

Najib brushes off talk about PM losing grip

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PETALING JAYA: A non-issue.

This is what Datuk Seri Najib Razak thinks of talk that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is losing control of the government.

The Deputy Prime Minister said that he could not fathom why this issue was being discussed.

"He leads the government, and the government received a huge mandate in the last election. The Prime Minister has the support of Parliament and the Cabinet.

"People should understand that every prime minister has a different style of doing things. What is

important is that the government has the support of the rakyat.

"In that way, we will be able to make the right decisions for the good of the rakyat," he told reporters after opening new living quarters for armed forces personnel at the Subang Royal Malaysian Air Force base.

He was commenting on a statement by Datuk Zaid Ibrahim (BN-Kota Baru) in Parliament last week that the Prime Minister had not introduced reforms as promised though it had been three years since he assumed his position.

Abdullah responded to that comment on Sunday by saying he was committed to carrying out re-

forms but he would do it his way.

He added that he would not make changes without consulting his Cabinet colleagues. The PM also argued that it was wrong for some people to assume that he was losing control just because some ministers had differing opinions on certain issues.

The differing opinions were due to some grey areas in the role of ministries.

Najib also made it clear that no action would be taken against Zaid for speaking out. "He is allowed his views, as long as in matters of importance, he conforms to the party Whip," he said, noting that the government would take Zaid's views into consideration.



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