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Adopt unconventional approaches, engineers told

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Local engineers will achieve greater success if they are willing to take up ideas which may be regarded as crazy by some, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

The Prime Minister said if engineers were prepared to adopt unconventional approaches, they would find that sometimes crazy ideas could turn into a success.

"Many things considered normal these days started as crazy ideas. If we adopt the notion that 'this has never been done before', then we will not succeed," he told a gathering of engineers at the Board of Engineers Malaysia's 30th anniversary dinner at the Mandarin Oriental.

The Prime Minister also launched a Pos Malaysia Berhad's souvenir cover and a commemorative book titled Engineers in Nation Building.

Dr Mahathir said engineers must also be prepared to accept failures which could happen in the process of discovering new engineering skills and practices.

"We must be willing to take risks especially in engineering where it is possible to do things different from others.

"I am a fervent believer in the Malaysia Boleh concept. If we have this attitude, I am confident in the end we will achieve success."

Dr Mahathir said many ideas deemed illogical in the past could be realised today as the country possessed the facilities.

The Prime Minister said one should take a leaf from the country's many successes, many of which achieved through the use of unconventional means.

"In Malaysia, we never done things the conventional way ... we have always used different methods compared to the others," he said.

Dr Mahahir said local engineering had made tremendous progress compared to decades ago when projects were designed and built by foreign expertise.

Today, he said, Malaysian engineers had not only earned praises worldwide for their achievements but had also been able to showcase their capabilities.

Earlier, BEM president Datuk Zaini Omar said the board was setting up a presidential consultative council.