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2,500 gather for National Holy Thirumurai Festival

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Some 2,500 Hindus gathered in Seremban for the National Holy Thirumurai Festival organised by the Malaysia Hindu Sangam last weekend.

In a statement, the Sangam said two members were conferred the "Thondar Mamani" award, which was the organisation's highest.

It said S. Senathiarajah of Johor Baru and R.T. Moorthy of Kuala Lumpur were honoured in recognition of their long and dedicated service to the community.

Its president A. Vaithilingam, in his closing speech at the festival, appealed to the Indian community to unite in view of the coming general election.

He also expressed disappointment with the Guidelines for Building of Places of Worship for Non-Muslims issued by the Housing and Local Government in September last year.

The Sangam said it had joined the Malaysian Consultative Council on Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Sikhism to reject the guidelines and would send a memorandum to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad this week.

It also said the Sangam had been organising religious training programmes focusing on Thirumurai recital.

"During the past 22 years of the implementation of the programme, the Sangam has been successful in training more than 100,000 children and youths on the values and virtues of the Holy Thirumurai."

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