

Double track railway line soon

Replaces single line, links
Batu Caves and Sentul

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri: Batu Caves and Sentul will be connected by a new double track railway line soon to replace the existing single line.

The current railway track, which has ceased operations, is only used for three days each year during the **Thaipusam** festival.

Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the project, which is expected to begin soon, will not only attract more tourists to the famous limestone cave but would also enhance transportation facilities for residents living near Batu Caves as well as devotees.

Speaking after the annual **Thaipusam** celebrations here, he said the double tracking project will be undertaken by DRB Hicom Bhd.

He said once the construction of the 7.5km double track is completed, there will be regular commuter train service from Batu Caves. The current service operated by KTM Commuter is between Port Klang and Sentul only.

"There will be daily com-

muter service enabling more tourists from Kuala Lumpur to visit Batu Caves without any difficulty," he said.

Samy Vellu said the project will include the construction of a new railway station at Batu Caves incorporating Hindu motives to make it more attractive to tourists.

He also said that a new RM30-40 million flyover will be built across the railway line at Batu Caves to replace the current railway crossing located near Sungai Batu.

Samy Vellu also said MIC will appeal to the state governments of Kedah, **Pahang** and Malacca to declare **Thaipusam** a holiday.

He said once this has been achieved, he would talk to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad about declaring a similar holiday in the federal capital.

Samy Vellu also said that the Sri Maha Mariamman Temple Devasthanam will look at constructing either a budget hotel or hostel at the Batu Caves compound to cater for tourists.