



SINGAPORE MALAYALEE HINDU SAMAJAM

സിംഗപ്പൂർ മലയാളി ഹിന്ദു സമാജം

UEN No: S65SS00001, 10 Jalan Besar #10-12, Sim Lim Tower, Singapore 208787

MINUTES OF THE 98TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON SUNDAY, 30 JUNE 2024 AT 10.00 AM AT 44 RACE COURSE ROAD, SINGAPORE 769061.

Mr N. Jayakumar, President of Singapore Malayalee Hindu Samajam ("Samajam"), called the meeting to order at 10.00 am. Due to an insufficient quorum, the meeting was adjourned to 10.30am. The meeting reconvened at 10.30 am with 24 members present.

Item	Matters Discussed	Remarks
1	OPENING REMARKS	
1.1	The Chairperson, Mr N Jayakumar, welcomed the members to Samajam's 98 th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and invited Ms Rekha to open the meeting with a prayer.	
1.2	Following the prayer, the Chairperson requested a moment of silence to honour the memory of members who had passed away in the previous year: (a) Mr Sivaraman Vayana Pakirisamy, PBM (b) Mr K Krishnan Kutty Nair (c) Mr R Pradeep (d) Mdm K Kalliane (e) Dr Mukundan Nair	
1.3	The Standing Orders for the conduct of the AGM was read out by the Secretary, Ms Sunitha Premnath.	
2.	PRESIDENT'S OPENING ADDRESS	
2.1	<u>Introduction and 100th Year Anniversary</u> The President commenced his address by highlighting the upcoming anniversary to celebrate 100 years of the Samajam in 2026. He underlined that this milestone, is not merely a celebration of the organisation's rich history but also an opportunity to fortify its future. He requested members and volunteers to contribute their ideas for planning and executing the centennial celebrations.	
2.2	<u>Proposed New Temple Project</u> The President provided a brief update on the status of the proposed new temple project, that has taken a hiatus. He went on to add that Vice-President, Mr Chandran, would provide further updates during the meeting as per the agenda.	
2.3	<u>Vision for Samajam's Growth</u> The President outlined his vision for the organisation's future, leveraging on technology and engaging the younger generation. He	



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	<p>discussed the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and networking tools to extend the organisation's reach and impact. Emphasising the importance of youth involvement, he encouraged members to actively engage younger members as volunteers.</p> <p>He advocated for innovative thinking among Sub-committees, encouraging them to explore new technologies and creative solutions. The President cited the successful adaptation to virtual events during the COVID-19 pandemic as a model for future events.</p> <p>He also emphasised the use of various social media platforms for event publicity to boost excitement and participation and stressed the need for improved planning and execution to enhance patronage for religious activities / celebrations.</p> <p>Based on the Annual Report, he suggested that Samajam should achieve better attendance and financial success for future events through better planning and publicity.</p> <p>He concluded his message by acknowledging the contributions of the various Subcommittees in achieving their respective goals.</p>	
3	CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE 97th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	
3.1	Ms Sunitha updated the meeting that the Minutes of the 97 th AGM was circulated to members on 29 May 2024 and again on 20 June 2024.	
3.2	As there was no amendment, the minutes of the 97th AGM was approved, as proposed by Mr Chandran Nair and seconded by Mr Dipu Bhaskar	
4	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 96th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	
4.1	Vice President, Mr Chandran Nair presented the following matters arising.	
4.2	<p><u>Agenda Item 2, Para 2.7 – 100th Year Anniversary</u></p> <p><i>“On the project to build a new temple, the President informed that the Samajam’s Executive Committee (“EXCO”) and the appointed temple development pro tem committee has been working with the relevant government agencies. He hopes the temple would be ready by 2026, to commemorate the 100th year anniversary of the Samajam.”</i></p>	



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4.2.1	<p><u>Call for Volunteers:</u></p> <p>Mr Chandran Nair made reference to the 100-year anniversary celebration as mentioned in the 2023 AGM minutes. He then presented a breakdown of the various areas requiring support for the centennial celebration planning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event planning: Brainstorming for creative ideas, developing a comprehensive timeline and budget and securing reliable vendors. • Logistics: Venue coordination, transportation, and set-up of the celebration space. • Activities and entertainment: Organising engaging cultural programmes, captivating performances and games. • Marketing and promotion: Spreading the word through various channels. <p>Mr Chandran Nair emphasised the need for volunteers to contribute to these areas.</p>	
4.2.2	<p><u>On the Vice President's suggestions:</u></p> <p>Mr. Chandramohan, in response to the call for volunteers, suggested the formation of an Organising Committee by the Executive Committee. He further proposed that the Committee actively recruit members and volunteers to participate in the brainstorming and planning process.</p> <p>He then presented additional ideas for the celebration, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organising significant events such as scholarships or a symposium related to Hinduism. • Collaborating with other Hindu and non-Hindu organisations. • Creating a commemorative magazine to trace the history of the Samajam. • Identifying potential guests of honour. <p>Mr Chandran Nair thanked Mr Chandramohan for his valuable ideas and indicated they would be discussed at next Exco meeting.</p>	
4.2.3	<p><u>Funding Discussion:</u></p> <p>Mr. Asokan raised a point regarding the funding of the anniversary events, suggesting that the Samajam should rely solely on donations and sponsorships.</p> <p>In response to Mr. Asokan, Mr Chandran Nair acknowledged the importance of fundraising efforts but indicated that relying solely on donations from members might not be feasible. He said that some money may have to be drawn from the reserves.</p>	



