIOD 1991:

Education & Education Loan Funds:

The Malaysian Ceylonese Education Fund was succeeded on 1st January 1991 by the Malaysian Community Education Fund. Substantial funds were made available by contribution from a prominent Malaysian Ceylonese... The Directors of the Fund had promised to make available RM100,000./- a year for awards to Malaysian Ceylonese applicants.

THE MALAYSIAN CEYLONESE EDUCATION FOUNDATION: (Malaysian Community Education Fund)

Background:

The primary objective of MCEF was to provide financial assistance for Malaysians with good academic records to further their education in many fields.

The priorities established in considering applicants for financial aid was as follows:-

- a) Applications for study in local institutions of higher learning;
- b) Applications for study overseas where no place was available in local institutions;
- c) Past academic performance of applicants;
- d) Financial position of applicant and family
- e) Financial position of guarantors.

The general guideline of the Board was to provide assistance ranging from RM2,500/- to RM5,000/- per annum for each candidate depending on the type of course / duration and applicants financial position.

The financial aid would have to be repaid by the applicants upon being employed in equal monthly installments of not less than RM200/- or 10% of the income whichever was the greater. Late payment charges were imposed on delinquent repayments.

Applicants were also requested to contribute to the foundation upon being gainfully employed so as to enable the foundation to expand its resources.

STATUS:

The MCEF is a separate legal entity. It is limited by guarantee, without a paid up share capital and incorporated under the Companies Act 1965. Donations were exempted from tax on 17th March, 1979 vide Government gazette No: 3832 dated 3rd July, 1980. The MCEF was also granted tax exemption from income on 12th November, 1985. The MCEF has its own members and directors and the management and administration of the MCEF is as embodied in the Companies Act, 1965.

The funding of the MCEF has primarily been from member's contributions, public donations and other fund raising events.

Streamlining of Organisation & Pooling Resources:

The President of MCEF mooted the idea that the organisation of MCEF should be streamlined and pooled with other resources. Arising from this and with effect from 1st January, 1991 certain new directors were appointed **The new directors undertook to make available at least RM100,000/- per year for Ceylonese students.**

Secretariat:

The Secretariat was at:

Messrs Singam & Yong,

16th Floor, Plaza Pengkala,
Jalan Ipoh, Kuala Lumpur

'CIVIC COURSE:

The MCC National Women's Council organised a one-day Civic Course on 11th August, 1991 at the National Council of Women's Organisation Headquarters.

Extracts of the speech delivered by the President, Dato' Dr. N. Arumugasamy.

"The role women play in our society has not been sufficiently highlighted until quite recently. The wife of our Hon. Prime Minister, Y.Bhg. Datin Seri Dr. Siti Hasmah has chartered much in this direction. We gratefully acknowledge and support her in this. Her efforts have been further reinforced by other leaders like Y.Bhg. Datin Paduka Zaleha the President of the N.C.W.O. who to the present time, continues to be quite active in preaching women's needs, problems and bringing their achievements to the forefront."

"Unless our National Policy included Women and Youth, a healthy development of bodies and minds in respect of the Rule of Law for the development of a concerned, caring and cohesive society will not be possible. I notice that part of your paper is to be on Wawasan 2020. For this I would like to congratulate the UMNO leadership and our Hon. Prime Minister, YAB Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed for the proposed Perspective Plan that brings with it much mature understanding and vision. I am certain it is providing the current acceleration in our cruise towards a newly industrialized economy.."

"I call on you and all women and all Malaysians to forget the Subsistence Dependence Syndrome and to work instead towards a Subsistence Generating nation."

"Women's role is not only at home but also at work. This has assumed new proportions with our women contributing to our Manpower Resource. The increased work force of women in Government and in industry, needless to say, bring on a nation-building role for them. I must urge you to continue this dual role. We hope you can underscore racial differences at work and attribute time to bring about a cohesive society with good work culture. You should join hands with everyone to take the road towards a Malaysia for all Malaysians."

"The Eradication of Poverty and Restructuring of Society by increasing your output and meeting your targets can be achieved. What we now have should not give rise to complacency. It is to increase your productivity that your role in our Perspective Plan has not been underscored."

"Malaysia under the leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister has provided ample infrastructure, e.g. in the construction of dams, in our electrification and telecommunication programmes and the like."

