

Workers' Day special to be annual affair

By Azmi M. Anshar

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — The Government intends to make the solidarity assembly to commemorate Workers' Day an annual affair and next year's event may adopt a different format according to the situation and objectives.

This was stated by Datuk Lim Ah Lek, the Human Resources Minister, when he announced that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohammad has been conferred the title *Father of Human Resources Development* at the Workers' Day solidarity assembly at Stadium Negara today.

Datuk Lim said it was a fact that Dr Mahathir was an inspiration behind the nation's spirited, dynamic, disciplined, dedicated and productive workforce.

He also said Dr Mahathir's presence at the assembly today proved that he gave serious attention to workers' interests.

Datuk Lim said today's solidarity assembly was an unprecedented event in which representatives from the Government, employers' and workers' organisations joined forces to celebrate Workers' Day.

The assembly, he added, was also to enhance tripartite solidarity and co-operation, thus its theme *Perpaduan Teras Kemakmuran* (Solidarity the Foundation of Prosperity).

About 6,500 workers from 21 ministries, eight Government agencies and 35 private sector companies took part in the assembly.

Earlier, the assembly was entertained with songs by the Human Resources Ministry choir under the direction of RTM's Ibrahim Bachik.

Puan Juniwati Rahmat Husin of Petronas then led 14 women and 15 men carrying the national and state flags into the centre of the stadium ring to read the workers' oath.

They pledged undivided

loyalty to country, to uphold the aspirations of the Rukunegara, maintain industrial harmony, efficient and honest work ethics, practising an excellent work culture, and to provide dedicated and quality service.

The oath-taking ceremony concluded with the slogan *Hidup Malaysia* reverberating in the stadium.

Datuk Lim then presented a text of the oath, inscribed in a specially-made plaque, to Dr Mahathir as a special souvenir.

After the Prime Minister's 30-minute address, a special dance was performed by the National Cultural Complex troupe, fusing traditional and modern movements depicting the lives and struggles of workers like the rubber tappers, farmers and fishermen fighting against divisive elements.

A competition to judge the best-attired uniforms from the public and private sector representation and the group displaying the best Workers' Day slogan was also conducted.

Bank Simpanan Nasional counter staff, with their attractive blue uniforms, came out tops in the public sector category followed by runners-up Kuala Lumpur City Hall and the National Unity and Social Development Ministry.

Tyre manufacturers DIMB Bhd took the top prize in the private sector category, followed by Petronas and Utusan Melayu (Malaysia) Bhd.

In the best slogan contest, Esso Malaysia Berhad took top billing with the slogan *Bergabung Tenaga Menerajui Dunia* (Combine to lead the World) while Bank Simpanan Nasional took second spot with the slogan *Pekerja Nadi Negara* (Workers the Pulse of the Nation).

Mara Holdings Sdn Bhd, the Prime Minister's Department and the Handicapped Workers' Contingent got the third, fourth and fifth spots respectively.