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Dr M: Pay no heed to anti-Islamic statements

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Muslims should not pay heed to anti-Islamic statements from those who are ignorant of the religion like Rev Jerry Falwell of the United States, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said the clergyman had no right to allege that Prophet Muhammad was a terrorist.

"We should not pay heed to such statements," he said when asked for his comments on reports that Falwell had made the allegation in an interview with CBS' 60 Minutes to be aired tomorrow.

"They don't understand anything. They don't understand Islam," he said after opening Gerakan's 31st delegates' conference at its headquarters, here.

Asked whether such a statement from a reverend was an indication of Christian extremism, Dr Mahathir said it only applied to the person who made the statement.

"I'm not going to accuse all Christians because of this one person is making such a statement. There are extremists in all communities... you cannot say that extremists exists only within the Muslims. There are Christian extremists, Buddhist extremists and even Hindu extremists," he said.