

# PM: I'll

# do it

GOVT  
REFORMS  
TAKE TIME

The Sun - 18/9/2006

# my way

**HAVANA:** The prime minister says he is firm in his commitment to introduce reforms in the country's administration and tells his critics to accept the reality that he has his own way of doing things.

Denying the claim by his detractors that he had lost control as a leader, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he would not be rash in his actions but would seek the views of the cabinet and the Umno Supreme Council.

"There are still many people who don't understand, they say Pak Lah has lost control. That's my way of doing things. Everybody has his way of doing things.

"The objectives are still the same, there is no change, but the way (of doing it) is my way," he told Malaysian journalists at the end of the 14th Non-Aligned Movement Summit on Saturday.

Giving a lengthy explanation on the matter, Abdullah said reforms cannot be done with the hope of seeing immediate results. "It's not that I've totally forgotten or don't care at all about reforms but reforms

must be introduced after careful planning and study and results cannot be expected overnight," he said.

He was asked to comment on the claim by Kota Baru MP Datuk Zaid Ibrahim in Parliament last week that Abdullah had not introduced reforms as promised though it has been three years since he became prime minister.

He said all actions must be referred to the cabinet and the party as the government held to the principle that "party's strength supports the government, the government's strength supports the party".

He said many important issues have to be studied thoroughly and this might take some time.

Stressing that sometimes an action to be taken would take a long time to decide, Abdullah said: "I would prefer it is alright we are a bit late provided we have looked into all the relevant aspects to analyse an issue."

He said reforms in the civil service needed a change in the mindset of civil servants to reduce bureaucracy so as not to

burden many parties and this required the help of government officers.

He said the current Parliament had established several select committees to look into many things and back-benchers and the Opposition were given ample opportunities to give their views.

"This is how Parliament should play its role, allowing parliamentarians to criticise the government but in a constructive manner aimed at propelling the country to greater heights in terms of development.

"Not with the intention of merely creating a controversy as what is happening now," he said, emphasising that he was steadfast in doing what he felt was good for the nation.

On politics, Abdullah said there were no problems, be they involving politicians or the cabinet. "Perhaps, the views of the cabinet may appear contradictory, and that is said to be 'lost control' ... it's not," he said, adding that if such a situation arose, he would refer to the cabinet to rectify it. — Bernama