“In declaring open your one-day Civic Course, I hope you will keep in mind the need for a cooperative effort and I urge you to think, Malaysian. Introduce Malaysianism in a big way in our children, in your schools, parent-teachers associations and at your place of work. It is only by these means that you can eventually incorporate true Malaysianism in our daily living styles.”

PERIOD 1992:

The Report:

Being the sole political party representing the Ceylonese in this country and in keeping with the aspirations of our community, we have continued with our formal application to join the Barisan Nasional. Our efforts like those of others who have made similar applications have yet to bear fruit.

The number of members and lack of branches in all the States of the country make a Pan-Malaysian concept for our Congress difficult. We must quickly add that it is imperative to remember that to a large extent, our success depends on good co-operation, togetherness and in being self-reliant. Government recognition or Barisan Nasional’s recognition may be important but that should not deter us from looking after our own interest in all areas that are important to us. We have to apply ourselves to problems pertaining to the community.

Pan Malaysian Ceylonese Games:

The Pan Malaysian Ceylonese Games was held on 16th April and 17th April 1992 in Klang with the MCC Klang Branch organizing the meet. More than 500 members from the various states participated in the meet.

VISION 2020 AND THE COMMUNITY:

The M.C.C. jointly with JCS organized a symposium on “**Vision 2020 and the Community**” on 13th September, 1992 at the Cooperative College, Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

Mr. K. Thillainathan, President of JCS was the Chairman, Symposium Organising Committee. In his message in the Souvenir Programme he had said, “Achievements are governed by the limits man imposes on himself. A nation’s and a community’s achievements too face the same fate. We need to ponder deeply and address the issues and challenges of Vision 2020, the role and the future course of the community within the nation.”

THE OBJECTIVES:

To address the issues and challenges of Vision 2020 in order to prepare the Community to play a meaningful role in achieving the target through:-

- Creating an awareness about Vision 2020 and the development needs of the Country
- Formulating plans, strategies and mechanisms for the advancement of the Community.

The symposium was a success and well attended by the cross section of the community including students from colleges and universities.

NINE STRATEGIC CHALLENGES IN ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF VISION 2020

M. C. C. PERIOD 2002 TO 2003:

The 13th Biennial Central General Assembly was officially opened by Yang Berhormat Dato' Paduka Abdul Kadir Bin Hj. Sheikh Fadzir, Menteri Kebudayaan, Kesenian & Pelancungan Malaysia on 20th October, 2002 at the Hotel Crown Princess, Jalan Tun Razak, Kuala Lumpur.

The President Dato' Dr. D. M. Thuraiappah DPMS, AMN, ASA welcoming the Hon'ble Minister in the traditional way with a garland.

The President Dato' Dr. D. M. Thuraiappah DPMS, AMN, ASA delivering his welcome speech.

RESOLUTION PASSED:

- "That the 13th BCGA of MCC held on 20th October resolve that it strongly supports the government's move to teach Science and Mathematics in English in schools."
- "That the 13th BCGA of the MCC held on 20th October 2002 resolves that it urges the government to categorise the minority groups under the term "Minority". It also urges the Government to set up a Department of Minority Affairs under the Prime Minister's Department to look after the interest of the minority groups of the Malaysian Citizens."

THE MCC.NEW LOGO AND FLAG:

The new MCC flag was also presented at the assembly. The 14 stripes in blue and red represented the 14 States and the Federal Territory of the country. The background which was in beige colour was of no significance.

The MCC Logo and Flag was submitted by the Penang Branch and unanimously accepted.

Mr. S. Karthigesu (Vice-Chairman, M.C.C. Penang Branch) exhibiting the M.C.C. flag to the members of the B. C. G. A.

Headquarters Suite:

The Central Working Committee entered into a 'Sales & Purchase' Agreement in 1997, with MBf to purchase an office suite for RM241,115.00 at the proposed North Point Complex in Selayang, Kuala Lumpur.

The cost price of the SuiteSuiteproject was then RM241,115.00. Due to the recession that hit the country during the period, the developer had abandoned the project. However in accordance with the Sales and Purchase Agreement, the M. C. C. hadhaving paid on demand, a

35% of the progress payment amounting to RM84,392.00. No further payment was made although there was a demand.

The post of Public Officer to be assumed by the Secretary General was approved at the B.C.G.A. on 20th October 2002. The President, Dato' Dr. D. M. Thuraiappah was authorised/authorized by the C. E. C. to act as the Public Officer in the absence of the Secretary General.

The claim to recover our money is now with the courts.

Branches:

A total of 29 branches were still registered with the Registrar of Societies. Of this Central Perak was dormant since 1995, Damansara and Kuantan since 2000 and Subang Jaya since 2002.

Jogathon:

The Jogathon which was launched in August 2002 was held on 17th November, 2002 at the Tasik Permaisuri, Cheras, Kuala Lumpur.

MCC National Women's Council

- **Family Day for Sri Lankan Malaysians**

A joint effort between MCC and the Sinhalese Association, the event was held on 23rd March 2003 at R. R. I Sports complex, Sungai Buloh. MCC women got its members from various branches to support this noble effort by MCC Main Council through active participation in both games and also food arrangements.

- **Visit to Ministry of International Trade & Industry:**

Ten representatives from various branches attended the meeting with Dato' Seri Dr. Rafidah Aziz on 26th April, 2003.

Fun Fair:

The Fun Fair was organised by the Women's Section with the collaboration of the Headquarters. It was held on 12th October, 2003 at the Sekolah Kebangsaan (P) Methodist Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur.

The branches helped to sell tickets in addition to setting up stalls at the fun fair.

The Taman Yarl Stall

- **Community-Related efforts:**

In line with the plan to undertake community-related activity, MCC Women through its Food & Fun Fair had successfully arranged the following:-

1. Blood Donation campaign for Blood Bank
2. PEMADAM counter
3. AIDS Advisory counter
4. Breast Cancer Advisory counter

PERIOD 2004 TO 2006

DATUK SERI S. SAMY VELLU CALLS FOR MIC – MCC PARTNERSHIP:

At the opening of the Biennial General Assembly on Sunday 5th December 2004 at the Federal Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, MIC President Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said that MCC a party of 3,000 members of Sri Lankan origin, had collaborated with MIC on many issues in the past and was pleased to have a good working relationship.

He assured the community that he would assist MCC should its leadership make request for help.

At that meeting Dato' Dr. NKS Tharmaseelan was elected as the new President with a new set of Committee members.

PERMANENT SECRETARIAT:

M.C.C. was formed in 1958 but unfortunately has had a nomadic existence. We finally have our own permanent secretariat in Kepong, at an office lot located directly opposite the Jaya Jusco shopping complex. M. C. C.'s nerve centre will soon function from a place owned by M. C. C.

The C. W. C. signed a "Sales and Purchase Agreement" with the owner through our lawyers and paid 10% amounting to RM13,000.00 of the total cost of RM130,000.00. The premise is at :

No: 75-3-A-1, Jalan Metro Perdana Barat 1,
Taman Usahawan, Kepong Utara,
Kuala Lumpur

MCC YOUTH SECTION:

The MCC Youth Section under the able leadership of Dr. Kantha Rasalingam and Dr. Raj Kumar Maharaj, "have been creating ripples". The MCC Youth held a well attended economic seminar. This followed with a series of successful sports events. They organised the well publicised and tremendously successful Miss Malaysia – Sri Lanka pageant.

The function was officiated by the Deputy Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage, Y.B. Datuk Wong Kam Hoong. The Youth have donated the RM10,000/- to M.C.C. which was donated for the function by the Ministry.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF MINORITY ORGANISATIONS:

Eleven associations representing minorities in Malaysia agreed to form the National Council of Minority Organisation (NCMO) and have chosen Datuk M. Kayveas (President People's Progressive Party (PPP) as their President. The eleven (11) associations have agreed to form a 'Mini Barisan Nasional' under the P. P., P .umbrella and pledged the support for Barisan National. A protem committee had been set up to form a single official association. The eleven (11) associations are:-

Bengali Association of Malaysia
Malaysian Ceylonese Congress
Malaysian Indian Muslim Congress
Malacca Portuguese Eurasian Association
Malaysian Sikh Union
Melaka Baba Nyonya Association
Pakistani People's Association
Punjabi Party of Malaysia
Selangor People's Education Hall
Siamese Association of Malaysia
Telugu Association

Recently four (4) new groups have joined making fifteen (15) associations who have formed NCMO to date. The additional 4 groups are:-

Gurkha Association
Toa StudiesStudiesStudiesstudies Association
Penang Eurasian Association and
Subang Jaya Senior Citizens Club (Source: Yarl Express)

PUBLICITY:

MCC has been given publicity in all the National dailies including Astro News. The President, Dato' Dr. NKS Tharmaseelan was interviewed in the Malaysian Nanban and The Star. The M.C.C. Youth's Miss Malaysia – Sri Lanka pageant was widely reported. The M.C.C. Youth also made a series of statements in the Malay Mail, successfully demanding that Vivekananda Ashrama in Brickfields remain as a Heritage site.

