

## **'Rename road after Tun Sambanthan'**

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**By KALAVAANI KARUPIAH**

SUNGAI SIPUT: RESIDENTS here are requesting the Perak state government and the Kuala Kangsar Municipal Council to consider changing the name of Jalan Lintang into Jalan Tun V.T. Sambanthan.

The reason, they said, was because the house where Sambanthan grew up was located along the road.

Sambanthan was the fifth MIC president and one of the founding fathers of Malaysia, along with Tunku Abdul Rahman and Tun Tan Cheng Lock.

A resident, who only wanted to be known as Elan, said Sambanthan played an important role in the country's independence movement.

"Sambanthan was also responsible for developing then Malaya with Tunku Abdul Rahman, our first prime minister. Numerous developments were made during Sambanthan's time where he held various ministerial positions. "What is wrong in dedicating the road to him?" he asked.

Sambanthan, who was born on June 16, 1919, was the second child of M.S. Veerasamy, a pioneer rubber estate owner in Sungai Siput.

A check by Streets found that the house where Sambanthan grew up is there in Jalan Lintang.

Many residents said Sambanthan should be honoured for his contribution to the society and to Sungai Siput community.

A resident, who wants to be known as Aruna, said Sambanthan was elected as Perak MIC chairman in 1955 and he was also the founder of the Mahatma Gandhi Kalasalai school which is still operating in the district.

"As MIC president and one of the country's founding fathers, Sambanthan was also instrumental in the finalisation of the Merdeka Constitution in 1957 and the creation of Malaysia in 1963," she said.

Aruna hopes that the state government led by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir will look into the matter favourably.

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