

Press Clipping

Port Klang Free Zone

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A model zone for Nigeria

NIGERIA wants to develop its own version of the Port Klang Free Zone (PKFZ) in Pulau Indah.

Ifeanyi Mbah, technical adviser to the Nigerian commerce and Industry minister, was recently in Malaysia to meet with the management of Port Klang Free Zone Sdn Bhd to discuss a turnkey free zone project in Nigeria with the possibility of PKFZ offering management consultancy for the project.

Although a number of free zones already exist in Nigeria, the proposed turnkey project would be a new development, which once operational and successful, could be emulated by the existing privately-owned free zones across the country.

The Nigerian government expects to invest some US\$1 billion (US\$1 = RM3.36) in the project and expects construction to begin by the end of 2008.

Mbah said the Nigerian Federal Minister of Commerce and Industry, Charles C. Ugwu, was impressed with the PKFZ concept when the latter visited Malaysia in September this year.

"The Nigerian government has a new integrated industrial development strategy which involves clustering economic activities to accelerate the economic growth of the country.

"The minister believes PKFZ's integrated free zone model is perfect for Nigeria because it



provides industrial and commercial activities with value-add opportunities which will generate enormous growth and wealth," Mbah said in a statement yesterday.

"The PKFZ model is interesting to us because it is unlike the conventional free zone solution. It focuses on manufacturers who wish to grow their business rather

than have a trading focus," Mbah added.

PKFZ general manager of business development Chia Kon Leong said PKFZ's management is considering the request for management consultancy in the Nigerian project.

"It is encouraging to note that the PKFZ model has caught the attention of the Nigerian government and the management will be

willing to share their experience and expertise," Chia said.

PKFZ has been operational since November 2006. It provides a total of 450ha, of which 259.2ha are open land lots, 512 light industrial units, 500,000 sq ft office space, a business-class hotel and an exhibition centre.

PKFZ has so far attracted 39 companies with investments worth RM729 million.