

**Umno Backs Penang Umno's Action Against Guan Eng - Muhyiddin  
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NIBONG TEBAL, Sept 17 (Bernama) -- Umno deputy president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today the party backed Penang Umno's action against Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng over an allegedly slanderous statement he had made against the party.

"We have our dignity. What was said is slanderous. If we don't do anything, the people will believe what was said," the deputy prime minister told reporters after attending a "Merdeka Raya" reception at the Dewan Gerakan Masyarakat Perda in Sungai Acheh, here.

Penang Umno has threatened a RM30-million defamation suit against Lim for allegedly accusing it of being responsible for street demonstrations on July 1 and allegedly insinuating that Umno was involved in an arson attempt at the Penang DAP office on Aug 17.

Lim had reportedly alleged that Umno was involved in the street demonstrations outside Komtar and on the Penang Bridge on July 1, but had said that he had not accused Umno of involvement in the DAP office fire which was caused by arson.

Last Tuesday, Penang Umno chairman Datuk Zainal Abidin Osman demanded an apology from Lim over the allegations. The following day, a notice of demand was sent to Lim to apologise within seven days or face a RM30-million defamation suit.

Muhyiddin said Lim might be the chief minister but he was not above the law.

Earlier, at the reception, Muhyiddin approved a RM2.5-million allocation for renovation of the 120-year-old Sungai Acheh Mosque. The sum augments the RM2 million from the State Islamic Affairs Department.

The deputy prime minister also announced a RM1-million allocation to build the Sungai Udang jetty about one kilometre from Sungai Acheh, and a RM500,000 allocation for repairs to Sekolah Jenis Kebangsaan Cina Pei Tek.

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