

# PAS lauds push for gold dinar

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**KUALA TERENGGANU:** PAS has given the thumbs-up to a move initiated by Malaysia to use the gold dinar in international trade as an alternative to the US dollar.

Its acting president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang said he supported the move to revive the Islamic currency which was once used during the reign of Caliph Abdul Malik Marwan.

"I'm confident the gold dinar will become stronger than the US dollar or even the euro as Islamic countries have large reserves of natural resources such as petroleum," he said after chairing the state exco meeting at Wisma Darullman yesterday.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who opened a convention on the gold dinar in Kuala Lumpur, said Malaysia's initiative had drawn the interest of several Arab countries.

However, Hadi cautioned that the suggestion should be supported by the

Organisation of Islamic Conference as well as other countries to ensure its success.

He said former Turkish Prime Minister Necmeddin Erbakan had pushed for the gold dinar to free Islamic countries from western and economic imperialism.

On another matter, Hadi, who is Terengganu Mentri Besar, said there was no necessity for the state to amend the law following its decision to exempt assessment fees for residential premises after it took over the state in 1999.

He said the exemption was given by the state exco after obtaining the views of the state legal adviser.

The government, he said, had followed the correct procedures in granting the exemption.

"There is no need for us to bring the matter to the State Assembly. PAS will continue to grant the exemption as long as it is in power," he said.