

'Rempit' racing risks

> Allowing these bikers on KL streets may lead to deaths, say experts

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KUALA LUMPUR: Road safety experts took the government to task over a proposal to legalise street racing.

Several experts who spoke to *theSun* raised grave concerns on whether the government would take responsibility should bodily injury or loss of lives occur during such races.

Their concerns come in the wake of a proposal earlier this week by Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Tengku Adnan Tengku Mansor to allow bikers to race in certain

parts of the capital city to curb the tendency of "Mat Rempit" who speed in residential and commercial areas.

Universiti Sains Malaysia deputy vice-chancellor Professor Dr Ahmad Farhan Mohd Sadullah described the proposal as risky and a disservice to road safety.

"Malaysia is a country that has committed towards the achievement of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety. Thus, all initiatives must have safer roads as the aspired outcome," he told *theSun*.

Ahmad Farhan, who was formerly a director-general of the Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research said significant number of motorcycle crashes are associated with speeding and reckless driving compounded by the fact that motorcycles are small and fast.

Universiti Putra Malaysia Road

Safety Research Centre Associate Professor Dr Hussain Hamid said it is best to consult the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) on the minimum safety requirements such as attire, helmet and road conditions.

"Failure to comply to any of these may lead to serious injury and death. Will the policy maker who allows this (racing) wish to take the full responsibility for any mishap?" he questioned.

Independent road safety consultant Mohd Najeeb Rosli stressed that the authorities should have promoted a road safety agenda rather than assisting youths to "relieve their adrenaline" legally.

Meanwhile, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar said he wants to meet Tengku Adnan over his recent announcement on street racing.