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Dr M: It is likely to be a people-friendly budget

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BENEFITS: Former PM hopes tax rates will remain

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FORMER prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is confident the 2013 Budget will continue to ensure the well-being of the people.

He anticipated that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak would come up with a people-friendly budget on Friday.

Dr Mahathir believed that the people would continue to benefit from the country's development programmes.

"Of course, the new budget will not burden the people.

"I think it will be a friendly budget since everybody is talking about the next general election," he said after launching a seminar for



Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad meeting participants after launching a seminar for women entrepreneurs in Alor Star yesterday. Pic by Syaharim Abidin

women entrepreneurs from the Chinese community here yesterday.

Dr Mahathir also hoped the government would maintain the same tax rates for all sectors.

"I don't think there should be a problem if the government wanted to increase the tax on cigarettes and liquor."

Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Ahmad Husni Mohamad Hanad-

zlah said the Budget would enhance the nation's economic capacity and give a boost to the well-being of the people.

He said the government was now fine-tuning the budget.

