

16/08/2002

Co-operate with police, Bunyamin urged

KOTA BARU, Thurs. - Pas spiritual leader Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat has urged former MP for Bachok Bunyamin Yaakob to co-operate with police in connection with the probe into statements he made against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"He must come out because whoever goes into hiding (when sought by police) can give a sign that they are guilty. As long as they have that kind of feeling, it means that they are really guilty," said the Kelantan Menteri Besar after launching the State-level Landscape Day at Taman Tanjung Chat.

He said he had nothing against police recording statements from the former Pas MP.

"A person is duty-bound to obey the police. On our side, we will pray to Allah that the police will discharge their duties."

Nik Aziz was asked to comment on a request by State Criminal Investigation Department chief Assistant Commissioner Abdul Rahim Jani that Bunyamin come to the district police station to facilitate investigations into the case.

Police believe that the 56-year-old politician, whose last known addresses were Kampung Geting in Gunung and Kampung Cabang Tiga Teratak Pulai, both in Bachok, had left the State.

Abdul Rahim said police had been trying to reach him since July 13, the day police reports were lodged against him over his alleged remarks that the Prime Minister had watched pornographic videos with his grandchildren.

He also said police might seek a warrant of arrest against Bunyamin if he did not turn himself in.

Meanwhile Bunyamin's eldest daughter Erma Surian, 30, said she did not know her father's whereabouts.

"He has not come home in the last two weeks," she said when met at the family home in Kampung Geting.

She believes that her father is still in the country.

Erma said Bunyamin telephoned home and spoke to her sister Sakinah, 26, for a few minutes last week, enquiring about the health of the family especially his wife Sunduyah Omar Salleh, 52.

"He did not say where he was. He also did not say anything about the police looking for him," she said.

Erma said her mother had been unwell for the last 12 years.

"We have been concealing the controversy from her for fear that it will cause her health to deteriorate," she said.