

20 AUG 2002

Bunyamin-Statement

BUNYAMIN GIVES STATEMENT TO POLICE

KOTA BAHARU, Aug 20 (Bernama) -- PAS member Bunyamin Yaakob, sought by police over alleged slanderous remarks against Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, appeared at the Kelantan police headquarters today.

He arrived at 10.30am, accompanied by a few others including Kelantan PAS legal adviser Takiyuddin Hassan, and left at 3.10pm after giving a statement.

Bunyamin, 56, a former MP for Bachok, allegedly accused Dr Mahathir of watching a pornographic video with his grandson, during a PAS ceramah on March 15.

Three police reports were lodged against Bunyamin over the matter and Kelantan CID chief ACP Abdul Rahim Jani last week said police could not find the PAS public speaker to record a statement from him.

Takiyuddin, who is a state executive councillor, denied that Bunyamin had gone into hiding.

He told reporters that the former MP had not left Kelantan and was receiving treatment for a kidney ailment.

Takiyuddin said Bunyamin failed to come forward earlier because he did not know that police were seeking to record a statement from him.

ACP Abdul Rahim said police would be able to speed up their investigation into the slander case now that Bunyamin had given his statement.

He said police had so far recorded statements from more than 20 people, including journalists, in connection with the case.

-- BERNAMA

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