

CNN used dirty tactics, says Mahathir

SEPANG: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad accused CNN of using "dirty tactics" to deny him the chance to give his views on important issues regarding the country's domestic affairs during his interview in Washington on Wednesday.

Questioning the objectivity of CNN when it comes to reporting on Malaysia's domestic development, he said the interviewer manipulated to deprive him of the opportunity to give proper answers.

"The CNN interviewer adopted the same approach as the others before her, which was to make a long statement accusing us of this and that and then put forward a question which was unrelated to the earlier statement.

"This is to make it seem as if we are in agreement with the statement made.

"This is a dirty tactic employed by the CNN, in not allowing me the opportunity to answer, whereas they were the ones who had invited me for the interview," he told reporters at the KL International Airport upon his return from a three-day visit to Washington yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said he did not understand why the network had invited him for the interview if it was not interested in his replies.

He said if viewers cared to observe the interview carefully, they would have realised that the interviewer was keener on expressing her own opinion about Malaysia rather than to hear what he had to say on the same issue.

"If she had wanted only to express her views, then why interview me?" he said.

Asked to comment on accusations by foreign media that Malaysia was undemocratic towards the opposition, Dr Mahathir said:

"If we want to, we can point out to them how merciless other countries are towards their opposition."