

# MALAYSIA EYES CANADA VISA EXEMPTIONS

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Anwar says this will strengthen people-to-people ties, expand multilateral exchanges

KUALA LUMPUR

**P**RIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has expressed hope that his Canadian counterpart, Mark Carney, will reconsider granting visa exemptions to Malaysians.

In a post on the social media platform X, Anwar said the move would be in line with the treatment extended to other Commonwealth countries and would help strengthen people-to-people ties and expand multilateral exchanges.

Malaysians now require a visa to enter Canada for tourism, study or employment.

The process involves a visa fee to the Canadian government, a biometric fee and additional service charges payable to VFS Global, the appointed third-party administrator for Canada visa applications in Malaysia.

Anwar, who is on an official visit to Paris, made the appeal during a congratulatory phone call to Carney following the Liberal Party's victory in Canada's recent federal election in April.

During their conversation, both leaders also expressed optimism that negotiations on the Asean-Canada Free Trade Agreement could be concluded at the earliest opportunity for mutual benefit.

Anwar said the two countries, as members of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, share a strong commitment to

upholding the principles of free, open and inclusive multilateral trade.

"Malaysia remains committed to enhancing bilateral relations with Canada, encompassing strategic areas such as trade and investment, defence cooperation,

clean energy, digital transformation and emerging technologies," he said.

Anwar also welcomed PetroliaM National Bhd's (Petronas) continued involvement in the LNG Canada project in British Columbia, describing it as a symbol of strong energy cooperation between the two countries,

with the potential to serve as a catalyst for future green and energy transition initiatives.

Anwar concluded by inviting Carney to undertake an official visit to Malaysia to strengthen bilateral ties. **Bernama**



Mark Carney