



Building that paved the way to the nation independence

**Did you know that Meng Seng Charitable Association (MSCA) operates a hall that contributes to locals and underprivileged community, providing free medical consultation and treatments?**

Patients only need to pay RM1.00 registration and are entitled to receive both western as well as traditional Chinese medicine from the qualified acupuncturists and medical officers. The free clinic operated from Monday to Saturday from 8.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. Medicines are given absolutely free of charge.

Meng Seng Hall means a little to a passerby but what happened in the building in the year 1954 paved way to our independent in 1957.

The most significant event was the impromptu gathering of some 200 UMNO members in the year 1954 according to the secretary of Meng Seng Charity Association, Datuk Soon Kim Hock.

In fact it a gathering of over UMNO members and members of public from all walks of life gathered at Meng Seng Hall to listen to our first Prime Minister, the late Tengku Abdul Rahman upon his return from

London.

The emergency gathering was held was to get people's mandate on the next course of action after Tengku's failed attempt to get independence from the British.

Soon said the spirit of nationalism was high and people started casting whatever that was on them from jewelleries, watches and even their selendang and so on down from the upper floor of the humble Meng Seng Hall to show their ultimate support for the Tengku and to enable the first Prime Minister to make the second trip to London.

In fact, the impromptu collection of political funds eventually got what Malaysians wanted; paving the way for Malaysia's independence in the 1957. Incidentally, the parade to kick start Merdeka month celebration started from the point where MCSA building stands.

The hall after all these years is still standing strong at 99 Wolferstan Road or Jalan Bendahara. Besides, the UMNO Museum of Melaka, there is no portrayal or mention of this significant building in Melaka.

The Museum Corporation and the authority must consider reenacting this significant event of impromptu gathering in the hall as the event would always be the part and parcel of Malaysia's history. In conjunction with 50th Anniversary of Merdeka, it calls for the 'reenactment' to remind present generation of political parties and public on significant of alliance among the people of Melaka and Malaysia.

Meng Seng Hall was also the headquarters or Kempetei during the Japanese occupation of then Malaya. Citizens who were suspected of smuggling rice and so on were imprisoned there and hundreds including past members of the charity association had been tortured and beheaded by the Japanese during their occupation in Melaka.

Consequently, MSCA holds annual hungry ghost prayers and offerings to appease those unfortunately souls who had gone in the hard way. Until today, Soon said certain taboos are observed like no swearing and spitting in the hall especially in the hungry ghost month.