

'can absorb retrenched bank staff'

SHAH ALAM: Banking staff who lost their jobs due to the merger of the main financial institutions from 50 to just ten can be re-absorbed into the Royal Mint of Malaysia.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Royal Mint had plans to expand into other industries besides merely producing Malaysia's first gold bullion the *Kijang Emas*.

"The mint has come a long way since I visited it last. It now plans to invest in areas such as porcelain making, financial services, credit card facilities and in franchising the circulation of its gold bullion," he said in his speech at the Royal Mint of Malaysia open house here yesterday.

Bank Negara governor Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz and Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo also attended the function.

The Prime Minister had launched the gold bullion on July 17, marking Malaysia's entry into the ranks of countries, which produce their own.

Dr Mahathir said by encouraging these bank staff to participate in Royal Mint's new ventures, their financial experience and knowledge would not be wasted.