

# UPNVJ Strengthens the National Defense Character of Affirmative Action Students for the 2025/2026 Academic Year

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**UPNVJ Public Relations** — The Bureau of Academic, Student Affairs, and Cooperation (AKK Bureau) held a National Defense Character Building program for affirmative action students in the 2025/2026 academic year. The event took place at the Bhinneka Tunggal Ika Auditorium and was attended by new students as part of efforts to foster national character from an early age.

The event was opened by the Vice Rector for Student Affairs, Cooperation, and Information Systems, Dr. dr. Ria Maria Theresa, Sp.KJ., MH. In her remarks, she reminded that UPN “Veteran” Jakarta (UPNVJ) has strong historical roots as a campus founded by veteran independence fighters. Therefore, the values of national defense are a primary identity that must be internalized by all students.

Doctor Ria explained that the implementation of national defense in academic life can be realized through three main aspects, namely the balance between academics and community service, the application of discipline and responsibility in every activity, and being an inspiring role model in the surrounding environment, "Being a student does not only mean having to achieve academically, but also having to be able to provide real benefits to the community, especially in the environment around the campus," she emphasized.

On the occasion, he also introduced the various Student Activity Units (UKM) at UPNVJ. The explanation included the definition of each UKM and its strategic role as a forum for developing interests and talents, as well as developing student character, fostering leadership and national values.

The event continued with a national defense character development session delivered by the Head of the UPNVJ National Defense Study Center, Dr. Ridwan, S.Sos., M.Si. He comprehensively explained the Student Regiment (Menwa), from its definition, the benefits of joining, to the various forms of support provided to members. Furthermore, participants also gained a real-life perspective through testimonials from Menwa alumni who have experienced the positive impact of their involvement in the organization.

Furthermore, Dr. Ridwan emphasized the importance of instilling national defense attitudes in students, such as love of the homeland, national awareness, and a readiness to contribute to maintaining national unity. These values, he said, must be reflected in students' daily behavior, both on campus and in the community.

Through this activity, it is hoped that UPNVJ affirmative pathway students will be able to strengthen their national defense character and become a young generation that not only excels academically, but also has integrity, social awareness, and a high national spirit.

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