

MAN WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN DPM

S 29 JUN 1990

But he was impatient, says Dr M

PASIR MAS, Thurs. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad believes that a politician from Kelantan would be the Deputy Prime Minister today if he had been "just a little patient."

The Prime Minister said today the *anak Kelantan* was capable enough to assume the Number Two slot after Datuk Musa Hitam resigned.

But because of his haste to become Prime Minister, he ended up further away from his ambition, he said. "If he had been just a little patient, he would surely have taken over from Datuk Musa," he said.

Dr Mahathir was closing an Islamic leadership course here for 187 community leaders. Kelantan Mentri Besar Tan Sri Mohamed Yaacob and Defence Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithauddeen were also present.

Dr Mahathir said the post of Prime Minister was not for people who were

concerned only for the welfare of one state, but for those who championed the interests of all Malaysians.

He said a Kelantan-born was unlikely to become Prime Minister if he had 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.

Dr Mahathir said that a leader should not think only of himself, his family or his home state. A leader should be disciplined and not be ruled by desire, and he must be in touch with the people's thinking, he said.

"If he does not control himself and deviates, it is certain that the society he is leading will also go astray," he said.

Therefore, Dr Mahathir said, someone aspiring to become a leader must first correct himself and "he should not preach without practising what he tells others to do."