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Right to axe Dr M, say BN leaders

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ANTI-GOVT ACTIONS: They agree it is not right for him to remain as Petronas adviser

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Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed



Tan Sri Shahrir Abdul Samad



Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam



Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh

THE decision to terminate the services of Tan Dr Mahathir Mohamad as Petronas adviser is appropriate, as the former prime minister is involved in efforts to topple a legitimate government, said International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed.

He said after an in-depth discussion on Friday, the cabinet unanimously agreed to end the former prime minister's role in Petronas.

"We want to build the country, but at the same time, there are efforts to bring it down. It is not proper," he said after opening the Kota Baru

Amanah Saham Nasional Bhd office in Jalan Kebun Sultan yesterday.

In a statement on Friday, the Prime Minister's Office said the cabinet had made the move as Dr Mahathir was no longer supporting the government and he should not be given any post linked to the government.

On the Dr Mahathir-Klit Siang declaration to bring down Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak, Mustapha, who is also Kelantan Umno Liaison Committee chairman,

said all parties should protect the peace in the country and not destroy the nation that had been built.

On March 4, Dr Mahathir headed a group of 50 leaders, including Lim Kit Siang of DAP and Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Azmin Ali of PKR, to sign a declaration to remove Najib as prime minister.

Meanwhile, Bernama reported that MIC president Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam said the decision to remove Dr Mahathir was wise as he had joined forces with

the opposition.

"He has already started working with the opposition to destabilise the government and of course, the government cannot continue to support him in what he is trying to do," he said, adding that Dr Mahathir's removal had nothing to do with Umno as it was a government matter.

In **Johor Baru**, Barisan Nasional Backbenchers' Club chairman Tan Sri Shahrir Abdul Samad said it made sense that Dr Mahathir did not re-

main in the national oil company as he had become someone who disagreed with the country's leadership.

"Moreover, it seems like he really wanted to leave, so, I think this will be beneficial to both parties," said Sharir, who is Johor Baru member of parliament.

In **Serdang**, Umno Supreme Council member Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh said Dr Mahathir had to be stripped off the post as it was not right to allow someone conspiring with the opposition to topple the government.

Idris, who is higher education minister, said the decision was made collectively by the cabinet on Friday as it was agreed that the post should only be given to those who supported the existing government.

"Now, Dr Mahathir is not only with the opposition, but working to bring down a legitimate government voted in by the people.

"Therefore, he should be dropped as Petronas adviser," he said at the 2016 Putra-Makna Runat Universiti Putra Malaysia yesterday.

Dr Mahathir was appointed Petronas adviser after resigning as prime minister in 2003. He is also chairman of Proton Holdings, a post he had been holding since June 2014.