



02 FEB, 2023

Temple team: Safety, wellbeing of devotees, visitors ensured

New Straits Times, Malaysia



Page 1 of 2

LOGISTICAL SUPPORT PREPARED

Temple team: Safety, wellbeing of devotees, visitors ensured

KUALA LUMPUR: The Sri Subramaniam Swamy Temple Batu Caves temple expects 1.6 million people over the 4-day Thaipusam festival.

As such, it is placing much emphasis on the safety and wellbeing of devotees and visitors expected from Friday onwards.

The temple committee's secretary, C. Sethupathy, said since Thaipusam was a national public holiday on Sunday, it drew a huge number of people due to its unique heritage.

He said the committee was getting logistical support from various government agencies, as well as the private sector, and that such preparations had reached 90 per cent.

The agencies include Kuala Lumpur City Hall, police, Fire and Rescue Department, Health Ministry, **Tenaga Nasional Bhd,**

Telekom Malaysia Bhd, Keretapi Tanah Melayu Bhd and the Malaysian Red Crescent.

"After two years of living under Covid-19 standard operating procedures and restrictions, Thaipusam will be celebrated on a grand scale.

"People will once again see the chariot procession... the full celebration in honour of Lord Murugan, who represents virtue, youth and power."

Sethupathy said a procession of silver chariots carrying idols of Lord Murugan and the goddesses Valli and Devi Theivanai will move from the Sri Maha Mariamman Temple in Jalan Tun H.S. Lee to Batu Caves on Friday.

The procession will begin at 10pm and arrive at 3pm on Saturday at Batu Caves.

The return journey of the chariots from Batu Caves to the Sri

Maha Mariamman Temple is expected to start on Monday at 3.30pm to 11.59pm.

He said that the temple committee would be assisted by 1,000 Health Ministry staff and personnel throughout the duration of the four days.

Headed by Selayang Hospital emergency department head, Datuk Dr Mohamed Alwi Abdul Rahman, the MoH team will be responsible for first aid services and other medical emergencies.

The temple committee is mobilising over 500 volunteers, including members of the temple's youth groups, to assist and safeguard people at different times and locations.

Sethupathy said the volunteers had been instructed to divide the main stairway at the temple into four lanes, two for worshippers carrying kavadi and *paal kudam*



Devotees arriving early at the temple in Batu Caves, Kuala Lumpur yesterday to fulfil their vows before Thaipusam which falls on Sunday.
PIC BY FATHIL ASRI

(milk offerings) heading up to the upper cave temple; and the other two for those returning down to avoid a crowd on the steps.

"Some devotees have showed up at the temple early in order to

fulfil their vows in peace during the Chinese New Year holidays."

Sethupathy still recommends people follow the SOP, including wearing masks, if they intend to join the celebration.