



## Hamriyah Free Zone Authority launches Food Park complex

To cater to the growing demand of food products in local and regional markets, Hamriyah Free Zone Authority (HFZA) launched its flagship project, 'Food Park', on 2nd March 2017 on the sidelines of Gulfood 2017 held at the Dubai World Trade Center.

In the presence of stalwarts from the UAE food industry, Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director of HFZA and Sharjah Airport International Free Zone, addressed the press conference

announcing the launch of the Food Park. He pointed out that HFZA's Food Park would be the region's first and largest city dedicated to food and commercial industries. "It would comprise of warehouses, offices and labor accommodations on a total area of over 11 million square feet," he added.

Al Mazrouei also thanked HH Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohamed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and

Ruler of Sharjah, for his directives and support and to Sheikh Sultan bin Mohamed bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Sharjah, for his continuous follow up to ensure the success of this vital project.

He said that the mega project was part of the Free Zone's endeavor and commitment to develop innovative services and to cater to the growing demand of food products in local and regional markets. "Such ambitious plans are in line with the economic vision of Sharjah under the prudent leadership of HH the Ruler of Sharjah and with the follow up of the Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Sharjah," he noted.

"HFZA's Food Park will be the first of its kind food industry complex in terms of its nature and size and is expected to contribute greatly to the GDP in the future, by attracting more foreign investors to the emirate and encouraging the business community to expand their existing projects to enjoy more rewarding returns," he stated.



Ali Al Jarwan, Deputy Commercial Director at HFZA, highlighted the features of doing business in the Food Park. "The period of time that separates the investor from setting up his 'dream company' is just one hour. And this involves just three steps - completing the application form at the sales counter, paying the fees and collecting the trade license. Licenses can be for commercial, industrial or service purposes," he elaborated.

Al Jarwan added: "Commercial license can be for general trading or specific trading of up to five activities; the industrial license can cover processing, assembly, packaging and manufacturing activities; while service licenses are given for an array of activities and consultancy services."

The Food Park includes a business center comprising of over 100

executive suites of 15 sq m to 42 sq m. Lease is renewable annually. There is ready infrastructure for electricity, water and IT. Offices come with flexible space and are equipped with communication and internet facilities. There are five packages of offices starting from Dh1,000 (USD2,998) to Dh35,000 (USD9,537).

Participating in a panel discussion at the event, Dr. Edward Fadel, General Manager of Trofina, spoke about his experience at Hamriyah Free Zone from an investor perspective. "It was quite easy for us to set up a manufacturing unit of the company here, and when we wanted to expand, HFZA was very quick in allocating additional land for us for which we are very grateful and thankful. This has allowed us to expand even further and to grow more within the Free Zone."

Other members on the panel included Praveen Vishwanath, MD, Crisp Food; Eng. Houmam Aboraid, Quality and R&D Manager, Trofina Foods; Hamid Badawi, Deputy CEO, Al Islami Foods; Leo Condemi, MD, Italian Dairy Products; and Matloob Ahmed, General Manager, Astarta.

Established in 1995, HFZA is Sharjah's largest free zone and the second largest industrial hub in the UAE. The Free Zone houses over 6,600 enterprises from 157 countries, attracting foreign investment from more than 500 industry verticals in the key sectors such as oil and gas, petrochemicals, maritime, steel, construction and food products. The Free Zone allows 100 percent foreign ownership, exemption from commercial levies, repatriation of capital and profit, no corporation or income tax and no import or export tax.

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