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Title : GE: Osama's dead, but stay vigilant, says PM

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SINGAPORE - Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said that while "it's a good thing Osama bin Laden is dead" - the terrorist mastermind having been killed by American forces on Monday morning - Singaporeans should be reminded that there are larger threats beyond our shores, even as Singapore engages in political battles during this period.

Speaking at a news conference on Monday afternoon to mark the midway point of hustings in Singapore, Mr Lee cautioned that Singapore could still be on the radar of terror groups.

Mr Lee said: "We must not take our eyes off, because if we do, then something untoward could easily happen to us.

Reprisals to Osama's killing "could happen", he said. "Terrorist groups cannot be pleased that Osama is not just dead but killed by Americans.

"Osama may be dead but Al-Qaeda still exists, including in Asia, in Indonesia, even in Singapore - we've seen they have MRT maps marked out with targets of interest," added Mr Lee.

"A few weeks ago, one week ago, the Indonesians found three big bombs near a church and somebody blew himself up in a mosque in the police headquarters to try and hit the police chief, and in Kuala Lumpur they found some hand grenades in a hotel room. This is just within a few hundred kilometres (away from Singapore), our nearest neighbours.

"I think we are safe in Singapore but we must take precautions."

Deputy Prime Minister Wong Kan Seng, who was also present at the news conference, asked the public to be vigilant and not take the country's security for granted.

He said: "People mostly take Singapore's security for granted. But security agencies cannot take that view. In normal times we must always be vigilant. We repeatedly ask the public to be vigilant too.

"So, we have been lucky so far, we've not been hit, but we cannot take that view forever. We must be conscious and fully aware of the threat we might face."

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