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Bunyamin turns up at state police HQ

KOTA BARU, Tues. - Former Pas MP for Bachok Bunyamin Yaakob, sought by police to facilitate investigation into a slander case against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, finally turned up at the State police headquarters today.

Bunyamin, accompanied by State Pas Youth chief Takiyuddin Hassan, who is also the State Pas legal adviser and Takiyuddin's special assistant Abdul Razak Ghani, arrived in a car at about 10.30am.

The former MP, who is an information officer with the State Information Secretariat, gave his statement to Kota Baru Criminal Investigation Department chief Deputy Superintendent Haniffa Abdul Kader, who is also the investigation officer of the case, for about four-and-a-half hours.

Bunyamin, who looked frail, and his group left in Abdul Razak's Perodua Kembara at about 3pm.

Takiyuddin told reporters that Bunyamin did not disappear or try to run away from the police, as reported.

He said the party's information officer was in Kelantan all the while but did not meet the police earlier due to health problems.

He is understood to be suffering from diabetes and kidney failure.

"He has to undergo haemodialysis twice a week," he said.

Takiyuddin said there could be a miscommunication between the parties involved.

"Bunyamin was not aware that police were looking for him to get his statement earlier. When we knew about it, we immediately made an arrangement (to meet the police) and he came here today," he said.

Meanwhile, State CID chief Assistant Commissioner Abdul Rahim Jani said Bunyamin had turned up at the police headquarters voluntarily.

"His statement today helped us to complete the investigation which is being carried out under section 4(1) B of the Sedition Act."

In Kuala Lumpur, Umno secretary-general Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said today by going into hiding, Bunyamin appeared to be making an admission of guilt.