

Newspaper	NEW STRAITS TIMES
Date	26 AUGUST 2016

'Bangsa Johor unites people'

NST-26/8/2016

JOHOR BARU: "Johoreans are not wicked or mean. Johoreans have no intention of creating a new race. We are not like the Nazis who want to create a new race."

These are the words of Johor Council of the Royal Court president Datuk Abdul Rahim Ramli, who was commenting on Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's views about the concept of Bangsa Johor.

Rahim said the concept, introduced by Sultan Sir Ibrahim Sultan Abu Bakar in 1920, had united various races in Johor.

He said those who claimed that the Bangsa Johor concept caused disunity were unaware of history.

"People who are unaware or do not fully understand Bangsa Johor will say something about it because they are envious or out to cause problems.

"Maybe Dr Mahathir is out to be-

come a champion, I don't know. Johoreans have no intention to create a new race. We are not like Nazis who want to create a new race.

"Bangsa Johor consists of Chinese, Malays, Indians, Arabs and others. We have to correct this misperception," he said here yesterday.

Nazis refer to individuals who adhere to the radical ideology of Nazism, which advocates extreme racist or authoritarian views.

"Many people do not understand the meaning of the term 'Bangsa Johor'. It is not a modern concept. It was introduced by the Sultan Sir Ibrahim in 1920. The concept has become an institution and is used as a symbol to strengthen unity in Johor. It is not meant to create a new nation or discord among the people," he said.

"Even the phrase Johor Darul Ta'zim, meaning abode of dignity,

was coined in 1528 when the Johor sultanate was first established. It has come to signify the mutual respect between people of different backgrounds."

Rahim said phrases such as *Muafakat Membawa Berkah* (concord brings blessing) by Sultan Abu Bakar and *Johor Mesti Jadi Johor* (Johor must remain Johor) by Sultan Sir Ibrahim were proof of the sultanate's focus to create peace among the people in the state.

Rahim said the Johoreans' unflinching pride for their sultans and leaders was also revered by Umno founder Datuk Onn Jaafar during his tenure as the state's menteri besar.

"Datuk Onn Jaafar called it *kesombongan Johor*, which was not referring to arrogance, but described the pride shown by Johoreans for their leaders," said Rahim.