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Dr M: Vote for BN candidates regardless of race

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By **RAZAK AHMAD**
razak@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has urged Malay Barisan Nasional supporters to vote for the coalition's candidates regardless of their race to ensure a big win in the general election.

The former prime minister said that since Umno depended on minority non-Malay support in many of the constituencies it contested, Barisan Malay supporters should reciprocate by voting in non-Malay candidates from other

component parties.

"Some people say Barisan shouldn't field a Chinese candidate in their area because the majority of voters are Malay, but they must realise that victory for Malay candidates in other constituencies will depend on the minority Chinese voters," he said at a briefing session entitled *The Malaysian Constitution: The Future of National Security* organised by the Bandar Tun Razak Human Development Club.

He related his own experience in 1969 when he failed to defend his Kota Setar Selatan Parliamentary seat where the Malays made up

80% of the voters.

Dr Mahathir said he lost because the Chinese voted for his opponent from PAS.

He stressed that power-sharing was a key element in Malaysian society and was reflected in Barisan politics.

"This (power-sharing) is what a coalition is about," he said.

Unlike Barisan, Dr Mahathir said, Pakatan Rakyat was not a coalition but "merely an agreement", giving rise to the question of how it could ever form a federal government with PAS and DAP pulling in opposite directions.

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- TUN DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD