



FOMSO Affiliate Visit to Ceylon Association Kluang

13-08-2011

On this lovely Saturday morning at around 10.00 am, FOMSO members comprising President Dato Kulasegaran, Deputy President Mr Gnanarajah, Sports Bureau Chairman Mr Rasanayagam and myself travelled to visit our affiliates in Kluang and Johor Baru, we arrived in Kluang at around 1.00 pm.

We were welcomed by Mrs Bala the Vice President on behalf of President Nayagam, Mrs Segaran - Secretary and Mrs Kumar - Treasurer and a few committee members of the association. President Mr Nayagam could not be with us on that day due to official work at the Kluang District office, where he is an advisor.



They hosted us for lunch upon our arrival, it was a sumptuous lunch, I must say!. Mrs Bala updated us on the various happenings and the

shortcomings of their association. She on behalf of the President requested FOMSO to assist them in various ways for the benefit of their members, such as securing a scholarship for high scorers/achievers.



Mrs Bala gave us a detailed insight about their new building which was recently completed. She updated us on how President Nayagam was instrumental in securing funds to a

tune of RM 400,000.00 from the Johor State Government for the building project. The building has a seating capacity of 500 with a large stage.



The ground floor which is left open is meant for carrying out suitable indoor activities and if the hall is rented out for weddings and such, it could be used for serving food. Their achievement is truly admirable and the state government's response to the call

of our community is even more marvelous.

Having heard the history of their association dating back to 1940's and 1950's, I must share some interesting insights which we heard from Mrs Bala and the rest who were present.

In the good old days, they used to have their association meetings and other small activities in one of the houses belonging to a committee member Mr Mapanapillai who was a wealthy contractor. Whilst they were carrying out their activities here, they applied for a piece of land from the state government to put up their own building. The good news came in early 1950's, they were offered a plot of land under the "Tanah Kurnia" (for the use of religious purposes) allocation, it was given to them by Sultan Ibrahim.



Though they had some funds of their own, it was not enough for putting up a concrete building. Now it get's interesting, in the 1950's there was a large number of Ceylonese families living in Kluang, and ever since the news broke out that the land was given and they needed funds to put a building, each and every family donated their one month's salary towards the building fund!. In the good old days, sparing a month's salary is a great sacrifice.



With that collection, the building was put up in the early 1950's which lasted till about recently, where it was demolished to put up a brand new building which they now have, have a look at the photos.



This building is not officiated yet; they are planning to officially open this building sometime early next year. I will keep all of you posted no sooner the date is announced. It will be nice if you could spare sometime and visit Kluang and our community there.

Soon after visiting their new building,

we left at around 3.30 pm, heading towards Johor to visit our affiliate there.