

**CONFERMENT OF THE HONORARY DEGREE OF  
DOCTOR OF LITERATURE TO  
MR. MOHAMED LEBBE ABDUL CADER**

Chancellor Sir,

I have the honor and privilege to present to you Mr. Mohamed Lebbe Abdul Cader who is known nationally and internationally as an able University Academic, Author, Scholar and a founder Vice- Chancellor of South Eastern University of Sri Lanka for the conferment of an honorary degree at this Convocation.

In recognition of Mr. M.L.A. Cader's outstanding contribution as an academic in the field of social sciences, the senate and the council of South Eastern University has decided to confer on him the degree of Doctor of Literature *Honoris Causa*. Mr. M.L.A. Cader has been a teacher in the University of Peradeniya for Twenty Seven Years; from 1968 -1995, worked as a director of the South Eastern University College for a year and as the founder Vice-Chancellor of South Eastern University of Sri Lanka for Six Years; from 1996 to 2002.

Mr. M.L.A. Cader graduated from University of Ceylon in 1968 with Second Class (Upper Division) Honours in Economics and obtained his Degree of Master of Arts by research in the field of Political Science with special reference to Public Administration and Management from the Australian National University, Canberra, Australia in 1976. He has also completed a post

graduate Diploma in conflict resolution at Uppsala University Sweden in 1994. Mr. M.L.A. Cader joined the University as an assistant lecturer in 1968 and excelled in his career as a senior lecturer and became an Associate Professor in Political Sciences and served until his retirement in 2008.

Mr. Cader held a number of administrative posts during his career including the Headship of the Department of Political Science of University of Peradeniya. He held the post of warden and served as a member of library committee at University of Peradeniya. He also served as a Senior Treasurer for the Muslim Majlis of the University of Peradeniya from 1976 to 1982 and for the Tamil Society of the same University from 1985 to 1995.

Mr. Cader's contribution to university system in Sri Lanka has been highly noteworthy because he has played a vital role in several disciplines. His academic contribution in the field of public administration was highly noted for together with Professor Wishwa Warnapala he developed the academic study of Public Administration in the Department of Political Science.

In addition to his academic work at the University of Peradeniya, his contribution to the development of SEUSL is remarkable. The significance of this work commenced when Mr. Cader was appointed as the director of the South Eastern University College in 1995. He was then entrusted with a noble task of commencing the University on a bare land; starting from scratch. Contributions of the founding father of the University, the late honorable

minister M.H.M. Ashraff, and the commitment of Mr. Cader helped upgrade the college, which started with 33 students and 18 academic and non academic staff, to a fully-fledged University in 1996. It was fortunate to have had Mr. Cader as a pioneer Vice-Chancellor to this newly established institution the 10<sup>th</sup> University of Sri Lanka.

Mr. Cader's post of Vice-Chancellor in a newly established University opened the door to experiment with academic and administrative innovations. Establishing a University with limited human and physical resources is not easy task. But Mr. Cader took-up this task with hope and confidence, understood the aspiration and ambition of the University, put all the responsibilities on his shoulder, carried out the duties with patience, and finally brought the University to compete with other universities of the island in a short space of time.

His tremendous services to South Eastern University of Sri Lanka which was located in the tiny corner of the island made him as a Pathfinder not only to the University but also to the community living around the university. During the leadership of Mr. Cader, the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka acted as a catalyst for the uplifting and improving the social and economic well-being of all communities who lived in that region.

Mr. Cader, as a pioneer Vice-Chancellor, contributed to develop the curriculum of South Eastern University of Sri Lanka in keeping with modern trends and tradition enabling the faculties of

Arts and Culture and Commerce and Management to perform effectively. A semester program was introduced in both faculties during his period in order to align the University in the international tract. Under his direction, many new courses were introduced to the curricula to meet the needs of the employment market and to ensure the employability of the graduates of the University. He masterminded the development activities of South Eastern University of Sri Lanka to match with the current trends in University education.

Mr. Cader established a good environment of academic administration in the university during his service. As an academic knowledgeable in public administration and management, his contribution in establishing good practice and good governance in the University is very remarkable. As a single senior hand in the University, he played an overall guidance in all aspects of academic, administration, welfare, co-curricula, extra curricula and other relevant activities in order to help to improve the institution, staff and students in the University.

Mr. Cader did well to shift the university from the temporary location of Addalaichenai Government Teacher Training College to the present location at University Park, Oluvil. In addition, he was instrumental in advising late honorable minister M.H.M. Ashraff to develop the master plan for future development of the University. The beautiful new location of the university and the infrastructure facilities available in the University are great

achievements and verily are the results of the ideology of Mr. Cader.

Mr. M.L.A. Cader has established a Centre for Extension Studies (CES) during his period to offer professional courses to the students who failed in gaining admission to University. The CES today offers diploma and certificate courses and thereby contributes to professional development in the region. The cultural museum of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka is another tremendous output of Mr. M.L.A. Cader. He established the heritage cultural museum by collecting monuments and artifacts belong to this region. He founded the museum as a cultural learning facility to promote collection, organization, and preservation of valuable artifacts of the region to encourage in-depth studies at the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka.

Establishing faculty of Applied Sciences in 1997 is another mile stone in the history of academic administration of Mr. Cader. The faculty was started with initially 40 students at Sammanthurai.

Mr. Cader prepared the ground work to hold external degree program in Bachelor of Arts (B.A), Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com), and Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) respectively, by the faculties and Arts and Culture and Faculty of Management and Commerce. It was a great social contribution to the community as well as an income generation to the University.

Mr. Cader has written 9 books and a number of articles during his academic career. Mr. Cader has participated in many workshops and seminars nationally and internationally. These include the Association of Commonwealth University Conference, Canada in 1998, South Zone Vice Chancellor's Conference, India in 1998, ACU Conference on 'New Configuration in Globalization, Cyprus in 2001, and 'Converting linkage to Partnership' ACU Conference, Scotland in 2000. He has also academically visited Australian Universities organized by UNDP in 1997, and Universities in California, USA in 1991. He has also submitted a paper and conducted workshops and seminars specifically related with Muslim politics in Sri Lanka. He has delivered the Key Note address on many occasions.

In addition to his academic career, Mr. Cader has contributed to the national development in many ways. He was a member of the Muslim delegation which participated in the "Peace Talks" between Government of Sri Lanka and LTTE held abroad under Norwegian initiative in 2002. Subsequently, he served as a Chairman of the Muslim Peace Advisory Board set up in the Prime Minister's Office in Sri Lanka in 2004. He served as a member of Cooperative employee's commission of North-East province from 1992 to 2002. He also was a member of Academic Syndicate, Institute of Workers Education, Colombo, 1994. He contributed as a Co-controller and chief examiner for G.C.E.A/L examination from 1969 to 1994.

He was the master of A to Z development of the South Eastern University of Sri Lanka. He has worked hard single handedly and led up to the level of successfully conducting its first convocation in 2001.

*Therefore, Chancellor Sir, taking into consideration of Mr. M.L.A. Cader's academic and administrative career and his contribution to the South Eastern University in particular, it is with great pleasure I present him to you for the conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Literature (D.Litt.) Honoris Causa.*