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Dr M taken to task for playing the race card

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BENTONG: Former premier Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has resorted to playing the race card with his recent attacks on investment from China, said Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai.

The MCA president said foreign investment, which is crucial for Malaysia's growth, has been spun into a racial issue by the Opposition.

"DAP has also played along and labelled MCA as an agent of China.

"Our multiracial harmony should

not be destroyed by these leaders," he said.

Liow added that their remarks have also undermined the bilateral relationship between Malaysia and China.

"When foreign investors come to Malaysia, they have to adhere to Malaysian laws. We will protect Malaysian interests.

"By attacking projects like Forest City and the Kuala Lumpur-Singapore High Speed Rail (HSR), Dr

Mahathir has gone off tangent.

"The Opposition focuses too much on political agenda, creating diversion from the fact that the country needs economic growth and multiracial participation to become a great nation," Liow said.

Dr Mahathir had in a series of blog posts and comments recently claimed that over 700,000 China nationals will be brought into Forest City, and that they would be given identity cards to enable them to

vote in the next general election.

In an exclusive interview with *The Star*, Sultan Ibrahim Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar accused Dr Mahathir of fear-mongering by playing racial politics that had no place in the southern state.

The Johor Ruler said then he was "deeply offended and hurt" by the political spin against mainland China investments in the state. He singled out Dr Mahathir for "putting political interests above Malay-

sian interests, particularly Johor".

In response, Dr Mahathir said in a statement to *The Star* that he was quoting a report by Bloomberg on the details of Forest City, of which he said were yet to be challenged or denied.

In an interview with *The Sunday Times*, Dr Mahathir voiced his opposition to the HSR, an infrastructure project of which China is among the contenders, citing financial constraints.