

ADDRESS BY G KANDASAMY - TRC CO-OPERATIVE INAUGURAL GENERAL MEETING, WEDNESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 1994

Friends and Colleagues

I welcome all of you to this important meeting. This evening, we will elect the Board of Directors of the TRC Multi-purpose Co-operative Society Limited.

This is an important occasion because the leaders elected today will lay the foundation of a constructive and dynamic Co-operative which will bring about a cohesive and united Tamil Community. Paramount to our purpose is the upliftment of the young Tamils to improve their educational standards, financial assistance to our needy Tamils and assistance to those senior Tamils who need special care and attention.

We can eventually help the government in monitoring drug rehabilitation programmes. Later, we can offer some sort of a buddy-care or pastoral guidance to our young, growing adults.

Our young, most of all, need models they can emulate or confident shoulders they can trust and lean upon.

The Board of Directors will not be the one and only governing body of the Co-operative. The Board will set up Committees responsible for each particular activity.

Suitable and reliable persons are required and must be persuaded to manage their respective sections and be answerable to the Board of Directors.

It will be of interest to you that several professionals have come forward and pledged investments ranging between \$1,000 and \$10,000.

So far we have pledged totalling \$101,500 from 38 persons, an average of \$2,802 per person.

Let us all persuade as many of the professionals and businessmen as possible to invest a minimum of \$2,500 each or more. They could pay their pledges in instalments.

With the help of my colleagues, I have identified the Tamils who are employed in professional positions as Lawyers, Accountants, Architects, Engineers, Dental and Medical Practitioners.

This group of 524 potential investors are:-

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|-----|------------------------------|
| 216 | Lawyers |
| 22 | Accountants |
| 5 | Architects |
| 72 | Engineers |
| 209 | Dental/Medical Practitioners |

There may be other Tamils who are a pride to our community and who may have been inadvertently left out. We must identify them and welcome them.

If each of these professionals could be persuaded to invest \$5,000 or more, they could set the example for others to follow. There are many things that we could do. We could put up a building. The building could be an investment as well as a structure to consolidate and give concrete shape to our aspirations.

The vital quality is the will and the pride to care for our fellows. By caring for our own without apologies, we will win the respect of the other communities. A self-help group or Co-operative need visionaries to give them enthusiasm and a start-up. We are the start-up and motivating spark.

Knowing that many of our well-to-do Tamils are shy about positions in the Board of Directors, I have taken the trouble to appeal to eleven of them to accept these posts in the Board of Directors. I trust in them and I hope you will support their election.

The persons I recommend are:-

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| 1 | Dr K Param | - | who will invest \$10,000 |
| 2 | Mr T Chandroo | - | who will invest \$10,000 |
| 3 | Mr Nirumalan Pillay | - | who will invest \$10,000 |
| 4 | Mr R Theyvendran | - | who will invest \$10,000 |
| 5 | Mr Joe Chellam | - | who will invest \$ 5,000 |
| 6 | Mr S Kumaresadas | - | who will invest \$ 5,000 |
| 7 | Mr V Balakrishnan | - | who will invest \$ 5,000 |
| 8 | Mr V C S Vardan | - | who will invest \$ 2,000 |
| 9 | Mr P Raveentharan | - | who will invest \$ 1,000 |
| 10 | Mr K Jayabalan | - | who will invest \$ 1,000 |
| 11 | Mr V K Gopal | - | who will invest \$ 1,000 |