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## Anwar hails nemesis Mahathir's bid to form new party

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has welcomed former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's plan to set up a new political party which will join forces with the Opposition.

He described the plan as "positive" when he was asked to comment on the matter while being escorted by prison officers after a decision was delivered for his two cases at a High Court here yesterday.

"The Opposition must consolidate and work together," he said.

On whether PAS should reconcile with the opposition front, he said he looked forward to engaging with it.

Dr Mahathir had said that efforts were underway to launch the new party soon, adding that he was mulling over the idea of having a Malay-based party but had to consider the realities of the country.

He said the new party, which three other former Umno members, including former Umno deputy president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, had agreed to join, was a vessel for those who found other opposition parties not so attractive.

Earlier, Anwar was denied leave to have a judicial review proceedings for the Pardons Board to review its decision not to grant him a royal pardon over his sodomy conviction.

High Court judge Justice Nor Bee Ariffin allowed the preliminary objection by the Attorney-General's Chambers against the application for leave and granted RM5,000 in costs.

The judge also dismissed his bid to refer questions of law to the Federal Court for deliberation on the decision-making process of the Pardons Board.