Tunku Mahkota Johor backs JDT2 manager

JOHOR BAHRU: Tunku Mahkota Johor has condemned a violent attack on a referee involving Johor Darul Takzim 2 (JDT2) manager On Jabar after a Premier League match on Saturday, but stood up for the manager.

Tunku Ismail Sultan Ibrahim, who is also Johor Football Association president, said although he could not accept what had transpired, he understood On's frustration.

Tunku Mahkota Johor said the incident was sparked by poor standards of refereeing under the management of the Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) that was witnessed by the spectators.

He hoped the standard of refereeing would be improved to avoid recurrence of such incidents.

"Let me propose to FAM to adopt a professional refereeing structure and if they do not have the resources to implement it, I will do my best to provide the funds needed."

"The same referee had also been involved in a controversy (Super League match between JDT) with JDT before," he was quoted in a statement and on the JDT Facebook today.

On Saturday, referee On of JDT II allegedly threw a punch at referee Sukri Abdul Rahman after a 2-2 draw with UiTM at the Pasir Gudang Stadium as he was leaving the pitch. The match official left with a bloodied nose.

Meanwhile, FAM had received an official report from the match commissioner on the incident, said its secretary-general Datuk Hamidin Mohd Amin. - Bernama