

UKM dismisses claims of silencing staff, supports freedom of speech

By [Adib Povera](#) - October 18, 2024 @ 9:38am



Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, in a statement today, said the university welcomes any differences in opinion that benefit society and the nation.

KUALA LUMPUR: Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia today dismissed claims by an opposition member of Parliament, accusing the university of prohibiting its staff from making public statements.

The university, in a statement today, said it does not hinder the freedom of speech of its members in making statements, whether verbally or in writing, including on social media.

The university added that it welcomes any differences in opinion that benefit society and the nation.

"Ethics and maturity when presenting views and arguments should be practiced through proper communication.

"Offering constructive criticism with respect, where every opinion must be supported by facts and grounded in academic discipline and expertise," the statement said.

UKM also said that as an institution that upholds public intellectualism, the university consistently encourages its members to voice their opinions.

"Constructive public statements are highly encouraged as a platform for knowledge and academic discipline, serving as a catalyst for intellectual discussions among members of the university."

It was reported yesterday that Indera Mahkota MP Datuk Seri Saifuddin Abdullah claimed UKM has issued a circular that prohibits the university staff from making public statements especially those critical of the government as well as its policies.

Saifuddin also said he has raised his concerns with Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Zambry Abdul Kadir.

FMT reported that a UKM circular dated Oct 8 mandates civil servants, including statutory body officers, to refrain from making statements that could undermine government policies or embarrass government entities.