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One-Stop Agency Seeks For Direct Decision Making Power

By Leslean Arshad

PORT KLANG, July 5 (Bernama) -- Port Klang Free Zone's one-stop agency is seeking to be granted with the power to directly make fast decisions at the zone.

Port Klang Free Zone's project manager, Port Klang Free Zone Sdn Bhd, through its owner Port Klang Authority (PKA), is believed to have submitted the request to the Ministry of Finance for consideration and deliberation, industry sources here said.

The one-stop agency currently houses more than 20 Federal and State departments and agencies under a single roof.

They include the Ministry of Finance, Registrar of Companies/Business, Ministry of International Trade and Industry, Malaysian Industry Development Authority, Department of Environment, Selangor State Investment Centre, Tenaga Nasional Bhd, Ministry of Internal Security, Immigration Department and Inland Revenue Board.

PKA chairman Datuk Yap Pian Hon meanwhile told Bernama that it was important to have the necessary mechanism to facilitate investors to implement their projects within a short period.

The success of Dubai's Jebel Ali Free Trade Area is largely due to the free zone authority having autonomous power in all areas and aspects of operating the area, including approvals concerning investors' business operations, he said.

"It is important that we have a competitive mechanism for PKFZ to attract investors, especially foreigners because they cannot afford to wait for months for decisions and business approvals," he said.

The Port Klang Free Zone is a 405-hectare international cargo distribution and consolidation centre adjacent to the Westport here.

It is modelled after the Jebel Ali Free Zone in Dubai, largely recognised as the most successful free zone in the world.

Yap said making fast decisions was one of the area that PKA was looking at seriously for Port Klang Free Zone.

Another industry member familiar with the operations of the Port Klang Free Zone meanwhile said that on an average, the approval process currently ranged from one month to three months.

If given the autonomous power, the one-stop agency could get the approvals done within a week or two, he said.

Yap said the one-stop agency in Port Klang Free Zone would replicate "as close as possible" to the agency in the Jebel Ali Free Zone.

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