

Malaysia Malayalee Catholics Association

President's welcome address at the 67th Annual General Meeting held on 27th April 2024

Dear members of the Malaysia Malayalee Catholics Association,

A very warm welcome to each and every one of you to the 67th Annual General Meeting of the Malaysia Malayalee Catholics Association. It's truly heartening to see such a wonderful turnout today, despite your undoubtedly busy schedules. Your presence here speaks volumes about your dedication and commitment to our association and the community it serves. Your participation and engagement are vital to the success of our association, and your presence underscores the strength of our collective resolve to work towards our shared goals.

As we gather here today, we are reminded of the rich tapestry of our Malayalee Catholic community in Malaysia. Our association serves as a beacon of unity, bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds, united by a common faith and culture. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones over the past year, and I have no doubt that with your continued support and active participation, we will accomplish even greater feats in the year ahead.

At this juncture, it is essential to acknowledge the tireless efforts of our dedicated members and volunteers who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to organize today's event and drive the initiatives of our association forward. Their unwavering commitment and passion are the cornerstone of our success, and it is thanks to their hard work that we stand here today, poised to chart the course for the future of our association.

Before we delve into the proceedings of today's meeting, I would like to extend my gratitude to two individuals whose efforts have made this gathering possible. Firstly, a big thank you to Herlena Claire for graciously arranging the venue for our meeting, and to Anne Mathews for her thoughtful coordination of all matters related to the meeting and for the refreshments that will be provided after our deliberations.

As we convene here today, let us take a moment to remember and keep in our thoughts those members of our MMCA family who are unable to join us due to illness, bereavement, or other circumstances. In particular, we offer our prayers and support to Dato AR Peter and his family as they care for Datin, who is currently bedridden in the hospital.

I also wish to express our sincerest appreciation to the dedicated members of the MMCA Executive Committee for their tireless efforts and unwavering commitment over the past year. Your hard work and dedication have been instrumental in driving our association forward, and we are truly grateful for your invaluable contributions.

Allow me to introduce and extend our gratitude to the members of our Executive Committee, Advisor, Trustees and Auditors.

Vice-Presidents: Mr. Jerome Fernandez and Mr. Philip Andrew De Silva

Honorary General Secretary: Ms. Anne Mathews

Honorary Treasurer: Mr. Gerald Edward

Honorary Assistant Secretary: Ms. Celine Fernandez

Committee Members:

Ms. Herlena Claire

Mr. Ashton Luke Alexander

Ms. Philomina MP Cruz

Mr. George Celestine Fernandez

Ms. Henny Bensily

Co-opted Committee Members:

Ms. Felicia Fernandez

Ms. Shirley Pereira

Mr. Eric Johnson

Internal Auditors: Mr. Anthony Lopez and Mr. Arvin Ross Alexander

Trustees:

Dr. Dominic Lopez,

Mr. Edwin Johnson,

Mr. Francis Pereira

And last but not least, **our dearest Advisor:** Dato' A.R. Peter.

Your dedication and commitment to our association are truly commendable, and we are grateful for your leadership and guidance.

Membership: We currently have 310 life members as of December 31st, 2023, and while this number is slightly lower than last year, I am optimistic that with our collective efforts, we can work towards increasing our membership in the coming year. Personally, I am committed to the goal of bringing in at least 10 new members within the next 12 months.

I am also pleased to report that we have successfully implemented two of the recommendations made at our last AGM.

1. Bank account with Internet banking functionality that extends to Associations and Societies. We have opened a bank account with Public Bank in Brickfields earlier this year and this account has made financial arrangements and transactions much easier for our Treasurer to handle without compromising on the safety and security aspects; and
2. Annual Christmas gathering: We have reinstated the Annual Christmas gathering, which was warmly received by our members last December.

As we move forward, I encourage each and every one of you to continue sharing your ideas and suggestions for the betterment of our association. Your input is invaluable, and together, we can work towards achieving our shared goals.

In closing, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all our members for your unwavering support and participation in our activities. I would also like to extend our thanks to our donors and friends who generously support our causes.

Thank you once again for your dedication and commitment to the Malaysia Malayalee Catholics Association. Together, let us continue to work towards a brighter future for our community; recommit to the values of unity, inclusivity, and service that define our association.

Thank you.