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TAN SRI DR. MOHAMED SUFFIAN
PROFESSOR AHMAD IBRAHIM
DATUK EUSOFFE ABDOLCADER

Advisory Editorial Board

Singapore:

C. C. TAN ESQ
PROFESSOR TOMMY KOH

Editor: FAIZAL MALLAL, LL.B.

KDN, 5682: M.C.(P) No. 3814

Telephones: 93972 & 912645

4-B, Raffles Place, Singapore, 1.

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Dr. Bashir Ahmad Mallal

The Management and Staff of the Malayan Law Journal deeply mourn the death of the late *Dr. Bashir Ahmad Mallal*, Founder and Editor of this journal, who passed away peacefully on the 5th day of September, 1972, at the age of 74. His loss has been sudden and irreplaceable. The members of his staff all loved him and will long remember him for his generosity and fatherly affection. He always regarded them as members of his family.

Born in Domel, West Pakistan, on the 26th day of February, 1898, Bashir Mallal travelled East and arrived in this country some time during the First World War. It was from that period onwards that this ambitious and industrious young man, starting work as a solicitor's clerk, rose, from strength to strength, until he achieved all his well known achievements.

Bashir Mallal was an energetic and conscientious worker. His research work never tired him. Nor did he ever complain of the tedious drudgery of correcting printer's proofs which was a never parting task all his life. His love for and dedication to the study and exposition of the rule of law kept him going and was a quality unique to himself. His charming personality will long be remembered and cherished by not only those who knew him well but also by all who came in contact with him. He possessed an overtly generous disposition as generosity was a tradition in him. Many came to him for help and advice and these services were available to anyone at any time. He was one person who loved giving things away; any thought of recompence never entered his mind. He even believed that "it is not always more blessed to give than to receive — that sometimes the blessing falls on the one who allows the other the pleasure of giving."

During his life spell Bashir Mallal braved the hard times that faced him with a resolute spirit. This was particularly so in the early years of the M.L.J. and immediately after the Second World War when he had to resume publication of this journal from scratch. The problems he encountered were varied and complex but to this resolute soul nothing was insurmountable. He always took time to study his difficulties with a view to their solution. With his limitless energy he persevered and carried on his labour of love, undaunted by the challenges that confronted him.

Bashir Mallal keenly observed and greatly admired the potentials and qualities of the new generation of people around him. He used to say, "As I grow older, I find within myself an increasing admiration and respect for the way in which the younger generation is facing its problems and opportunities." He regarded the development of character as the most vital commodity for the development of individual respect. He believed that:

"If money is lost, nothing is lost.,
If courage is lost, much is lost.,
If honour is lost, most is lost.,
If *character* is lost, all is lost."

The very sad loss of our leader has left in us an ingrained feeling of total emptiness. The only consolation is that, with the foundation so well laid by him, the M.L.J. will strive on to serve the legal profession as it has been doing for the past forty years. We sincerely hope that our patrons will continue to give us their close co-operation and support. The illustrious example of dedicated work set by the late Dr. Bashir Ahmad Mallal will be our inspiration for carrying on the established tradition of service by the M.L.J. to all connected with the law.

Dr. Bashir Mallal had many friends, and his memory will be cherished by many more. The tributes in his memory speak of his capabilities and achievements and show the well earned respect he commanded from his many dear friends.

May God rest his soul in eternal peace.

Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajiun!