

Date: 19 October 2013
Time: 6 pm
Venue: Vermont South Community House
Karobran Drive, Vermont South

The Annual General Meeting of the Ceylon Students Educational Fund (Fund) was held on 19 October 2014 chaired by the Secretary, Mr Cornelius. The meeting was held at the Vermont South Community House at 6pm.

The Secretary, Mr Cornelius commenced the AGM inviting the past presidents to light the lamp. A minute's silence was observed for those who had lost their lives in the conflict.

The Treasurer, Mrs Sriskantharajah read the Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting. The Minutes of the 24th AGM and the Financial Statement for the 2011-2012 years were submitted by the Assistant Treasurer, Mr Murugapoopathy. Dr Chandranath proposed correctness of the statements and Mr Sivanathan seconded the correctness of these statements.

The Committee wished to bring the following matters to the attention of the members:

- Mr Murugapoopathy wished to point that some of the students who had benefitted from the Fund are now doing well for instance a student Christy Ruben is the First Secretary to the High Commissioner in Jordan. A number of the students have attended university and quite a few of them have completed their university degree.
- Difficulties with tracing of students who relocate still continues.
- The organisation in charge of distributing funds in the Trinco, Batticaloa and Vavuniya areas are very slow and there are significant delays. We have not provided any funds since December 2012 as we have not received any confirmation that the last amount of funds have been distributed. It was suggested by the members that a replacement organisation should be considered if we are facing significant delays.
- The committee has been fielding queries from sponsors as to why so little funds have been provided to the students.
- Mr Murugapoopathy pointed out that the Fund has been in operation for the last 24 years. At the last visit to Sri Lanka when Mr Murugapoopathy met with the students and their parent, he noticed that most of them had mobile phones. Mr Murugapoopathy suggested that in light of the ease with which sponsors can visit Sri Lanka as well as send funds, that the individual sponsors take responsibility for sending the funds to their respective student. The Fund will continue to look after the students that do not currently have sponsors. This proposal was not accepted by the members present as they believed

that if it was the responsibility of individual sponsors then the provision of funds will not be undertaken in an orderly manner.

- Mr Ravindran suggested that if the administrative costs are high then the Committee should try and obtain some contacts who will help shoulder some of these costs.
- Mr Nadesan suggested that we should try and remit the funds to the students directly so that it avoids any delays. This can be done by identifying the individual students and setting up a bank account for them and then remit the funds to their account directly through a Sri Lankan bank account.
- It was suggested that a letter should be sent to each of the students starting with the Vavuniya district, asking them to send their details within 30 days or they risk losing the financial assistance. Open a bank account in Sri Lanka and set up a direct debit system to transfer the funds every 3 months. In return the student needs to send us an update, if they fail to then assistance will be stopped.
- The members then considered whether the monthly contribution should be increased to \$25 to \$30 to take into account inflation and the high living costs. It was suggested that the Committee should undertake a review of what it will cost to increase the contribution and see if it can be sustained prior to raising the amount.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr Murugapoopathy. This was followed by a dinner for all the members in attendance.

Vithiya Sriskantharajah
Treasurer (CSEF)
5 November 2013