

## Press Clipping

Port Klang Free Zone

Publication: The Star  
Star Special (Focus On Selangor)  
Pg 3 (1 of 1)

Date: December 11, 2005



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### NEWS CLIPPING

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Focus on Selangor **3**

SUNDAY 11 December 2005

StarSpecial

# Taking the next step

By EDWARD RAJENDRA

SELANGOR is the powerhouse of the country's industrial expansion and Pulau Indah is one of the ideal locations for multi-nationals to set up base.

Pulau Indah's strategic location, bustling business environment, skilled and educated workforce would be a boon for these companies.

Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohamad Khir Toyo said Pulau Indah's strength is that it is located at the crossroads of what is considered the busiest shipping route in the world, the Straits of Malacca.

"Port Klang is positioned to capitalise on both the international and domestic markets. It comprises Northport and Westport, two world class terminals equipped with the state-of-the-art port facilities and infrastructure to handle all kinds of cargo," he said.

He said the Port Klang Free Zone (PKFZ) represents an ideal investment for companies and corporations which intend to set up or expand their business operations in South East Asia.

"PKFZ is well on course to becoming not only the top portside project in the country but also the trans-shipment mega hub due to its proximity to Westport," he said.

Dr Khir said when fully completed, PKFZ will be a self-contained island development featuring categories of industrial, light, general (zones) and one-stop Customs and Immigration check point, a town centre and

investor facilities.

But this development is not in isolation, there is a passenger cruise terminal, in addition to the development, a marina resort and a Royal yacht club, he said.

PKFZ which is situated next to West Port is modelled after Dubai's highly successful Jebel Ali Free Zone (Jafza). It is designed and managed by Jafza International, the consulting and management division of Jafza.

Jafza International's director of international operations Chuck Heath said construction at the site has been progressing smoothly.

"The project is 74% completed overall and we are slightly ahead of schedule. We've received hundreds of enquiries so far and many have progressed further. Now, we are in active negotiations with 33 companies from all over the world. Several of them are in the final stages of discussion," said Heath.

He added that Jafza hopes to sign on a European multinational soon.

Heath said PKFZ is designed to promote entreport trade and manufacturing industries involved in producing goods primarily for export.

PKFZ is gazetted as a Free Zone incorporating both commercial and manufacturing activities.

"This means factories and logistics firms can be located in the same zone so as to allow for easier coordination and smoother supply chain management, making PKFZ the first development of its kind for Selangor," explained Heath.



The completed light industrial units at the Port Klang Free Zone in Pulau Indah which will spur industrial growth.

Dr Khir said Westport in Pulau Indah has established trade links with 120 countries and is linked by major shipping lines to 500 ports around the world.

"Domestically, it has excellent road and rail network linkages to the mainland and hinterlands via highways, expressways and railways. For clients of PKFZ choosing Pulau Indah to establish their firms adds up to good quality logistics capabilities whether by land, air or sea, so that their goods can be shipped to markets of their choice efficiently," he said.

Dr Khir said Pulau Indah Industrial Park is an ideal location for cluster industrialisation.

"Cluster industrialisation is actually to locate major industries such that their supporting industries are sited alongside. Our approach in this business idea is to help improve production efficiency and quality," he added.

Dr Khir said the location of industries in Pulau Indah industrial estate makes it a natural draw for companies involved in shipping, marine and related industries.

"With the industrial area, Westport and PKFZ there is bound to be a spin-off of industrial and business potentials. With the industries located close to each other it will help reduce cost," he said.

Dr Khir said Selangor is a premier

investment destination.

"In terms of infrastructure, accessibility, incentives and investment climate the state offers an excellent package to both domestic and foreign investors. With PKFZ to begin operations in June next year, we are taking the next step towards streamlining the State's effort to generate investments," he said.

He added that this step is timely as generating and maintaining investment is a serious endeavour, which the State places strong emphasis on.

Dr Khir said he was overwhelmed with the confidence that investors have in Selangor and its machinery in ensuring the success of their projects.