



PORT KLANG FREE ZONE SDN BHD (708970-U)  
P.O. Box 261, Jalan Pelabuhan,  
42009 Port Klang, Selangor D.E., Malaysia  
Jalan FZ 2-P5, Port Klang Free Zone / KS 12,  
42920 Pulau Indah, Selangor Darul Ehsan  
Tel : +603 3101 5568  
Fax : +603 3101 4489  
E-mail : info@pkfz.com  
Website : www.pkfz.com

## Press Clipping

Port Klang Free Zone

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### Business

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## Port Klang Mulls One-Stop Agency To Boost Free Zone

**By Tham Choy Lin**

BEIJING, June 23 (Bernama) -- Port Klang Authority is in talks with the government to establish a one-stop agency within its free zone at Pulau Indah to expedite approvals for investors to set up business there, said its new chairman Datuk Chor Chee Heung.

He said interest in the Port Klang Free Zone (PKFZ) has been very promising and the take-up rate is approaching 20 percent although it was launched only last year.

"We have not obtained the approval yet but hopefully by the end of the year, we will see something," he told Bernama.

"We are talking to the government especially MIDA (Malaysian Industrial Development Authority) to set up a one-stop authority which will include all the various agencies in the government which issue approvals."

Chor is in Beijing for the opening of the Awana Beijing restaurant which is part-owned by Pempena Sdn Bhd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tourism Malaysia, of which he is also chairman.

He said the port is actively promoting the PKFZ to attract foreign shippers and manufacturers to set up operations there.

"PKFZ is the first of its kind in Malaysia which encompasses both commercial and industrial zones and the response has been very, very promising, it is now under 20 percent," he said.

Having a one-stop agency will boost the port's goal of raising the occupancy of the massive 405 ha zone to 50 percent in three years.

"The development of PKFZ will also indirectly boost the handling of containers and other cargo using North Port and West Port to export goods," he said.

PKFZ is managed in partnership with Jafza International which is behind the Dubai-based Jebel Ali Free Zone, the leading distribution hub in West Asia.

Norway's Aker Kvaerner was among the most recent to open in PKFZ with a purpose-built integrated subsea oil and gas centre, the first of its kind in the world, with a total investment of US\$100 million (US\$1 = RM3.45).

Chor said the port is also working to enhance its world ranking, currently at number 16, in the face of stiff competition from ports in the region and in Asia.

"It is amazing to see the ports in China developing so fast in the last five years. But we are not



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standing still, if we cannot beat them, we will remain competitive," he said.

Chor said Port Klang is also preparing to receive the latest generation of super vessels carrying loads of 12,000 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent containers) by dredging its channels to a depth of 15 metres.