



தமிழர் பேரவை பன்னோக்குக் கூட்டுறவுக் கழகம் TRC Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society Ltd

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NEWSLETTER

FOR MEMBERS ONLY

May/June 2006

Best of Years and **3%** Dividend declared for year 2005



V. Balu



John E Santhou



C. Thangaraju



Dr K. Paramasivam

The above four were re-elected unanimously to the Board of Directors

It was a nice and pleasant evening, Saturday, 25th March, 2006, as members of the TRC Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society streamed in at the Ceylon Sports Club Function Hall to participate in the 10th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Society.



Members listening attentively to the key note address

beaming smiles on meeting, showed it all. The AGM was indeed a great opportunity to catch up on the good old times and re-establish friendship ties, a perfect social occasion too.

Just before 5pm the meeting began with general house



Key Officials at the helm



Registration formalities were organized and efficiently handled as members signed their attendance and collected their neatly packed door gifts – an array of interesting and valuable items such as a weighing scale, a fascinating book on "Million Dollar Habits" by Brian Tracy and spices and condiments. Members looked relaxed and happy as they greeted old friends, business associates and social acquaintances, some of whom they had possibly not met for a while as the hearty camaraderie and

announcements. Punctually at 5pm, the AGM was called to order, with a minute's silence observed to honour and respect the memory of members who had departed the year before.

Immediately after, the Friend of the Cooperative Award was announced. This is the first ever such Award introduced by the Society and it is to be presented to those who had distinguished themselves in the service to the Society. The Society wishes to recognize the exemplary voluntary services of individuals and the Award had been created to enable the Society to honour such voluntary contributions to the Society. This prestigious Award went to **Mr P Satchithananthan**. Dr Sivam read out the citation for outstanding service, for this Award.



Mr Satchithananthan has rendered voluntary services to the Society since 1996. He has assisted the Society on finance and

Announcement

**Admin fee for loans further reduced by 1%
up to \$10,000 - 2% only!
above \$10,000 - 3% only!**

IT matters and is now working on the development of a new membership system. He has selflessly supported the Society in secretarial functions and makes it a point to teach and guide the full time staff in office duties and especially financial matters. He often acts as the "back room" support staff and has delivered work efficiently. The Society is proud to have such a member.

Amidst thundering applause, as all members stood up to show their respect to the recipient, Dr R Theyvendran presented the Award. Awards for the top three recruiters of members for the Society followed next with the top award going to **Miss D Rani**, followed by **Mr Sounderarajan** and 3rd to **Mr R A Nathan**, who promptly donated his award money back to the Building Fund of the Society.



Mr R. A. Nathan

With the close of the awards presentations, the floor was handed over to Mr R A Nathan, Chairman of the Society, to deliver the Opening Address. He began with informing that the Co-op is today, healthier and stronger, due to the remarkable effort of proper management and the support given by our partners, individuals, and organizations and members. Members were heartened to hear that the year 2005 had been much brighter and stands tallest in the Society's 11-year history.

Of significance was the news that the \$1/- per share value had



Members listening attentively to the key note address

shot up positively from minus 0.13 cents in 2001 to 0.08 in 2002 to 0.54 in 2004 and stood at 0.76 in 2005. Dividends for shares and thrift savings also had a bright note!. It was zero percent for years up to 1999, then 2% for years 2000 to

2003 and 3% for 2004. For 2005, the Society has proposed that the dividends be a repeat of 2004 with 1% interest for general savings.

Mr Nathan also listed out a number of highlights and achievements of the Society for 2005 as follows:

- 1) The AGM is held earlier in March instead of the usual Jun/Jul cycle. Members were alerted that they had a better Annual Report, the first of its kind, based on feedback Mr Nathan had received from the ground;
- 2) The Society's new website was awarded the TrustSg and Business Trust/Consumer Trust accreditation on 8 Oct 05. This is the first ever award for the Society;
- 3) A code of ethics for Board of Directors, has been established. The code will set the right tone for corporate governance and ethical observance;
- 4) More detailed Membership and Loan Forms with new design features have been created;
- 5) Annual Awards for the best three Membership Promoters has been instituted;

- 6) A first -ever "Friend of the Co-operative" Award is also created;
- 7) An Audit Committee with better internal controls, has been formed as part of adhering to corporate governance requirements;
- 8) The Society has repaid a \$200,000 term deposit to the Customs Co-op Society as well as \$100,000 to our main body Tamil Representative Council;
- 9) Half-yearly newsletter to members are continuing to be self-funded through advertisements;
- 10) Speedier release of loans i.e. within a week of receipt of the duly completed forms has been put into effect;
- 11) A building fund has been established;
- 12) Joint activities with other organizations have been given greater focus.



