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TRANSPORT ◀ 47

> GOVERNMENT'S SECOND BIGGEST INVESTMENT IN THE PORT INDUSTRY

PKFZ to be operational by year-end

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DUBAI: THE Port Klang Free Zone (PKFZ), a 405ha international cargo distribution and consolidation centre adjacent to Westports, will be fully-operational by year-end, Transport Minister Datuk Sri Chan Kong Choy said.

Owned by Port Klang Authority, the free zone is modelled after Jebel Ali Free Zone in Dubai, widely recognised as the most successful free zone in the world and home to over 5,000 companies from over 120 countries.

PKFZ is managed and marketed by Jafza International, the manager of Jebel Ali Free Zone.

PKFZ is the Government's second biggest investment in the port industry since the 1990s and has been developed as the country's first fully integrated free commercial and industrial zone.

"PKFZ will be the Jebel Ali Free



PKFZ will be the Jebel Ali Free Zone of Malaysia and even South-East Asia, says Chan

Zone of Malaysia and even South-East Asia as it is the only one being designed and developed with the expertise of Jafza International.



Westports stands to gain by the soon-to-be-opened free zone, says Gnanalingam

al," Chan said.

He said the Prime Minister was committed to formulating policies to ensure the most competitive

business environment exists for PKFZ, and this means PKFZ will mirror the incentives and privileges of Jebel Ali as closely as possible.

The Government recognised that the success of Jebel Ali Free Trade Area is largely owed to the fact that the free zone authority has the autonomous power in all areas and aspects of operating the free zone, including all approvals concerning the investors' business operations.

He said the Government has agreed to explore the possibilities of replicating the system of the Jebel Ali One Stop Agency model for seamless trade facilitation.

"If we have to re-look at certain aspects of the current service delivery system within the Government, we will do it. If we have to amend the necessary laws to realise this objective, we will make this happen," Chan said.

"We are working in a whole new range of incentives and privileges to raise PKFZ to a level unseen

before in Malaysia," the Minister said at a seminar here on logistics opportunities in Port Klang.

The seminar, jointly organised by PKFZ, Jafza International and Westports Malaysia, aims to attract investors, manufacturers and shipping lines in the United Arab Emirates to Port Klang and be part of the free zone.

This roadshow in Dubai also aims to attract investors from Jafza International who have plans to expand their businesses to PKFZ, Chan said.

Meanwhile, Westports executive chairman Tan Sri G. Gnanalingam said Westports stands to gain by the soon-to-be opened PKFZ, which will help Port Klang to double container volume from 6 to 12 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) in the next five years. This is in line with the Government's call for the growth of container throughput from 12 million TEUs to 18 million under the 9th Malaysia Plan.