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Free Zone to open at Port Klang soon

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DUBAI: A massive free trade zone, modelled after the United Arab Emirates' Jebel Ali Free Zone Area, will open at Port Klang by the end of the year.

The 405ha Port Klang Free Zone (PKFZ), a fully integrated free commercial and industrial zone, will help manufacturers and related businesses generate cargo for the port and the nation, said Transport Minister Datuk Seri Chan Kong Choy.

"Investors are given the option to build their own facilities or to lease ready-built facilities," he said at a seminar on logistics opportunities in Port Klang at a hotel here yesterday.

The seminar was jointly organised by the Port Klang Authority (PKA), Westport Malaysia, PKFZ and Jafza International.

Owned by PKA, the free zone will be managed by Jafza International and modelled after the Jebel Ali Free Zone Area, the world's largest free trade zone.

Chan said the PKFZ will have

distribution, value added and logistics services.

"It is hoped that the PKFZ will be the Jebel Ali Free Zone Area for Malaysia," he added.

"The Malaysian Government has agreed to explore the possibilities of replicating the system of the Jebel Ali one-stop agency for seamless trade facilitation.

"If we have to re-look certain aspects of the current delivery system in the Government, we will do it.

"This includes the possibility of amending necessary laws to realise this objective."

Chan said the Government wanted the PKFZ to be a "totally new free zone experience" for local and foreign investors, and would make sure the public service delivery mechanism would be on par with the new standards set.

Westport executive chairman Tan Sri G. Gnanalingam said Westport stood to gain by the soon-to-be opened PKFZ, which would help Port Klang double its volume growth from 6 million TEUs to 12million TEUs in the next five years.
