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2 PKR leaders snub Dr M's pact plan

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CAUTIOUS: They made it clear they will not blindly accept ex-PM's call to go against BN

PHUAH KEN LIN
GEORGE TOWN
news@nst.com.my

TWO senior PKR leaders have refused to lend their support for the new opposition pact proposed by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Deputy Chief Minister I Datuk Rashid Hasnon and executive councillor Datuk Abdul Malik Abul Kasim made it clear that Pakatan Harapan would not blindly accept Dr Mahathir's call to form a united front against Barisan Nasional.

The duo said they were worried that the new pact would force

Pakatan Harapan to deviate from its struggles.

Rashid told the *New Sunday Times* that Dr Mahathir should join forces with Pakatan Harapan to contest the next general election instead of forming a separate front.

"Dr Mahathir's so-called new pact must be a part of Pakatan. He must value (the contribution of) Pakatan to maintain good ties (with the opposition)," he said at Komtar here yesterday.

Rashid said Dr Mahathir's proposal to form a new opposition front would be discussed at length during the next Pakatan Harapan presidential council meeting.

Malik, meanwhile, said the party would remain cautious about the new party.

"Dr Mahathir must take into account the fact that he had been

fighting against a number of Pakatan leaders.

He also has to mind his words when dealing with (us).

"It all depends on how things develop from here.

"I am optimistic but, at the same time, cautious about Dr Mahathir's plan."

DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng said Pakatan would issue an official statement on Dr Mahathir's proposed pact.

"I have just come back from overseas and we will make an official stand (on the matter) through a statement," he said yesterday.

Deputy Chief Minister II P. Ramasamy of DAP said it would be premature for the party to make a stand on Dr Mahathir's new pact.

He said the new front, should it be formed, must be united to topple BN in the next general election.



**Datuk Rashid
Hasnon**