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# MB slams Dr M for Johor remark

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Khaled says 'Bangsa Johor' not a threat to peace

**JOHOR BARU:** Menteri Besar Datuk Mohamed Khaled Nordin has blasted former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad on his claims that *Bangsa Johor* concept will divide Malaysians.

He pointed out that the sentiments of Johor nationalism did not in any way threaten to break up the Federation.

"Johor will continue to support its close relationship with the Federal Government.

"However, the relationship between Johor and the Federal Government should be interpreted in the spirit of partnership rather than a unitary," he said.

Mohamed Khaled said this in a statement when responding to Dr Mahathir's claim that parochialism, including *Bangsa Johor* concept would divide Malaysians, which could also result in the breakup of the Federation.

He added that *Bangsa Johor* was a state political identity that leads towards unity and goodwill among the multiracial society here.

Mohamed Khaled said the concept called for consensus of all races where it united all community, faith and heritage under one state identity based upon harmony, understanding and tolerance.

"A united *Bangsa Johor* will not only make

the state and its people better but would strengthen Malaysia as a Federation," he said.

Mohamed Khaled said that as early as the 1920s, Johor second Ruler Almarhum Sultan Sir Ibrahim had introduced and implemented the concept of *Bangsa Johor*.

"This is proof that the term and usage of *Bangsa Johor* have been established before independence and way before the creation of Malaysia," he said.

"To Tun Dr Mahathir, I hope he will not make comments about things he is not an expert on and do appreciate and understand the meaning behind it.

"We, in Johor, will continue to be proud in defending all heritage and concept that have successfully united all *rakyat* in the state for many years," he said.

In Putrajaya, Multimedia and Communications Minister Datuk Seri Dr Salleh Keruak said the state's usage of the term *Bangsa Johor* was something that had been practised for a long time.

"The term does not affect the relations between Malaysians from different states," he told reporters after attending the Samsung Galaxy Note 7 Enterprise Business Showcase here.