

'GOVT NEVER BYPASSED A-G OVER BATU PUTEH'

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No legal action against Dr M on withdrawal of claim due to lack of police probe, says PM

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DATUK Seri Anwar Ibrahim has clarified that the government did not bypass the Attorney-General (AG) in any decisions related to Batu Puteh, including those involving former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The prime minister said the cabinet had reviewed the Royal Commission of Inquiry's (RCI) recommendations calling for a criminal investigation into Dr Mahathir over Malaysia's withdrawal of its claim on Batu Puteh in 2018, but decided not to proceed with legal action.

He said this was due to the absence of a police investigation and was not a unilateral decision, as claimed by some parties.

"The task force recommended that a report be filed against Dr Mahathir for alleged betrayal of the nation.

"So I did not override the A-G, it was a cabinet decision," he told reporters after the final round of



Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim

the 50th Prime Minister's Cup Debate Championship 2025 here.

"Although the offence was serious, taking into account the context and circumstances, we treated the matter as a lesson and decided not to pursue it further," he said

Anwar's comments came after Perikatan Nasional (PN) submitted a motion to refer him to the Parliamentary Special Select Committee on Privileges.

This followed his statement in the Dewan Rakyat that the cabinet had decided against charging Dr Mahathir due to his age.

Pas secretary-general Datuk Seri Takiyuddin Hassan said such a decision could only be made by the A-G, who holds the authority to initiate prosecution.

Anwar, however, defended the process and said Takiyuddin had every right to table the motion,

adding that he might not have read the full report, which included the recommendation for a police report to be lodged against Dr Mahathir.

"The RCI identified major wrongdoing. But we chose to treat it as a learning experience — just as we must with other territorial issues like the Sulawesi Sea," he said.

Dr Mahathir, in response, rejected the "immunity" over the matter and said he was ready to face legal action.

Separately, Anwar reaffirmed Malaysia's commitment, as Asean chair, to help de-escalate the border conflict between Thailand and Cambodia.

He said the prime ministers of both countries had thanked him for Malaysia's efforts to mediate and support ceasefire talks.

"Despite criticism from some quarters, we've made our position clear.

"Although both countries have agreed in principle, gunfire is still being exchanged.

"If needed, I will continue to reach out to both sides personally to urge an end to the violence and a return to negotiations," he said.

He added that Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan had been instructed to follow up with his counterparts to help ease tensions.

Anwar stressed that while, Malaysia remained stable and calm, the government would not take lightly the potential impact on regional instability.