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MAHATHIR-DPM
BM

PASIR MAS, JUNE 28 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY A SON OF KELANTAN WOULD, IN ALL PROBABILITY, BE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TODAY IF HE HAD NOT BEEN IN SUCH A GREAT HURRY TO CLIMB TO THE TOP.

HE SAID THE PERSON CONCERNED WAS QUALIFIED TO ASSUME THE NO. 2 POSITION IN THE COUNTRY'S ADMINISTRATION BECAUSE DATUK MUSA HITAM, WHO WAS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER THEN, HAD RESIGNED OUT OF ANGER.

+IF ONLY THE PERSON CONCERNED HAD BEEN A LITTLE PATIENT, CERTAINLY HE WOULD HAVE TAKEN OVER FROM DATUK MUSA,+ DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID WHEN CLOSING AN ISLAMIC LEADERSHIP COURSE ORGANISED BY THE MALAYSIAN ISLAMIC MISSIONARY FOUNDATION (YADIM) AT THE DEWAN SEKOLAH MENENGAH SULTAN IBRAHIM 1 HERE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ADDED THAT BECAUSE OF HASTE AND HIGH AMBITIONS TO BECOME PRIME MINISTER, THAT PERSON CONTESTED TO GET THE PRIME MINISTER'S POST FOR HIMSELF BUT HE ENDED UP HAVING TO WAIT LONGER BECAUSE HIS AMBITION WAS NOT ACHIEVED.

HE SAID THE POST OF PRIME MINISTER WAS NOT THE RIGHT OF PEOPLE WHO STRUGGLED ONLY FOR A CERTAIN STATE BUT THE RIGHT OF THOSE WHO CHAMPIONED THE INTERESTS OF ALL MALAYSIANS. -- MORE
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DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE POST WAS UNLIKELY TO GO TO SOMEONE FROM KELANTAN IF THERE WAS NO SUPPORT FROM OTHER STATES.

+PEOPLE HAVE ASKED ME IF SOMEONE FROM SABAH CAN BECOME PRIME MINISTER. I EXPLAINED THAT HE CAN ONLY BECOME PRIME MINISTER FROM HIS POSITION AS A CITIZEN OF MALAYSIA,+ HE ADDED.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID A PERSON COULD NOT BECOME A GOOD LEADER IF HE ONLY THOUGHT OF HIMSELF, HIS FAMILY OR HIS HOME STATE.

A LEADER SHOULD MAINTAIN DISCIPLINE BE ABLE TO DEFINE THE PEOPLE'S TRENDOF THOUGHT AND NOT BE INFLUENCED BY DESIRE, HE ADDED.

+IF A LEADER DOES NOT CONTROL HIMSELF AND DEVIATES, IT IS CERTAIN THAT THE SOCIETY WHICH HE IS LEADING WILL ALSO DEVIATE,+ HE SAID.

AS SUCH, IF SOMEONE ASPIRES TO BECOME A LEADER HE SHOULD FIRST CORRECT HIMSELF AND NOT ONLY PREACH WITHOUT PRACTISING WHAT HE PREACHED, HE ADDED.

A TOTAL OF 187 COMMUNITY LEADERS FROM THROUGHOUT THE STATE ATTENDED THE COURSE.

KELANTAN MENTERI BESAR TAN SRI MOHAMED YAACOB AND DEFENCE MINISTER TENGKU AHMAD RITHAUDDEEN WERE AMONG THE DIGNITARIES PRESENT. -- BERNAMA

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