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'PM not to blame for Anwar's plight'

SINGAPORE, Sat: Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew, in an interview with BBC yesterday, said it should be made known that Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was neither responsible for the arrest of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim under the Internal Security Act (ISA) nor was he responsible for his black eye.

Lee said he could not say it while Anwar's trial was on because it was not the right thing to do.

"But the trial is over and I think it should be known that Dr Mahathir was not responsible for Anwar's arrest under the Internal Security Act nor was he responsible for Anwar's black eye," he said in the interview carried by the *Straits Times* newspaper today.

Lee was asked for his comments during a news conference in Kuala Lumpur that the Anwar affair was "an unmitigated disaster" for which he felt more sorry for Mahathir than Anwar.