

**Umno Has Nothing To Hide, Debates Can Be Heard By All - Muhyiddin
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PUTRAJAYA, Nov 25 (Bernama) -- Umno will not impose any restrictions on any quarters, including members of the media, to listen and report all issues raised by speakers and debators at this year's Umno general assembly scheduled to begin on Tuesday.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who is also Umno deputy president, said Umno was keeping an open mind as it had nothing to hide, despite knowing that the debate would mainly touch on the interests and the future of the Malays.

"Although the assembly is basically a closed-door event because only selected delegates will participate in the debates, I think it has been our practice to be open and we will continue doing it. There will be no restrictions on people to listen to the debates from outside the hall and for the media to give wide coverage on the event as usual.

"We must be transparent. Even though the debates will touch more on the interests and the future of the Malays, we must understand that Umno plays a vital role in the government because we are the core party in Barisan Nasional," he said at a special news conference in conjunction with the Umno General Assembly 2011 here Friday.

On this year's assembly, Muhyiddin said it was the most important and would not only attract the attention of Malaysians but also of the international community.

He said as he was also confident that the issues raised at the assembly would be scrutinised by the people from all walks of life, especially among Umno members, to ascertain the credibility of the party and whether it was still relevant with the current struggles of the Malays and Malaysians as a whole.

"Focus will also be given to see whether Umno, which has been fighting for the interests of the Malays, is still having the same principles as its main foundation of its struggles and whether the party has undergone the desired changes and transformation after the 12th general election in 2008," he said.

On the possible issues to be raised by the delegates, Muhyiddin said he could not anticipate what issues would be raised at the assembly.

"I'm not an astrologer but I believe there will be a difference because we have set in the minds of the debators that the next general election will not be the same, it will be different, our preparation will be different and must also be stronger than ever," he said.

What was more important, he said was that all issues must be raised sincerely so that they will not be seen as mere political tactics.

Muhyiddin said he also hoped that all speakers and debators at the assembly would appear more professional, understand the issue and not be rhetorical.

"There must be a new approach, new breath and new content with complete data. Don't just simply make baseless statements," he said.

He said this was because the debates would be heard by millions of people who were able to evaluate and whose intelligence could not be underestimated.

A total of 5,447 delegates will take part in the Umno General Assembly 2011 at Dewan Merdeka, Putra World Trade centre (PWTC) from Nov 29 to Dec 3.

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