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4.3	<p><u>Agenda Item 7, Para 7.4.1 – Preserving Samajam's History and Heritage</u></p> <p><i>"Formation of a historical and heritage subcommittee to look into the history of the Samajam, given that the organisation would be marking its 100th year anniversary in three years' time. Additionally, facts be checked and verified to support the information displayed on the Samajam's website."</i></p>	
4.3.1	<p><u>Samajam Heritage Subcommittee's update</u></p> <p>Ms Sindhu, the Chairperson of the Heritage Subcommittee, provided an update on the Committee's progress.</p> <p>She informed the meeting that Ms Anita Pillai has expressed interest in writing about Samajam's history. However, due to her current year-long project commitment to the Indian Heritage Centre she was not able to start on the project.</p> <p>However, Ms Anita has volunteered to create a heritage wall at the new temple and has offered to interview Ms Sharala Gopal to gather valuable insights. She added that Ms. Sharala Gopal, has offered to share her knowledge and old photos related to her great-grandfather, the late Mr. Chathukutty, who was the founder of Samajam.</p>	
4.3.2	<p><u>Discussion and Volunteer Recruitment:</u></p> <p>In response to the presentation, Mr Chandramohan and Mr Asokan expressed their keen interest in joining the Heritage Subcommittee and requested the creation of a WhatsApp group to facilitate communication within the Subcommittee. They volunteered to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assist in finding and contacting pioneers who have contributed to Samajam in the past. • Help to gather historical evidence and materials from various sources such as articles, AGM minutes, and old photographs. <p>They suggested seeking help from the National Library and the Registry of Societies (RoS) to retrieve archival materials on Samajam's history.</p> <p>Ms. Sindhu concluded by encouraging members to support the heritage project by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • volunteering to be interviewed and share their knowledge about Samajam's history. • contributing any materials or artefacts relevant to Samajam's history, such as photographs and documents. 	



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4.4	<p><u>Agenda Item 7, Para 7.4.3 – Secretariat for Samajam</u></p> <p><i>“Formation of a proper secretariat for Samajam, similar to that of Sree Narayana Mission. He opined that with the planned development of a temple, the establishment of a proper Secretariat was of importance.”</i></p> <p>Mr Chandran Nair reported the difficulty in finding volunteers for the Samajam Secretariat position. As an interim solution, Ms. Rekha was appointed to manage both the Samajam Secretariat and the new temple project. Since Ms. Rekha's primary responsibility has been managing the temple project, her position became redundant after the project went into hiatus.</p> <p>Faced with the challenge of recruiting a Secretariat, Mr Chandramohan proposed exploring the possibility of collaborating with other Indian organizations to share services.</p>	
4.5	<p><u>Agenda Item 8, Para 8.4 – Surplus Funds and Fixed Deposit</u></p> <p><i>“Dr V.P Nair suggested the placement of surplus funds in a Fixed Deposit (FD) account, given the interest rate has increased. Mr Sujith replied that the Samajam currently had a FD account with UCO Bank. Mr Govindan supported Dr V.P Nair's suggestion and requested that quotes on interest rates be obtained from banks before a decision is taken on the FD.”</i></p> <p>Mr. Chandran Nair informed the meeting that the current surplus funds are placed as Fixed Deposit (FD) with UCO Bank, earning an interest rate of 3 percent. He continued that the Board has decided to transfer all the surplus funds to DBS due to a more favourable interest rate.</p>	
5.	TO ADOPT THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023	
5.1	With no amendments or objections from the members, the Annual Report 2023 was adopted as proposed by Mr Asokan Raghavan and seconded by Mr Ullas Kumar.	
5.2	A brief overview of the annual report was presented by the Vice-President, Mr. Chandran Nair. He highlighted the various religious events conducted by Samajam throughout the year and the activities of the different Subcommittees.	
5.3	He also acknowledged the challenges faced in engaging youth members, adding that they had limited free time to volunteer due to their busy schedules. He also pointed out that finding relevant volunteer opportunities can be even more difficult for religious organisations.	