1st vice - chairman Mr V. Bala and 2nd vice - chairman Mr V. Balu giving away prizes to lucky draw winners

There is a worrying trend observed Mr Nathan – that of most cases of members he meets during his Thursday clinic sessions, lacking savings and financial planning. He therefore advised all members on the critical importance of savings for their future. He further appealed to members to increase monthly thrift savings from \$10/- to \$30/- or more for the sake of their respective families.

He recounted the Society's difficulties due to past loans granted without sureties that had defaulted on payments and the enormous task of trying to collect these loans to reduce the Society's bad debt ratio. As a result, the Society has found it necessary to tighten the loan procedures and stress on the need for sureties. Currently, a major clean up including policy changes to loans are ongoing. He noted that the Society is also aware of members concerns regarding the difficulty of getting sureties among Indian members. Therefore, the Society has taken the step of relaxing such requirements and opened the doors to any qualified Singaporean to stand as sureties. **Another welcome change is that the Society is now prepared to consider granting loans up to 50% of a member's thrift savings, without a surety.**

In this regard, he advised members that the Society has managed to bring down the accumulated losses from \$497, 634 in 1999 to \$234, 628 in 2005. For this achievement he thanked the Vice-Chairman, **Mr V Balakrishnan** for carrying out the heavy task of seeing how best all monies due to the Society are recovered as well as Director **Mr S Balachandran** who assisted in this 'exercise' to recover such "unpaid" loans. On this note he highlighted too the need for capable members, dedicated and

reliable as well as able to contribute. He earnestly invited those who are keen, have the passion, time and commitment with no hidden agenda, to serve on the Board of Directors.

In closing his speech, Mr. Nathan thanked all organizations and individuals for their staunch support. He also had on his wish list the fulfillment of the Society's "dreams" that are still not fulfilled – a home for the Society, a new set of By-laws, a small scale business venture at least, growth at a faster pace for membership and investments. As he concluded his speech with his hope that these dreams will materialize in 2006, members applauded him rousingly.

The rest of the AGM's agenda matters followed briskly with queries by members also answered expeditiously to their satisfaction. Eventually it was time for the election of internal auditors, ordinary members and scrutinisers. **Mr Choo Tuck Cheong** was chosen as the Returning Officer. After he had announced the standing election rules, members filed in to cast their votes. As the elections carried on, members also had the break for a refreshing meal.

Once the results of the elections were ready members were called to return to the Hall. **Four out of 5 candidates** were returned to office. They are **Mr V. Balu, Mr John E Santhou, Mr C. Thangaraju and Dr K. Paramasivam.**

The lucky draw followed next for the last ten prizes. Mr Nathan then opened the floor to members to speak on any relevant subject or consider any other business of the Society. As there

were none, the lucky draw for another 10 prizes continued. Dr R Theyvendran, next addressed members to advice on the need for good leadership for the Society. He pointed out how as a result of good and prudent governance the Society's bad debts had been sized down dramatically. He called on all members to motivate such good leadership and support them and urged that members must visualize the "big picture" and that is to have a strong and viable Society that will serve the interests and aspirations of members efficiently as well as one that will cater to the future of their children.

He commended the Chairman and committee for their laudable efforts and selfless contributions to the Society and its members. He also hoped the committee will rise to further challenges ahead and urged all members to continue their support for the committee's leadership.

The last 10 prizes for the lucky draw were drawn followed by gifts to volunteers and

organizations and with that the meeting drew to a close at 7.10pm. It could be said that members were clearly satisfied with the outcome of the AGM and glad that the Society had grown from strength to strength under the committee's leadership in these last 2 to 3 years. The future of the Society is now brighter than before; a future that is rosier and one that all members are looking forward to.

The end of the AGM did not spell the end of the evening at all. At 7.30pm all members were treated to a sumptuous dinner and Indian Music Night. An evening heartily and well spent too.



Members enjoying the food



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Programme Highlights

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 - o Draupadi Temple
 - o Murugan Temple
- **Shopping:**
 - o Chendol Melaka
 - o Indian Shopping
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Departure Time: 6:30am



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Fresh from the New Hon. Secretary's desk



"Iniya Tamil Puthandu Valthugal".

This new opportunity comes at the right time as we start afresh with this new Tamil New Year. Over the last few months, I have been getting a feel of the nature of co-operative work, and am ready to give it a shot in my new portfolio. With the guidance from the previous Secretary, Mr John

E Santhou and the Chairman, R A Nathan it would help me weave in well confidently.

As a Regional IT Director, I have the forte in the IT area where demand is ever-growing. This area is one for sure, I will want to help use my strength for the Society. The Society's website speaks about my involvement, a task which I have undertaken with passion and commitment.