Many MCC branches in the Klang Valley had their activities published in the national dailies with photographs.

EXTRACT FROM "SUNDAY STAR" – 27TH MARCH 2005

Standing up for the Ceylonese

The Ceylonese community in Malaysia feel themselves to be 'the forgotten race' and chaff at having lost their political place in the sun. Today, they want to be counted, WritesWritesWritesAs written by SUHAINI AZNAM

Small and marginalized but educated and enterprising, Malaysians of Ceylonese Tamil descent do not know their actual numbers because they are lumped together under the grey label of "others".

Mainly from Jaffna and Trincomalee, they were brought in by the British in the 1920s and 1930s as administrators to Malaya's rubber estates and railroads. And they worked hard.

Today's Malaysian Ceylonese is highly literate, have a strong command of English and gravitate easily to the professions. Medicine, law and engineering are favorites.

The luminaries, most prominently Westport executive chairman Tan Sri G. Gnanalingam – another is the reclusive tycoon T. Ananda Krishnan – are ever grateful to their parents for having given them a good education.

But where Ceylonese used to occupy 10% of the seats in university, today they are relegated to only 1% or 2%, said newly elected Congress president Datuk Dr. N.K.S. Tharmaseelan.

"The educational opportunities are there but are not given to us. Instead our students are given 'junk courses' in the humanities, or political sciences. When they graduate, they cannot get jobs" he added.

Outside the community, few Malaysians recognize the difference between Indians and Ceylonese. So in the 2000 census, many a time Ceylonese was counted as Indians.

For this very reason, the MIC has invited the Ceylonese to join up, as the problems faced by the two communities are somewhat similar.

The Ceylonese, however, declined, feeling that "every race wanted its own identity to survive", said Tharmaseelan.

"We are not a superior race. We just don't want to be the first of the lost race of Malaysia".

“We were born Ceylonese, so we want to pass on our culture and language to our children”

Other efforts to pull the community up by its bootstraps include introducing Tamil literacy for adults, while encouraging the youths, who are already fluent in English and Malay, to speak Tamil at home.

And these are crucial times. As all the other community leaders are fighting for allocations under the Ninth Malaysia Plan, “by putting us under others, we will lose out on quotas, business, education, grants, and funds.” said Tharmaseelan.

“We don’t want to be the last of the Mohicans,” he said.

As a minority among minorities, their greatest fear is that they may one day just drift into oblivion.

BRANCH DEVELOPMENT:

MCC now has the largest number of branches in its history. MCC formed 11 new branches since December 2004 and more have been submitted for approval to ROS. We should be proud but this is nothing to crow about as most of the political parties have at least 100 branches. Thus MCC should strive to at least meet the 100 mark.

The President and the CWC members have crisscrossed the country and met many potential members. This has resulted in the formation of many branches.

We should aim to make every Ceylonese a member of MCC. MCC has now seen an influx of the youth professionals which augurs well for the future of MCC.

NEW BRANCHES:

MCC Port Dickson and MCC Melaka have rejoined the MCC fold.

MCC Petaling Jaya Central with Miss Rasamani Kandiah as the Chairperson was the first branch to be officially launched on the 15th May 2005. The membership has crossed the 100 mark.

The MCC Raub branch was launched on the 15th of June 2005 with 40 members most of them youth. The Chairman is Mr. Sivagurunathan.

The MCC Kuantan branch (East Pahang) was also inaugurated on the 15th of June 2005. The branch which has now more than 100 members is led by Dr. Jeyasingam.

The MCC Alor Star branch was officially launched in Alor Star on 2nd July 2005 with Mr. Sivaratnam as Chairman. The branch has about fifty (50) members.

MCC Kajang Utama with Mr. Manogharan and MCC Taman Megah Ceras with Mr. R. S. Nathan as Chairman were inaugurated on the 8th of January 2006.

MCC Seri Gombak with Mr. Thirujanasambanther was inaugurated on 12th February 2006.

The President attended the inauguration of all the new branches and has encouraged them to form more branches and recruit more members.

MCC Brickfields, MCC Old Klang Road, MCC Ampang, MCC Central Johore have obtained registration from the ROS and are due to be inaugurated soon.

