

'No action against THE STAR Mahathir due to his age'

23 JUL, 2025

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KUALA LUMPUR: Though at fault for the loss of Batu Puteh, no action will be taken against centenarian Tun Dr Mahathir Mohammad, says Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The Prime Minister said punishing the former premier would result in the government facing backlash from the Opposition.

"The Cabinet and I agreed not to take action. If we take action against him, YB Kota Baru will be shouting, saying we are unfair.

"He is already 100 years old and committed a big wrong in the matter. But there is no need (for action to be taken)," he said in response to a question by Datuk Seri Ronald Kiandee (PN-Beluran) in Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

Earlier, Anwar spoke about Batu Puteh, which he said had been given away too easily by the former administration under Dr Mahathir, although it also involved the rights of the state of Johor.

In February last year, the government announced that His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia, had consented to the establishment of a Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCI).

The RCI found weaknesses in the handling of sovereignty issues involving Batu Puteh, Batuan Tengah and Tubir Selatan, stemming from a decision made by the government in 2018 to withdraw Malaysia's application to review the International Court of Justice's decision on the sovereignty of Batu Puteh.

At the time, the government was led by Dr Mahathir.

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