

# No action against Dr M over Pulau Batu Puteh: PM

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The government has decided not to pursue action against former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad over the Pulau Batu Puteh sovereignty issue as raised in the Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCI), due to age-related considerations, said Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said while the Cabinet had considered the matter seriously, it ultimately agreed that no further action should be taken, given that Mahathir is now 100 years old.

"We reached this decision in light of the fact

that it involves a former prime minister who is 100 years old. Should we proceed? In the Cabinet, I expressed agreement that we should not. Otherwise, the MP for Kota Bharu would accuse us of being unfair," he said in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

He was responding to a question from Datuk Seri Takiyuddin Hassan (PN-Kota Bharu), who asked why the RCI on Pulau Batu Puteh had been withdrawn.

Previously, the RCI on the Handling of Matters

Related to the Sovereignty of Batu Puteh, Middle Rocks and South Ledge had recommended that criminal investigations be considered against Mahathir.

That recommendation was included in the 217-page report which was circulated to MPs.

On May 23, 2008, the International Court of Justice ruled that Singapore held sovereignty over Batu Puteh while Middle Rocks, located less than one kilometre away, was awarded to Malaysia.

— Bernama