

08 SEP 2002
Buniyamin-Arrest
COURT ISSUES WARRANT OF ARREST AGAINST BUNIYAMIN

KOTA BAHARU, Sept 8 (Bernama) -- The Kota Baharu Sessions Court today issued a warrant of arrest against Kelantan PAS Information Officer Buniyamin Yaacob to secure his presence in court to face charges of slandering the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The warrant was issued by Judge Mohamad Yazid Mustafa following an application by Police Investigation Officer DSP Hanifah Abdul Kadir.

Buniyamin, 56, who is the former Member of Parliament for Bachok, will be charged under Section 500 of the Penal Code for the offence of slander, which provides for a jail term of up to two years or a fine or both upon conviction.

On March 15 while delivering a political talk at the Pusat Tarbiyah Islamiah Kelantan (Putik), Pengkalan Chepa, here, Buniyamin was reported to have said that the Prime Minister had watched porn video together with his grandson.

The Prime Minister denied seeing porn video and said the claim by Buniyamin was a lie.

Extracts from Buniyamin's talk were aired over RTM recently. Several people in Kelantan, Terengganu and Kedah lodged police reports against Buniyamin.

At a news conference this evening, Kelantan CID Director ACP Abdul Rahim Jani said the warrant had not been served on Buniyamin who is in Kota Baharu Hospital for diabetes treatment. He was admitted on Thursday.

One of Buniyamin's daughters, said her daddy was admitted to hospital for fever and also for a kidney ailment and diabetes.

"We went to hospital to see Buniyamin to serve the warrant of arrest and we were advised by the specialist treating him that he was not fit to appear in court," Abdul Rahim said.

Hence the serving of the warrant had been postponed as in the warrant it was not stated whether he could be bailed or otherwise which meant that soon after his arrest he should be brought straight to court.

"Considering this and realising that his condition is not stable and also doctor said that he should not be moved, we decided to abide by the doctor's advice," he said.

He said police also had plans to bring the Magistrate or Judge to the hospital but the specialist said Buniyamin could only hear but could not talk.

"Hence if we bring the judge to the hospital it will also serve no purpose as he (Buniyamin) can hear but cannot talk, he is not stable at all," he said.

He said the specialist was unable to say when Buniyamin would be stable enough to attend court.

Police would be monitoring his condition, he added.

"We will serve the warrant once the specialist confirms that he can attend court," he said.

--BERNAMA
ZI BD AAM