

Tajol Rosli hints Dr Mahathir should not interfere

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IPOH: Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was given a hint not to interfere in the administration of the country.

"Dr Mahathir was my boss but my present boss is Pak Lah," said Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mohamad Tajol Rosli Ghazali.

Tajol Rosli said he once advised his own father, Tan Sri

Ghazali Jawi, a former Perak Menteri Besar, not to interfere in the running of the state government after he retired from politics.

"I hold Dr Mahathir very dear ... he is like a 'father' to me. As my 'father', I want people to like him," he told reporters yesterday.

Tajol Rosli was asked about Dr Mahathir's critical stand on

several issues, including Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's decision to call off Johor's bridge project.

Tajol Rosli recalled a similar situation faced by Dr Mahathir when he was prime minister and constantly criticised by the late Tunku Abdul Rahman.

He said he advised Dr Mahathir to mend his ties with

Tunku during an arranged meeting by Umno members then.

"I told him that he should see Tunku, explain what he needed to explain, and shake and kiss his hand," said Tajol Rosli.

The following day, he said, all newspaper front-paged the picture of Dr Mahathir shaking and kissing the late Tunku's hand.

In Kuala Terengganu, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh said he supported the Cabinet's decision to scrap the building of a new bridge to replace the Causeway.

"It is the best decision for Malaysia," he told newsmen outside the state assembly yesterday.

Idris said the public and even newsmen might have their

own views on the matter.

"The Government has made its decision and it will bear the responsibility of implementing the decision," he added.

Idris said the press had played its role in reporting the comments made by Dr Mahathir.

"There is democratic freedom, as the press had provided space for his comments."