IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LITERATURE AND CULTURE PROGRAM (LCP) IN
THE MALAYSIA NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM (MNSP)

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Abstract:

Language and Literature Program (LCP) is one of the programs in the National Service Training Program (NS) which aims to expand the knowledge of participants about the importance of language and national literature (Malay literature) in a relationship of goodwill among the ethnics. In this program, anthologies of poetry, My Motherland (2005) was chosen as the reading text for the participants in an effort to foster cultural understanding, thus fostering goodwill among ethnics. Delivery of training done in groups which coach will lead the each group to learn the elements of nationhood which includes the land, people, culture and religion in the anthology, and staged it at the Arts and Cultural Night Presentation. However there are some implementation problems, such as short period of LCP, anthology poetry, My Motherland (2005) are not supplied to all participants, presentations that do not involve all the participants, and others. Some proposal presented in this article to improve the LCP in order to foster goodwill among the ethnics because youths are the future leader in the country.

Keywords: Malaysia, Literature and Culture Program, National Service Program, national literature

Introduction:

The idea of forming the National Service program was proposed in the First National Patriotism Congress co-organized by North University of Malaysia (UUM) and Prime Minister’s Department at Institut Latihan Keselamatan Sosial KWSP (ESSET), Bangi on 24 to 26 October, 2002. During the dialogue session in the above congress, Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye suggested to implement the National Service among the adolescents to inculcate ethnic integration, strengthen the national defence, enhance the patriotism spirit and produce a united and progressive nation of Malaysia (Malike Brahim, Mohd., Ainuddin Iskandar Lee Abdullah & Mohd. Sobhi Ishak, 2006). The Cabinet then nominated the Defence Ministry to set up a working committee to draft the Malaysia National Service Program (MNSP) plan for moulding Malaysian identity.