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Shahrir: New party by Dr M a desperate move

JOHOR BARU: A new Opposition coalition that involves Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's new political party is a desperate and opportunistic attempt to take over Putrajaya, says Tan Sri Shahrir Samad.

The Barisan Nasional Backbenchers Club chairman said the Opposition, especially the DAP, would make use of any opportunity that comes its way to achieve its goal.

"But the Opposition has not held onto its principles and cause that it claims to be fighting for," said Shahrir, adding that Malaysians do not want inconsistency which was evident in the Opposition pact.

"The move by the former prime minister to set up a new political party and join forces to topple Barisan shows that the Opposition

is truly desperate," the Johor Baru MP said at his Hari Raya Aidilfitri open house in SJK(C) Foon Yew 1 yesterday.

Dr Mahathir, who quit Umno recently, had announced that he would form a new party to join forces with the Opposition to oust Barisan in the next general election.

His new party would be part of a coalition made up of DAP, PKR and Amanah, as well as non-governmental organisations and individuals.

Asked if the new coalition would be a threat, Shahrir said Barisan would not write off any political movement.

"We will take them on but it is important that our cause and policies must be consistent and for the people," he said.



Festive celebration: Shahrir serving food to guests at the Hari Raya open house for his constituency at SJK(C) Foon Yew 1.