MCC has submitted applications from MCC Titiwangsa, MCC Kinta Valley and MCC Mantin for approval to the ROS.

Many more branches are to be formed in all parts of the country. The President along with the CWC members has tirelessly crisscrossed the country encouraging all Ceylonese to become members.

MCC HEADQUARTERS ACTIVITIES:

- **POLITICS:**

* A letter sent to the Prime Minister was promptly replied and the President met with the personal secretary of the Prime Minister at the P.M.'s Putra Jaya Office. The message was crystal clear. "Make the Ceylonese community relevant.....Increase your membership Increase the number of branches..... Spread your wings....."

We will come looking for you when you become relevant."

* The President, the Deputy President Mr. S. Sivakumaran and the Secretary General, Mr. C. Nadarajah paid a courtesy call on Dato' Seri Samy Vellu at his office on the 24th of March 2005. It was a very cordial meeting and the MIC President has promised to work closely with MCC.

* The above three office-bearers also met up with Dato' Kayveas, President P.P.P., during a meeting to discuss the formation of the National Council of Minority Organisations. (N.C.M.O.) It was held at the PWTC on the 17th of May, 2005. The next meeting is scheduled for in early 2006.

P.P.P. was the brainchild of the Seenivasagam brothers, D.R. and S.P., a well known Ceylonese family from Ipoh. After their demise, the party was also led by another Ceylonese Senator S. Inderajah (S.I.Rajah) for a short period.

* The President was invited for a personal meeting with Dato' G. Palanivelu, the Deputy Minister of Women, Family and Community Development on 8th August 2005 at his office at Menara Tun Ismail Mohamed Ali, situated at Jalan Raja Laut, Kuala Lumpur. Dato' Palanivelu is the rising 'star' in MIC politics and is to contest the Deputy MIC President's post in the next MIC elections to be held in May, 2006.

Dato' Palanivelu has promised to assist and work closely with MCC. The meeting lasted for about 2 hours. An invitation was extended to MCC for the Deepavali Dinner hosted by Dato' Palanivelu.

EXTRACT FROM PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN NO:3 – NOVEMBER 2005

Message from the President – Dato Dr. NKS Tharmaseelan.

"MCC needs to beef up its membership to make the Ceylonese voice heard and thus has embarked on a massive membership drive. Since last December, this new team that took over the leadership mantle has worked tirelessly to increase the membership. MCC has obtained the approval from the Registrar of Societies (ROS) for the formation of eleven (11) branches. Let us all do our bit to keep this momentum of building a strong membership moving. We can triple the membership count by just getting all the family members to join MCC. Getting all your friends to join will increase the membership to unimaginable figures."

"MCC is a political party. There are several Ceylonese organisations. Everyone has a role. MCC's role, aims and goals are different – political. We are not competing with our sister organisation. They too have their role to play. We must all work as a team".

"MCC is addressing several issues. MCC needs to put its infrastructure in order. MCC needs the numbers and branches. We need a permanent secretariat".

He stressed that one of the problems was finance. To overcome this, MCC is planning activities that will generate regular income for MCC.

He said, "We are looking into several avenues. One possibility of this is obtaining an insurance agency. Everyone takes insurance notably motor insurance. The commission obtained can be shared with the branches. This will solve the perennial problem of finance faced by MCC H.Q. and the branches. There are other prospects too like travel tours etc. Another is holding of an Annual National MCC dinner. Hopefully within the next few months some of these plans will take off. We cannot continuously tax the generosity of our countrymen".

President's Bulletin:

As no progress was made to assimilate information to members since the last issue of the Jaffna Junction in May 2001, the President came out with the "President's Bulletin".

To date 3 issues have been released as under:-

Bulletin No: 1	-	5 th March, 2005
Bulletin No: 2	-	July, 2005
Bulletin No: 3	-	December 2005

The President said, "The President's Bulletin will continue to be circulated till such time the Newsletter is published."

NINTH (9TH) MALAYSIA PLAN:

The MCC for the first time prepared proposals and submitted a memorandum to the Government on behalf of the Ceylonese community. The Deputy President Mr. S. Sivakumaran had painstakingly prepared the memorandum. The MCC Youth notably Dr. Raj Kumar Maharajah also made valuable contributions in preparing the memorandum.

N.B. Due to unavailability of information and photographs, omission of references to more persons and events of importance was unavoidable and humbly request members to read it with that understanding.

Our grateful thanks to all those who have assisted in providing whatever materials and photographs in the publication of this magazine.