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Guan Eng: Consider issue closed

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - DAP Socialist Youth chairman Lim Guan Eng said Malaysians should accept Singapore Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew's apology and decision to retract the disparaging remarks made in a sworn court affidavit.

"We should consider the issue closed," he said, "and continue friendly relations with Singapore."

He said it would be "irresponsible, immature and extreme" if certain youth organisations continued to pursue the issue.

"After all, it is both uncommon and unusual for Lee Kuan Yew to apologise and withdraw what he said," he said in a Press statement.

"Since our national sovereignty and pride have been protected, there is no need to file any legal action or demand huge sums of money in compensation."

Lim's statement, which came before Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi announced that the Government had accepted Lee's apology, was apparently directed at Umno Youth which claimed that it intended to take legal action against Lee.

"But this action will trivialise the issue and reduce our national pride and sovereignty by measuring it in ringgit and sen," Lim said. "Malaysia should show that it is a cultured nation by graciously accepting Lee's apology and withdrawal."

Lim said Malaysia would be accused of practising double-standards if the matter was still pursued after Lee's apology and withdrawal of the remarks.

"Malaysia forgave former Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating eventhough he never apologised for calling Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad recalcitrant," he said.

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