

'Change to stop brain drain'

Khairy: Educational transformation could pull back pool of human capital

KUALA LUMPUR: The country can pull back its pool of human capital now abroad if educational transformation takes place in local universities, said Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin.

He applauded the Government's move to create Talent Corporation under the 10th Malaysian Plan (10MP) to attract and retain skilled human capital, but said the corporation's role should not be merely about bringing talent back into the country.

"The corporation has to also ensure that these people are placed in a working culture that will prompt them to continue to stay here.

"Imagine if we managed to attract academics who have been successful in other countries to come and work here, but once here, they face the problems of internal politicking and bureaucracy at local institutions," said Khairy. Talent Corporation's key functions will include sourcing

for top talents, including Malaysian graduates residing overseas, to come to Malaysia.

Khairy was speaking to reporters after he participated as a panellist in the "10th Malaysia Plan: Responses from Young Leaders" forum at the UCSI University on Thursday.

Fellow panellist and Petaling Jaya Utara MP Tony Pua agreed with Khairy, saying there was a need for less bureaucracy and politicking in local universities.

"Promotions (of academic staff) should be given according to merit," he said.

On the private sector, Khairy said the country should move towards innovation and productivity rather than rely on big projects.

"I will rather like that the 10th MP give more attention to vocational training in order to create skilled workers here, because they are the building blocks to innovation and productivity," he said.