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Uma's contribution to community kicks off column

Balan Moses; Ramlan Said; Lim Chee Wei

TO Malaysians below 40, the name Toh Puan Uma Sambanthan may not ring a bell, but older people will know her as the wife of the first Malayan Indian Cabinet member.

Malaysia Nanban yesterday featured her in a new column celebrating Indian women who have contributed over the decades to the community.

The newspaper quoted her as saying that the nation had changed tremendously since 1957 when Tun V.T. Sambanthan helmed the MIC and was its representative in the post-Independence Cabinet.

Uma told the newspaper that the plight of many Indians in the estates had also changed mostly due to the establishment of the National Land Finance Co-operative Society.

The driving force behind the NLFCS for many years, the nearly 80-years-old Uma had much to do with the fact that the co-operative today has several estates to its name.

On Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, she said he had built on the base established by the first Prime Minister Tengku Abdul Rahman to take the nation to new heights.

Dr Mahathir, she said, had turned Malaysia into an economic power to be reckoned with on the international front.

Tamil Nesan, meanwhile, yesterday highlighted the plight of 14 families who were being forced to leave their homes in Lukut Estate, Negri Sembilan, by a housing developer who had obtained a court order to the effect.