

ADDRESS BY THIRU SURJIT SINGH BARNALA, HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR  
OF TAMIL NADU AT THE GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS FUNCTION OF  
DR.KALAINAR M.KARUNANIDHI IN TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,  
AT TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, CHENNAI  
ON 11.05.2007 AT 10.00 A.M.

\*\*\*\*\*

It gives me great pleasure to felicitate the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr.Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi on the occasion of the completion of his 50 years of public service as Legislator.

As Makwell Droke said, "In every field of endeavour those who put their hearts in their work are the real leaders". Dr.Kalaignar has put his heart and soul in his work and is leading Tamil Nadu on the path of becoming the best State in India.

I know Dr.Kalaignar for nearly four decades. When he visited Punjab I was then Education Minister. He has stood firm during difficult times and had undergone trials and tribulations for the cause of the Tamils and Tamil Nadu. He is a leader of repute who has brought name and fame to Tamil Nadu.

John Stuart Mill, a great Parliamentarian said that in a representative democracy, the legislature acts as the eyes, ears and voice of the people. The legislature represents the public will. The legislature operates under a system of collective decision making. In addition to official law making capacity, most legislatures perform a educational role by simplifying complicated issues and defining policy choices. It is in this context that we have to appreciate the services of Dr.Kalaignar in that he has on many occasions thrown light on several complicated issues and made them easy for solution.

Dr.Kalaignar has been an extremely successful participant in assembly debates and discussions. This could have been possible only due to hard work, study and day-to-day preparation. Insights into economic problems with rare mastery over details could have been possible only due to a deep study made of the issues. Kalaignar has a sharp intellect reinforced by interest in public affairs. Moreover, he has a high sense of responsibility with everlasting loyalty to Tamil Nadu and Tamils.

Dr.Kalaignar is held in high esteem for his vast knowledge in a variety of fields. He has administrative dynamism and is extremely brilliant in debate. He has a vision for social justice. Few people in India have a more intimate knowledge than Kalaignar of the intricacies of politics and administration. He has contributed a lot in bringing in new industries to Tamil Nadu, creating new avenues for employment and economic progress. The bureaucracy also moves on with a new vigour thanks to his dynamic leadership.

Thomas Mann said, "Speech is civilization itself. The word, even the most contradictory word, preserves contact – it is silence which isolates". In this context, Dr.Kalaignar in his innumerable speeches in the Assembly has preserved contacts with several issues which face the common man. Wit along with deep meaning has helped to defreeze many a piquant situation and has also resulted in solutions to different problems.

Greatness by men is not reached without special merit. For a person to be a Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu five times and to win every election that he fought in his political career is indeed remarkable. He entered politics at the tender age of 14. He was inspired by the leaders of the Justice Party. He founded a student organization called "Tamil Nadu Tamil Maanavar Mandram" which was the first student wing of the Dravidian Movement and through this youth movement he worked up to the legislature. He was elected to the Assembly first in 1957 and won all the 11 Assembly elections that he contested.

I had opportunity on two occasions as Governor of Tamil Nadu to see for myself the deep sense of involvement of Kalaignar in social reforms, his profound understanding of politics and his amazing administrative capacity.

Generally, the cadres go in search of their leader. However, it amazed me when I came to know that the late leader Anna went in search of Kalaighnar, who at the age of 14, contributed an article to "Dravida Nadu" a magazine published by Anna. This article was greatly appreciated by Anna. Later, when Anna visited Tiruvarur to participate in a function, he enquired in the village about Kalaighnar and was keen to see him. When Kalaighnar, the small boy was produced before him, Anna hugged him in surprise and in ecstasy.

Similarly, the incident in which Periyar accepted, Kalaighnar as his student is worth recalling. I am told that in 1945 there was a meeting in Puducherry in which Kalaighnar participated along with Periyar and Anna. In that meeting, the political enemies attacked Kalaighnar and threw him into a gutter and ran away. Periyar searched for Kalaighnar and attended on the wounds suffered by Kalaighnar and felt very sorry for him. Later, Periyar took Kalaighnar along with him to Erode and made him the sub-editor of "Kudiyarasu". This is how Kalaighnar became a student of Periyar and till date is giving a legal shape to the various social reforms of Periyar. Particular mention should be made of the recent act by which people of all castes among Hindus are entitled to become Archakars. This is a great deed by which the dream of Thanthai Periyar has become a reality.

