

**Nurul Izzah's Statement Unwarranted – Muhyiddin  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 7 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin has described as unwarranted a statement by Member of Parliament for Lembah Pantai Nurul Izzah Anwar that that religious freedom should be accorded to everyone, including the Malays.

Muhyiddin said he also shared the disappointment expressed by the Sultan of Selangor Sultan and Islamic scholars over the statement.

"Such statement should not have been made. What we fear most is that it could go against akidah (Islamic creed). Furthermore, it was made by a Muslim.

"It's something that should not have happened," he said after witnessing the signing of the Pagoh Higher Education Hub Concession Agreement between the Higher Education Ministry and Sime Darby Property Selatan Sdn Bhd here Wednesday.

Asked on the Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) vice-president's plan to sue Utusan Malaysia and Berita Harian, Muhyiddin for allegedly twisting her statement, Muhyiddin said it was a normal reaction by a member of the opposition when rebutting a claim.

"Anyway, wasn't the story lifted by Utusan from a portal? That one (the portal) she doesn't want to sue. It is a lame excuse to show that she is not at fault and her statement was twisted. But the facts are there, we can browse through and read what she had actually said," said Muhyiddin.

Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad reminded Muslims that western liberalism, including the freedom to change religion, would not appropriate be for the country.

"As Muslims, we do not change our religion, others might allow that," he said after being appointed the patron of the Malaysian Institute of Planners. He said extreme freedom would lead to disunity and chaos like allowing the production of anti-Islamic movies and legalising same sex marriage. In JASIN, Defence Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said Nurul Izzah should acquaint herself with Islamic rules before making any statement about Islam.

"In Islam, the rules are based on the Quran, hadis (Prophet Muhammad's sayings) and Islamic scholars' interpretations.

"The verse stating that there is no compulsion in religion means Islam does coerce non-believers to convert to Islam, but by generalising that Muslims are free to choose their religion after a certain age is against Islamic teachings," he said upon arrival with the 536-strong 1Malaysia Superbike Convoy Tour at Laman Belia 1Malaysia, Sungai Rambai here today.

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