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## Anwar Consults UK-based Malaysian Student Leaders

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Malaysia's Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, met with representatives of the United Kingdom and Eire Council (UKEC) on 15 August 2025, reaffirming the government's commitment to maintaining engagement with the Malaysian student community in the UK and Ireland. The meeting, held during a courtesy visit to Anwar's office, focused on strengthening strategic cooperation and addressing Malaysia's long-standing challenge of brain drain.

The delegation, led by UKEC chairperson Vincent Tang, represented over 16,000 Malaysian students currently pursuing their studies across the UK and Ireland. Tang outlined the council's role in connecting students to opportunities during and after their studies, while also fostering leadership and community initiatives among the diaspora.

Anwar emphasised the importance of maintaining communication between student leaders and the Malaysian government, noting that their perspectives contribute to shaping policies on talent retention and national development. He stated that the government aims to encourage skilled graduates to consider returning to Malaysia while recognising the value of international experience.

Discussions covered collaboration between UKEC and the Ministry of Higher Education. Both sides agreed that building on existing frameworks would help avoid duplication of efforts while maximising resources. Anwar also acknowledged the role of students in exploring solutions to address brain drain, noting that retaining skilled graduates is important for national economic stability.

The Prime Minister recognised that many Malaysian graduates in the UK and Ireland are drawn to opportunities abroad due to competitive salaries, advanced research facilities, and career progression prospects. He noted that the government seeks to create conditions that make returning to Malaysia a viable option.

UKEC, founded in 1995, serves as an umbrella body for Malaysian student societies across the UK and Ireland. Its programmes include networking events, leadership training, and cultural activities designed to connect students with Malaysian institutions, businesses, and government agencies.

The meeting concluded with a commitment to hold regular dialogues between UKEC and Malaysian government representatives. Tang expressed appreciation for the Prime Minister's engagement, describing it as an indication of governmental communication with overseas students.

This visit demonstrates the connection between Malaysian student networks abroad and potential contributions to Malaysia's development, without suggesting outcomes or predictions.