

18 APRIL 2006

**AN OPEN LETTER
TO THE MACANESE COMMUNITY IN VANCOUVER & ELSEWHERE**

Casa de Macau Club is again continuing in its attempts to discredit our Association worldwide and to insinuate and suggest that our letters, and editorials contain inaccuracies and that the Club is doubtful of our Association's sincerity on the question of the joint acquisition of a clubhouse. Strangely enough we think the shoe should really be on the other foot. Let us seriously look at the facts before us.

Right from the very early days of our disagreement we had painstakingly written to two of the troublemakers on 30 December 1994 to give them a full, clear and concise explanation in reply to concerns expressed by Mrs. Margie Rozario and Mr. Ricardo (Rick) Rozario (no relation) in those dark days of discord and to tell them why they were dead wrong in their assumptions and behavior. We never received any reply to those letters and therefore assumed that it would have been the end of that unfortunate episode. Copies of our two letters at Enclosures 1 & 2 both written by Ms Laura Cordeiro, disclosed in writing comprehensive information on what transpired in November 1994. This information is being divulged in this "open letter" for the very first time some details and problems that lead to the troubles in the first place, for the information of everyone in the Macanese Community worldwide In our minds we have done absolutely nothing wrong that could have rankled these troublemakers into forming their own Club. In our view they established their own Club simply because they failed in their attempts at getting elected in November 1994; they wanted to receive some kind of subsidies from Macau and what happens to the Community, in their eyes, did not matter.

That is not the end of this story because Mr. Carlos Cordeiro, our past Association President, and founding member of this Association, introduced a motion at our meeting on 15 January 1995 that the troubles at the elections in November 1994 should be laid to rest and that everyone should press on with the task of running the Association. The majority of the members, including a certain member of the troublemakers present at that meeting voted in favor of that motion. Earlier this same individual had stood up and claimed that there had been no conspiracy on their part and he agreed that Association members should bury the hatchet and to get on with the task of running the Association. One would have expected the whole trouble would then have died a natural death.

BUT, only one week later, on January 22, 1995 this same group of troublemakers gathered secretly at this individual's home in Surrey, British Columbia, still very determined in their resolve to establish their own club. So much for the Club's credibility, integrity and sincerity.

To add insult to injury these troublemakers adopted a club name that had been in use by our Association since the very beginning of our existence. Legality aside, and bearing in mind that one of the principal troublemakers was also a former Executive Member of our Association, who had access to privileged information whilst in office, including our Association's membership list,

proceeded to make use of all that privileged information without any official authorization from this Association. That can only be regarded and viewed as completely unethical, unscrupulous and downright immoral. The Club had the audacity later on to even threaten to sue us for using the words “Casa de Macau” on our Association letterhead.

Throughout those years we have made approaches and overtures to bring these two organizations together. These efforts were made through the good offices of a number of individuals, one of whom was the late Mr. Jose (Zeze) Rosario, a very well known Macaense from Macau. All our efforts came to naught.

Throughout the many years of discord our Association has also made several official attempts at reconciliation – but always to please the wishes of those in charge in Macau. There were our genuine attempts to reach some reconciliation for the sake of Rocha Vieira, the last Governor of Macau under Portuguese administration, Dra. Gabriela Cesar, former President of the Foundation for the Co-operation and Development of Macau and more recently, Mr. Victor NG, President of Fundacao Macau. Every time we started any initiative Casa de Macau Club would respond by insisting on including specific and unrealistic conditions before we even sit down to discuss anything.

On the other hand and the records will prove this, there has never been any initiative from Casa de Macau Club to try and resolve this continuing disagreement between the two parties. There is simply no sincerity on the part of the Club.

As everyone will see from the above it is not our Association whose sincerity should be questioned. All our previous efforts as set above have been to no avail BUT they have been recorded. We have reached the conclusion that it is Casa de Macau Club who has balked at every step of the way and clearly they are the ones who are playing games and really do not want any reconciliation for dubious reasons of their own. Perhaps they had visions of claiming for themselves the entire subsidy for the clubhouse. We certainly won't put this beyond them. We are really “flogging” a dead horse on this matter and most importantly, it is obvious we are no longer able to trust the likes of this Club.

