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## Dr M urged to form party with '1.2m backers'

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**JOHOR BARU:** Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has been urged to set up a political party with the 1.2 million supporters he had purportedly garnered through the Mahathir-Kit Siang declaration.

Umno veteran Tan Sri Shahrir Abdul Samad said the party's candidates could contest the Sungai Besar and Kuala Kangsar by-elections.

"The 1.2 million make up five per cent of the voter base, so it will be legitimate for the party to field candidates. Perhaps it is too late to do so, but it can be Dr Mahathir's legacy," said Shahrir, who is Johor Baru member of parliament, after launching the two-day Let's Learn Coding programme at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia here yesterday.

The state-level Umno Youth event was organised by Multimedia Development Corporation.

The Sungai Besar and Kuala Kangsar seats were left vacant after incumbents Datuk Noriah Kasnon and Datuk Wan Mohammad Khairil Anuar Wan Ahmad were killed in a helicopter crash in Sarawak on May 5.

In **Kuala Lumpur**, Deputy Inspector-General of Police Datuk Seri Noor Rashid Ibrahim said police were waiting for the right time to record a statement from Dr Mahathir over his allegation that the government had placed the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and other rulers under house arrest.

He said this during a visit to Hospital Canselor Tuanku Muhriz, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Medical Centre, in conjunction with the 209th Police Day yesterday.

"Police will record a statement from Dr Mahathir, but we will wait for the right time and circumstance to do that," said Noor Rashid.

On Monday, Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission advisory board member Tunku Abdul Aziz Tunku Ibrahim had lodged a police report against Dr Mahathir's claim that the Yang di-Pertuan Agong and other rulers had been placed under house arrest to prevent them from receiving the Mahathir-Kit Siang declaration.



**Tan Sri Shahrir  
Abdul Samad**