

BEPZA: A Trailblazer of Modern Industrialization

Celebration of the golden jubilee of independence of Bangladesh is the biggest milestone for the nation. The country has improved its status from a "Basket Case" to an "Emerging Economy" under the dynamic leadership of the Honourable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Bangladesh's such success in economic development is the outcome of the visions of its Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who orchestrated the roadmap of economic growth and development of Bangladesh through industrialization and exports. Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA), being the pioneer investment promotion agency in Bangladesh, is committed to ensuring that Bangabandhu's dream of "Sonar Bangla" is realized through promoting investment, export and employment. The trailblazing success of BEPZA has created a new history in the path of modern industrialization. At present, the authority leads the way in product diversification through shifting its focus from traditional manufacturing.

After the successful launching of 1st EPZ of the country in Chattogram in 1983, BEPZA has grown steadily adding Dhaka EPZ in the portfolio in 1993 as 2nd EPZ. Afterwards, 6 (six) new EPZs namely Mongla, Cumilla, Ishwardi, Uttara (Nilphamari), Adamjee & Karnaphuli came into being operational. BEPZA has shown tremendous success in the fields of investment, export, employment generation, product diversification, lifestyle modification, green industrialization etc. through these EPZs.

'BEPZA has been playing a momentous role in transforming Bangladesh's economy'- this statement of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina echoes the contribution of BEPZA in the overall progress of Bangladesh. This success story of EPZs under BEPZA inspired govt. to introduce new investment arena in the name of Economic Zone. In this regard, govt. has established two investment promotional agencies- Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA) and Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA).

Economic Involvement of BEPZA

Today, a total of 530 enterprises from 38 countries in BEPZA's eight EPZs are contributing to almost one fifth of Bangladesh's annual export. Local & Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and employment by the enterprises in EPZs have been increasing significantly every year. The phenomenal success of BEPZA in converting a principally agro-based economy to an industrially advanced economy has been lauded everywhere.

In last thirteen years tenure of the present Government under the vibrant leadership of the Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, BEPZA experienced a growth unmatched in most places. During this period the authority gained more than

threefold increase in the flow of investment (from US\$ 1.5 billion to US\$ 5.81 billion). Export figures escalated from US\$ 17.5 billion to US\$ 91.26 billion. Number of enterprises became double and the creation of around 2.6 hundred thousand new jobs culminating to a staggering 472,314 workers in the EPZs.

Trustworthy Relations with Investors

During its 40 years of journey, BEPZA has created and sustained a trusted partnership with its investors, both from home and abroad. BEPZA provides special and significant services to attract and make investors comfortable. Its rules, regulations and documentation procedure have been made easy and simple with minimum formalities. Investors are required to deal with BEPZA only for sanctioning of the project and subsequent other operational purposes. Starting from the approval of the projects, BEPZA provides allotment of land/factory building & Work Permits to the foreign nationals and all other matters necessary for operation of EPZ enterprises. BEPZA also provides same-day services to the investors in maximum cases through automation under One Stop Services (OSS). The facilitating operating environment, better physical infrastructure and more importantly the personalized care & day-to-day supports have been able to earn the trust & confidence of the existing investors. All these have resulted in making Bangladesh's EPZs as their investment hub and home. Prominent investing countries of the world have made additional investments and expanded their operations, as a manifestation of their initial success. Satisfied investors are bringing more investors to the EPZs. The brand image vis a vis the investors' confidence built through years' of operation is the core strength of BEPZA.

Productive Enclave Scenario

BEPZA has already accommodated over 530 enterprises from 38 countries in only 2307.27 acres of land. In this small area, the authority has created enormous opportunities for the investors. The major investors are from South Korea, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, India, UK, USA, Pakistan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Canada, The Netherlands, Germany, Singapore and etc.

BEPZA also executes diversification plan and aims to shift the lion share of export earnings from garments to other sectors, such as Electrical & Electronics Goods, Toys, Optical Frame & Sunglasses, Bamboo made Coffin, Wig & Fashion Hair, Hair Accessories, Tent & Tent Accessories, Sleeping Bags, Travel Goods, Luggage & Bag, Battery, Motor Parts, Bicycle, Car Seat Trim Cover, Crochery, Cap, Rope, Diversified Jute Items, Carpet, Festive Carnival Items, Cigar & Cigarette, Industrial Gloves, Lighter, Key Chain, Medal, LED Products, Lens, Jewelry, Camping Furniture, Golf Shaft, PPE Products etc. BEPZA is relentlessly working for fulfilling the mission by prioritizing

diversified items rather than traditional ones. This pioneering role in product diversification encouraged many investors to produce diversified goods.

