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The consecration took place on 19 February 2006 and was a spectacular event. It represented the culmination of four months of elaborate prayers and rituals which commenced at its transitional Serangoon Road site. What many may not know is the huge effort and community involvement that went into the successful completion of the project. AVGMT was fortunate to not only garner the support of the Hindu and Buddhist communities for establishment of its vision temple but it also had the steadfast support of the neighbouring Taoist temples, devotees, donors, as well as other ethnic communities in the effort.

AVGMT's is a story like no other. In four short years, the \$7 million needed for the construction and consecration of the temple was raised by a dedicated team. Despite the economic downturn, rising construction costs and heightened awareness of possible threats posed by terrorism, people have been prepared to support a new place of worship and contributed to its development. "It is the faith people have in our deities and the trust and close friendships we have cultivated," says AVGMT's Chairman Mr Ajaib Haridass who gratefully acknowledges the support the temple has received from many quarters.

The support was apparent at the Ceremony on 19 February 2006 and there was no doubt that a staggering number of individuals and organizations were involved. Sri Mariamman Temple's team of staff, management committee members and volunteers helped with putting the Yagasalai (Fire pit) and Kadam (Holy Vessels) Procession together. Sri Sivan Temple ensured that the procession of Varisais (Offerings) from all twenty four Hindu temples and décor of the VIP tentages was in place while Sri Vairavimada Kalliamman Temple coordinated the movement of devotees from over 15 different locations in Singapore to Sengkang for the duration of the ceremonies. Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple did its share by providing administrative, logistical and financial arrangements for the temple's move to its new home. Not to be forgotten is how all twenty-four Hindu temples in Singapore





contributed generously to the fund raising initiatives organized by AVGMT. Representatives from these temples were also present at the Consecration Ceremony bearing gifts to honour the various deities.

Contributions came in other forms as well. SIA SATS staff ensured that all 15,000 plus people who witnessed the Ceremony were provided with free delicious meals. Singapore Buddhist Lodge, Komala Vilas and Mayura Catering generously catered for the invited guests, volunteers and donors. Another noteworthy feature was the array of renowned world class artistes who had agreed to perform at AVGMT's 48 day Mandalabhishegam Cultural Festival. Not surprisingly this aspect too was made possible by the support of AVGMT's well wishers- Mindteck, Indian Overseas Bank, and Arthi International – who not only paid for the airfare and honorariums of all foreign artistes, including that of music maestro Dr K J Yesudas, but also helped to host them. Jothi Shop & Flower Store and Modern Montessori International contributed towards the production of the AVGMT Consecration souvenir magazine and all related publicity materials. AVGMT's neighbours Taoist temples – Kampong Tengah Thiam Hou Keng and Chong Ghee Temple gave away red packets and oranges to all devotees attending the Consecration Ceremony while immediate neighbour Chong Hua Tong Tou Teck Hwee Prayer Hall offered the use of its premises. The gesture by Loyang Tua Peh Kong Temple who donated \$100,000 to AVGMT on the day of the Consecration Ceremony was a further testimony to the goodwill this new temple has generated. The list goes on, and there are also hundreds of volunteers, well wishers and donors who lent a helping but choose to remain anonymous.

AVGMT stands out as a classic example of the spirit of community support prevailing in Singapore that transcends race and religion. The Hindu Endowments Board wishes the management committee every success in the management of AVGMT.

