

**Umno Does Not Stop Members From Debating Sensitive Issues : Hishammuddin
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 24 (Bernama) -- Umno has never prevented delegates from debating sensitive issues at the Umno General Assembly, said its vice-president Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein.

He said Umno was always open in accepting whatever views and suggestions from the delegates representing the grassroots in line with the Political Transformation Programme (PTP) mooted by Umno president Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, who is also the Prime Minister.

"We never place any restriction on the topics that the delegates will debate, it has never been part of the party practice or policy.

"There is no restriction even from the start but our debators who love the party will not use the platform (debate) to divide the party, especially when we are facing the next general election," he said at a special media conference in conjunction with the Umno General Assembly 2011, here Thursday.

Hishammuddin, who is the chairman of the Umno General Assembly 2011 Resolutions Committee, said that he had received 617 resolutions from the 191 Umno divisions that had held their meetings.

Of the total, 572 resolutions pertaining to government departments and agencies had been sent to the respective ministries while the remaining 45 resolutions in the form of expression of support for the efforts of the government and party were passed without debate.

He said the five-day assembly beginning next Tuesday would concentrate on three main resolutions namely the resolution to debate the president's policy speech, the economic resolution and the resolution on education, social and religion.

To a question whether the resolutions on politics touched on preparations for the 13th general election, Hishammuddin said most of them touched on internal party matters.

Commenting on the claim that there were discrimination against media practitioners particularly from the alternative media by Umno, he said that Umno had never prevented any media organisations from covering the party general assembly.

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