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# Tun M's move 'expected'

## PRESS DIGEST

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**POLITICAL** analyst Datuk Cheah See Kian said former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's move to set up a new political party is expected as he has lost a platform he could use in his attempt to bring down the prime minister after quitting Umno.

He said Mahathir does not fit into any opposition party as what he wants to attract are Umno members and this can only be done more effectively with a new party, the set-up of which must be completed this year.

"The next general election may well be held next year. As such, Mahathir has to get the new party registered within this year," Cheah said to questions from *China Press*.

Cheah said he believes Mahathir will not lead the new party but will act as its adviser.

The most likely candidate for the president's post is former Umno deputy president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, he said, adding that former Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Abdal would most likely be the deputy president and former Kedah menteri besar Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir, one of the vice-presidents.

On the new opposition alliance, Cheah, who is Han Chiang College honorary principal, said Mahathir will have the support of PKR deputy president Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali and Parti Amanah Negara, which needs the former premier's influence to counter PAS.

DAP will join the new alliance but will not allow Mahathir to lead it, he added.

On the next general election, he said it would most likely be held in the first half of 2017, before the new alliance becomes mature enough to post a serious threat to BN