

Annual Report of the Malayali Association

“Unity is strength...

When there is teamwork and collaboration, Wonderful things can be achieved.”

Malayali Association was established with laid down objectives to serve as a platform for Malayalees to meet and exchange views and foster friendly relationship within as well as with local and other Indian communities.

The present committee of Malayali Association officially assumed charges on 30th March 2014 during the AGM. The committee has met 11 times for monthly meetings and 4 times for additional meetings with an average attendance of 86%. In addition to the Management Committee, subcommittee members were also invited from the MA members, aimed to provide a platform for the community to work with the Management Committee in certain areas.

The year 2014 was quite remarkable for the Malayali Association. The association was officially inaugurated by His Excellency Dr. Ashok Kumar Amrohi during the MA Inauguration ceremony held on 8th March 2014 at Pusat Inasni Seria, followed by a series of activities and achievements.

The number of memberships has considerably increased during this term from 135 to 179, 107 single memberships and 72 family memberships, even though 21 MA members have left Brunei Darussalam for good. 65 new members have registered during this term and 90% of the existing members have renewed their memberships.

After the successful opening of Malayali Association, the committee has organized an appreciation dinner for the participants and choreographers on April 22, Tuesday as agreed during the Review Meeting of MA Inauguration Committee.

Social and Welfare

MA members visited SMARTER, a centre for Autistic children in Kuala Belait on 18 January 2014 and volunteered to clean the premises as well as to carry out some necessary repair to their playground. With the support of Malayali community, we donated used televisions, electronic equipment, books, toys and some cleaning materials to this centre.

As part of our established objective, Malayali Association donated a sum of B\$ 1,000.00 to District Officer of Belait, towards a charity contribution to Tabang Amal Daerah Belait.

MA arranged an event to handover food provisions to the local community on the occasion of Hari Raya in association with Majlis Perundangan Mukim Seria. This event was held at the premises of Pusat Isani, Seria on 16th July 2014 attended about 50 people from local and Malayali community.

A Beach cleaning event was organized on the 26th April 2014 at the Kuala Belait Jubilee Park beach on the occasion of the World Earth Day, which was on 22nd April. There were over 100 members including women and children from the Malayali community gathered in the Kuala Belait beach beating the scorching sun. During the occasion, the association had also extended invitation to the local authorities in KB-Seria District.

MA donated \$500 to Pusat Ehsan, Kuala Belait, as part of our laid down objective to support the local community. It was presented during Beach Cleaning campaign.

MA also donated to heart surgery to a needy back in India.

MA arranged a Kerala booth during the IAB Charity Day and Food Fair organized at the Indian Association of Belait. The income was equally shared between MA and IAB.

A photo copying machine was donated to Indian Association of Belait, which is helpful for the members during the Consular Services.

In conjunction with Gandhi Jayanthi, MA organized a beach cleaning activity, 'Social Service Day' on 6th October 2014 at Jubilee park, Kuala Belait.

Malayali Association organized a blood donation drive on 7 February 2015 at Suri Seri Begawan Hospital, to generate awareness of blood donation to its members and also to support the society for a noble cause. Around 50 members participated in this event.

MA has extended their financial assistance to Mr. Yohannan, and Mr. Ashraf Maydeen. MA Management Committee expressed heartfelt condolences on the death of Mr. James V Mony and handed over the financial assistance to his wife. To deal with cases alike, we have come out with Financial Assistance Guidelines.

MA has also donated BND 1000 to IAB Building renovation phase 2.

Moral and Cultural

The main event under Moral and Culture wing was the cultural performances on the day of Onam Celebration. 160 minutes of entertainment was arranged, which started exactly at 3.55pm and culminated at 7.30pm. The Cultural Committee managed to organize variety of entertainments for Onam Celebration 2015; 11 dances, which include 7 cinematic, 2 traditional, 1 semi classical dance and 1 classical fusion dance, a skit, a group song, Vanji kali and a solo song. The programmes were of very high quality. The participants, choreographers and the cultural committee worked hard for five months to make this programme successful. A review meeting with choreographers and cultural committee was also held after the Onam Celebration.

