

From: Rama

## **R.I.P. CHELVARAJAH R R (59-60) 6-12-2019**

I. At 8.33 pm today (7-12-2019: Saturday) Vimala Kandiah (59-60) called me to convey the sad news of Chelvarajah's passing. She heard the news from the wife of the late Sakhianathan (59-60) from Malacca.

I called Chelva's home just after 10 pm and managed to speak to his wife, Leela. According to Leela, Chelva passed away at 7.33 pm on Friday (yesterday), 6-12-2019.

I'm told that Chelva contracted pneumonia three weeks ago which wreaked him physically. There was no chance of him recovering. Last night (Friday) even though he was on the ventilator, he just slipped away in the presence of his wife. He was 80 years old on 13-3-2019.

Tomorrow's Star will carry the Obituary and details. The funeral will take place on Monday, 9-12-2019 at 10 am. His son is on the way from UK.

Chelvarajah was from my batch, the eighth batch. His Option was History/Geography. He was from Block 9. I think that he was the only one to have had a tape-record player in college which used to entertain us with many popular songs of the time. My favourite song then was "Rollin' rollin' rollin' " from Rawhide the cowboy TV series starring East Clintwood.

When I organized a tour of Europe, Chelva was part of the group. I remember the bull fight that we witnessed in Spain and the Vodka that Chelva bought which I tasted for the first time – it really hit me hard!

We were quite close in college. And we kept in touch for a long time. Manasseh and I visited Chelva in Malacca during the first term holidays. We stayed with him. Chelva could

drive then and he hired a black Morris Minor and took us round.

Chelva also visited us in Penang and stayed at my place together with Manasseh for the night. The next day we went to Penang, saw places and put up at a hotel for the night.

Many years later, when Chelva's son got married, Shanmuganathan (59-60), Easvaralingam (60-61) and I attended the wedding in Malacca.

After college Chelva was posted to Malacca and taught at the Malacca High School. During this period he played a very prominent role in the National Union of Teachers at the Branch and national levels. He was very vocal and committed.

After his marriage, he and his wife went to UK to read law and both husband and wife graduated together. He had his practice in Malacca.

During Anwar's first trial, he was the Bar Council President and served with distinction. In 2009, Chelva was appointed a member of the Anti-corruption Advisory Board. I announced this appointment and shared this happy news with my fellow Kirkbyites. (See attachment below)

He attended the 2004 Penang Kirkby Reunion. He, the late Michael Sham, the late Nagarajah, Ahmad Omar and Shan came together. Chelva also attended the 2008 Malacca Kirkby Reunion. After the first night dinner and programme, he took a few of us out for supper. We had a wonderful time together.

Some years ago, when my family visited Malacca, Chelva took us out for a hearty breakfast.

We have kept in touch from college days albeit not that often in the last few years.

“Death ends a life, not a relationship.”

— [Mitch Albom, Tuesdays with Morrie](#)

Those wishing to convey their condolences can reach Leela at 06-284 6264. Please identify yourself as a Kirkbyite.

In sorrow,

RAMA

8-12-2019

II. My dear fellow Kirkbyites,  
I'm forwarding additional background information on our late colleague, R R Chelvarajah.  
He had an illustrious career and served the cause of justice in an exemplary manner. Unfortunately, his contributions were hardly known in our Kirkby circle.

With very warm regards,  
RAMA

THE MALAYSIAN BAR:

In Memoriam R R Chelvarajah (Chelvarajah, R R)

It is with great sadness that we record that R R Chelvarajah, who was a consultant at Messrs Sault Scott & Co., in Melaka, passed away on 6 Dec 2019.

R R Chelvarajah was admitted as an advocate and solicitor of the High Court of Malaya in 1970, and was one of the most senior Members of the Malaysian Bar for the past several years.

He was the 22nd President of the Malaysian Bar (1999-2000) and former Chairman of the Malacca Bar from 1982 to 1986. He served as Council member from 1982 to 2008. He was Vice-President of the

Malaysian Bar from 1997 to 1999, and Treasurer of the Malaysian Bar from 1993 to 1995.

Among the Bar Council committees he chaired were the Scholarship Committee (1993-1996), Compensation Fund Committee (1993-1995), Finance Committee (1993-1995), Human Rights Committee (1994-1995), Legal Profession Committee (1998-1999), Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee (1998-1999), and Study Loan Committee (2006-2008). He also served as Chairperson of the 12th Commonwealth Law Conference Committee from 1997 to 1998.

