

**Umno Has Never Prevented Any Party Leader From Speaking Out, Says Muhyiddin Bernama
November 8, 2011**

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 8 (Bernama) -- Umno has never prevented its party leaders at all levels from voicing their opinions on party issues as Umno practises democracy, said party deputy president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

The deputy prime minister said each day he read in the newspapers lots of such opinions from Umno leaders, proving that there were no party restrictions on speaking out.

"There has also been no circular issued to any party leader at the state or divisional level, or to individuals that they should keep their mouths shut. But actually, they sometimes say more than they should," he said after an open dialogue with 50 selected graduands for the "Teach For Malaysia" programme, here, Tuesday.

Muhyiddin said this in response to the statement by Gua Musang Umno division chief Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, better known as Ku Li, at a press conference earlier Tuesday that there was no chance in Umno for members to speak out and if they wanted to speak at the general assembly, they needed approval from the higher-ups first.

Tengku Razaleigh had on 22 July, launched a non-governmental organisation known as Angkatan Amanah Merdeka (Amanah) as himself as the president to provide a bigger platform for people to voice their opinions than if they were under a political party.

On the action by Tengku Razaleigh, who is also a former Umno vice-president, Muhyiddin said Umno also did not prevent any party member from joining non-governmental organisations as it was their right to do so.

"Likewise, individuals from other parties have also joined various bodies and associations to focus on areas of interest to them."

According to Muhyiddin, there was already a system in Umno at the divisional and state level as a platform for party leaders and members to give their views on party matters.

"I don't know what Tengku Razaleigh is not allowed to talk about. He had spoken out when he met the press (today). If he has views that are different from the party's, he can bring them up to us.

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