

Dr M: Pas religious tactics cause for concern

□ FROM PAGE ONE

resolve problems relating to their different political struggles if the opposition party continued to impose conditions.

Umno, he said, had on several occasions offered to hold discussion with Pas, but it continued to insist that Umno must first accept the Islamic teachings it subscribed to.

"Indirectly, it is saying that we are not Muslims," he added.

Today, the Sultan of Kelantan in his speech when opening the State Legislative Assembly sitting in Kota Baru said that efforts to replace the "colonial laws" with *hudud* law should not be met with blind opposition, but through discussions and carried out in an orderly and responsible manner.

When asked to comment whether Umno and Pas could hold discussions to resolve their problems, Dr Mahathir replied: "Not that we did not try."

He said Pas had also been a member of the Barisan Nasional (BN) and several of its leaders had held Cabinet posts, but the action of the party was different from that of the other BN component parties.

Asked whether the Sultan of Kelantan, by making such statement, showed that his partisanship towards Pas would affect the BN, Dr Mahathir said it would not make any difference.

Umno also needs members who have quality, says Dr M

By Syed Nadzri

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Umno, with more than two million members, needs to attach equal importance to quality and not just quantity in its ranks, party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said Umno could do with members who are well-versed in the intricacies of national politics and not just those who could dwell endlessly on issues about money.

Dr Mahathir said this at a Press conference at the end of the

second day's proceedings of the Umno general assembly at the Putra World Trade Centre here.

He was asked to comment on observations made by some delegates during the debate at the assembly that Umno should also look towards having quality members.

Dr Mahathir said he was pleased with such statements as this showed that there were members concerned about quality and not just quantity in the party.

"I agree we also need members with quality — those who fully

understand national politics and not just obsessed with issues like money," he said.

He said one characteristic of a member with quality was that he must not only look at his own interest, but also take into account the party and the nation.

The Prime Minister was also asked to elaborate on issues concerning Pas which dominated the day's proceedings.

He said it was difficult for Umno to hold talks with Pas to

□ PLEASE TURN TO
PAGE 2, COL 6