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## More Umno leaders back Dr M's removal from Petronas

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**JOHOR BARU:** More Umno leaders have come out in support of the Government's decision to sack Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad as Petronas adviser, saying it was a fair move.

Barisan Nasional Backbenchers Club chairman Tan Sri Shahrir Samad said it was the right move considering that Dr Mahathir was no longer supportive of the current Government.

"There is nothing to be surprised about it since it is obvious that if

you are not supporting the country's leadership, then you will not be able to hold any position related to the Government.

"It is good that this decision has been made since it looks like Dr Mahathir was asking for it based on his recent actions," he told reporters after launching the Education and Skills project by the Johor Baru City Foundation here yesterday.

The Cabinet had unanimously agreed on Friday to terminate Dr

Mahathir as adviser to Petronas, citing his involvement in the launching of the so-called citizens' declaration with Opposition leaders as the reason.

Umno supreme council member Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh also viewed the Cabinet's decision as proper since the former party president had conspired with the Opposition to topple a legitimate Government.

Idris said the decision was made collectively by the Cabinet, as the

post was usually given to those who supported the current Government.

"Now, Dr Mahathir is not only with the Opposition but is working to bring down a legitimate government voted in by the people.

"Therefore, he should be dropped as Petronas adviser," he said after joining about 1,000 participants in the Putra-Makna Run 2016 at Universiti Putra yesterday.

Dr Mahathir was appointed Petronas adviser after resigning as

prime minister in 2003. He is also the chairman of Proton Holdings since June 2014.

Another Umno supreme council member, Datuk Seri Tajuddin Abdul Rahman, said the Cabinet decision was appropriate.

"Petronas is owned by the Government and as Petronas adviser, Dr Mahathir is indirectly the Government's adviser but now that he is with the Opposition, how can we keep him?" he asked.