Technology alone will not help us move forward. Therefore I would also be spending more time concentrating on the following areas:

- Work with other Indian organizations and Indian activity groups in Polys and tertiary intuitions to promote the Coop's services.
- Improvements to the general office administration of the Coop;
- Streamline work processors to speed up loan applications and debt collections;

- Increase awareness of the Coop among the youth & promote membership;
- Further improve our on-line web portal and introduce e-newsletters to the members;

I will also be targeting on organizing more educational programs for children to develop every child's education path. More social activities will be planned to attract parents to join the Coop to enhanced closer social interaction. I will also be promoting the Coop's website and obtain more ground feedback on how we can further improve our services.

We need to open our doors to welcome other institutions to support us. Joint activities with other external Organizations will help us to promote the awareness of our Coop and its benefits. This will give an additional boost to our recruitment drive.

I work with the motto of "Service with Quality" and always believe that we have to be best in everything we do. I hope by training and upgrading the Coop staff skills; we will equip them with the necessary tools to face the challenges of the Coop's members.

Tomorrow's leaders are our youth. I am mapping out new recruitment strategies which are competitive and attractive. Hope this would bring our Coop to the member's doorstep.

I call on all of you to join me to promote the Coop to achieve higher goals and make this a better place for all of us. Cheers!

Styvon VTS

Complimentary Letter

செய்யாமற் செய்த உதவிக்கு வையகமும் வானகமும் ஆற்றலர்து.

நாம் எந்த உதவியும் செய்யாதிருந்தும் தக்க நேரத்தில் நமக்குச் செய்யும் உதவிக்கு மண்ணுலகும் விண்ணுலகும் ஈடாகக் கொடுத்தாலும் ஒப்பாகாது என்கின்ற குறளுக்கு ஏற்ப என்னுடைய மகளின் கல்விக்கு நிதி உதவி செய்த தமிழர் பேரவை பன்னோக்குக் கூட்டுறவுக் கழகத்தின் தலைவர் திரு R.A. நாதன் அவர்களுக்கு எங்களுடைய மனமார்ந்த நன்றி. எத்தனையோ அமைப்புகளிடம் போய் எங்களுடைய நிலையை எடுத்துக் கூறியும் பல வித காரணங்களைக் கூறி உதவி செய்ய மறுத்தவர்கள் மத்தியில் சென்ற ஆண்டு தமிழ் முரசு பத்திரிகையில் வந்த தமிழர் பேரவை பன்னோக்குக் கூட்டுறவுக் கழகத்தைப் பற்றிய செய்தியை படித்து கடைசியாக அவர்களுடைய உதவியை நாடிய போது உடனடியாக அவர்கள் செய்த உதவியை எங்கள் குடும்பம் என்றும் மறக்காது. படிப்பிற்காக அவர்கள் செய்த உதவியை பெற்று கொண்ட என் மகளுக்கு நன்றாகப் படிக்க வேண்டும் நாளைக்கு தன்னைப் போன்ற நிலையில் உள்ள மாணவர்களுக்கு உதவவேண்டும் என்ற எண்ணம் அடிமனதில் ஏற்படுகிற அளவிற்கு உதவி செய்த கூட்டுறவுக் கழகத்தின் தலைவர் திரு R.A. நாதன் அவர்களுக்கும், அங்கு பணிபுரியும் அனைவருக்கும் எங்கள் குடும்பத்தினர் அனைவரும் நன்றியை தெரிவித்துக் கொள்கிறோம். பல அமைப்புகளுக்கு மத்தியில் தனித்துவம் வாய்ந்து திகழும் தமிழர் பேரவை பன்னோக்குக் கூட்டுறவுக் கழகம் மென்மேலும் வளர்ந்து பல இந்திய மாணவர்கள் வாழ்க்கையில் ஓளிவீச வேண்டுகிறோம். எல்லாம் இறைவனை வேண்டிக் கொள்கிறோம்.

உதவி பெற்ற மாணவியின் தாயார் எழுதியது
நன்றி.

இப்படிக்கு
திருமதி டேவிட்
7 ஏப்ரல் 2006

As written in Thirukkural, there is nothing equivalent to the help given at the most appropriate time.

My family has approached many organizations for the financial help we need for my daughter's education, but was turned down due to some reason or another, until we met Mr R A Nathan of TRC Coop.

The help came to us immediately from TRC Coop. My family is ever grateful to this help, so much so my daughter is determined to study hard and to assist more students who are in her situation.

We wish and pray to the almighty that the gracious service of TRC Coop should be extended to more Indian students and create success in there lives.

Written by the mother of the student.

Mrs David
7th April 2006

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