

Dr M slams media for unfair

reporting

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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad slammed the media for reporting on issues which he said made a person under suspicion of a wrongdoing guilty before being proven so by the courts.

"There are cases where the authorities have yet to find the person guilty or not, but the media reported as if the person was already a criminal," he said after chairing the Umno supreme council meeting yesterday.

He said such reports were unfair as it could cause embarrassment to the people involved.

Referring to investigations into the misappropriation of RM36.5mil in funds meant to help the hardcore poor, Dr Mahathir said if the media from the start made its decision that the person was guilty, it could be a form of victimisation.

Dr Mahathir also said he was disappointed that the media highlighted the increase in toll fares, petrol prices and others which he said was to stir the emotions of the public.

He also clarified a report yesterday that senators had asked for a three-fold increase in their allowance from RM100,000 to RM300,000 for their three-year term.

He said the request was not for the senators themselves but for staff under them.