

Malaysia joins gold bullion coin club

By HONG BOON HOW **STAR**

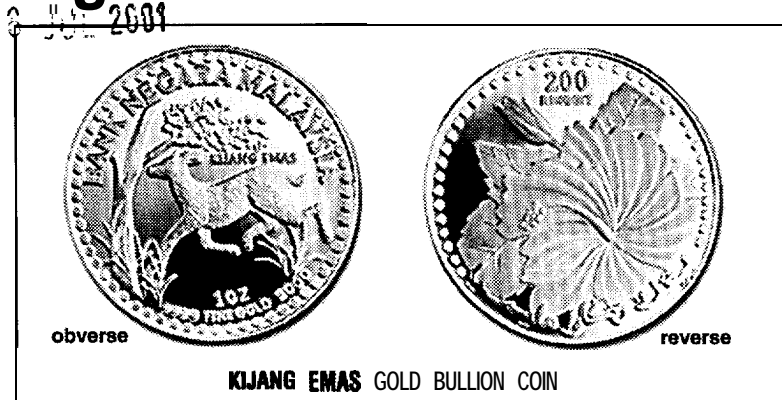
WITH the launch of the Kijang *Emas* yesterday, Malaysia has become the 12th member of the prestigious club of countries having their own gold bullion coin.

The Kijang Emus, with a gold purity of 999.9, comes in face value of **RM200** for the 1 oz coin, **RM100** for the 1/2 oz coin and **RM50** for the 1/4 oz coin.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said besides introducing Malaysia to the world, the *Kijang Emas* would provide an alternative means of savings and investment.

"The value of gold is relatively much more stable and investing in the Kijang *Emas* will balance risks in other investment portfolios such as the share market," Dr Mahathir said at the launch of the coin in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

The obverse side of the coin depicts a barking deer in its natural habitat in the Malaysian jungle, and the reverse side the Hibiscus



national flower.

The coin is minted by the Royal Mint of Malaysia and will be distributed by **Maybank Bhd** and **Bumiputra Commerce Bank Bhd** from today. For the time being, the gold coins would be sold at 30 selected **Maybank** and 25 selected **Bumiputra Commerce Bank** branches.

Bank Negara governor Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz said the price of the Kijang *Emas* would be determined by the prevailing interna-

tional gold market price.

Zeti said **Maybank** and **Bumiputra Commerce Bank** would display the daily buying and selling prices of the gold coin in the newspapers and at its branches.

She also said the *Kijang Emas* was similar to other well-known gold bullion coins such the Canadian *Maple Leaf*, the American *Gold Eagle*, the Australian *Nugget*, the Chinese *Panda*, the Austrian *Philharmonic* and the British *Britannic*.