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'Dr M's administration was more racist'

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PETALING JAYA: The administration of former premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was more racist compared to the current situation under Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak, said veteran Umno secretary-general Datuk Mustapha Yaakob.

While criticising Mahathir for his recent comments to The Economist that Najib is dividing Muslims and non-

Muslims, Mustapha questioned the allegations of racism in Najib's administration.

"Mahathir should explain in detail what he meant by saying that Najib was being racist.

"Under Mahathir's administration, were there other races appointed as secretary-general in any ministry?

"However, under Najib, other races are

given the opportunity to become a ministry secretary-general. In fact, all government programmes and aides are appointed irrespective of race or religion," he said.

Mustapha said Mahathir had never believed in reports by foreign media during his time as prime minister, but have been using such reports lately to attack Najib and the Umno leadership.