

QUE SERA SERA – LIONS' RESPONSE TO COVID 19

'Que Sera, Sera

Whatever will be, will be

The future's not ours to see

Que Sera, Sera

What will be, will be"

- Composed by Livingston & Evans

QUE SERA SERA

Considered an evergreen as well as Doris Day's signature song, Que Sera Sera with its nice and easy tune, suggests an attitude of resignation or nonchalance. The bounciness of the melody invites a carefree outlook in life.

Covid – 19 challenges our "que sera, sera" mentality.

COVID-19

The Covid 19 pandemic has resulted in many changes – in the way we live, work, socialise and do things. We face restrictions in our daily interactions. Our behaviour may display extremes – one of extreme fear or one of careless disregard bordering on fatalism. Or perhaps a melancholy resignation of whatever will be will be.

The circuit breaker measures came at a time when traditionally a new team comes on board – the newly elected District Governor, his Cabinet Officers and newly elected Presidents of the Clubs. Many wondered what 2020 & 2021 would be like for the Lions – some even for-seeing that it is a year of inaction and inactivity.

CURTAILED ACTIVITIES

The measures affected many activities, events and projects. They were cancelled, postponed, downsized or modified. Some examples are as follows:

1. the Joint Installation of the Cabinet Officers and Club Presidents. It is a prestigious and well-attended event with at least 800 Lions participating. This is an event that every District Governor cherishes. This did not take place in 2020.
2. Clubs' anniversaries – These anniversaries could not be held physically and had to be cancelled or postponed.
3. Meetings of clubs – these could not be held physically.
4. Projects – the regular projects, especially visits to the Lions Homes or other elderly Homes had to be suspended.
5. Training events – seminars or classes could not be held physically.
6. Big events like the Yellow Ribbon Walk were cancelled.

Fortunately, this did not mean that all activities came to a standstill.

ADAPTABILITY & TECHNOLOGY

Lions were able to adapt and make the best of the situation. Lions were quick to harness technology to get things done.

Credit to the Lions leadership and Lions for not being paralysed by the pandemic but having the mental agility and fortitude to continue with various events and activities. All these were undertaken in compliance with Covid-19 regulations and safe-distancing measures.

The Installation of Cabinet Officers and Presidents was held via the Zoom platform in groupings within the permitted numbers.

Training was held over Zoom and this in a way increased attendance without affecting the effectiveness.

Meetings were conducted remotely through the various online platforms.

The District Convention in 2020 was conducted via the Zoom platform. There were concerns about the efficacy of holding a Convention in this manner. With careful planning and a willingness to try new things, the Convention went ahead as a virtual meeting.

With the easing of measures, the Convention in 2021 was organised in a hybrid format - both virtual and physical.

INNOVATION

Lions were also quick to realise that there were other needs in the community. Rather than lament over the usual projects that could not be held – Yellow Ribbon Walk or Visit to Homes or Distribution of Food – Lions were involved in other activities.

At that time, one of the pressing needs was to reach out to the many foreign workers who were confined to the dormitories. Lions in small groups distributed gift packs to them. The frontline health workers and care givers were not forgotten and were recipients of snacks and goodies.

When the measures were eased, the Lions ramped up the efforts to serve the community. This extended to service beyond what we did previously. These were door to door visits, initiatives to collect clothes to send to the communities in need of clothing abroad or re-cycle them and even distributing home-baked cookies to the community.

LIONS SPIRIT

Most important, the Lions Spirit did not falter but soared during the pandemic.

Lions did not sit around and sing Que Sera Sera all day long. Lions came together and rallied to serve the community

CONCLUSION

Covid-19 was a revelation – that the Lions Spirit rises above the pandemic.

DG Lesa Gan's theme is We Serve with Love – amidst the Covid 19 pandemic, we may expand on her theme to read as "We Serve with Love - **In All Circumstances**".

We may ask – What will happen post-pandemic?

Que Sera Sera!