

## Press Clipping

Port Klang Free Zone

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THE Port Klang Authority (PKA) is offering 20 acres of land to be leased out to Northport (M) Bhd in a move to maximise Port Klang's capacity and seek additional sources of revenue.

Chairman Datuk Chor Chee Heung is confident Northport can use the extra space to expand its conventional cargo business located around its south point.

"I believe Northport will accept our offer to expand its capacity," he said in press conference at the Port Klang Authority recently.

Chor added that the offer was one of PKA's efforts to improve its revenue by developing or leasing its land in the Port Klang area.

PKA's source of income comes from the lease and rental of land, port and foreshore charges and other non-operating revenue.

The port authority is also developing the RM4bil national project, Port Klang Free Zone (PKFZ) that features prepared land, light industrial and warehouse units and a business complex in a free zone area to be completed by April next year.

PKA now manages, markets and operates the project after Jebel Ali Free Zone the world's leading free zone operator withdrew from its concession to manage the PKFZ last week.

"Although the project is still in progress, we have attracted quite a number of investors," Chor said, adding that PKFZ, once completed, would also have its own hotel and highway, directly linking the area to Kuala Lumpur and Westports.

The 405ha PKFZ has seen an upsurge of interest from local and foreign investors in the last four months with the number of tenants more than doubling to 20 from nine in February.

These tenants have committed investments in the PKFZ totalling over RM467mil with a possible future investment of RM85mil.

This year tenants have signed up for 55 acres of prepared industrial land with options for 52 more acres and eight light industrial or warehouse units with options for two more.

Six lots of office space with over 5,300 sq ft have also been taken up.

The latest investor in PKFZ is Pantech Group

# Offer for Northport to expand cargo ops

Port Klang Authority aims to improve revenue with land lease

Holdings Bhd, which has taken seven acres of prepared land. Main board listed Pantech Group manufactures and supplies pipes, fittings and flow control (PFF) products.

In terms of port growth, Chor forecasted that Westports and Northport in Port Klang would be able to achieve this year's target of seven million TEUs.

"Westports is expected to contribute 4.2 million TEUs and the rest will come from Northport," he said.

»I believe Northport will accept our offer«

DATUK CHOR CHEE HEUNG

He added that Port Klang registered a 10.6% growth in containers handled to 3,385,086 TEUs for the first six months of the year against the previous corresponding period.

Of the total, Northport handled 1,300,075 TEUs and Westports 2,085,011 TEUs.

In the first half of the year, Port Klang handled 64.9 million tonnes of conventional cargo, a 10.1% rise from the same period of 2006.

The number of vessels berthed has also swelled to 8,358 in the first six months of the year, an increase of 2.3% from the 8,174 vessels in the corresponding period last year.

Chor said PKA, in an effort to motivate its employees to improve their quality of work and service, has awarded 11 of its team members with the Anugerah Perkhidmatan Cemerlang. "We are also aware of the importance of information and communications technology (ICT) and have recently bought 35 computers, five notebooks and other ICT equipment," he said.



Datuk Chor Chee Heung