

'Young generation should know about Vaiko's sacrifices'

The Hindu Bureau

MADURAI

The objective behind making of the 80-minute documentary film on MDMK headquarters secretary Vaiko was to disseminate the sacrifices he made for the people of Tamil Nadu in his 56-year-long political career, said MDMK's organising secretary Durai Vaiko here on Wednesday.

The film, *Maamanithan Vaiko*, was screened in the city and public, on invitation, viewed it. Chief Minister and DMK president M.K. Stalin had launched the film in Chennai on September 11.

Produced by Mr. Durai, the short film brought to light Mr. Vaiko's significant contributions in protecting environment, helping the needy, preventing functioning of industries like Sterlite Copper, his fight against neutrino project, etc.

The four-time MP's long association with leaders like A.B. Vajpayee, I.K. Gujral, Deve Gowda and Farooq Abdullah, and his affection for Tamil Eelam and the fight against impo-



MDMK headquarters secretary Durai Vaiko, centre, at the screening of the film 'Mamanithan Vaiko - The Real Hero' in Madurai on Wednesday. ASHOK R.

sition of Hindi were well captured in the film.

Mr. Vaiko's oratorical skill, which had earned him applause not only from political parties but also from the film industry, was highlighted in the film.

His padayatra style of politics, which drew the attention of the then governments, and his affinity for Eelam Tamils received big applause from the audience. Similarly, his association with senior advocate Ram Jethmalani, whose appearance in special courts seeking release of those convicted in Rajiv Gandhi assassination case also drew cheers. For at least five to six years, Mr.

Vaiko was detained under the TADA and POTA.

In a brief chat with media persons, Mr. Durai said he wanted to bring out the ordeals encountered by Mr. Vaiko in his public life which, he felt, should be understood by the next generation. Human Rights activist and senior advocate Henri Tipahgne said the film showcased how Mr. Vaiko had won the hearts of the needy in society. The message was that being in public life did not necessarily mean that one should be in power as Mr. Vaiko was able to succeed in his efforts by mobilising the people in a disciplined manner.