

# PM: I'm in control

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**People who don't understand say Pak Lah has lost control. But it is their view. What can I do?**

— Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on ministers having differing views on certain matters.

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**HAVANA:** "I am in control." Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi asserted his authority when he told his critics that he had not lost control of his administration.

The Prime Minister said he was committed to making reforms in the country but would do things "my way."

However, he added that he would not resort to making arbitrary changes without consulting his Cabinet colleagues.

Abdullah said it was wrong of people to assume that he had lost control just because ministers had differing opinions on certain matters.

"This does not happen every day," he

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## I consult the Cabinet on all matters, says Abdullah

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added, saying that in such cases he would refer to the Cabinet to correct things.

The different views were normally due to some "grey areas" in the role of the ministries, he told Malaysian journalists at the end of the NAM Summit here yesterday.

"People who don't understand say Pak Lah has lost control.

"But it is their view. What can I do?

"From the political perspective, I do not have any problem in the Barisan Nasional or Umno," he said when asked to comment on remarks in Parliament by Kota Baru MP Datuk Zaid Ibrahim that the Prime Minister had not made reforms that had been pro-

mised after he took over the position three years ago.

Abdullah said reforms could not be made overnight, adding that everyone had his way of doing things but should not lose sight of the objectives.

"I consult the Cabinet on all matters. That's my way of doing things."

Abdullah said several Cabinet committees and parliamentary select committees had been set up for specific issues to ensure decisions made would not result in problems for the people.

"In some cases, it could take long periods to decide, as much deliberation is needed.

"After the committee makes a decision, the Cabinet will discuss and make adjustments before implementing them.

"It's okay if it takes a longer

time but, at least, we will know that the decisions are good and the problems resolved. The bottom line is that our objectives are met."

Abdullah added that he constantly asked his officers for information and they kept him updated.

"It is not that we forget problems or ignore them," he said.

Citing examples of reforms already in place, the Prime Minister said he had allowed the setting up of select committees to give the opportunity to MPs to give their views on important matters affecting the people.

"We even include Opposition members in the committees. This is how Parliament should operate and this is one example of the reforms we initiated," he said.