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# Opposition leaders welcome registration of Dr M's party

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Opposition parties have welcomed Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's plans to register a new political party, which they say could cooperate with Pakatan Harapan.

Parti Amanah Negara (PAN) committee member Khalid Abdul Samad said he was in favour of the setting up of the new party, but that a meeting with Pakatan would have to be held prior to the formation of any alliance.

"We fully support the formation of the new party. No problems vis-à-vis Pakatan Harapan.

"We can work together but we need to meet up and discuss it first," he told the *New Straits Times* via a text message.

PKR vice-president Tian Chua echoed sentiments expressed by jailed PKR de facto leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who had said in March that he would support Dr Mahathir's efforts to topple Barisan Nasional.

"Of course, I fully support the plan (for Dr Mahathir's party to be registered).

"(Tan Sri) Muhyiddin (Yassin) was also there with my boss (PKR president Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail) during a press conference



(From left) **Tian Chua, Khalid Abdul Samad and Akhramsyah Sanusi**

last week. Yes, I welcome the move to register the new party," Chua said.

Meanwhile, Akhramsyah Sanusi has resigned as an Umno member effective immediately to mark his commitment to Dr Mahathir's new political party.

Despite earlier reports stating he would remain in Umno although involved with efforts to form Dr Mahathir's new party, Akhramsyah clarified that it would be hypocritical for him to do so.

The son of former Kedah menteri besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid was present at a meeting attended by Dr Mahathir and Muhyiddin on the es-

tablishment of the new party.

"It would be hypocritical for me to remain in Umno once I am involved in the new party. I was awaiting advice on actions to be taken prior to the submission of the application to form the new party with the Registry of Societies.

"Hence, I am stating here my full commitment to the formation of the new party, and to remove further doubt, have submitted my resignation to my Bendang Baru branch dan Langkawi division, effective immediately," said Akhramsyah in a statement.

Akhramsyah was Umno Bendang Baru branch Youth chief.