The Malaysian Bar extends its heartfelt condolences and sympathies to his family members and loved ones.

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The funeral service will be held at 10:00 am to 11.30 am today, 9 Dec 2019, and the cortege will leave for cremation at Jelutong Hindu Crematorium, Melaka.

[https://www.malaysianbar.org.my/in\\_memoriam/in\\_memoriam\\_%7C\\_r\\_r\\_chelvarajah\\_chelvarajah\\_r\\_r.html](https://www.malaysianbar.org.my/in_memoriam/in_memoriam_%7C_r_r_chelvarajah_chelvarajah_r_r.html)

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Mr. R.R. Chelvarajah, Former President of the Malaysian Bar (Bar Council) passed away on 6th December 2019 after a short illness.

S Radhakrishnan <radhakrishnan@shearndelamore.com>

To:P Ramakrishnan

Cc:Radhakrishnan S. Rao

Dec 10 at 10:49 AM

Dear Rama

Mr. R.R. Chelvarajah, Former President of the Malaysian Bar (Bar Council) passed away on 6th December 2019 after a short illness. He was the President of the Malaysian Bar/Chairman of the Bar Council in 1999. He was the Senior Partner of one of the oldest law firms in Malaysia "Sault & Co." based in Malacca. He was later appointed a Consultant of the firm upon his retirement.

The funeral services were held at the family residence at No.94, Lorong Indah 2, Taman Perkota, 75350 Malacca on Monday (today), 9th December 2019 from 10.00am to 11.30am. Thereafter, the cortege left for cremation at the Jelutong Hindu Crematorium.

He started his career as a Kirkby trained teacher in 1960. Subsequently, he left for London to read law in 1967. He was called to the English Bar together with his wife, Mrs. Leela Chelvarajah in 1970. Amongst his batch of law students in London were Dato' Sri Gopal Sri Ram and Dato K. Kumarendran.

He was called to the Malaysian Bar in 1971. He was elected as the President of the Malaysian Bar in 1999.

Mr. R.R. Chelvarajah was a very active Trade Unionist while he was a teacher. He was the Chairman of the National Union of Teachers, Malacca branch for many years. He was also the Chairman of the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) and he served as a Council Member of the General Council of the MTUC at National level.

During the first sodomy trial of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim which was presided by Dato' Augustine Paul, he held the Watching Brief on behalf of the Bar Council for the full trial. He worked very closely with the late Mr Karpal Singh who was the lead Counsel for Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in this case. He represented the country in many International Conferences as the President of the Malaysian Bar. He is a very senior member of the Malaysian Bar.

He leaves behind his wife, Mrs. Leela Chelvarajah, his son, Dr. Ramesh Chelvarajah (a senior surgeon in the United Kingdom), his daughter-in-law Mrs. Rosa Maria Lopez, three grandchildren, his sister, Madam Kanaga Lakshimi, his brothers, SKRM Dorai Raj and his wife Janaki and the other brother SKRM Krishnasamy and his wife Kamala and a host of other relatives.

He was one of the lawyers in the famous Bukit Cina case in Malacca.

Regards,

S. Radhakrishnan

Consultant

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III. 2009 announcement of appointment of R R Chelvarajah as member of Anti-corruption Advisory Board

25 February 2009

My Dear Kirkbyites,

I am very happy and proud to announce that our Kirkbyite from the 1959/1960 batch has been appointed a member of the Anti-corruption Advisory Board. I personally feel that it is a great honour that one of our Kirkbyites has been chosen for this exalted appointment.

Knowing Chelva, I must say it is a well-deserved recognition. He is someone we all can depend on to speak up and take a stand on issues of corruption without fear or favour.

Those of us who remember the tumultuous period following Anwar's sacking as Deputy Prime Minister, would recall that the Bar Council was in the doldrums then. It was rather fortunate that Chelva was elected as its President around this time.

During the one year he served the Bar Council, Chelva revived the Bar Council into a dynamic organization it used to be previously. He spoke fearlessly and ferociously on issues of right and wrong.

His press statements were uncompromising and told what has to be told very boldly and with a great deal of conviction.

It is a pity that Chelva did not seek a second term after having served for a year. He would have been easily re-elected. But in that one year he served the organization with commitment and courage and stood up to be counted.

Well, if anyone wishes to congratulate Chelva, the following information may be useful:

(List of contacts is no longer applicable; so it has been removed)

With very warm regards,

Rama