



Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein (seated, second from right) chatting with Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia students in Batu Pahat. Pic by Syarafiq Abd Samad

PLKN 2.0 trainees to undergo skills training in institutes

BATU PAHAT: The new National Service Programme, to be known by its Bahasa Malaysia acronym, PLKN 2.0, will include skills training, especially for trainees who could not get a place in university.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said PLKN 2.0 would be divided into two phases.

"In the first phase, trainees will undergo an integrated learning programme for eight weeks.

"They will then undergo hard skills training at skills institutes, which will take between three and 24 months.

"This will ensure that trainees who did not excel academically will be equipped with the skills to find

jobs," Hishammuddin said after attending an orientation programme with new students of Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia here yesterday.

He said National Service trainees chosen to undergo the skills training programme would be placed at either a skills training institute or with a private company.

"I hope everybody would chip in because if we do not help this group, they will be marginalised and have problems finding jobs," said Hishammuddin.

He said PLKN 2.0 had been approved by the cabinet and would be launched in January.

The Defence Ministry has been tasked with transforming the Na-

tional Service programme with the help of the Performance Management and Delivery Unit, and Youth and Sports Ministry.

"This is a full transformation. We will use the National Blue Ocean Strategy for skills centres, and will involve other ministries, depending on the courses picked by the trainees," he said, adding that National Service stakeholders, such as former trainees and instructors, should give their feedback on the transformation.

Among the new features of the National Service programme are the voluntary participation of trainees and the setting up of an alumni.

PLKN 2.0 would begin in stages in 2019, said Hishammuddin.