

18 AUG 2002

Bunyamin-daughter

BUNYAMIN DISAPPEARS ALL THE TIME, SAYS DAUGHTER

BACHOK, Aug 18 (Bernama) -- A daughter of fugitive Bunyamin Yaakob said today his father "disappeared" all the times, sometimes for months.

"Sometimes he didn't appear for a month. We are already used to his absence," said Erma Suraini, 30, when met by reporters at the house of Bunyamin's first wife in Kampung Keting, here.

Police are looking for the 56-year-old PAS public speaker over a slanderous attack he made against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during a ceramah at Pusat Tarbiyah Islamiah Kelantan (Putik) in Pengkalan Chepa on March 15.

He went into hiding after three police reports were lodged against him in Pasir Mas (Kelantan), Kuala Terengganu (Terengganu) and Baling (Kedah) for accusing Dr Mahathir of watching a pornographic video with his grandson in his ceramah, the excerpt of which was telecast by Radio Television Malaysia (RTM) recently.

Erma said it was normal for her father not to come home and sometimes he would be away for months.

Last Wednesday, Kelantan CID Chief ACP Abdul Rahim Jani said the police still could not record a statement from the former PAS Member of Parliament over the allegation.

Asked if she knew her father's whereabouts, Erma said she did not know.

"We don't know where he is and he also did not contact us," she said.

Erma, who had just completed her studies from a university in Indonesia, said she got uptight at times when people came and asked about her father.

The police also came several times to find out whether her father had returned, she said.

"We didn't know what to do when the issue cropped up but we accepted it as one of those challenges in life," she said.

She was surprised to hear of rumours that her father would give his statement to the police tomorrow.

"We don't know about that," she said, fearing that the news could aggravate the condition of her mother who is not well.

She said her mother did not know about her father's case with the police.

"We fear that it could adversely affect her health. Let's us handle the case," she said.

Reporters earlier tried to find out about Bunyamin at his second wife's house but it was empty.

-- BERNAMA

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