Environment Protection

The green initiative is the top most priority of EPZs. Green environmental laboratories have been established at Dhaka and Chattogram EPZ. Most of the Zones have been brought under Central Effluent Treatment Facility. For ensuring supply of industrial grade water in the EPZs, Water Treatment Plants (WTPs) have been set up in Adamjee, Karnaphuli, Chattogram and Cumilla EPZs through private initiatives. Setting up of WTPs in other EPZs is under process. Rain water harvesting and surface water treatment have been prioritized to minimize groundwater extraction. BEPZA has installed Solar Panels with the capacity of supplying 229 kilowatt electricity in the EPZs.

BEPZA not only tries to make its EPZs green but also encourages the enterprises of EPZs to go green. The EPZs enterprises have reached to a unique height by setting up eco-friendly green industries. As a result, a remarkable number of green factories of EPZs have been honored with "LEED Green Factory Award" and "LEED Platinum Certification."

Maintaining Working Environment of International Labour Standard

The main attraction of investment in Bangladesh is the abundance of most inexpensive, productive and easily trainable young workforce. BEPZA has a separate Labour Law titled "Bangladesh EPZ Labour Act, 2019" to address all issues related to the workers. Trained Social Counselors cum Inspectors have been employed to ensure optimum compliance and better working environment. For additional monitoring, 24/7 Helpline has been introduced for the workers of the EPZs. BEPZA Public Schools & Colleges provide subsidized educational facilities to the children of the EPZ workers. Medical and health services have been ensured through BEPZA Medical Centers. Day Care Centers have also been introduced for toddlers. Modern canteen services ensure balanced diet including safe drinking water for the workers. In addition, hygienic sanitation facilities are also provided by BEPZA in all EPZs. Furthermore, as part of CSR activities, the EPZ enterprises often arrange some recreational activities like picnic, talent hunt, sport competitions, cultural shows etc. BEPZA provides safe, secure and decent working atmosphere in the EPZs. All the facilities of BEPZA are trying to improve quality life of workers and their generation.

BEPZA has set an example in promoting women empowerment. Around two-third of the total workforce working in the EPZs are women. Now they play an influential role in society as decision makers.

Better compliant working environment and amicable Workers-Management-Owners Synergy has made the EPZs the most preferred investment destinations for the investors.



Role in Socio-economic Development

BEPZA has created a remarkable story of socio-economic development during its 40 years of journey. 8 EPZs under BEPZA are major contributors to the country's socio-economic development. Specially, Mongla, Uttara & Ishwardi EPZ have changed the landscapes of those areas and transformed into modern urbanization. Living standards of the people in these areas have elevated remarkably. They are now enjoying the facilities of the urban lifestyle. EPZs have also made special contribution to the development of backward linkage and support industries of the country.

New endeavour of BEPZA through EZ and Three more EPZs

The success story of BEPZA has paved the way for the Government to adopt more diverse investment attraction strategy. Based on EPZ's success stories and on the backdrop of growing middle class with increasing purchasing power, the Government has introduced Economic Zones in the country. As a part of this, the Hon'ble Prime Minister has unveiled the foundation stone of BEPZA Economic Zone (EZ) at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Shilpa Nagar in Mirsharai, Chattogram. In this EZ of 1150 acres, total 539 plots will be created, which is expected to accommodate 350 industrial units.

The planned EZ will be facilitated with all modern and eco-friendly industrial facilities. In addition to EZ, BEPZA is working on setting up of three new EPZs. These are: 'Patuakhali EPZ' at Payra, Patuakhali; 'Jashore EPZ' at Noapara, Jashore and 'Rangpur EPZ' at Gobindaganj, Gaibandha. Impeccable track record & established brand image of EPZs as specialized zone as well as the country's favorable demographic dividend, affordable skilled workforce & educated tech-savvy managers will be the key factors for the success of the upcoming Economic Zone and Export Processing Zones.

The nascent journey of BEPZA paves the way in modern industrialization as well as the socio-economic progress of the country. This development spree will be more speed up by establishing BEPZA Economic Zone and three new EPZs in coming days. BEPZA welcomes international entrepreneurs to utilize their investments in the EPZs and BEPZA EZ as these are the right place to gain optimum profit. BEPZA is determined to keep up its glorious success to build an economically prosperous Bangladesh.

BEPZA Beacon of Investment

Success of BEPZA



Core Strength of EPZs

Upto December-2008 Upto December-2021

Workers-Management-Owners Synergy

Peaceful Working Environment

Industry Friendly Atmosphere

Congenial Investment Climate

Ease of Doing Business

Collaborative Teamwork

BEPZA 40 Years of Trusted Partnership with Investors

Committed to Provide Services with

Experience

Dedication

Professionalism



8 EPZs

1 EZ

3 Proposed EPZs

Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority
Prime Minister's Office