Suffice it to say that, for the time being, we are not going to pass any more judgment on the above. We will leave it to right thinking and honest people to draw their own conclusions.

Reaction by our Association has always been in response to provocations committed by the Club and there have been many throughout the years. We will continue to give this “open letter” the widest circulation possible.

With warmest regards and best wishes,

Yours very truthfully,

(Signed)

Luiz M. Souza, MBE AE

Editor - Boletim Macaense - Macau Cultural Association.

COPY

MACAU CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

December 30 1994.

Mrs. Margarida Rozario
1012 Springer Avenue
Burnaby, B.C.
V5B 3L7

Dear Mrs. Rozario,

I refer you to the address you made at the last regular meeting of the Association on December 18, 1994.

Before making any comments and challenge some of the points you made in your address I would like to first of all provide you with a brief outline of the descriptive role of a Vice-President in any organization or Association.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT IS A FIGUREHEAD WITH A STATUS NAME – A HAZY SHADOW OF THE PRESIDENT – AN EAGER WORKER AWAITING THE NEXT ELECTION OR A VALUABLE ASSISTANT HERE AND NOW.

**DUTIES TYPICALLY INCLUDE:-
SERVING AS AN AIDE TO THE PRESIDENT**

PRESIDING WHEN THE PRESIDENT IS ABSENT OR WHEN CALLED UPON TO DO SO.

REPRESENTING THE PRESIDENT UPON REQUEST

ASSUMING THE DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT IN CASE OF RESIGNATION OR DEATH UNTIL THE POST IS FILLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE BY-LAWS

PERFORMING OTHER SPECIFIC DUTIES WHEN CALLED UPON TO DO SO BY THE PRESIDENT.

I now wish to respond, in seriatim, to the points raised in your address under reference.

No person and/or persons can agree that, irrespective of the date of joining, all paid-up members should be allowed to cast their votes on Election Day. The current By-Laws are quite specific members must be in good standing whose memberships have been approved by the Executive Council and after attendance of at least two meetings of the Association. The two-meeting waiver does not apply, as there are no exceptional circumstances to warrant a waiver.

The new members who joined up prior to the October 16, 1994 meeting were deemed to be eligible to vote on November 20, 1994 by virtue of the fact that they would have attended two meetings by that date and their membership in the Association had subsequently been approved at the Executive Council meeting held on November 2, 1994. However, that ruling cannot be applied to those applicants who joined up after the October 16, 1994 regular meeting for two very good reasons.

- (1) They would not have been able to comply with the two-meeting attendance requirement as provided under the By-Laws and here again, the two-meeting waiver would not apply as there was no exceptional circumstances to warrant such a waiver, and
- (2) On Election Day their applications for membership had not yet been approved by the Executive Council. These individuals had not even been accepted as members of the Association on Election Day, November 20, 1994.

Unfortunately YOU had erred by informing these individuals that they were eligible to vote when in fact they were not.

As the then Vice President you should have known better than to make a pronouncement on voting eligibility before you were certain of the facts. I am not prepared to accept your explanation that you were unable to contact me. Even if I was not home you could have left a message on my telephone answering machine. You went even further by providing the front desk with the list of applicants who applied in the month of November and submit those names to the Editor of our newsletter as being newly approved members when in fact they were not. If anyone has to take any blame for causing the confusion it would have to be the Vice President. If anyone should be apologizing for having caused the confusion it would still be the Vice President. In an address at the December 18, 1994 a member (not on the Council) stated that in his view there has been a conspiracy against me. Looking back. I am now thinking along those same lines. Time and again I have watched you undermine my position as President by approaching the other members of the Council to discuss some topic and confronting me with a "fait accompli". On another occasion you had barged into a meeting of the Scholarship Fund Sub-Committee uninvited and you explained that you were there to plead the case of one individual's application for a scholarship grant. That was improper. As Vice President you had no business at a sub-committee meeting unless you have been formally invited to attend and as Vice President you were attempting to use your position and office to exert undue pressure and influence on the Chairman of the Scholarship Sub-Committee. In some respect one might say that you were using the Association as a personal platform to enhance your own plans and to create a private club for yourself and friends.

