



PERTUBUHAN HINDHUDHARMA MALAYSIA

மலேசிய இந்துதர்ம மாமன்றம்

MALAYSIA HINDHUDHARMA MAMANDRAM

**No.61-2, Jalan SBC 1, Taman Sri Batu Caves,
68100 Batu Caves, Selangor.**

Email:nsrajendran@hotmail.com

<http://www.mamandram.org>

***Malaysian Hindus:
Issues and Recommendations***

**Paper Submitted to
Y.B. Datuk Dr. S. Subramaniam
Minister of Human Resources**

**On
31st July 2008**

**By:
Associate Professor Dr.N.S. Rajendran
President
Malaysia Hindhu Dharma Mamandram**

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Malaysia Hindu Dharma Mamadram (MHDM) was established in 1982 with the blessings of His Holiness Jagatguru Sri Kanchi Kaama Kohdi Sankaracharya Peedam Sri Jayandra Saraswathy Swamigal.
- 1.2 The founder president was Nyanasiriyar of Mamandram Dharma Bhooshanam, Sanga Ratna, Sankarathasar Arutselvar Lt Col.(R) k. Sathaya KMN,AMN, psc.
- 1.3 Associate Professor Dr N.S Rajendran of University Pendidikan Sultan Indris, Tanjung Malim, Perak has been the President of Mamandram since May 2001.
- 1.4 Aims and Objectives of MHDM are to play significant roles in spiritual development, religious education, social welfare and temple services, to organize culture and fine arts related activities, and to produce books and magazines pertaining to Hindu religion and its teachings.

2.0 Religious Education

- 2.1 MHDM embarked on an ambitious project to produce a comprehensive syllabus for the teaching of Hinduism to students and adults.
- 2.2 The syllabus which is for six levels was produced after about 10 years of research.
- 2.3 Accompanying materials such as teacher resource book, lesson plans and collection of hymns and religious songs were also compiled and printed.
- 2.4 Starting 1999, MHDM started providing training to at least one teacher from every Tamil school in the country to use these syllabus and resource materials to teach Hinduism to Hindu students. Many others from national schools, volunteers and MHDM officials have also been trained to teach Hinduism using the syllabus and other resource materials.
- 2.5 MHDM is in the final stages of producing four publications, namely Basic Hinduism Textbook 1, Basic Hinduism Textbook 2, Collection of hymns and religious songs and Guide to Home Pooja.

Recommendations

- 2.6 Since 1999, MHDM has been appealing to the government to take the appropriate actions to enable the teaching of

Hinduism to Hindu students in schools using the syllabus prepared by MHDM.

- 2.7 MHDM is prepared to allow the syllabus and resource materials to be used by teachers in schools. Also, MHDM is prepared to assist the Ministry of Education to implement the teaching of Hinduism to Hindu students in schools.

3.0 Hindu Temples

- 3.1 Hindu temples have existed in this country for more than 1000 years. It is estimated that more than 17,000 temples exist in this country.
- 3.2 Most of the existing old temples were built by the Indians who were brought to this country in the turn of the last century.
- 3.3 A significant number of these temples are situated on private and government land. As such, Hindu temples face numerous problems in relation to their very existence.
- 3.4 Hindu temples face numerous problems in obtaining visa to bring Hindu priests, sculptors and Indian classical artists and musicians. This issue has become very serious over the years.

Recommendations

- 3.5 Due to its historical and religious significance, it is important that these temples are preserved. The government, at levels of its administration, need to assure the Hindus that no Hindu temple would be demolished using force. The Hon. Prime Minister has given this promise at a meeting with leaders of 13 Indian NGO's on December 14, 2007.
- 3.6 MHDM and other national level Hindu organizations need to be consulted by the authorities when problems arise during negotiations with temple authorities to relocate existing temples.
- 3.7 The provision of burial grounds and crematorium facilities for the people is a indicator of a developed society and good government. All state governments in Malaysia shall provide for a separate department for burial grounds and crematorium facilities that will address this need of the people.
- 3.8 The government needs to relax existing rules to allow Hindu priests, sculptors and Indian classical artists and

musicians to come from India. This is important for the survival of many Hindu temples in the country.

- 3.9 Also, the government need to approve the setting up of a training college to train those mentioned experts to serve at Malaysian Hindu temples. The government also needs to approve a substantial amount to help set up such an institution.

4.0 Economic and Social Issues Confronting Hindus

- 4.1 Malaysian Hindus, who make up 85 per cent of Malaysian Indians, face a number of serious economic and social issues.
- 4.2 They include, second highest infant mortality rate in the country, lowest life expectancy rates - 67.3 years compared to national average of 71.2, highest school drop out rates best seen in the data that only 5.0 percent of Indians reach the tertiary level compared to the national average of 7.5 percent, highest incidence of alcoholism, highest incidence of drug addiction in proportion to population, and highest number of prisoners in proportion to population. Also, there is widespread notion that the largest number of gangs are now Indian gangs and that 60 percent of serious crimes are committed by Indians.
- 4.3 MHDM has planned and carried out various programs to address those social ills. One such program is the Basic religious education classes and courses organized at local, district, state and national levels. There is also Hindu Basic Course (HBC) organized for youths over a period of 5 years.

Recommendations

- 4.4 There has to be comprehensive programs for Hindu youths to participate and benefit from government programs. More opportunities need to be provided to Hindu youths to participate in the various programs organized by the government.
- 4.5 The government needs to allocate special funding to be given to Hindu NGO's, including MHDM, to carry out various activities which have proven to address numerous economic and social ills of Malaysian Hindus.

- 4.6 There needs to be a special allocation of funds for community level MHDM branches to organize and carry out programs such as the HBC.
- 4.7 All prospective Hindu brides and grooms are requested to attend compulsory Hindu Marriage Course and undergo compulsory blood test for HIV.
- 4.8 Single mothers should be provided with facilities of home shelter, food provisions and funds for their children's education and health. A monthly minimum equivalent of RM 1,000.00 be provided to each single mother in Malaysia.

5.0 Opportunities of Malaysian Hindus

- 5.1 Malaysian Hindus have witnessed the decline of the percentage Malaysian Indians employed in the government sector. This includes critical sectors such as medical, civil service, teaching, police and army.
- 5.2 Malaysian Hindus have also voiced out their dissatisfaction on the lack of opportunities for them in obtaining government scholarships, such the PSD scholarships, places at public universities, matriculation, technical and vocational colleges.
- 5.3 This lack of opportunities for Malaysian Hindus has not gone down well in the Malaysian Indian community.

Recommendations

- 5.4 The government needs to take significant measures to ensure that the government sector reflects the racial composition of the Malaysian society. More opportunities need to be made available to Malaysian Hindus to serve in the government sector, especially in the critical areas.
- 5.5 More scholarships need to be given to deserving Malaysians, irrespective of their race, colour and creed.
- 5.6 The government needs to ensure that all deserving Malaysians with the necessary qualifications be given opportunities to pursue their studies at public universities.

Prepared by:

Associate Professor Dr. N. S. Rajendran, Ph.D.
President
Malaysia Hindhudharma Mamandram
31st July 2008