A musical night was organized as part of the food fest organized on 1st March 2015 at Indian Association of Belait.

Education

In connection with Onam celebration a colouring competition was organized on 12th September 2014 at IAB, Seria. There were four categories in this competition. Trophies were presented to the winners during Onam Celebration.

MA has introduced Malayali Association Merit Awards in 2014 to students within its members who have academically excelled in the school examinations. These awards were handed over to Arjun Revi and Shobene Sephia Andrew (PSR-2013), Kuncheria Jose and Tom Antony (GCE O'level) and Natasha Dilip (GCE A'level) during the Onam Celebrations 2014 at Pusat Insani, Seria.

An online library was set up and the titles of books were communicated through social media. Books can be obtained from the focal points. MA is focusing the community members to inculcate a reading culture among its members and children.

Kerala Piravi and Bakrid celebration was organized on 8th November 2014 at Indian Association Hall for MA's members and their families. A few cultural programmes, Kerala based Quiz program and a video presentation were arranged.

Information

With the support of Education wing MA Facebook page was revamped by inviting members to post their creative writings in MA Facebook page. It was an opportunity given to the community to express their views on socially relevant topics as well as to brush their literary talents.

Information wing has managed to maintain a communication with members regarding the MA Programmes and activities.

MA also maintains a friendly relationship with media and press. Our cultural programmes and other activities are widely covered in newspapers and online media.

Sports

In connection with Onam Celebration, a Sports Day was organized at Anduki Park. Variety games were arranged for Kids, Girls, Boys, ladies, Gents & Couples. Attractive prizes were distributed at the end of the programme. A lucky draw was also arranged.

MA Cricket Team (MACC) was reorganized with new young players from Malayali community. Regular practice sessions were arranged and a team selection was held to find the best players. The team registered a remarkable victory in IAB Independence cup 2014 by qualifying to the Semi- Final round.

Onam Celebration 2014

It was the first time Malayali Community in Brunei celebrated Onam under Malayali Association. His Excellency Dr. Ashok Kumar Amrohi was the Chief Guest of the Onam Celebration 2014. 545 guests attended the programme including 86 invited guests.

For the Onam Celebration 2014, an organizing committee consists of 49 members was formed under the leadership of the MA management committee. The organizing committee has met 6 times, including the Onam Review meeting. Each subcommittee has done their job well. The committee had faced a lot of challenges since it was the first time Onam was organized in Pusat Inasni. But the team work and coordination of the committee members made the event grand success and set a standard for the coming years.

Food Fest and Musical Night.

MA organised "An Evening to Relax" on 1st March 2015 at Indian Association of Belait Hall, Seria with a food fest accompanied by live music. 200 people from different walks of life attended the event. The invitation was extended to other communities too.

Registration from NORKA:

MA management committee is proud to inform you that Malayali Association is officially registered to NORKA, a department under Government of Kerala for Non Resident Keralites, which will enable our members to join various pensions and insurance plans. MA representatives had visited the officials in NORKA in Trivandrum, Kerala and initiated the process of registering MA members for Norka Identity card, Norka Insurance and other schemes which benefit the Non Resident Keralites.

Financial Position of MA

(i) Year 2014:

The audited accounts for the year ending 31 Dec 2014 will be submitted in this AGM separately. The audited accounts show receipts of BND 63,349.45 and payments of BND 46,894.45 as on 31 Dec 2014. The cash balance of the association as on 31 Dec 2014 was BND16,455.00

(iii) Budget for Year 2015:

A proposed budget is placed before the AGM for the new committee to consider. This budget shows total projected cash expenditure of BND 29,000.00 approximately funded by membership and voluntary contributions of about BND 39,195.00 This leaves cash balance of BND 10,195.00. This will be presented separately as part of the agenda for the AGM.

Once again we thank you all for your sincere support and looking forward your cooperation and help in the years to come. Thank you all.