

Crown prince: Focus on 1MDB, not me
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Johor crown prince Tunku Ismail Sultan Ibrahim has urged Putrajaya to focus their attention on 1MDB and other national issues, instead of outspoken royals.

"Do not use me to divert the attention from 1MDB and other national issues.

"This country needs politicians who are clean and transparent, who carry out their duties with sincerity and integrity," said Tunku Ismail in a statement on the Johor football team's Facebook page.

Tunku Ismail is the president of the Johor Football Association.

He came under the spotlight after mocking Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak's no-show at an highly-anticipated 1MDB dialogue on June 5.

The prince had said someone who had "everything to hide" wouldn't turn up at a dialogue titled "nothing to hide".

This prompted outspoken Tourism and Culture Minister Nazri Abdul Aziz to criticise Tunku Ismail, telling him not to interfere politics or be prepared to be "whacked".

Tunku Ismail defended his remarks, stating that he did not tell anyone to step down but merely reminded politicians of their roles and responsibilities.

'It just shows your arrogance'

"If you cannot deal with that, it just shows your arrogance to the people," he said.

The prince added that he was blessed with a comfortable life and could have just watched what was going on from the sidelines, but then he decided to take their side.

"I can just live my own life and be oblivious to the worries of my people, but here I am, standing firm by their side.

"So for those wanting to tarnish my image and make me public enemy number one, the people are smarter than that, and they can think for themselves," Tunku Ismail said.