

23 JAN 2002

Batu Caves

CABINET RETAINS BATU CAVES' POSTAL CODE

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 23 (Bernama) -- The Cabinet agreed to maintain the postal code for Batu Caves when the matter was brought to the attention of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad by Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu today.

"The Cabinet agreed to maintain the post code and it's a good decision and I thank them," Samy Vellu, who is MIC president, told reporters before heading for the Barisan Nasional (BN) Supreme Council meeting at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC) here.

He brought up the matter with Dr Mahathir and Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Amar Leo Moggie at the weekly Cabinet meeting.

The Selayang Municipal Council decided to change the postal code of Batu Caves to Selayang and the move was strongly objected to by the Indian leaders who feel that such a change would destroy the identity of the popular tourist spot.

"Batu Caves is visited by millions and the place is also known widely as a tourist destination through the postal code and I don't agree to the change. These things should not have taken place at all," he added.

The Hindu community has been making annual pilgrimages to Batu Caves during Thaipusam which falls on Monday.

Meanwhile, Sri Maha Mariamman Temple Dhevasthanam chairman R. Nadarajah thanked Samy Vellu for taking up the important matter to the Cabinet and resolving it.

The temple manages the Batu Caves temple and the Thaipusam celebration at the venue.

"The temple management is very grateful to Datuk Seri (Samy Vellu) and the Cabinet for retaining the historical name Batu Caves," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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