

31 AUG 2003

Mahathir-Progress

MONORAIL PROVES PROGRESS IN ENGINEERING

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 31 (Bernama) -- The launch of the KL Monorail mass transit system, which was wholly developed by Malaysia, shows that the nation has made great progress in the field of engineering, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"After the national car, now we have the monorail, it can be said that the monorail is a national monorail because we built the whole thing with local expertise," the prime minister said.

He said Malaysia had no experience whatsoever in constructing such a mass transit system but what had been achieved showed that the nation had made tremendous progress in the field of engineering.

Malaysia could now export this engineering expertise and this was something Malaysians should be proud of, he said when launching the KL Monorail Transit System at the Bukit Bintang Monorail Station here.

Dr Mahathir said the ability to produce a monorail had enabled the country to join the elite few who could manufacture such a mass rapid transit system.

"But we should not stop here, maybe in the future we can build our own trains and in fact a high speed train but we will need a bit more time," he said.

The prime minister said Malaysia could achieve whatever it aimed for provided the people were willing to work hard and experiment with things and "then we will succeed."

Dr Mahathir said the monorail project, which cost RM1.18 billion, took seven years to become a reality but "we can be proud of it as it is our own,"

He said a few countries like China and Indonesia have shown interest in having similar projects in their respective country by signing memorandums of understanding with KL Monorail System.

He said the monorail mass transit system was much cheaper compared with the underground system which cost five times more and the monorail caused less environmental impact than any other mass transit systems.

-- BERNAMA

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