

Elton John gig: 'PAS, don't ape the Taliban'
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Former Perlis mufti Mohd Asri Zainul Abidin ticked off PAS for protesting the Elton John concert to be held in Genting Highlands, Pahang, saying the Islamic party should not "behave like the Taliban".

"PAS should not try to stop the Elton John concert, it is enough to just ask the government not to permit Muslims to attend it," Asri told Malaysiakini.

"Furthermore, the concert is being held in Genting, a place of liquor and gambling for the non-Muslims."

Speaking to Malaysiakini yesterday, Asri (above) advised the party not to "ape the Taliban", and instead set an example in portraying a position in Islam that is more "mature, moderate and practical".

"Just treat that concert as something for non-Muslims," he added.

On Oct 25, Pahang PAS Youth Leader Shahril Azman Abdul Halim Al-Hafiz called on the government to cancel the concert to be held at the gambling resort of Genting Highlands on Nov 22.

Shahril objected to the fact that the English rock icon was gay, saying that his concert would corrupt local Muslims.

His outcry provoked MCA youth to slam the party for being "ridiculous" and for encroaching on the rights of non-Muslims.

PAS has habitually protested concerts that the party accuses of promoting promiscuity and corrupting the young.

But despite protest threats, most concerts have gone ahead without incidents, though performers had to abide by ministry rules such as barring them from lewdness and baring too much skin.

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