

Dr M: Focus on new media timely

KUALA LUMPUR: Umno is not a racist party as it has worked well with the different races and supported them, said its former president, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"We have a good track record and working relationship with people from other races.

"We have also given commitment and help to candidates from the oth-

er Barisan Nasional component parties in previous general elections," he said at the Putra World Trade Centre yesterday after attending the opening of the Umno general assembly by Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

On Najib's keynote address, Dr Mahathir described it as "a very good one" as it also touched on Um-

no's history, which "many don't seem to know".

Dr Mahathir said Najib's focus on the need for Umno to benefit from the use of new media was timely.

"Umno has to respond to changes in the country today, like the new media and alternative media. It is a must for Umno."

Asked whether he thought the

time was right to hold the next general election, Dr Mahathir said it was up to Najib to decide.

"I think Umno is quite wary about it but I don't know whether he (Najib) is going to have the general election now or not. He never told me.

"It doesn't matter what I think now because I am not the prime minister."