

Mahathir: BBC congenitally incapable of truth

MIRI, Fri. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) is "congenitally incapable" of telling the truth.

"They were born that way ... so what can we do? I mean we have to accept that some people are born left-handed, right handed, but some people are born liars," said the Prime Minister when asked to comment on BBC's 10-minute documentary on its Breakfast News programme on April 19 that blasted the Bakun hydro-electric project and the Malaysian Government.

The documentary also criticised Sarawak Chief Minister Tan Sri Taib Mahmud, who, it claimed, had ordered the arrest of its reporter and confiscated its film.

"That's the BBC. If they don't tell lies, they are not satisfied. If they report the truth that we did not arrest anyone, that we care for our environment, that's not news," said Dr Mahathir on his return from an over-

night stay at Pulau Layang-Layang.

"For the BBC, the idea of broadcasting is to tell lies, then it will be interesting. If you don't tell lies, nobody is interested in BBC. BBC may have to close down."

The Prime Minister asked the local Press and television to broadcast what he said.

"We are too shy. When we speak like this, our own television will not broadcast it because we don't want to annoy them. But then they annoy us, we get angry."

This was not the first time that Dr Mahathir had reminded the media to report only what he said.

Earlier this year, during a visit to the Pedu Dam in Kedah, he had ticked off local television stations for not airing what he had said.

"You take a lot of pictures but you never show ... we requested you the other day to air what I had said but instead you aired what someone else said," (about the same subject), he was quoted as saying.