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New expat council looks to be 'united voice of all UAE-based Indians' ,**United Indian Expat Council**



Other office-bearers of the council are Karim Venkidengh, Ibrahim Kutty, Thomas TK, Abdul Kader Panakkad and Omal Kumar (vice chairmen), Mohan Das (general convenor), Noushad P, Naser KK, Sajid Abbobacker, Shaji and Muneer C (convenors), Bsheer Padiyath (treasurer), Jiji (vice-treasurer), Ramesh Viswanathan (Tamil Nadu coordinator) and Satheesh Venkit Ramana (Karnataka coordinator).

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**By Imran Mojib, Gulf Today - June 09, 2011**

DUBAI: A new group has been formed by some of the active social workers from the Indian expatriate community to represent all Indians living in the UAE cutting across cultural, political and geographical boundaries.

The group, named as United Indian Expat Council, will be based in Dubai and will work as the umbrella organisation of all the socio-cultural organisations active in the UAE to raise their concern at higher level.

Dr KP Hussain, the main force behind this group who was also nominated as chairman of the council, said that the need was felt for such an organisation as smaller Indian groups have no voice despite being actively involved in serving their respective community.

He said that these groups face difficulties in reaching out to Indian Embassy in Abu Dhabi and the Consulate General of India in Dubai in the hour of their need. Similarly these groups also fail to raise their concerns on important issues to the visiting Indian ministers or top officials.

“United Indian Expat Council will be the united voice of all Indians living in the UAE. We will be equally concerned to people from various parts of India and will raise their concerns at the right forum,” said Dr. K P Hussain.

Initially, people from Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have joined hands to form the council; however, socio-cultural groups from other parts of India are expected to join soon.

“So far more than 60 groups have shown interest to join this council. These groups belong to the south Indian states, but we will welcome groups from other parts of the country as well. There are a number of active groups in the UAE representing people of Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Bihar, and we will associate them with this council too,” he said.

Hussain said that the council will soon be registered with the Community Development Authority in Dubai and the federal authority looking after the community affairs.

At present, all the socio-cultural groups of Indian expatriates in Dubai and Northern Emirates get recognition from the Indian Community Welfare Committee (ICWC), which runs under the patronage of the Consulate General of India in Dubai.

But, Hussain said, that many smaller groups failed to get associated with the ICWC because of the hefty fee charged by the ICWC.

“By associating with this council, even those groups will get legal status while they will be allowed to maintain their independent status,” he added.

Other office-bearers of the council are Karim Venkidengh, Ibrahim Kutty, Thomas TK, Abdul Kader Panakkad and Omal Kumar (vice chairmen), Mohan Das (general convenor), Noushad P, Naser KK, Sajid Abbobacker, Shaji and Muneer C (convenors), Bsheer Padiyath (treasurer), Jiji (vice-treasurer), Ramesh Viswanathan (Tamil Nadu coordinator) and Satheesh Venkit Ramana (Karnataka coordinator).