

BATU PUTEH ISSUE

'No action against Dr M due to his old age'

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pg. 3

KUALA LUMPUR: The cabinet decided not to take action against former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad over the Batu Puteh issue due to his advanced age.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the government maintained that Dr Mahathir was at fault for withdrawing Malaysia's claim over the island in 2018.

"We made the decision be-

cause it involves a former prime minister who is 100 years old.

"Is he not at fault? He is at fault. Should action be taken? We agreed not to take action."

Anwar said if action was taken, the opposition would accuse the government of being unfair.

Previously, critics of Dr Mahathir blamed him for losing Batu Puteh, which Singapore calls Pedra Blanca, by withdrawing the review application from

the International Court of Justice.

A royal commission of inquiry (RCI) formed to look into all matters related to Batu Puteh later found that Dr Mahathir had acted to influence his cabinet to drop the review application.

The RCI recommended that a police report be lodged against the former prime minister for alleged cheating.