Another member who failed to mention that you also singled out Mr. Rene Ozorio, an immediate Past President, has already touched upon the question of table allocation at the Christmas Dinner Dance. What you did was calculated, spiteful and deliberate and once again, I am not prepared to accept any excuse that you were not aware or conscious of what you had done.

You also chastised Mr. Rene Ozorio for allowing him to be nominated for President at the last Election Day and claimed that as a result he left the field wide open for me. I would venture to suggest that the tactics employed by some of the supporters of Mr. John Carvalho backfired on them and resulted in him obtaining the least votes of the three candidates for President. It also probably resulted in Mrs. Duguay losing her bid for Secretary by one solitary vote. Are you suggesting that perhaps both Rene Ozorio and I should have withdrawn and leave the field wide open for John Carvalho ? Are you suggesting that Mrs. Irma Remedios and Mrs. Cynthia Vieira should have stepped down and leave the field wide open for Mrs. Duguay? In my view, any member in good standing must be permitted to stand for election to the Council. That is a part and parcel of the whole democratic process but on the other hand, any attempt at padding of the votes is morally wrong.

In paragraph two of this letter there are several phrases used to describe the role of a Vice President. I suggest that you should examine your conscience and ascertain which of those phrases best described your tenure as Vice President of the Association.

Finally you stated that you were humiliated beyond belief and you were also demeaned before the whole membership. I would suggest to you that the person responsible for this was nobody else but Mrs. Margarida (Margie) Rozario herself. You brought it all upon yourself

Sincerely,

SIGNED
Laura CORDEIRO
President 1994 and President-elect 1995

c.c. President's file.

COPY

MACAU CULTURAL ASSOCIATION

December 30, 1994

Mr. Rick Rozario
10600 Aintree Crescent
Richmond, B.C.
V7A 3V1

Dear Mr. Rozario,

Re: Your Formal Protest Letter – Election Meeting
Sunday, November 20, 1994
Improper Process & Procedures at Meeting.

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated December 11, 1994 that I received December 14, 1994 concerning the conduct of the meeting held on November 20, 1994.

As you recall, Mr. Antonio da Costa, Chairman of the Nominating Committee stated very clearly several times on the day of the Elections that members would have two weeks from the date of that election meeting to submit to him in writing any concerns and/or protests as to the conduct of the Elections. The deadline for submission of any formal protests and/or concerns therefore expired on Sunday, December 4, 1994. Since your letter is dated December 11, 1994, well after the deadline, the Association is unable to consider the points made in your letter under reference. at the regular meeting of the Association on December 18, 1994.

Notwithstanding the above I feel that I should not allow your remarks in that letter to go unanswered and/or unchallenged. I am, therefore, attempting here to respond, in seriatim, to the points made in your letter under reference.

Although I was seeking re-election to the second term of office the fact remains that I am also the current President and therefore entitled to take the Chair. Just before the elections actually took place I did vacate the Chair to Mr. Antonio da Costa, Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

At the October 16, 1994 regular meeting and in answer to your question, it was confirmed that in order to run for office, candidates must be members of the Association in good standing and candidates will serve if elected. However, in regards to voting rights of members the By-Laws also state that they must be members in good standing whose membership has been approved by the Executive Council and after attendance of at least two meetings of the Association.

The new members who joined up prior to the meeting of October 16, 1994 were deemed to be eligible to vote on November 20, 1994 by virtue of the fact that by that date they would have a chance to attend two meetings of the Association and their membership in the Association had also been approved at the Executive Council meeting on the Association held on November 2, 1994.

