

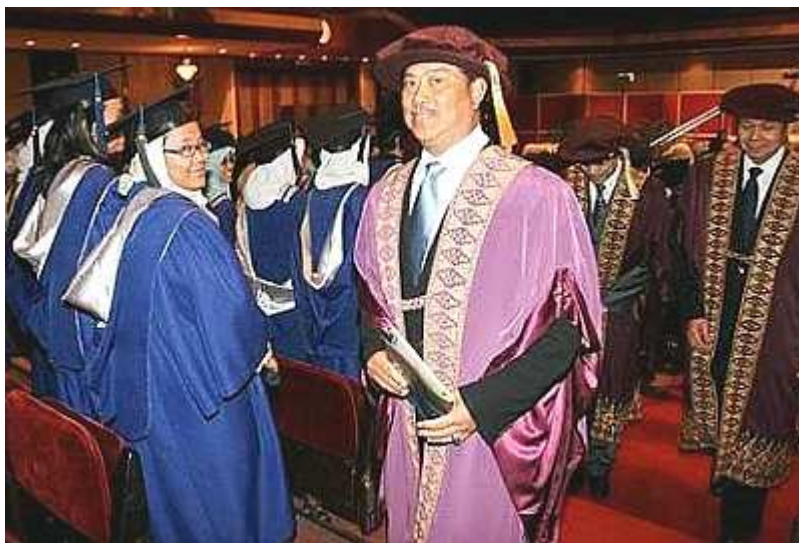
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Umno members can now make cash offerings

By IZATUN SHARI

KUALA LUMPUR: Umno members are now allowed to offer cash contributions to the party but only through state party liaisons and divisions during the coming party polls under the newly amended code of ethics, said Umno vice-president Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Muhyiddin, who is also Umno constitution and regulations amendment committee chairman, said there must also be proper records of the contributions, which would later be brought to the knowledge of delegates at division meetings.



Graduation passage: Muhyiddin attending the PTPL College's 12th convocation in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Following him are the college's president Prof Mohd Shukri Ab Yajid (second from right) and chairman Tan Sri Dr Mohd Zahid Mohd Noordin.

Previously, he said party members were not allowed to offer cash handouts during party elections.

"We are merely improving the code of ethics to make it more flexible and avoid misconducts. In the past, we only have don'ts in the code of ethics.

"Now, we have do's and don'ts," he told reporters after attending the Advanced Management and Technology Centre College's (PTPL College) 12th convocation yesterday.

"Previously, we did not allow members to give money. Now, we allow them to do so but there must be certain guidelines or ways of doing it. If cash handouts are offered only during elections, it will create suspicions.

"But if they are still offered during that time, it is allowed, provided that they are offered to the party not to individuals. They must be made through proper channels either through state liaisons or divisions in a transparent manner.

"They shouldn't be offered through the backdoor approach where one gives the money to branches and say that it is out of sincerity but in actual fact, he or she intends to contest the division top post."

However, he stressed that the code of ethics was applicable for members at all times not only restricted to during party elections.

Muhyiddin said campaigning would also now be allowed provided it was managed by the Umno supreme council or state liaisons.

“Umno supreme council or liaisons can manage the campaigns whereby candidates who want to contest will be allowed to lobby the state delegates,” he said.

Umno branch elections are set from July 17 and Aug 24 followed by division elections between Oct 9 and Nov 9 while that of national level will be between Dec 16 and 21.