

**Negri prince apologises for Umno leeches comment, says analogy for some, not all**  
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**By Melissa Chi**

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 3 — Negri Sembilan prince Tunku Abidin Muhriz apologised for the misunderstanding that his remark, “leeches had penetrated” the largest component party of the ruling coalition, was implied to refer to the whole party.

“I would like to apologise for the misunderstanding caused by my comment pertaining to leeches at PWTC this week,” Tunku Abidin said in a statement carried by The Star Online yesterday.

“Although I clearly restricted the analogy to ‘some’ individuals, several quarters have interpreted my comment as applying to all those participating in the Umno general assembly. This is most unfortunate,” he said.

Tunku Abidin, who is founding president of the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS), started a weekly column, Roaming Beyond the Fence, in the English-language daily in September.

“Anyone who has been reading my articles over the past three years will know that I admire and deeply respect many Umno leaders,” the second son of the reigning Yang di-Pertuan Besar of Negri Sembilan said.

He was criticised at the Umno general assembly for implying that some of the delegates were leeches.

“So, when I implied that leeches had penetrated the party, it was out of a sense of disappointment, not of an intrinsic hatred of the party, as has been suggested,” he said.

Tunku Abidin pointed out that he had deep respect for Umno leaders such as Datuk Onn Jaafar, Tunku Abdul Rahman and Tun Hussein Onn

“Most recently, I have consistently praised the efforts of Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah in fighting for further democracy and freedom for all Malaysians.

“Furthermore, I have been consistent in congratulating the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak for his courageous attempts to reform the country under the Government Transformation Programme and Economic Transformation Programme.”

Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin welcomed Tunku Abidin’s apology as well as the clarification on his stand.

He said it was not fair of the prince to make a “generalised statement” against Umno.

mno-leeches-comment-says-analogy-for-some-not-all/