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Details on long-service rewards being compiled

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - The proposal to reward long-serving employees in the public and private sectors is expected to be submitted to the Cabinet for approval at the end of the month.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek said today the ministry was compiling information and feedback received from various agencies on the proposal.

"We need to work out the details before submitting the proposal to the Cabinet," he said after visiting the Jalan Genting Klang's temporary market.

At the Workers' Day rally yesterday, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the Government had agreed in principle to introduce a special scheme to reward employees who had served more than 25 years in the same organisation. The move was to instil loyalty in employers.

Lim refused to divulge details of the scheme but reiterated today that the proposal would not incur additional cost on employers.

The ministry was directed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in January to draw up a proposal on how the Government and the private sector could reward loyal employees.

On today's visit, Lim said the long-standing problem of temporary relocation for some 180 hawkers and petty traders at Jalan Genting Klang had been resolved.

A nearby site has been identified to relocate the hawkers, pending completion of a permanent market in the area.

For years, the hawkers had been peddling their goods along the five-foot way of Jalan Genting Klang, causing massive traffic congestion.

About a month ago, Kuala Lumpur City Hall forced the hawkers to move to another site in the vicinity. However, the temporary site is too small and hawkers complained about losing profits.

Officials from the Wangsa Maju MCA division and representatives from the Jalan Genting Klang Hawkers Association then approached Lim, who is also the MCA deputy president, for assistance.

Lim said he had raised the matter at the Cabinet meeting on April 2 and it was decided that the problem must be resolved as soon as possible.

Several discussions were held among Lim, Wangsa Maju MCA division, the hawkers association, City Hall and Federal Territory MCA chairman Datuk Tan Chai Ho.

During the discussions, the officials agreed to build a temporary market at Danau Kota, Setapak.

Lim said he was informed by City Hall that construction of the temporary market would cost about RM51,300.

"The money is not a problem. We will see how we can raise it and I will assist in whatever way I can," he said.

Lim said he was grateful to all those who had assisted in solving the problem, including Tan, Wangsa Maju MCA division chairman Ho Yoon Ping, City Hall, the hawkers association, Wangsa Maju Member of Parliament Datuk Dr Kamal Salleh and Bukit Bintang MP Dr Lee Chong Meng.

City Hall's Petty Traders and Hawkers Management Department director Mohd Shukran Abdul Halim said it would take only about two weeks to construct the temporary market.

He said the permanent market, to be located about a stone's throw away from the old site, would be completed in less than two years.

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