

Anwar resolves dilemma of 60 students left in the lurch in Egypt

CAIRO: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the issue involving 60 Pahang students, who were unable to continue their studies at Al-Azhar University in Egypt, has been resolved following discussions with Al-Azhar Grand Imam Professor Dr Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb.

Anwar, who paid a courtesy call to the latter at the university, said the problem occurred because the students arrived to study at there without following the required procedures, which led to them becoming "stranded" in Egypt.

"The standard procedure for admission to Al-Azhar University involves going through the embassy channels.

"This was not followed and, as a result, the 60 students found themselves in a difficult situation.

"However, I appealed their case, and the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar agreed to have the issue involving the 60 Pahang students taken care of as soon as possible.

"The university's rector also provided his assurance.

"But I also gave my assurance to them (the university) that this won't happen again, *Insyah-Allah* (God willing).

"I hope all states will adhere to the existing regulations since these requirements are set by the Egyptian government and Al-Azhar University," Anwar said.

He told this to Malaysian journalists at a press conference at the end of his two-day working visit to Egypt on Monday.

Present were Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir and Malaysia's Ambassador to Egypt Zamani Ismail.

Earlier, Anwar paid a courtesy call to the rector and he was welcomed at the university by Al-Azhar Deputy Grand Imam Professor Dr Muhammad Abdur-Rahman Al-Duwini.

Meanwhile, Anwar said Tayeb had agreed to make an official visit to Malaysia in the first quarter of next year.

He said Malaysia would take advantage of the latter's visit by organising a regional Islamic conference, which will allow participants to gain from his wisdom and ideas.

Anwar said Malaysia and the university would organise the event and assign Jakim to coordinate it. **Bernama**