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Pas man to be charged with defaming Dr Mahathir

FORMER Pas Member of Parliament Bunyamin Yaacob (picture) will be charged soon with criminal defamation over his allegation that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had watched a pornographic video with his grandchildren.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Attorney-General's Chambers said the public prosecutor was satisfied there was sufficient evidence attributed to Bunyamin which was clearly defamatory of Dr Mahathir's character.

Bunyamin, 56, is alleged to have said during a Pas ceramah at the Pusat Tarbiyah Islamiah Kelantan in Pengkalan Chepa on March 15 that Dr Mahathir had watched a pornographic video with his grandchildren.

Recently, an excerpt from the ceramah was shown in a video clip telecast by Radio Television Malaysia.

"Instructions have been given to police to bring Bunyamin before the court for him to be charged by the Prosecution Division of the Attorney-General's Chambers," the statement said.

The A-G's Chambers decided to issue the statement in view of the seriousness of the allegation by Bunyamin and the public interest generated.

It is believed that Bunyamin will be charged with criminal defamation under Section 500 of the Penal Code which is punishable with up to two years' jail, a fine or both, if convicted.