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# 'New political pact can cause woes in PKR'

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Former premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's bid to form a new political party and pact may be a bane for would-be allies from the opposition.

Political analysts said the new party would cause disarray among opposition parties because of past disagreements they had with Dr Mahathir.

Professor Dr Sivamurugan Pandian of Universiti Sains Malaysia said Dr Mahathir's plans might create an "intra-crisis" among parties, particularly within PKR.

"This (crisis) is especially so for PKR, as some supporters and leaders still remember jailed former opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's sacking in 1998."

Sivamurugan also questioned who would hold power in the party, as there would be a clash in personalities.

"Unless they compromise on their interests and focus on gaining voters' support, a clash of personalities could happen.

"In fact, things may change if Anwar is given an early pardon and released for good behaviour. Who will call the shots then?"

The party's success, he said, relied on its structure and how it could mobilise support at branch, state and central levels.

He said Barisan Nasional should be wary of the new pact, as it could affect the political landscape, similar to when Semangat 46 and PKR were formed.

"BN should not take this lightly. The political sphere has changed since Semangat 46 was formed in 1987 and Reformasi in 1998 to 1999."

Associate Professor Dr Mohd Azizuddin Sani of Universiti Utara Malaysia said Dr Mahathir's plans, with right strategies, could have a "significant impact".

But, he said he doubted that the new party could garner support in time for the next general election.

"The new party will have to attract voters that Pakatan Harapan has failed or struggled to get, such as the rural Malays and the indigenous groups in Sabah and Sarawak.

"With the short time they have before the next general election, I doubt they could garner enough support.

"But, Dr Mahathir can pull a surprise," said Azizuddin.