

23/07/2001

Fund in memory of Pathmanaban set up

PETALING JAYA, Sun. - An endowment education fund was established today in memory of the late community leader and prominent politician Datuk K. Pathmanaban.

The fund, to be managed by the Malacca Manipal Medical College (MMMC), was initiated during a memorial service for Pathmanaban, which was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, at the Plantation House here.

Malacca Manipal Medical College chairman Dr Ramdas M. Pai started the fund rolling with a contribution of RM250,000 after which a steady flow of contributions raised the amount to about RM450,000 in less than 15 minutes.

Memorial service organising chairman Datuk S. Subramaniam said the fund, to be administered by the MMMC, would be of aid to students of the medical college based on need and merits.

The medical college, officiated at by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on July 17, is a brainchild of the late Pathmanaban.

Earlier during the function attended by more than 1,500 people, Abdullah said that Pathmanaban's demise is a loss not only to the Indian community but also to all Malaysians and the Government in particular.

He said Pathmanaban, who had served the nation in various capacities from 1961 until retiring from active politics in 1991, was a person who should be emulated by all.

"He was a good husband, father, community leader, politician and a very good family friend of mine," Abdullah said in his brief speech.

Also present were Pathmanaban's mother Rohini Kunjambo, 89, and his three sons.

Pathmanaban passed away at the Pantai Medical Centre on June 9 after suffering from liver cancer.

Also present were MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, Minister in the Prime Minister's department Datuk Rais Yatim, Suhakam chairman Tan Sri Musa Hitam and a host of other dignitaries including the High Commissioners of India and Singapore.

(END)