

Dr M on qualities of a good chief

executive

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FORMER Prime Minister Tan Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday good chief executives are those who quickly learn the different permutations of problems caused by uncertainties and in the process are able to identify the options available to handle them.

Speaking to some 600 participants at the International CEOs Conference in Kota Kinabalu yesterday, Dr Mahathir used his long experience as Malaysia's prime minister as an example.

His experience as a medical doctor and training in the methodology of diagnosis was useful and was applicable during his days as prime minister, he said.

He said he invariably went through the drill of getting briefed, examining the symptoms and the signs, testing with whatever analytical instruments that may be available, understanding and diagnosing the problem and the options for dealing with it.

"If the problem is unusual and unexpected, the methodical examination will show this up. Mistakes may be made, which show up very quickly in the results or responses. Consultants could be resorted to, if the solution yields no result," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said the country's successful handling of the currency crisis was not due to the pegging of the ringgit and the blocking of share trading through Singapore's Central Limit Order Book alone.

These measures undoubtedly contributed to the successfully handling of the crisis, but equally important were the daily monitoring and decisions taken by the small crisis management committee under the National Economic Action Council.

Dr Mahathir also told local companies that they must be able to deliver on their promises before they venture overseas.