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Dr M: I could not convince king to act

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DECLARATION:
Ex-PM says Tuanku Abdul Halim quizzed him on provisions of law

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Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad

TUN Dr Mahathir Mohamad has admitted that he failed to convince Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah to act in relation to the declaration that he initiated.

The former prime minister said that during the 70-minute meeting at Istana Anak Bukit in Alor Star last month, he also showed the king pictures of the declaration with signatures.

"Unfortunately, we could not get positive answers.

"During the meeting, the king also questioned me seriously on the provisions of the law and

I explained.

"However, at the end, I could not convince him," Dr Mahathir, who is Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia chairman, said here yesterday.

He added that attempts would be made to follow up on the matter with other rulers to solve the alleged "maladministration" by the government.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak had, on Sept 21, said Tuanku Abdul Halim explained to Dr Mahathir that he could not interfere in

the move made by PPBM.

Najib said the king took note of the issues raised by Dr Mahathir as the declaration did not comply with the Federal Constitution and any action taken should be through Parliament and the general election for the people to decide.

On the nine Australian men stripping down to their Jalur Gemilang underwear at the Petronas Malaysian Formula 1 Grand Prix in Sepang on Sunday, Dr Mahathir said the act was an insult to the country.

He said Malaysian culture was different from that of certain countries where it was "okay to be naked" in public.

On Sunday, police arrested nine Australian men, aged between 25 and 29, for provocation and public indecency after they stripped down to their underwear at the F1 race circuit.

To a question whether he planned to contest in the next general election, Dr Mahathir said no and quipped that his age would not permit him to do so.

Dr Mahathir is 91.