

**Muhyiddin: Umno has never been a racist party**  
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KUALA LUMPUR - Umno deputy president Muhyiddin Yassin said Tuesday night that Umno has never been a racist party and it does not need to be apologetic in fighting for the rights and privileges of the Malay and Bumiputera

Muhyiddin, who is also the Deputy Prime Minister, said history has shown that Umno's leadership not only benefits the Malay but also other races, *Bernama* reported.

As the biggest Malay party with 3.4 million members, he said Umno takes pride in being a Malay party which upholds the Malay customs and traditions.

He added that Umno should not be apologetic in defending the Malay cultural heritage, as long as the party remains fair to all.

"The real measure of a man's honour is not in his obsession to his race but his piety to Allah, and indeed, being fair to all is a sign of piety among the faithful," he said in his policy speech when opening the assemblies of Wanita, Youth and Puteri wings simultaneously at the 2010 Umno General Assembly at Putra World Trade Centre.

Muhyiddin also said that race-based politics was not racial or racist politics, saying that Umno was always committed in fighting for the rights of the Malays as enshrined in the Constitution and at the same time remained respectful of the interests of other communities.

"Racist politics means we only struggle for the interests of our own race and oppress other races. A party which is not race-based can become very racist if it is cruel to other races.

"The fact is, throughout the history of Umno's struggle, this honourable Malay party has never been a racist party," he was quoted as saying by *Bernama*.

He said Umno leaders were aware that sharing the political power and the country's economic wealth with other races was the best way forward to ensure peace and prosperity in a plural society like Malaysia.

The DPM also said Umno would not stray from its struggle to take the Malay and Bumiputera economic standings to a higher level.

"Umno will not have any doubt or be apologetic in fighting for a fair economic distribution for the Malays and Bumiputeras.

"But I would like to stress here that the new dimension of the affirmative action is based on merit. Only those who are qualified and the needy will be given assistance," *Bernama* quoted him as saying.

He said economic opportunities would also be made widely opened for those who work hard but there would be no place for greedy "rent-seekers" out to make a quick profit.

Muhyiddin said that the country's success all the while had proven wrong what many had predicted when the country first achieved its independence that it would collapse due to its

diverse society and economic standings.

"Thanks to the dynamic and tolerant Umno leadership, this negative prediction did not become a reality. On the contrary, many neighbouring countries whose populations are not as diverse as ours have and are still facing racial and religious tensions leading to bloodshed," he said.

Before ending his speech, Muhyiddin called on the Umno members to give their solid support to party president Najib Abdul Razak in carrying out transformation in the party and government.

The five-day assembly, which began Tuesday, is being attended by 4,907 delegates comprising 2,543 delegates to the Umno General Assembly, 793 delegates for the Wanita Umno assembly, 795 delegates for the Umno Youth assembly and 776 for the Puteri Umno general assembly.

Present were leaders of the three wings Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, Khairy Jamaluddin and Rosnah Abdul Rashid Shirlin as well as the prime minister's wife Rosmah Mansor and Muhyiddin's wife Norainee Abdul Rahman.

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