

■ KOTA BARU

Bunyamin too ill to be served arrest warrant

NSP 9 SEPT 2002.

POLICE yesterday obtained a warrant of arrest from the Sessions Court to pick up former Bachok MP Bunyamin Yaacob (picture) for criminal defamation over his allegation that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had watched a pornographic video with his grandchildren.

However, State Criminal Investigation Department (CID) chief ACP Abdul Rahim Jani said investigation officer DSP Mohd Haniffa Abdul Kader was unable to serve it on Bunyamin, who is at present in Kota Baru Hospital, as his condition was unstable.

Abdul Rahim said police, who obtained the warrant from judge Mohd Yazid Mustafa at about 9.30am, went to the hospital but were told by a specialist attending the 56-year-old Bunyamin that he could not be moved.

"We had plans to bring the judge or magistrate to the hospital (for him to be charged there).

"However, the doctor said Bunyamin could hear us speaking but could not reply.

"So there is no point in doing it," he told a Press conference at the district police station.

Meanwhile, hospital sources said Bunyamin, who was admitted to the hospital on Thursday, needed the close supervision of doctors.

The former Pas MP is diabetic and also suffers from kidney and heart problems.

Bunyamin will be charged under Section 500 of the Penal Code, which is punishable with up to two years' jail, a fine or both, if convicted.

He is alleged to have said during a Pas ceramah at the Pusat Tarbiah Islamiah Kelantan in Pengkalan Chepa on March 15 that Dr Mahathir had watched a pornographic video with his grandchildren. — **By Sulaiman Jaafar**