
EDITORS/REPORTERS

23 JANUARY 2026

**THE CRL RIGHTS COMMISSION WISHES THE SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN COMMUNITY WELL FOR THE
THAI POOSUM KAVADY 2026**

The Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic

Communities (CRL Rights Commission) extends its warmest greetings and best wishes to the South Indian Tamil Hindu community, and all devotees of Lord Muruga, as they commence the sacred observance of the Thai Poosum Kavady Festival.

The festival begins on 23rd January with the flag hoisting ceremony, marking the official start of this important period of devotion, prayer, and spiritual preparation, and will culminate on 01 February 2026 with the main Kavady festival.

Thai Poosum Kavady is observed in honour of Lord Muruga, also known as the deity of courage, wisdom, discipline, and divine protection. This festival holds deep spiritual meaning for devotees and represents a powerful expression of faith, commitment, humility, and gratitude.

Kavady, meaning a “burden” or “sacred offering,” is traditionally undertaken as an act of devotion, penance, and fulfilment of vows. Devotees participate in prayer, fasting, walking pilgrimages, and rituals of spiritual endurance—often carrying beautifully decorated kavady structures and offering prayers for blessings, healing, guidance, and strength.

In South Africa’s diverse and multicultural context, the Thai Poosum Kavady Festival serves as a significant cultural and religious observance that demonstrates the country’s rich tapestry of heritage and belief systems. The festival affirms the constitutional rights of communities to practise and promote their religious traditions freely, while fostering unity, mutual respect, and social cohesion among all South Africans. The CRL Rights Commission commends the work of temples, religious leaders, organisers, volunteers, and families who keep these sacred traditions alive across generations.

The Commission encourages all participants to observe the festival with dignity, compassion, and respect for the sacredness of the rituals, and to uphold the values of peace and harmony during the festival period.

The Commission extends wishes for the Thai Poosum Kavady Festival to be a period of spiritual renewal, blessings, and protection for all devotees and communities.

Issued by:

The CRL Rights Commission

For any enquiries, please contact Mpiyakhe Mkholo – Mpiyakhem@crlcommission.org.za or
082 527 3859

End//