

Good and bad of law suits against media

Nst - 6 MAR 2001

BUKIT KAYU HITAM, Mon. — The current trend of filing multi-million ringgit law suits against the media has its plus and negative points, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

He said law suits were sometimes necessary, especially against newspapers which printed unsubstantiated reports.

“The fine should be adequate so that baseless allegations are not

repeated,” he said.

“However, too high an award is also not good,” he said when asked to comment on the current trend of individuals and political parties filing mega suits against the local media.

The Prime Minister was speaking at a Press conference after officiating the Kota Perdana-Asean Metropolis of the 21st Century project here today.

To a question on action against those who try to topple the Government by organising demonstrations, Dr Mahathir said action could only be taken if the Government had a foolproof case.

“We’ll take stern action but we can’t act just like that ... we must have a foolproof case first.

“Sometimes these people just talk but they don’t actually dare to do it,” he said.