

Dr M: Don't
be afraid
to venture
into the

unknown

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says Malaysians should have more faith in their own abilities and be prepared to take risks in order to be successful.

He said they should not look at the ordinary or be tied down by doing things the conventional way.

"We should look at the things that we (now) do normally. Some time ago they were crazy ideas. But because somebody made these ideas work, they have become normal.

"We must be prepared to think up crazy ideas and be prepared to accept failure.

"If we are afraid and think 'this has not been done elsewhere,' then we will be stuck in the mud," he said at the 30th anniversary dinner of the Malaysian Board of Engineers (BEM) here yesterday.

Also at the dinner was Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu.

"We have always done things differently from the others, the unconventional way. But we have proven to people that we can make seemingly crazy ideas work," Dr Mahathir said.

For example, he said, Malaysia invited foreigners to participate in the development of the country instead of nationalising foreign holdings like some other countries did when they achieved independence.

Dr Mahathir, who is Finance Minister, said Malaysians should not be deterred by what others say.

"When we decided to build the world's highest buildings, people laughed at us. Today, we have the last laugh," he added.

In a tribute to Malaysian engineers, Dr Mahathir said they had come a long way from the time when the country achieved independence in 1957.