

Kuan Yew's claims on Chinese dismissed

NST-14/11/2006

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Najib Razak last night also showed proof when refuting the allegation by Singapore's Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew that the Chinese in Malaysia were marginalised.

The Umno deputy president said statistics showed that the average monthly household

income in the Chinese community was far higher compared to that of the Malays.

He added that the Chinese per capita household income had risen from RM796 per month in 1976 to RM4,437 per month in 2004.

On the other hand, the Bumiputera average household

income had only increased from RM339 per month to RM2,711 per month within the same period, he said.

"Just on that fact alone, the allegation by Lee Kuan Yew that the Chinese community in Malaysia is sidelined is completely rejected."

Najib said in the govern-

ment's effort to improve the socio-economic status of the Malays and Bumiputeras, the position of the Chinese community was never neglected.

Fairness and tolerance had long been practised in this country, he said.

"Let it never be said that our openness and inclusiveness is

a sign of weakness. On the contrary, it is precisely these qualities that make up the formula of our success."

Lee, when speaking at a function in Singapore recently, had alleged that the Chinese in Indonesia and Malaysia had been systematically marginalised. — Bernama