



FOMSO Affiliate Visit to Malaysian Ceylonese Association - South Johor

13-08-2011

FOMSO members comprising President Dato Kulasegaran, Deputy President Mr Gnanarajah, Sports Bureau Chairman Mr Rasanayagam and myself arrived in Johor at around 5.00 pm after visiting Ceylon Association of Kluang.



We were welcomed by President Mr. S. Sukumarachandran along with Vice President Mr Balakrishnan, Hon. Secretary Madam T. Paramaswari, Hon. Treasurer Mr. Sethulingam and their committee members, Mr V. Kartigasu, Ms. SSP Jothimalar and Mr L. Ganesh.

The meeting was held at the President's residence. President Mr. S. Sukumarachandran thanked President Dato S. Kulasegaran and all of us for visiting their association for the second time.



His main concern was the future of the young Ceylonese generation. He mentioned that their committee over the years have put a lot of effort to keep the community together, he went on to say if proper action plan is not in place, the Ceylonese community in Johor will lose their identity.

He said that recently he has managed to bring in younger group to spear head the youth section. He encourages them to organise various activities to keep the youth section alive and kicking which includes cultural activities.

In a light moment, he shared his experiences as the “Umbrella Boy” for his mother. He said in the old days, his mum takes him along after lunch and visits many of the Ceylonese families who lived there. He went on to say that, the houses were located within walking distance, which made it easier, and because of these frequent visits, he came to know many families.



These days, it is no longer the same he quipped, many have gone overseas and some to the capital city (Kuala Lumpur) seeking greener pastures, however, there is still a fair amount of Ceylonese families in Johor that needs to be kept in the loop he said. President Mr. S. Sukumarachandran said FOMSO should also look into this direction, focusing on the youth.

He thanked Mr. Balakrishnan’s invaluable assistance profusely. He said Mr. Balakrishnan has given him permission to use his office as his own for all the association’s work without which he said it would be impossible for him to carry out his work effectively. He said the staffs in his office are very helpful to him, which simplifies his work mainly on keeping the communication work such as email, fax, and reports.



President Dato S. Kulasegaran, touched on FOMSO's work carried out for the Sri Lankan refugees in Malaysia and also for the displaced people in Sri Lanka. He explained in detail on what was done over the six humanitarian trips made to Sri Lanka and mentioned that all assistance were directly given to the effected people in Jaffna, Killinochi, Oddusudan, Vavuniya and such.



He also mentioned that FOMSO is in the midst of setting up a Vocational training centre for the unemployed youths. This vocational training will ensure that they are trained and obtain a skill in their chosen fields along with the necessary certification ensuring they get employed soon after they undergo the skills training.



During Q&A session, we had a fruitful discussion clarifying the doubts they had and they were pleased with the clarification given by President Dato S Kulasegaran. After the Q&A, President Mr. S. Sukumarachandran invited all of us for dinner at a nearby restaurant to a feast! Soon after dinner, we departed Johor to Kuala Lumpur.

We arrived in Kuala Lumpur at around 12.30 am, we truly enjoyed the trip, the warm hospitality extended to us and the experience we had in sharing our thoughts in various areas of concern were good.