

03/01/2002

Royal Mint to develop franchise programmes

Cheah Chor Sooi

THE Royal Mint of Malaysia, whose primary function is to produce circulation and commemorative coins in Malaysia, has developed a franchise scheme aimed at helping former banking, insurance and stockbroking workers set up small businesses offering various financial products.

Its executive director Datuk Nik Mohd Amin Nik Abdul Majid said the company hoped to set up 50 such outlets throughout the country this year.

"The figure is to reach 500 within the next three years," he said, noting that the services comprised payment system, ticketing, money changing, and disbursement and collection of loans.

Nik Mohd Amin was speaking to reporters after a closed-door presentation of the company's five-year projection plan to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Shah Alam.

Apart from offering financial products, the company is also looking at two other franchise schemes, namely gifts and collectable items, and handicraft skill development.

Nik Mohd Amin said the venture in financial services would be handled by a new subsidiary, The Royal Mint Exchange Sdn Bhd, which is set up with an initial paid-up capital of RM\$10 million.

Royal Mint will remain the substantial stakeholder, while other shareholders include Heitech Padu Bhd, Khazanah Holdings and another two or more parties.

"In addition, Permodalan Nasional Bhd is working with us on the development of our homegrown franchise programmes.

"They will be assisting us by financing our franchisees," said Nik Mohd Amin.