

# A-G to charge Buniyamin for defamatory statement

STAR - 6 SEP 2002

PETALING JAYA: The Attorney-General is expected to charge Kelantan PAS information chief Buniyamin Yaacob for making a defamatory statement against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

In a statement issued yesterday, the A-G's chambers said that it had carefully studied the investigation papers submitted by the police before deciding to charge the former Bachok MP.

"The Public Prosecutor is satisfied that there is sufficient evidence attributed to Buniyamin Yaacob which is clearly defamatory of the character of Dr Mahathir.

"Instruction has been given to the police to bring Buniyamin before the court for him to be charged," the statement said.

It said that the A-G's office had decided to issue the statement "in view of the seriousness of the allegation by Buniyamin and the public interest which has been generated over his statement."

On Aug 20, Buniyamin turned up at the Kelantan police headquarters after weeks of speculation that he had become a fugitive following his remarks that Dr Mahathir had watched a pornographic video with his grandson.

Buniyamin was accompanied by Kelantan legal adviser Takiyuddin Hassan and left after about five hours.

Apart from Buniyamin, it was reported that at least 19 people have been questioned in connection with the case.