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# Whistleblowers policy to cover other sectors, says Ong

by **Giam Say Khoon**  
newsdesk@thesunday.com

**KLANG:** The whistleblowers policy (WBP) implemented for the Port Klang Authority (PKA) and Port Klang Free Zone (PKFZ) will gradually be introduced to other statutory bodies under the jurisdiction of the ministry.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Ong Tee Keat, who launched the policy yesterday, said the proposal was recommended by the ad hoc committee on corporate governance.

"Although we are starting with the maritime sector, it does not mean it will not be applicable to other non-maritime sectors," he

told reporters when asked if the policy will be introduced to other agencies in the ministry.

"For the time being, there are some loose ends that I need to sort out, but please be a little bit more patient and I will come back with more details.

"It will be premature now for me to announce a list of names

(of agencies) and I prefer to do it one at a time. We start with PKA, followed by other port authorities and, subsequently, we are going to move on to other (non-maritime) sectors."

Asked whether Puspakom, the vehicle inspection authority, will be having a similar policy, Ong said the ministry can only monitor Puspakom because it is an independent entity over which the ministry has no jurisdiction.

According to the WBP guidelines, PKA or PKFZ employees, including board members, may complain or report to the appointed representative (AR) via the "whistleblowing system" at [www.wbs.pka.gov.my](http://www.wbs.pka.gov.my) or write to the AR, and the AR will forward the complaint to the supervisory committee on governance and integrity.

Both PKA and PKFZ are giving an assurance that the identity of the whistleblower and the nature of the complaint will be kept confidential, and no disciplinary action will be taken against a complainant who submits a complaint or report in good faith.

Among the malpractices they are encouraged to disclose are:

- » **criminal** offences like moneylaundering, fraud, bribery and corruption;
- » **unethical** practices in accounting, internal controls and financial reporting;
- » **miscarriage** of justice;
- » **sexual** harassment;
- » **abuse** of authority;
- » **deliberate** concealment of any malpractice; and
- » **conflict** of interest.

P K A  
chairman  
Datuk  
Lee Hwa



Ong presents letters of appointment to new PKA independent directors Ng and Mohd Nik Hasyudeen

Beng said the head of the appointed representatives will be selected from the newly-appointed independent directors.

Asked why the former directors allegedly involved in the mismanagement of PKFZ were not sued, he said the authority had filed a lawsuit against former PKA general manager Datin Paduka OC. Phang last year, but the authority had not decided whether to act against the former board members although there were recommendations from its task force.

"We are not dragging our feet because we only take action when we have clear evidence," he said.

"we are aware that the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and the police are doing investigations on the board members, so we are waiting for the outcome of the MACC and police investigations."

Ong also announced the appointment of new independent directors - Datuk Ng Mann Cheong and Mohd Nik Hasyudeen Yusoff - to the PKA board, as recommended by the ad hoc committee. They join the first independent director, Datuk M. Rajasingam.

"We mean business and we are now in the process of implementing all the recommended initiatives," he said.

"The appointment of one-third independent directors has been done by the issuance of a directive to all the port authorities two weeks ago."

He said although there was no rule partisan members must be appointed

as independent directors, it was fair to appoint them if they were professionals and knew the trade well.

"What I want is professionalism and when we want to initiate changes, we have to do it one at a time," he said.

On PKFZ's performance, Ong said it was now in the black with the operating revenue last year at RM15 million, the expenditure at RM9.89 million and the profit at RM5.18 million.

"Although it is still quite a modest figure, my advice to the PKFZ is we have to embark on a comprehensive turnaround plan," he said.

"In the past several months, a few initiatives had been implemented but what we want for this year is to have a more aggressive outreach and branding exercise, while we implement some of the recommended initiatives put forth by the (ad hoc) committee."

He said PKFZ handled 43,032 TEUs in containerised cargo last year, compared with only 1,581 TEUs in 2007, while non-containerised cargo increased from 34,175 tonnes in 2007 to 1.28 million tonnes last year.

Last year, the occupancy rate for light industrial units was 31.6% compared with 16.6% in 2008, but PKFZ must still work hard on the usage of open land, which was at 15.5% at present,

and the lease of office building space, now only 1.8% in terms of floor area.