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# Fancy getting paid in gold dinars?

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**SHAH ALAM:** The Royal Mint of Malaysia will use the Malaysian gold dinar, which it mints, to pay part of its employees' salary

This will be the first time the gold dinar is used in 1,400 years.

The mint's 110 employees will have the option to accept 50% of their salary in gold, Royal Mint managing director Datuk Megat Mohamed Abdul Wahab said yesterday

"If they opt to, then beginning this month, the employees will receive their salary in the form of quarter dinar and one dinar denomination."

At the launch of the gold dinar, Royal Mint chairman Datuk Dr Awang Adek Hussein said it is introduced to encourage savings as people tend to spend freely when they hold cash.

He said the move would not undermine the ringgit's value as "the dinar is a commodity and not a currency".

Currently, Royal Mint produces between 20kg and 30kg of the quarter dinar and one dinar monthly. From next month, it expects to begin minting the half dinar and two dinar denomination, Awang Adek said.

The gold purity of the dinar is 91.7%, which is also known as 22-carat.

Megat Mohamad also said the amount of dinar produced is according to the public demand.

He said the dinar is also accepted in Indonesia, as its currency is losing its value.

"In Indonesia, not only one and two dinar denominations are being introduced but also the one and two derham," he said.

Megat Mohamad said the mint is also looking at introducing the gold dinar in the Middle East.

Earlier this year, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Malaysia will use the gold dinar to trade with Muslim countries.