

Lee to visit. Malaysia next month

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Aim to strengthen bilateral ties

By Maria Angela

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs: Senior Minister of the Republic of Singapore Lee Kuan Yew will make a three-day visit to Malaysia beginning Sept 2.

The visit is aimed at strengthening bilateral ties between the two countries and to discuss other related issues, said Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Syed Albar.

Speaking to reporters after handing over medical aid to the Kosovo Action Front at the ministry today, Syed Hamid said the visit is a follow-up to Lee's last trip to the country in August last year.

"It is part of a continuing effort to foster good bilateral relations and a healthy relationship between the young and senior leaders of the two countries," he said, and

dismissed rumours that the visit is to mend a widening rift between the two countries over disagreements on various issues.

He said Lee will be accompanied by four cabinet ministers, including the home minister, and a parliamentary secretary.

On his last visit, Lee met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and discussed various bilateral issues, including a new water supply agreement with the island beyond 2061 when the present one expires, rail immigration checkpoints, the use of Malaysian airspace by Singapore Air Force and the retention of substantial pension savings of West Malaysians formerly working in Singapore.