

28 DEC 2002  
Court-Buniyamin  
TRIAL POSTPONED TO APRIL AS BUNİYAMIN IS INDIPOSED

KOTA BAHARU, Dec 28 (Bernama) -- The Sessions Court here today postponed the trial of Kelantan PAS Information Officer Buniyamin Yaacob as he is indisposed.

Judge Azman Abdullah fixed April 8 to 10 as the new dates for the trial.

Buniyamin, 56, is facing a defamation charge for alleging that Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad had watched a pornographic video with his grandson.

He is alleged to have committed the offence, punishable under Section 500 of the Penal Code, during a ceramah at the Pusat Tarbiah Islamiah Kelantan here between 10pm and 11.30pm on March 15.

If convicted, Buniyamin, who is a former Member of Parliament for Bachok, could be sentenced up to two years or fined or both.

Judge Azman made the postponement following an application by counsel Wan Tarik Wan Mohamad, who is holding a watching brief for Kelantan PAS, for new trial dates to be fixed.

The court heard that the accused is suffering from a kidney ailment and that he has to undergo his haemodialysis treatment today as scheduled at the Kota Baharu Hospital (HKB).

The accused counsel, Karpal Singh had also applied for the postponement in his letter dated Dec 27 and distributed to parties related to the trial yesterday.

In view of the latest developments, Deputy Public Prosecutor Nordin Hassan agreed that new trial dates be fixed but hoped that in future the prosecution would be notified well in advance.

He said letter was faxed only yesterday, giving the prosecution not enough time to inform the witnesses, many of whom are from outside the state.

The court also extended the Buniyamin's bail for RM6,000 with one surety.

Nordin is assisted by Deputy Public Prosecutors Azmi Ariffin and Dzulkifli Ahmad. Karpal Singh was not present in court today.

Before the court was adjourned on Nov 5, three witnesses had testified during the trial.

Today's trial was supposed to last three days.

-- BERNAMA

RAR ABG