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Workers Day to be biggest ever, says Lim

Hamisah Hamid

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will officiate the 1999 Workers Day celebration on May 22 at the National Sports Complex in Bukit Jalil.

Announcing this yesterday, Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek said the gathering will be the biggest ever held in the country as some 12,000 people are expected to attend.

Apart from the Prime Minister as a special guest, others who will be attending the event include the invited guests, workers from the private and public sectors, statutory bodies, government agencies, disabled workers and trade unions.

Lim said that in his special message, Dr Mahathir will thank the workers for their cooperation and contribution at a time when the country is facing economic difficulties.

"The preparation for the celebration has started. We have received positive cooperation from the employers and workers on the preparation," Lim told reporters before chairing the ministry's post-Cabinet meeting in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

The event is a tripartite effort from the Government, employers and workers.

Lim said the objective of the Workers Day celebration is to recognise and appreciate the contribution of the workers to the development of the country.

"It is also to strengthen the spirit of cooperation among the three parties, especially in facing the challenges of the economic crisis," he added.

There are 13 awards prepared under various categories to be given to outstanding workers and employers.

The awards are Model Employee (male and female); Disabled Employee (male and female); Caring Employer; Ideal Plantation; Workers Savings; Model Union (government and private sectors); Workers' Skills Development (heavy and small and medium scale industries); and Workers Safety and Health Awards (heavy industry and SMIs).

There will also be a slogan contest in conjunction with the celebration.

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