

Universiti Malaya student organisation to challenge MoHE's proposed guidelines for concerts in judicial review

By **Fuad Nizam** - September 1, 2023 @ 3:43pm



The Universiti Malaya Association of New Youth (Umany) will initiate a judicial review challenging the constitutionality of the Higher Education Ministry's newly proposed "Guidelines for Entertainment Activities (Concerts) In Higher Education Institutions". -NSTP file pic

KUALA LUMPUR: The Universiti Malaya Association of New Youth (Umany) will initiate a judicial review challenging the constitutionality of the Higher Education Ministry's newly proposed "Guidelines for Entertainment Activities (Concerts) In Higher Education Institutions".

In a statement, the student organisation said that the content of the guideline is a form of moral policing and attempts to impose religious governance on campuses, which goes completely against the values of freedom and progress that universities should uphold.

"The content of these guidelines are extremely conservative, prohibiting actions such as mixed seating of males and females and artists wearing shorts.

"From this, it can be seen that a conservative wave has made its way into university campuses and surprisingly, it is not led by Perikatan Nasional, but rather by the unity government which claimed to be "progressive" in past elections."

Umany also said that guidelines proposed by the ministry were without warning and consultation which blatantly disregards the autonomy of students in tertiary education institutions.

"It is evident that the ministry's agenda to amend the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 (AUKU) and restore student autonomy is nothing but a superficial act, reflected in their lack of progress on the matter.

"As major stakeholders in educational institutions, tertiary students are not only deprived the opportunity to voice up on critical national decisions but are also compelled to accept unjust directives from the Ministry of Higher Education, leading to the erosion of campus autonomy and student self-governance," Umany said.

The organisation added that the proposed guidelines were also made to appeal to conservative voters by the unity government.

"In order to court the favour of conservative voters, the unity government has shown no hesitation in using tertiary students as the sacrificial lamb.

"This just shows how little regard the Ministry of Higher Education has for its tertiary students."

It was reported that the guideline was proposed following a concert that was held at a public university in Terengganu on July 19.

A 37-second video went viral on social media showing male and female students standing close together during the concert.

The [university was then fined RM25,000 for organising a concert without permission](#) by the Kuala Terengganu city council (MBKT) under the Entertainment and Places of Entertainment Enactment 2002.