

**Dr Mahathir: Malaysians more racial now**  
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KUALA LUMPUR: The upcoming general election will be about race as Malaysians have become more racist than ever, said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Speaking at a forum "Politics and Business: The Malaysian Connection," he pointed out that Malaysia was now divided by race due to the sentiments of the people.

"They want to be identified by their race, even if they have lost the connection with their country of origin," he said.

Dr Mahathir said to avoid racial problems in the early years of Malaysia, it was paramount that the ruling coalition made sacrifices.

"You have to give something up in order to accommodate something. During the 1955 elections, Malays decided to give up seats in areas where the voters were mostly Malay.

"Malay constituencies were given to their Chinese and Indian partners, and ensured they supported these candidates from the alliance," he said.

He added that Malays also gave up an 80% national majority by giving out one million citizenships, thus reducing themselves to 60% majority.

"But what was the majority is split into three and became a minority. Three small Malay parties which need the support of the Chinese in order to win.

"That is why there is now more racial politics than before," he said.

Dr Mahathir urged all races not to take the whole economic cake for themselves but to concentrate on growing the economy so that everyone's share is larger.

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