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5.4	A youth member, Mr. Arvind, proposed a solution to address the challenge of engaging youths. He suggested creating a united platform for Malayalee youths from Sree Narayan Mission (SNM), Singapore Malayalee Association (SMA) and Samajam. This platform could organise events and activities that cater to a broader range of interests, including social events, cultural activities and workshops related to meditation, yoga and spirituality. Mr. Arvind believes this approach could attract more youths and foster a stronger sense of community among young Malayalees.	
5.5	The Secretary, Ms Sunitha Premnath, was tasked with reaching out to the two organisations mentioned by Mr Arvind to explore the possibility of a collaborative effort to kick-start youth involvement. This may involve arranging a meeting for the youth representatives from both organisations to discuss potential areas of engagement.	
6.	TO ADOPT THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023	
6.1	Mr. Suresh Kumar Balakrishnan, the Treasurer, addressed the members regarding the financial statements. He confirmed that the financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2023, had been previously distributed to members via email and uploaded on the website. He emphasised that the year's audited accounts covered an extended period of 15 months, from September 2022 to December 2023.	
6.2	He then went through the salient features of the audited financial report. He informed the meeting that the Samajam's financial position shows a slight improvement.	
6.2.1	<p><u>Financial Position (as of December 31, 2023):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall: The Samajam's total assets increased by S\$18,427 to S\$452,082. Assets: Current assets, primarily cash and cash equivalents, increased by S\$14,313 to S\$441,494. Other receivables also increased by S\$4,114 to S\$10,588. Funds and Liabilities: Unrestricted and restricted funds both increased by S\$17,021. Current liabilities, primarily other payables and accruals, decreased by S\$15,849 to S\$95,589. 	
6.2.2	The Treasurer provided an update on a significant portion of the Samajam's current liabilities related to the construction of the new temple. He provided the breakdown as follows:	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temple Donation: Samajam currently holding a total of S\$115,374 on behalf of the temple project. • Initial Construction Expenses: S\$23,509.76 has already been spent on initial construction and groundbreaking activities for the temple. • Remaining Balance: After accounting for expenses, the current balance held for the temple project is S\$91,865. This amount is reflected in the Samajam's "Other Payables and Accruals" under "Related party – Trust A/C." 	
6.2.3	He reiterated that Samajam would transfer that amount (S\$91,865) to Samajam Company Limited (SCL) once they have opened a dedicated bank account. This transfer would remove the liability from the SMHS's financial statements.	
6.2.4	<p><u>Financial Performance (October 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue: Total revenue was S\$141,079, with function income being the largest contributor (S\$139,438). Membership fees brought in S\$1,641. • Expenses: Total operating expenses were S\$110,368. Function expenses were the largest expense at S\$55,968. • Income: The SMHS generated a surplus for the period after tax of S\$34,042. And there was a transfer of \$17,021 from the surplus to the Restricted Reserve Fund 	
7	REAPPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS	
7.1	<p>B P Yap & Co was re-appointed as the external auditor of the Samajam for the financial year 2024.</p> <p>Mr Jayakumar proposed the re-appointment and Mr Suresh Kumar Balakrishnan seconded it.</p>	
8	ANY OTHER RESOLUTIONS	
8.1	There were no resolutions received as at the deadline on 17 June 2024.	
9 & 10.	UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED “SREE AYYAPPAN GURUVAYURAPPAN TEMPLE” AND FUNDRAISING	
9.1 & 10.1	The Vice President, Mr Chandran Nair gave an update on the proposed temple project and fundraising.	
9.2	<u>Proposed Temple Project Update:</u>	
9.2.1	He informed the members that Samajam Company Limited (SCL) initial plan to acquire additional land adjacent to the Sree Maha Mariamman	



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10.2 10.2.1	<p>Temple (SMMT) through a lease agreement had encountered a setback.</p> <p>In view of this, the proposed temple project is currently on hold. He informed members that the Samajam is exploring alternative options to secure a suitable location for the temple.</p> <p><u>Fundraising Update for Temple Project</u></p> <p>Mr. Chandran Nair informed the members that due to the temporary halt of the temple project, fundraising efforts were put on hold since September 2023.</p> <p>Following the project pause, the Temple Committee met with donors who had requested a refund. The Committee agreed to return 85 percent of their contributions. The remaining 15 percent was retained to cover expenses incurred for preliminary architectural works and land blessing.</p>	
11	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
11.1 11.1.1	<p>The Secretary announced the following:</p> <p><u>Board Membership Update</u></p> <p>Regarding changes in the Board: Members Mr Sujith Sivaram, Mr R Pradeep (deceased), Mr Krishnan Kutty and Mr Anil Kumar Sankara had left.</p> <p>The Exco has appointed Ms Binukumar Bhargavan Nair, Ms Indu Jayadev, Mr Arun Muraleedharan, and Mr Pankaj Mitra to fill the vacancies.</p>	
11.1.2	<p><u>Internal Auditor Update</u></p> <p>Dr Deepu Mohan has stepped down as Internal Auditor and Mr Dipu Bhaskar taking his place.</p>	
11.1.3	<p><u>Membership By-laws</u></p> <p>The Executive Committee has reviewed and approved the Membership By-laws, which have subsequently been published on the website.</p>	
12	ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING	
12.1	As there being no other matters for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11.30 am	

Recorded by: Sunitha Premnath. Gen Secretary

Approved by: Jayakumar Narayanan, President