

Dr Mahathir: TMJ does not understand concept of federation

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Crown Prince of Johor, also known as TMJ, “does not understand the concept of federation”.

He said this following Tunku Ismail Sultan Ibrahim’s persistent barbs against the Pakatan Harapan administration.

“He does not understand the federation.

“Perhaps this is because he hadn’t been born yet at the time,

so he does not know, but I was.

“The (concept of) federation means that it has power over the entire country, and we can’t say this and that can’t be done,” Dr Mahathir said at a press conference after chairing a PH Presidential Council meeting here yesterday.

“We have a list of what is under the state and federation (federal government’s) powers, respectively.

“But nowhere is it stated in the federation that the federal government cannot comment when the state makes a statement.”

Asked about the Johor sultanate’s acceptance of his leadership, Dr Mahathir said: “He (Tunku Ismail) does not hold any posts.”

Tunku Ismail has sparred with the federal government on numerous issues, such as water and land entitlement.

Putrajaya’s recent insistence

that Pulau Kukup, a pristine wetland and Ramsar site, must remain a gazetted national park heightened disagreements.

The previous Barisan Nasional state government had approved a move to regazette the island in Johor as sultanate land.

According to the Johor’s Sultanate Land Enactment, any property gazetted under it belonged to the sultan.

Sultan of Johor Sultan Ibrahim

Sultan Iskandar had said Pulau Kukup would be gazetted as both sultanate land and a national park under the Johor National Parks Corporation Enactment 1989.

Recently, Tunku Ismail told the PH government to “stop politicising issues” and focus on running the country.

He said he was willing to be “public enemy No. 1” in his desire to act as a check and balance for the government.