Dr.Kalaighnar through his powerful writings has the capacity to touch the hearts of the people. He has created a revolution in society through his books which number over 150. He is widely seen as a great person who has given a new life to Tamil literature. Kalaighnar has also effectively conveyed social reform messages to the people through Cinema.

Apart from literature, Kalaighnar has also contributed to the Tamil language through art and architecture. Like the Kuraloviyam which Kalaighnar wrote about Thirukkural, he through the construction of Valluvar Kottam gave an architectural presence to Thiruvalluvar. At Kanniyakumari, Kalaighnar has constructed a 133 feet high statue of Thiruvalluvar which effectively portrays the feelings of Kalaighnar to the great immortal scholar.

The basic foundation of the fame of Kalaighnar and the fulcrum of his greatness lies in his extraordinary command over language. This mesmerizes even his political adversaries. Thiruvalluvar has in one of his couplets said that, "Mighty in word, of unforgetful mind, of fearless speech, it is hard for hostile power such man to over reach". In line with the above poem, Kalaighnar has a fantastic command over language. He never tires. Fearlessness is one of his greatest qualities. I am sure that, for this even his adversaries could not disagree.

I wish to recall an incident in 1972 which speaks highly of the political decency of Kalaighnar. In 1972, several freedom fighters including Rajaji were chosen for awards in appreciation of their participation in the freedom struggle. Rajaji could not come in person on 02.10.1972 and Rajaji requested Kalaighnar to get the award on his behalf from the Governor and send it across to him. On 02.10.72, Kalaighnar received the award on behalf of Rajaji and on 03.10.72 went to Rajaji's home and garlanded him and handed over the award. This was greatly appreciated by Rajaji and the gesture of the Chief Minister going in person and handing over the award was well taken.

Similarly, though Kalaighnar and Kamaraj had politically several differences of opinion, yet there has been none other than Kalaighnar who has honoured Kamaraj. In fact, Kalaighnar was highly appreciated by Kamaraj even during his life time.

Dr.Kalaighnar has won the hearts of the people of Tamil Nadu especially the poor and downtrodden. He is called a people's Chief Minister. His novel schemes like Scheme for Restoration of Vision, Beggars' Rehabilitation programme, introduction of Cycle Rickshaws instead of Hand Rickshaws, Slum Clearance, Marriage Assistance Scheme, Samathuvapuram, Uzhavar Sandhai, Distribution of Waste Lands to the Landless Farmers, Free Colour TVs and Gas connection to the poor and the downtrodden, Rice at subsidized price of Rs.2 a Kilo, speaks volumes of his dedicated service for the upliftment of the poor.

Generally in politics, people succeed better if they are good speakers and mix good humour and comments in their speeches and they carry a wonderful memory also. Good speakers

are able to quote verses after verses from various original sources in order to convince their listeners. Such capabilities are rarely seen and one such person who has this capability is Dr.Kalaignar.

India is the biggest democratic country in the world with the best form of Government with people's representatives in the Legislatures and the Parliament. It is a democracy with dignity and stability. Good and able administration combined with simplicity has made Dr.Kalaignar M.Karunanidhi win people's faith and has earned him the pride of being elected again and again in all the Assembly elections since last 50 years.

His eloquent speech, poetic talents, political sagacity have made him win the hearts of the people of Tamil Nadu. Dr.Kalaignar as he is affectionately called has carved a niche and is the ambrosia of the people of Tamil Nadu. He stands as a role model to the members of the Legislature at all times.

We have seen many types of Golden Jubilee Celebrations. The only person in India who has seen Golden Jubilee in legislature through 50 years of democracy is Kalaignar. This goes to prove that Kalaignar is a great genius as far as the philosophy of democracy is concerned.

In the interest of democracy and the people, we need meaningful articulations in the assembly. In this connection, the services rendered by Dr.Kalaignar are eminently laudable. May his service to the cause of Tamil Nadu and India continue forever. May his life stand as an example for the serving and budding politicians. I wish him a healthy and long life and pray to Almighty that he be blessed with many more years of fruitful service to the State and the Country.

Jai Hind.

\*\*\*\*\*