

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	17 JULY 2016

# It's just an attempt to topple BN govt, say leaders

NST-17/7/2016

**JOHOR BARU:** The new political party and opposition coalition announced by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is just another attempt by the opposition to topple the Barisan Nasional government.

Barisan Nasional Backbenchers Club chairman Tan Sri Shahrir Abdul Samad said this was the kind of opportunistic politics that the opposition had subscribed to since 2008.

"Since 2008, we have seen them forming and dissolving political coalitions and parties. We have seen the formation of Pakatan Rakyat, Pakatan Harapan and Parti Amanah Negara.

"In 2013, the opposition had pinned their hopes on Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"Now that he is no longer in the picture, they are collaborating with Dr Mahathir under the Deklarasi Rakyat banner. It seems that DAP is trying to find a formula to take over Putrajaya," said Shahrir.

He was speaking at the Johor Baru Parliamentary Hari Raya open house at SJK(C) Foon Yew. Present was Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin.

Shahrir said the opposition was merely looking for an opportunity to topple the BN government.

"If you want to be the government, you have to be consistent with your policies and principles.

"There is a sense of desperation in the opposition. They are willing to do anything if it benefits them," said Shahrir.

He, however, said that BN would not ignore or take the new coalition lightly.

In **Kuala Lumpur**, former DAP vice-chairman Tunku Abdul Aziz Tunku Ibrahim said the coalition proposed by Dr Mahathir would fail, as it was merely a marriage of convenience.

Aziz said the cooperation between

Dr Mahathir and his former nemesis, DAP adviser Lim Kit Siang, would not work as the duo had nothing in common.

"They only want to ensure the preservation of their political dynasties by placing their sons in top leadership positions," he said.

Aziz said any move to form another opposition party would fail as several PKR leaders, including its

president, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, held a grudge against Dr Mahathir for his purported mistreatment of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"But Dr Mahathir is not concerned about niceties. He wants to ensure he keeps the fight going so (his son) Mukhriz can become prime minister," he said.

Gerakan president Datuk Seri Mah Siew Keong echoed Aziz's sentiment, saying

such a coalition would serve only the personal interests of Dr Mahathir.

"What are the new party's plans and what are the issues that they will champion?

"Even though it's their democratic right to form parties, I don't think such a move will help the country," he added.

Mah said the opposition in other countries, such as the one in the United Kingdom, formed shadow cabinets to handle issues.

In **Sungai Petani**, Merbok Umno division chief Datuk Tajul Urus Mat Zain said Dr Mahathir was not acting in the best interests of the Malays.

"He himself has admitted that he has a personal agenda.

"He wants to make his son the prime minister."

Tajul said it was disappointing for Dr Mahathir to join forces with sworn enemy DAP.

"It is very sad to see a respected leader stoop and tarnish his reputation."



**Tunku Abdul Aziz  
Tunku Ibrahim**