

Mr Kathiresan s/o Murugiah

(1934)

Accession number: SW1510

Track Number: SW1510\_0001, SW1510\_0002, SW1510\_0003, SW1510\_0004, SW1510\_0005,  
SW1510\_0006

Duration: 03:03:22

Language/Dialect: Tamil

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| <b>Track: SW1510_0001</b>  | <b>Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:10:11</b> |
| <p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Born in Macalister Road in 1934. Why both his father and his uncle's names appeared on his identity card. Family background. Religion. Education background. Career background. The reason of ceasing his studies and began working.</p>                                 |  |
| <b>Track: SW1510_0001</b>  | <b>Time frame: 00:10:11 - 00:20:15</b> |
| <p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Mentioned the job interview. His salary when he first started working (as a night soil man) until his retirement. Described his work. Described the briefing on the first day of work. The work uniform. How he felt about his job. Described his first day of work.</p> |  |
| <b>Track: SW1510_0001</b>  | <b>Time frame: 00:20:15 - 00:27:31</b> |
| <p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Number of uniforms in hand. How he recorded the staff's attendance as the supervisor. The office location. Transportation to work. Working hours. Number of staff members and divisions.</p>   |  |
| <b>Track: SW1510_0002</b>  | <b>Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:09:58</b> |
| <p>Synopsis:</p> <p>The night soil collecting routes. Daily routine during his working life. How he supervised the staff members.</p>  |  |

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| <b>Track: SW1510_0002</b>  | <b>Time frame: 00:09:58 - 00:20:44</b> |
| <p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Continued to describe the daily routine during his working life. Precaution taken to protect the workers from diseases. Mentioned the importance of putting up lids at the bottom of the buckets.</p>  |  |
| <b>Track: SW1510_0002</b>  | <b>Time frame: 00:20:44 - 00:31:03</b> |
| <p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Shared the good and bad memories about his job. Why was he happy about the job. Mentioned his feelings of working for long hours for ten days in May 1969. Why he appreciated the job. His after-marriage life. How he spent his holidays.</p>   |  |
| <b>Track: SW1510_0003</b>  | <b>Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:10:00</b> |
| <p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Described some workers who disappeared during working hours, and turned up to be doing another job. How he responded to this. Other problems faced at work and the way to handle them. Described working experience during the May 13 Incident.</p>  |  |
| <b>Track: SW1510_0003</b>  | <b>Time frame: 00:10:00 - 00:20:09</b> |
| <p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Why shouldn't feces be poured into the drains. The night soil collecting route. Challenges faced at work. How he handled complaints from the residents. Problems faced in the hotels where there were prostitution. Described the work in the business area and housing area with big families.</p>  |  |
| <b>Track: SW1510_0003</b>  | <b>Time frame: 00:20:09 - 00:31:03</b> |
| <p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Mentioned the flush system. Mentioned the areas without a back lane, thus the front lane was used to access the toilet. Described receiving complaints from the eatery shop people when the night soil men cleaned buckets without covering them up. Flush system was introduced after his retirement in 1989. Areas that first used the flush toilet system. How they were notified about the change in toilet system for each house.</p> |  |

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| <b>Track: SW1510_0004</b>   | <b>Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:11:00</b> |
| <p>Synopsis:</p> <p>The increasing rate of using flush system and why. There was no more bucket system in Penang in 1995. The charge for the bucket cleaning service. Described the record book used to record houses which had changed to flush system. Described occasional conflicts between tenants and house owners about who to change the toilet system. How it was settled. Described his job scope in the depot. Described an incident which hindered his promotion.</p> |  |
| <b>Track: SW1510_0004</b>   | <b>Time frame: 00:11:00 - 00:19:56</b> |
| <p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Described manipulation of the working attendance record. The change in the night soil men's job when flush system was introduced. Usual practice by different races and religions before work. Described being attacked by gangsters for reporting the workers' poor working performance. Described the challenges faced when a worker was absent from work. Other challenges faced in staff management.</p>  |  |
| <b>Track: SW1510_0004</b>   | <b>Time frame: 00:19:56 - 00:26:25</b> |
| <p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Continued with other challenges faced in staff management. His work after retirement. Benefits he got as a government servant. Reminisced about the car he used for work for a long time. The change in type of buckets used.</p>   |  |
| <b>Track: SW1510_0005</b>   | <b>Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:10:15</b> |
| <p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Stayed in Dato Koyah Road during the Japanese occupation. Residents in the Dato Koyah Road house. Mentioned that the ground floor was used to prepare <i>apom</i> to be sold in other places. Structure of the house. Festivals celebrated at home.</p>   |  |
| <b>Track: SW1510_0005</b>   | <b>Time frame: 00:10:15 - 00:20:22</b> |
| <p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Continued to describe festivals celebrated at home. Elaborated on his experience on November 11, 1941 when the Japanese invaded Penang. The escaping route. Why they decided to run away from the Dato Koyah Road house. His father went back to the house to take their necessities at night.</p>  |  |

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| <b>Track: SW1510_0005</b>   | <b>Time frame: 00:20:22 - 00:31:03</b> |
| <p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Described what he saw when returning to Dato Koyah Road. Described life in Dato Koyah Road after their return. Studied at Japanese school for four years. There was no school uniform when he was attending Japanese school. Games played. Described the food during the Japanese occupation.</p>   |  |
| <b>Track: SW1510_0006</b>   | <b>Time frame: 00:00:00 - 00:10:10</b> |
| <p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Places to get their food supply during the Japanese occupation. Described food rationing. Described his mother selling <i>apom</i> on the roadside. Clothes worn during the Japanese occupation. Mentioned staying at his mother's hometown in Padang Serai for one and a half years, coming back to Penang only when the British was back to rule.</p> |  |
| <b>Track: SW1510_0006</b>   | <b>Time frame: 00:10:10 - 00:19:54</b> |
| <p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Described peeping through a hole in his grandfather's house during the Japanese occupation. Described following his mother to sell <i>thosai</i> in Burma Road and witnessed a Japanese spot check.</p>   |  |
| <b>Track: SW1510_0006</b>   | <b>Time frame: 00:19:54 - 00:36:17</b> |
| <p>Synopsis:</p> <p>Continued to describe the Japanese spot check in Burma Road. Described the British's return to the state. Compared the differences in education during Japanese and British rule. His feelings after going through the World War II. His impression on the war.</p>   |  |