Munisami Subramoney: project

SUBRAMONEY,
Munisami; bookseller;
b. King's Rest, Dur-
ban, June 3, 1910; s.
of Munisami; educ. in
Durban; m. S. L., 3 d.
Worked for the Shell
Company and after-
wards as salesman for
the Radio Record
Trading Co. for 16
years. Went to India
in 1948. Business:
Bookseller, dealing in
Tamil books, school
books, stationery and
Indian records, est. in
1953, trading as M.
Subramoney. Public
activities: Co-founder S.S.S.
Society, King's Rest;
organised and conducted King's Rest Tamil School;
Tamil teacher since 1925, co-founder of the Thiruk-
kural Society; patron of many educational and
musical bodies; interested in Tamil education and
culture and in other religious activities and organi-
isations. Address: Bus., Room 10, 117c Victoria Street;
Box 2343, Durban.

ARTICLE: SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN

WHO'S WHO
Mr M. Subramoney,
83 Victoria Street,
Durban.

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in informing you that you have been elected Patron of our Kazhagam. I hope that you will accept the position conferred upon you.

Enclosed please find invitation for the Official Opening ceremony of our Kazhagam.

Yours faithfully,

N. S. Moodley.
Chairman.
Mr. M. Subramoney,
83 Victoria Street,
Durban.

Dear Sir,

At the 60th Annual General Meeting of the above Sangam held on 4th August, 1968, I have the pleasure to inform you that you have been elected as Patron.

I trust you will accept the honour conferred on you and a formal letter of acceptance to the position will be greatly appreciated.

Your early confirmation in this matter is anxiously awaited.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

Hon. Secretary

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO HON. SECRETARY, 91 CANNON AVENUE, OVERPORT.
Natal Tamil Vedic Society

Mrs. Pillay

14th September, 1970.

Mr. M. Subramoney,
83, Victoria Street,
DURBAN.

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in informing you that during the last Biennial General Meeting of the above Society you have been elected as a Councillor and trust that you would accept this honour conferred upon you.

Yours faithfully,

M.N. PATHER.
HONORARY GENERAL SECRETARY.
31st August, 1972.

Mr. M. Subramoney,
83 Victoria Street,
DURBAN.

Dear Sirs,

At the pleasure of the above Society, I inform you of your appointment as its Councillor and sincerely hope your association with us will be a happy one.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

M.N. PATHER,
HONORARY GENERAL SECRETARY.

All correspondence to be addressed to the Hon. General Secretary, P.O. Box 2451, Durban.

Mr. M. Soobramoney

Dear Sir,

We feel sure that you are, by now, aware of the formation of the Natal Tamil Vedic Society Trust, and also the newly inaugurated Natal Tamil Vedic Society (Provincial Body).

Eight Regions are expected to be affiliated to this Provincial Body.

The Natal Tamil Vedic Society (Provincial Body) took into consideration the advisability of giving recognition to personalities who have rendered good service to our Tamil Community in fostering and promoting our Language and Culture.

With this in view, provision was made for the election of Honorary Members who will have the right to vote at all Council and General Meetings.

We now have great pleasure in informing you that you have been elected as a Honorary Member of the new Provincial Body.

It is sincerely hoped that you will accept this appointment, and confirmation of your acceptance in writing is kindly requested as soon as possible.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]

Hon. Secretary.
"PERIYAR" CALLS FOR GREATER YOUTH INTEREST

An almost packed house was entertained to songs and music and listened to a Tamil lecture at the Salva Sithamba Sungam Hall, Unit 3, Chatsworth, over the weekend, provided by the South African Tamil Federation. In his welcome, the president of the Federation, Salva Pulavar Vidwan K.C. Gounden, reminded the audience of the privilege given to them to listen to a seasoned Tamil scholar like Periyar M. Subramoney talk on Tamil Culture. The Pulavar drew an analogy between Periyar M. Subramoney and Periyar E.V. Ramasamy of the Dravida Kazhaigam of Tamil Nadu in India. Vidwan Gounden also reminded the audience that the entertainment was being provided by the country’s notable musicians, Isaimani Manikam Moodley and Mr. Gopalan Govender.

In addition to explaining the meanings of the songs that were sung by Mr. Manikam Moodley, Periyar M. Subramoney referred to the antiquity of the Tamil language. Periyar explained the three Sungams of Tamil. Two of these, he said, were destroyed during the Deluge in India. A large part of the Tamil literary heritage was lost in the first two Sungams. The third Sungam, however, contained some of the great works like the Silappadhigaram, which is an epic of the lives of Kovilkan and Kanagi. Periyar said great emphasis on the Thirukkural.