There were other applicants who submitted their applications for membership after November 2, 1994. Mrs. Margarida Rozario, our then Vice President confirmed this in her submission on December 18, 1994 that she personally received those applications with payments attached on November 13, 1994. In view of the aforementioned, these applicants would not be eligible to vote by virtue of the fact that they would not have the occasion to attend two meetings by November 20, 1994. Moreover, on the day of election their application for membership had not yet been approved by the Executive Council. Thus, they could not be considered approved members of the Association on November 20, 1994. Under these circumstances, they were, quite rightly, not permitted to vote.

It would appear that Mrs. Margarida Rozario erred (1) in advising the new applicants who applied for membership in the month of November 1994 that they would be eligible to vote at the elections held on November 20, 1994; (2) providing the front desk the list of applicants who applied for membership in the month of November 1994 as approved new members and eligible to vote; and (3) submitting to the Editor, Mrs. Duguay to publish in the October/November newsletter "The Lighthouse", the names of individuals who applied for membership in the month of November 1994 as being approved new members when in fact these applicants for membership had not yet been approved by the Executive Council. If anyone has to take the blame for the confusion and should be apologizing for having caused the confusion it would be this same person.

It was perfectly in order for me to remain in the Chair on November 20, 1994 until I handed over the Chair to Mr. Antonio da Costa when the election started. While I was in the Chair there was no need to express my own opinion on any subject and most of my remarks were related to the existing By-Laws and therefore it was not necessary for me to step down. That being the case there was no conflict of interest as alleged by you.

In regards to the waiver clause, it was intended for exceptional circumstances. For example in the case of someone who joined up and then breaks his leg or is hospitalized and therefore cannot attend his second meeting, in order to qualify for his voting rights. Taken in this context the waiver clause is quite in order and reasonable. After all, it would really have been silly to have a By-Law that stipulates attendance at two meetings followed by another to the effect that the two-meeting requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Executive Council. This just does not make any sense.

In this present case there was no exceptional circumstances for the waiver to be applied.

I also did not deny any member's right to vote since the applicants in question who applied for membership after November 2, 1994 were not members as their application for memberships had not yet been approved by the Executive Council.

In regards to the complaints you made concerning the voting process itself I think that Mr. Antonio da Costa has responded to them at the last meeting and therefore requires no further clarification.

In the circumstances there is no need for a Special Investigation Committee on the recent elections as suggested by you.

While I have made every attempt to answer questions from the floor promptly and courteously at all times, the same courtesy was not accorded to me from some members who bombarded me with questions. The attitude and behavior on the part of a number of individuals on the November meeting prompted Mr. Luiz Souza to speak out against those very same persons on December 18, 1994. I will not repeat what Mr. Souza said, as you and other members heard from him directly at the last meeting.

I do not agree with your statement that minutes of the Executive Council Meetings should be posted up at all regular meetings. As the name suggests they are intended only for members of the Executive Council. It is inappropriate for an Executive member to pass on any documents of Executive Council meetings to a member without the consent of the Executive Council.

The Executive Council has never refused to consider amendments to the By-Laws and this is an on-going process. If anyone has any proposals they are at liberty to submit them to the Executive Council for consideration.

You claimed in your letter that the recent elections were a "fiasco" but I am certainly not responsible for the "shambles" as you described it. As a matter of fact, Mr. Donald Gillis spoke at the last meeting on 18 December 1994 and stated unequivocally that I was absolutely correct in my conduct as President on November 20, 1994 and that I have observed all the rules of order under Robert's Rules and the election stands in legal order. If anyone were to be blamed for the "fiasco" it would have to be those who were attempting to pad the votes and to influence the voting of the Executives for 1995. This was clearly an abuse of the democratic process.

In my final analysis I do not find any justification or valid reasons in any of the arguments you have put forward in your letter under reference.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Laura Cordeiro

President. (1994) & President-elect (1995).

Macau Cultural Association

c.c. Mr. Tomas Almeida, Treasurer

Mrs. Irma Remedios, Secretary

Mr. Antonio da Costa, Chairman of Nominating Committee.