

Don't misjudge PM's style

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KUALA LUMPUR: There should be no question over the leadership of Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi who enjoys strong support from Members of Parliament and Umno, say his Barisan Nasional colleagues.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said he did not see how the matter of the Prime Minister's control over his administration could arise when he was head of the Government which had received a strong mandate from the people in the last elections.

"Each prime minister has his

own style but what is important is that the head of the Government has strong support and can make decisions that benefit the people and country," he said yesterday.

Najib was commenting on Kota Baru MP Datuk Zaid Ibrahim's statement in Parliament that the Prime Minister had not made reforms which he promised after taking over as premier three years ago, which prompted Abdullah to remark in Cuba on Sunday that he was "in control".

Asked if MPs should com-

ment on matters concerning the prime minister, Najib said MPs could give their views as long as they did not go against the rules of Parliament.

He said no action would be taken against the Kota Baru MP as "he was just presenting his views".

Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said Abdullah's style should not be misinterpreted as him having lost control.

He said Abdullah had provided a clear direction for the nation and always adopted a

democratic style by taking into consideration the views of Cabinet members and others when making decisions.

"His democratic style should not be wrongly assumed by anyone that there is no longer control," he told a press conference.

Ong said Abdullah's methods suited the people who wanted a transparent Government.

"The people want a more open Government, not one that is autocratic where everything is controlled until no one is able to speak up," he said.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz said liberalism was part of Abdullah's style of leadership.

"When Pak Lah introduced liberalism, many people tend to speak up. This person speaks and that person speaks, so everything seems chaotic, like he was not in control.

"But that's not true," he told newsmen at the Parliament lobby.

Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Liow Tiong Lai said the prime minister was

well in control of his administration and the country.

"Since he took office, he has made several changes, such as reform in the police, fight corruption and development of human capital.

Tangga Batu MP Datuk Idris Haron said Abdullah's methods of governance were based on Islamic tenets seen in the Lukman verse in the Quran.

"The Prime Minister is doing what he thinks is right for the country. He cannot be listening to too many views and change his mind all the time."