

DR M TO FORM NEW MALAY PARTY

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'It will be inclusive, moderate and fair to other races and not aligned to any bloc'

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TUN Dr Mahathir Mohamad is establishing another Malay-based political party, which will not align itself with any of the two main political blocs in Parliament.

The former prime minister is announcing his latest political

move said the basis of the "independent" party was to eliminate corruption and kleptocracy.

"This new party will not ally with any coalition, whether Perikatan Nasional or Pakatan Harapan.

"We wanted to work with PH, but we found some obstruction. We faced some problems with the different parties in PH.

"I don't want to mention (who), but I think you all know," he said yesterday.

The unnamed party would be formed by 95-year-old Dr Mahathir, along with five other members of parliament who

were axed from Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia (Bersatu) earlier this year, including his son, Datuk Seri Mukhriz Mahathir.

The four others are Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman, Dr Maszlee Malik, Amiruddin Hamzah and Datuk Marzuki Yahya.

Dr Mahathir will be the chairman of the new party, while Mukhriz is expected to be its president. He described the new party as one that would be "inclusive and moder-

ate" and fair to other races. "We realise that there are already many political parties, es-



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad

pecially for the Malays.

"But we feel that (other Malay-based parties) Umno, Pas and Bersatu led by Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin have deviated from their original struggles.

"The (Malay) parties that exist today had 'pawned' off Malay dignity, religion and direction to groups who are power-crazy.

"There is a need to continue this struggle through a new party."

Dr Mahathir also said he would be registering the party immediately and planned to contest in the upcoming Slim by-election on Aug 15.

"We are going to contest in Slim as independents, but if we have the party registered by then, then we will contest as a party."

He also said the party would sit out of the Sabah state assembly snap polls, but instead would lend its support to Parti Warisan Sabah led by Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal.

The Langkawi MP said the new party was also "free", and would decide if they wanted to join any political coalition after the elections.

"When we contest, we may form some agreement with parties or we may not. We are free.

"We will also look after the interests of non-Malays, but we have not decided if there is a need to have associate membership for them.

"We are aware that this is a multiracial country. We will be very fair to other races."