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PTP RECORDS DOUBLE-DIGIT GROWTH IN FIRST HALF OF 2007

The Port of Tanjung Pelepas (PTP) experienced an impressive double digit growth of 21.4% for the first six months of this year compared to the same period last year. The port recorded a throughput of 2.7m TEUs from January to June this year.

In a recent interview, PTP CEO Harun Johari said PTP was on track to achieve its targeted throughput for 2007.

“Our growth experienced during the first six months is due to the new services and the strong throughput recorded by the ports’ existing customers” said Harun.

In addition, Harun said that the growth was also be attributed to the fact that shipping lines were deploying larger vessels which were passing more cargo through the port, and that PTP’s Free-zone tenants were generating healthy volumes. All these factors according to Harun contributed to the very good first six months of the year for PTP.

PTP is located within the boundaries of the Iskandar Development Region (IDR) and is one of the very few ports in the world which has a Free-zone that is integrated with the port’s terminal. The Free-zone currently is home to various international logistics and manufacturing companies operating from the distribution parks located within the Free-zone.

Harun foresees that PTP's high productivity rate, the large container handling capacity that it possesses coupled with the investment opportunities offered through the Free-Zone would perfectly complement the development of IDR's planned "integrated logistics and manufacturing hub". He also said that the multimodal connectivity offered by PTP to shippers and other port users has positioned PTP to be the international gateway for the IDR.

"Potential investors looking at setting up their operations within the IDR will benefit from PTP & its Free-zone" said Harun.

"The availability of world-class logistics facilities at PTP offers the best solution to support efficient and effective supply chain management for potential investors. PTP has the capacity for future growth and further expansion to cater for their needs. All these will complement the development of IDR." he added.

"Similarly, the success of IDR will ultimately generate more import/export activity which will contribute to PTP's growth as a world class port. Shipping lines calling at PTP will realize the opportunity available for them to tap into this potential and growing Johor hinterland market," Harun said.

He went on to say that "shipping lines would also benefit from the increased cargo being generated from the PTP Free zone and the surrounding areas as IDR progresses and develops further".

PTP earlier this year increased its container handling capacity further when it officially launched two additional berths. Harun said that the port has unlimited expansion capabilities and will always ensure that there is sufficient capacity by developing its port infrastructure and facilities ahead of demand. Harun added that in anticipation of further

growth in the future, PTP would this year see the delivery of more cranes and other port equipment.

“PTP will continue positioning itself as the region’s preferred port through high and reliable operational efficiency and focusing on its customers’ needs by responding and exceeding customer’s needs” he said.