

Wisma Putra summons Singapore envoy over Lee's remarks

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■ **By Hamidah Atan, Jason
Gerald and Azura Abas**
news@nst.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: Singapore's envoy here was summoned to Wisma Putra over remarks by Lee Kuan Yew that the Chinese in Malaysia were being systematically marginalised.

High Commissioner T. Jasudasen had a brief meeting with Datuk Kamaruddin Mustafa, the ministry's Southeast Asia Division secretary,

A senior ministry officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Jasudasen was summoned to explain on Lee's remarks.

"He gave an assurance that he would report back to the Singapore government. Until then, we will have to wait and see."

Lee, who is Minister Mentor, told a forum in Singapore earlier this month that Malaysia's minority Chinese community was being systematically marginalised.

He also said it was vital that predominantly ethnic Chinese Singapore stood up to Malaysia and Indonesia.

He noted that the two countries "want Singapore, to put it simply, to be like their Chinese — compliant".

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Lee's remarks were unjustified and he has sent a letter to the Singapore government on the issue.

"So far, I have not received a reply," he said.

Foreign Minister Datuk Seri Syed Hamid Albar said the country expected an apology from its neighbour.

"We expect Singapore to say sorry for Lee's remarks.

"For the sake of being two good neighbours, Singapore should do that.

"I think that the statement was way beyond fair comment.

"Malaysia has given its views to the Singapore officials and how we feel about it," he said.