

Zainal chosen as ILO convention vice-chairman

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. — Senator Zainal Rampak has become the first Malaysian workers' representative to be appointed vice-chairman to the convention of the International Labour Organisation.

He was selected as a candidate for the vice-chairmanship by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and will become the spokesman for workers' issues and problems.

ILO has three vice-chairmen — one representing the workers and the other two representing employers and the government sector.

The 90th convention began in Geneva on Monday and is scheduled to end on June 20.

The representative of the Swiss gov-

ernment, Jean Jacques Elmiguer, was elected chairman.

When contacted in Geneva, the Malaysian Trades Union Congress president said the appointment was an honour to Malaysia, particularly its workforce.

In a statement released here today, the MTUC said what made the appointment extra special was because Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was scheduled to speak at the ILO convention next Tuesday.

On the convention proper, Zainal said three issues were on the agenda — the need to provide social security coverage to workers in the informal sector, encourage more workers to join cooperatives and the need to check occupational hazards and diseases.