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Dr Mahathir all for Makkal Sakthi

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KUALA LUMPUR: The latest Indian-based political party in the country — Makkal Sakthi — can bring in the much-needed support for Barisan Nasional, said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The former prime minister

said BN needed to regain the support of the Indian community.

“Due to the overwhelming support for the formation of this party, I feel it is something good, as we do not want to lose the support of the Indian community.”

Speaking after hosting a Hari Raya Aidilfitri open

house at his residence in Seri Kembangan yesterday, Dr Mahathir said the formation of the party was timely since the support from the Indian community for MIC was waning.

“The new party has proven it has good support from the Indians.”

Prime Minister Datuk Seri

Najib Razak is expected to launch Makkal Sakthi on Oct 10.

Dr Mahathir also took a dig at his former cabinet minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu, when asked on reports that the MIC president might take a two-month break.

He said instead of taking a two-month break, Samy Vellu

should consider continuing the break for another 20 years.

“Two months is not enough... he can't be staying there as MIC president for 30 years. He has been around longer than me.”

On reports that Tan Sri Isa Samad was in the running to be the BN candidate for the

Bagan Pinang state by-election on Oct 11, Dr Mahathir said the former Negri Sembilan menteri besar should say he did not want to be nominated and instead, throw his support behind whoever the BN leadership chose.

He added that in that way, Isa would endear himself to all.