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I won't tolerate Dr Mahathir's antics, says sultan of Johor

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KUALA LUMPUR: Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has come under fire from the sultan of Johor over the former's criticism of the "Bangsa Johor" concept.

The Star yesterday quoted Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar as saying that Dr Mahathir's claim that the concept could disunite the people reflected the former prime minister's "complete ignorance" of Johor's history.

"My great-grandfather, Sultan Sir Ibrahim Sultan Abu Bakar, in 1920 made the call of Bangsa Johor to unite the various races in Johor under one flag for greater cooperation, harmony and peaceful existence.

"No race or individual was marginalised. He has been proven correct.

"The Bangsa Johor concept was initiated even before Tun Mahathir was born. He has no idea of what he

is talking about," the sultan was quoted as saying.

He said Dr Mahathir was "not qualified" to talk about unity.

"He is going around dividing the people, including Malays, while I am uniting Malaysians of all races."

Dr Mahathir, said the sultan, should appreciate that each state enjoyed its own unique traits, but that does not mean that they were leaving the federation.

The sultan said Dr Mahathir should "keep his mouth shut".

"It is a figment of Dr Mahathir's imagination.

"He is stirring the hornet's nest and my advice to him is to keep his mouth shut," he was quoted as saying in the report.

Dr Mahathir, he said, had garnered a reputation for being confrontational and for having sparked division, especially with regards to

his foreign relations policy.

Sultan Ibrahim cited Dr Mahathir's quarrel with Singapore, among other world leaders, as having put Malaysia in a spot.

"And now he talks about unity with a straight face.

"Dr Mahathir is the root cause of the problems in the country. He has no right to interfere in my state. I will not tolerate his antics," the sultan was quoted as saying.