

**Muhyiddin: Democracy still alive in Umno**  
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**KUALA LUMPUR:** Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin stressed that democracy is still alive in Umno and that the party had never prevented its members from voicing out their views and grouses.

He said the party had never issued any gag order on any of its members.

"No such circular had ever been issued to any leader or individual in the party to prevent them from speaking out.

"I read about comments made by our members all the time," he said, adding that the party had always given the space and channels for members to express their opinions.

He was commenting on Umno veteran and Gua Musang division chief, Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, who claimed that he joined non-governmental organisation Angkatan Amanah Merdeka (Amanah) because of the lack of room to speak out in Umno.

"I don't know what he wanted to talk about but could not do so in Umno. But we allow members to join any NGO as it is within their rights," Muhyiddin said after an open dialogue session with 50 Fellows of Teach For Malaysia yesterday.

Amanah was launched on July 22 by Tengku Razaleigh as its president.

Tengku Razaleigh claimed that he and several other Barisan Nasional component leaders had turned to Amanah as there was no room for dissent in their respective parties.

On another matter, Muhyiddin called for greater understanding among the races towards the practice of slaughtering cows at schools, public spaces and mosques during the Hari Raya Aidiladha, and added that this was a non-issue in the country.

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