A FAREWELL to the Petronas Performing Arts Group (PPAG)? Some traditional performing arts exponents hope that’s not the case.

University Sains Malaysia’s School of Arts’ Performing Arts lecturer Datuk Emeritus Professor Mohamed Ghouse Nasuruddin

“I am astounded and perplexed to learn of the impending demise of this illustrious traditional performing arts group. But by closing down the PPAG, all would be lost for there is no other formal ensemble in the world that plays the Makyong Mengadap Rebab, Wayang Kulit Sri Rama Berangkat Masuk Anjung, Ayak-Ayak of Joget Gamelan and other fast disappearing traditional music pieces.

“The continued existence of the PPAG must not solely be based on ringgit and sen but, more importantly, on its contributions as a cultural beacon.”

National Academy of Arts, Culture and Heritage’s Faculty of Music Dean Ayob Ibrahim

“Closing the entity is like taking away the most important part of Petronas’ image. PPAG is an ‘ambassador’ to promote the beauty of Malaysia through arts and culture at the international level.”

The National Writers Association (Pena) secretary-general S.M. Zakir

“I find the decision to close PPAG a little awkward. By closing it down, there goes our traditional heritage.”

University of Malaya Language and Linguistics Faculty lecturer Professor Madya Victor A. Pogadaev

“All the efforts by PPAG like the staging of Mek Mulung, Mok Yong, dance drama and musical from old Malay literature and dance performances such as gamelan, mengadap rebab and garong, which we hardly get to see in Kuala Lumpur, should be lauded.

“I hope PPAG will continue to give performances so that our old Malay tradition and culture is not forgotten, especially when everyone favours rapid development.”