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Concert ban not a solution to social ills

Father of KRU fans

I WISH to refer to the recent uproar by several State Governments on the banning of the KRU concerts. I am appalled at the unnecessary ruckus as the reasons given - other than that the concerts are to be held near mosques - are absurd.

I tend to feel that the statements from several Ministers, politicians, and religious officials are uncalled for because:

1. These young guys are decently dressed, morally all right (no scandals) and promote clean music. They are talented and resourceful as musicians and businessmen. Why deprive them of the chance to make a livelihood?

Why can't they be allowed to do their best, at their own expense, in their own country where their fellow countrymen have been supporting too many foreign entertainers, whose morals are sometimes questionable.

2. The ban implies that we would go rioting or embark on sexual rampages after every concert. Come on, be logical!

Similar crowds gather annually on Aug 31 and Dec 31 at Dataran Merdeka from midnight till the wee hours of the morning to celebrate Merdeka Day and New Year's Eve respectively. Then there are also gatherings for "Visit Malaysia Year" promotional campaigns.

Don't people in such crowds mingle too? Doesn't it provide the best opportunities for so-called immoral acts to happen? The banning of KRU concerts is not a solution to social ills.

Anything can happen anywhere and at any event, be it a concert or a football game.

3. I tend to believe that only the maniacs are in disagreement about the use of the word "mania" in "KRUMANIA". The word used in this context means nothing more than only a gimmick to attract crowds during the group's promotional drive.

I mean, we have heard of "football mania" which has been going on in the country for decades.

4. The concert organisers are paying taxes, aren't they? Here, I would like to question the wisdom and motive of the authorities in cancelling already-approved concerts at the eleventh hour (like in the case of M. Shariff's concerts) or even when the roadshow has begun. Costs have been incurred for equipment, rental and operating expenses. Why issue any permit for a concert if it is to be withdrawn later? Is it standard practice now to approve an application and later cancel it - like the M.J. concert - and then the re-approve it when the PM or his deputy steps in?

I am baffled as to why the KRU manager has to see the Minister of Culture and Tourism for approval only after the Acting PM has stated his views on the issue. Maybe all new applications for permits to stage concerts should be approved by the PM himself. This will do away with red tape as well as indecisive authorities.

To the so-called religious groups or individuals, please come up with your own programmes to counter social evils rather than go about discrediting others.