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Abdullah: I have full control of the Government

KOTA KINABALU: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he was in full control of the Government although he gave ministers the power to make decisions in their respective ministries.

The Prime Minister said each minister was given the freedom to talk but sometimes the decision of one ministry might have implications on another.

This had led to some misunder-

standing especially when the issues became public, he said.

"I have told them to answer only on matters concerning their ministries and if a decision is needed on any issue, the Cabinet will decide," he said at the 14th anniversary of the Sabah Progressive Party here last night.

"I have told them to look after their own ministries. It is impossible to leave everything to me," he said

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referring to people who had asked him if he was in control in view of some ministers arguing in public.

The Prime Minister also questioned the opposition on their promise to reduce oil prices, adding that even former Finance Minister (Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim) did not do anything when oil prices went up during his tenure.

On the selection of candidates, Abdullah said those dropped or not

contesting should reciprocate by supporting the new candidates.

In his speech, SAPP president Datuk Yong Teck Lee said Abdullah's good management of the Government had countered the possibility of the economy going weak, the ringgit depreciating and other problems.

He also criticised some political leaders for spreading hatred in an effort to gain popularity.