

Dr M to MAS: Consider foreigner MD plan carefully

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Malaysia Airlines (MAS), which may be open to hiring a foreigner as its new managing director, should consider the matter carefully, said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The former prime minister said MAS should also gauge the response of its staff.

"I think you should test the waters," he said during a dialogue session after delivering a talk at a seminar entitled *The Thinking of a Thinker* organised by the International Islamic University here yesterday.

"If people react negatively, you will not achieve positive results."

He was responding to reports about a MAS plan to hire a foreigner to head its operations following the retirement of managing director Datuk Ahmad Fuaad Dahlan last week.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi had said last Sunday that he would give priority to a Malaysian to head MAS but was willing to consider a foreigner as a temporary measure if there was no local person qualified to take the job.