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N34 NATION THE STAR, SATURDAY 25 OCTOBER 2008

Prefab way to cut work

Govt projects given 70% rule to reduce foreign labour

By LOH FOON FONG
foonfong@thestar.com.my

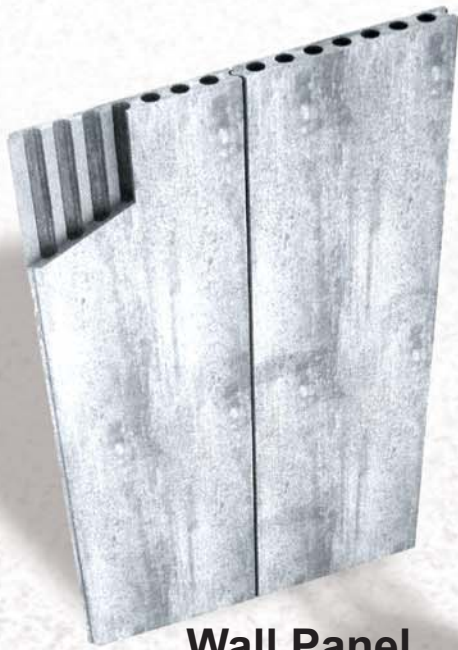
KUALA LUMPUR: Prefabricated parts will be used in all Government projects in a bid to reduce the dependence on foreign workers, Works Minister Datuk Mohd Zin Mohamed said. He said the move would begin with projects under the Public Works Department, which are worth RM6.9bil.

The use of prefabricated parts was part of the Industrial Building System (IBS) which would be adopted for all Government projects. "The Government has ordered all government agencies carrying out development and people's housing projects to use at least 70% IBS content in those projects," he told a press conference at his office after the weekly Cabinet meeting yesterday. Mohd Zin said to ensure that the IBS was imple-

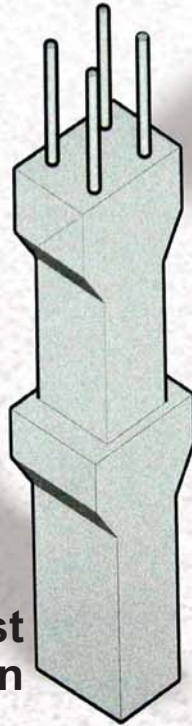
mented, a National Secretariat on IBS has been incorporated under the Works Ministry. The secretariat would coordinate, monitor and help all parties, including the private sector, in implementing the IBS, he said. He said the Construction Industry Development Board had also established an IBS one-stop centre last month. The centre would provide facilities such as training rooms, gallery, exhibition hall, testing laboratory, an IBS village with sample houses as well as an incubator offering small offices to individuals or companies starting out their business offering IBS services or product sales, he added. Mohd Zin said there were 315,000 registered foreign construction workers, making up 75% of all construction workers. He said the Ministry planned to reduce it by 15% next year.

» There are 315,000 registered foreign construction workers «
DATUK MOHD ZIN MOHAMED

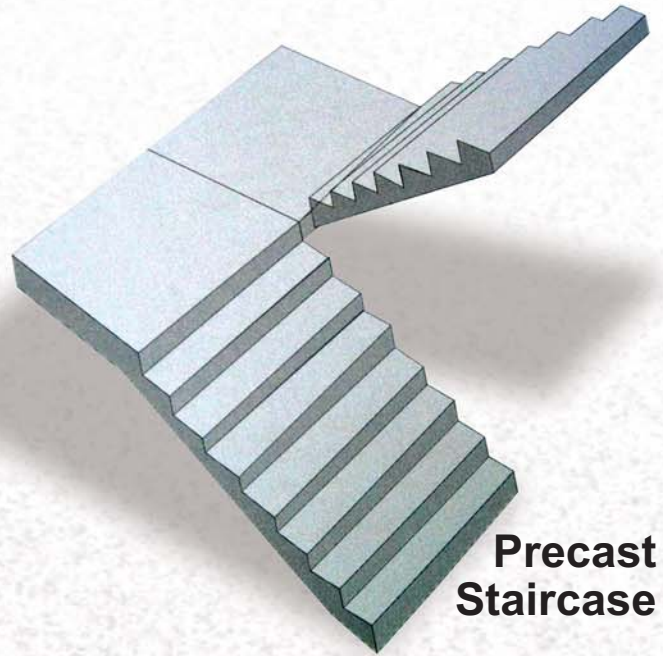
Types of prefabricated IBS components available:



Wall Panel



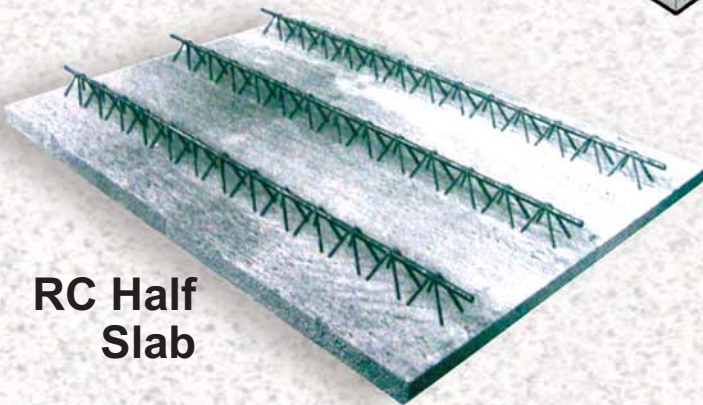
Precast Column



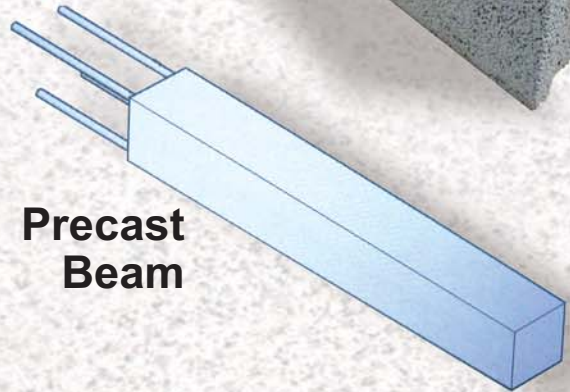
Precast Staircase



Hollow Block



RC Half Slab



Precast Beam

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