



*Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail launching the 'Hentikan! Stop It!' creative video competition in Putrajaya yesterday. With her is Deputy Women, Family, and Community Development Minister Hannah Yeoh (left). BERNAMA PIC*

## Wan Azizah: I will discuss khat issue with PM

**PUTRAJAYA:** Khat (Malay-Arabic calligraphy) is an art and has nothing to do with religion.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail said, however, she had taken note of the worries expressed by certain quarters following the Education Ministry's decision to implement khat as part of the Year Four Bahasa Melayu subject next year.

"I have taken note on this matter and will meet Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad. I know that he has spoken on this, but we will have a deeper discussion on the matter.

"I'm of the opinion that further discussion is needed on this. Khat is an art and has got nothing to do with religion," she said

after launching the "Hentikan! Stop It!" creative video competition.

Dr Mahathir was reported as saying that the move to introduce khat was final, adding that the government had never barred other races from preserving the written script of their mother tongues, making Malaysia special.

On Friday, the Education Ministry said the introduction of khat as part of the Bahasa Melayu subject for Year Four pupils would be implemented next year as planned.

Education Minister Dr Maszlee Malik had said schoolchildren would not be tested on their khat writing skills during examinations.