

Engineers urged to play more active role

KUALA LUMPUR: Engineers should equip themselves to play an active role in policy determination and decision-making, the Prime Minister said last night.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said engineers must recognise the fact that the application of technology cannot be left entirely to non-engineers.

"They have to assume their role as both generalists and specialists, knowledgeable of

the multi-disciplinary environments of today.

"Only when they have achieved sufficient experience all-round, can they prove useful in the process of commercialising engineering-based enterprises," he added.

Speaking at the Board of Engineers Malaysia annual dinner here, the Prime Minister said for engineers to remain competitive in the new information age, they must make the quan-

tum leap into strategic technologies such as micro-electronics.

In this regard, he said Malaysian engineers had to strive to adapt new technologies to suit local conditions.

Dr Mahathir said it was not worthwhile to bemoan that foreigners were unwilling to transfer technology.

"It must be remembered we ourselves are not keen to pass on our technology to others, es-

pecially our competitors.

"Technology transfer can only take place if our engineers are diligent and sharp observers, who are constantly reading up on the latest technology," he said.

Dr Mahathir also urged engineers not to neglect research and development.

He advised them to learn from the mistakes of the North in efforts to minimise damage to the environment.