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Blogs an option, says Mahathir

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SERDANG: If people do not want to listen to you, write your thoughts in a blog, former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad told politicians and party leaders.

He said the Barisan Nasional government allows for freedom of speech but people cannot be forced to listen or accept other people's views or opinions.

"People these days use blogs to voice their opinion. If you cannot express your views within the party, then use the blog," he said after a talk at Universiti Putra Malaysia yesterday. "Sometimes people in the party don't listen to us."

Mahathir said politicians have the chance to voice out their views within the party. "Yes, we can (speak up). We allow for freedom of speech. We can say what we want. But if others

do not seem to listen, we cannot do anything."

Mahathir was asked to comment on Angkatan Amanah Merdeka (Amanah) which its president Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said is meant to serve as a platform for leaders who are gagged by their political parties.

Earlier in his speech on "The Malaysian Economic Dilemma", Mahathir said one of the dilemma of the government is to enrich the country while ensuring equal distribution of wealth among the people so that it is not centred around certain ethnic groups.

He said in its effort to achieve the developed nation status and increasing the per capita income of its population, the government must ensure the gap between the haves and the have-nots is not too big.

Gerakan president Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said he was puzzled with Tengku Razaleigh's claim there is no chance in Umno for members to speak out.