

PM: Umno depends on support of KL Malays

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KUALA LUMPUR: Umno will not be able to gain a foothold in the city if not for the support of Malays here, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said the party was able to defend itself during general elections in rural or urban

areas because of the support of Malays.

"In the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, Umno has never lost a seat," he said in a message at the Federal Territory Umno Convention at Putra World Trade Centre here yesterday.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said the party had never neglected Malays in the city.

"Malays, wherever they are, are our children who need safeguarding," he said.

After opening the convention, Deputy Prime Minister

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Umno was much stronger now compared to the time of the 1999 general election.

"Our fortune is much different from 1999 when we had much problems," he said, referring to the sacking of

Umno deputy president Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and the fallout that ensued.

Asked if he believed the Klang Valley was a hotbed for the opposition, Abdullah said he could see the party regaining the support of Malays.