

Pulling no punches:
Rafidah delivering her keynote address on Perdana Discourse Series; themed, 'Factors Impeding Malaysia's Economic Progress and How To Overcome Them'. - Bernama



'Make it elective, not compulsory'

Rafidah: There are other things to learn

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PUTRAJAYA: Khat should not be made part of the school curriculum but rather be introduced as an elective subject, said former minister Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz.

She said instead of learning calligraphy, it was better for students to learn a language or other things they need to be educated on.

"If elective it is fine as some people are into fine arts. Do not make it as though we are making you learn khat; it is the most silly thing to do.

"There are other things that need to be learned. This (calligraphy) should be elective," she said after delivering a keynote address at Perdana Discourse Series 21 here yesterday.

Rafidah said the Education Ministry could make learning khat an elective subject to increase knowledge and promote it as part of creativity.

In her speech, Rafidah related to the audience that she had texted Education Minister Dr Maszlee Malik regarding her objections on the khat issue.

"It is artistic and, like anything else, is a talent. We don't need that kind of talent to be

"Don't overload (the system) with unnecessary, frivolous subjects."

Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz

incorporated as a must-do part of the school curriculum," she said, adding that the current education system was already overloaded.

"Don't overload (the system) with unnecessary, frivolous subjects."

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.

It will involve all primary school students, and will be done via six out of 164 pages in the new Bahasa Melayu Year Four textbook as part of the language art activities.

Critics said introducing khat would not help pupils improve their Malay language skills, adding that the burden on teachers and pupils should also be considered.