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Umno leaders: It's ironic and sad

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PUTRAJAYA: The forming of a new political party by Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to work with the Opposition to challenge Barisan Nasional is at odds with what he has previously stressed.

Disappointed party leaders said it was ironic and sad that Dr Mahathir, who had indoctrinated in them the importance of loyalty, unity and team spirit, was now the one turning his back on Umno.

Ayer Hitam Umno chief Datuk Samsol Bari Jamali said the Dr Mahathir he knew had always stressed on putting the party, race and country before oneself.

"Not only did we adhere to his advice, we also defended him when he was under attack. We did it out of loyalty to our president and love for the party. But now, he turns around and attacks us.

"Disappointment aside, I'm sad to be witnessing this, involving a respected statesman and my beloved party," he said.

History, said Samsol Bari, had shown that the Opposition was only



A letdown: (From left) Samsol Bari, Irmohizam, Rosdi and Tawfiq are disappointed with Dr Mahathir's actions.

good at forming alliances.

"They have formed one bloc after another over the years but they have never been able to come together to show us a concrete plan on what they can do to improve the lives of the people and for nation-building.

Supreme council member Datuk Irmohizam Ibrahim said it was hard to digress from the fact that Dr Mahathir was now sharing the same platform with DAP, when he had professed to "hating their guts".

"During my student leader days, he would keep on reminding us not to believe in DAP's propoganda as it was full of lies and deceit.

"But now he is shaking hands

with them. How ironic," he said.

Tumpat Umno acting chief Datuk Rosdi Aziz is also confident that Umno would remain strong in the face of the new party.

"The Opposition can't destroy us if Umno's walls are strong and this can only happen if we come together as one," he said, adding that at the same time, the party must anticipate the Opposition's move so that it could defend itself.

Tawau Umno chief Datuk Tawfiq Abu Bakar Titingan said if Umno continued to serve the people, resolved their issues and met their needs, there was no reason for people not to support the party in the general election.