

Press Clipping

Port Klang free zone to open its doors in June next year

KUALA LUMPUR: The Port Klang Free Zone (PKFZ) near West Port, modelled after Dubai's Jebel Ali Free Zone, is expected to open its doors to investors in June 2006, ahead of schedule.

Currently, Jebel Ali Free Zone Authority (JAFZA) International, the designer and manager of PKFZ, is in active negotiations with 33 companies from all over the world, said JAFZA International's director of international operations Chuck Heath.

PKFZ, owned by Port Klang Authority, will be the country's first fully-integrated free commercial and industrial zone.

Covering 400 hectares, it offers prepared industrial sites (open land), light industrial units (LIUs) for factories and warehouses and office space at the PKFZ business complex.

"The project is 74 per cent completed overall and we are slightly ahead of schedule," Heath told a media briefing, here Wednesday.

JAFZA International has 20 years' experience in port and free zone management and has helped governments develop free zones in Morocco and Djibouti.

Heath said there were only 50 companies operating from Jebel Ali Free Zone after five years of operation but the number mushroomed to 5,000 companies from 120 countries in 20 years.

Following this success, he said JAFZA International would apply the same marketing technique and network in wooing investors to PKFZ.

In fact, he said there were enquiries on PKFZ from 57 companies in the Dubai free zone, of which seven of them were in serious discussions with JAFZA.

Heath hoped that upon operation in June, about 2.3 million sq.ft of PKFZ would already be occupied.

Meanwhile, the open land offers 298.4-ha of prepared sites for long term lease while the LIUs have 512 units at 5,487 sq. ft each with a tenancy of one to three years.

Its office complex comprises four, 8-storey blocks with a flexible tenancy of one to three years while other amenities include an exhibition centre, one-stop service centre, on-site customs, immigration, security, and service providers such as banks, clinics and food courts. ■