He advocates the Thirukkural as a code of conduct for human life. He further discussed the three sections of the Thirukkural viz Arum (Virtue), Porul (Politics) and Inbam (Love) which provide for a perfect and righteous way of life.

He also said that prospective converts would find much reason to change their minds if they read and understood the Thirukkural. "Tamil philosophy and culture abounds in greatness", he said. Periyar conceded that he believed in the concept of "One God". He said, "Don’t multiply God and divide our people."

His call was to the Tamil youth to take a keen interest in their language and culture and work towards its propagation. In his vote of thanks, Mr. Natarajan Naicker dealt with the contribution made by Periyar M. Subramoney, Isaimani Manikam Moodley, Mr. Gopalan Govender, Mr. Ravasanthan Pillay, Master Kravan, Manikam and members of the Thamizh Iadu Kazhaigam in making the Federation’s function a success. He attributed the good attendance to an increasing awareness among the Tamil community.

ARTICLE:
THE GRAPHIC,
17 JUNE 1980
TAMILS HONOUR THEIR GURUS

CITATIONS

In the citations in respect of the four guests of honour the following points were made:

SRI APPASAMY MOONSAMY IYAVOOMURTHI
- Spent more than 3 decades towards the cultural and religious upliftment of the Tamil Community.
- Promoted the Tamil language, music, drama and the arts with dedication and sincerity.
- Was the pioneer in the teaching of South Indian Music in South Africa and from his expertise teaching there emerged many a renowned musician in the Tamil Community.
- Concern in the preservation of the heritage of South Indian Music resulted in the formation of the Sathe Gana Sangeetha Sabha and the Tamil School of Music.
- Emphasized the teachings of the great Saint Ramalingar.
- Played the important role of organiser, composer, presenter of the invocations and adjudicator at the Eisteddfod Sessions.
- Served the Sri Sivattisvaraya Sivasath Down Thavamgam from an ordinary member to junior official, to president, to trustee and eventually to the exalted position of Guru.
- Founded the Tamil Social and Cultural Society in South Africa and the Tamil Theatre Kalagam spread throughout the length and breadth of the Republic.
- Established a Tamil school in order to propagate the language among Tamil youth.
- The founding of Sarva Sivamaya Samajam in South Africa stands as a monument to his high endeavours.
- Took the initiative in simplifying marriage and death ceremonies.
- Ardent follower of the teachings of Saint Ramalingar. Condemned religious conversion and expanded the concept that the culture and form of worship into which a Tamilian is born is the oldest in the world, enshrined by the highest moral and spiritual ideals.
- Concerned actively in the welfare of the youth and prepared them for the many challenges they face in society. The dedicated approach Mr. Soobramoney carries the torch of Tamil culture and religion has earned the title of "Periyar".

The picture shows, from left to right: Mr M. Soobramoney, Mr A.M. Iyavoomurthi, Mr K.R. Pillay, Mr C.G. Chetty, Mr J.B. Chetty, Mr R.A. Govender and Mrs R.A. Govender.

ARTICLE: GRAPHIC, 8 MAY 1981.
MR SUBRAMONEY WAS GIVEN THE GOLDEN SHAWL AWARD BY THE CLAIRWOOD TAMIL INSTITUTE ON MAY 1983.
Mr. & Mrs. M. Subramoney of Durban celebrated their Golden Anniversary on 17th February 1984. Members of the family, including their 2 children and 16 grandchildren, and friends gathered at the Subramoney residence in Umlha!uzana to observe this unique and very special occasion.

Mr. A.V. Moodley, himself a very senior and very highly-respected Tamil scholar, opened the function with a prayer. Mr. Moodley paid tribute to the greatness of Mr. Subramoney and to the role played by him in the upliftment of Tamil and Tamil culture in South Africa. Other speakers, including Messrs. W.V. Rajah, T. Subramoney and Balakrishman Naidoo spoke of the simplicity, humanity and humility of both Mr. and Mrs. Subramoney as well as the sacrifices and contributions made in respect of education (both Tamil and English) culture and religion.

Mr. & Mrs. Subramoney visited India on several occasions and conferred with eminent Tamil scholars regarding the propagation of Tamil language, literature and culture. He was instrumental in establishing, amongst others, the Thirukkural Society. A great many Tamil scholars have gone through the able hands of Mr. M. Subramoney. Mr. Subramoney is not only a philosopher and a speaker, but also a writer of literature and composer of songs. Among his recent publications are: TAMIL MADE EASY TO READ and TAMIL MARRIAGES - made simple.

The Tamil News takes this opportunity to wish Mr and Mrs Subramoney a year host in life...