

Najib survives first Budget vote

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PARLIAMENT | The opposition has failed to show that Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak does not command majority confidence in Parliament during the first vote on Budget 2016.

The Budget was passed at policy stage with 128 votes in favour and 74 against.

Najib and his deputy Ahmad Zahid Hamidi were present in the House to vote.

The Budget policy stage went to a bloc vote, on the request of Anthony Loke (DAP-Seremban).

The next stage will be the committee stage, where the final round of debates will take place before the Budget is approved.

It is understood that all PKR and Amanah MPs voted against the Budget.

The only two DAP MPs who did not vote against the Budget were Lim Kit Siang (Gelang Patah), who has been barred from Parliament for six months, and Tan Seng Giaw (Kepong) who was absent.

Three PAS lawmakers broke ranks and voted against the Budget, despite the party deciding that it would abstain from the vote.

The three were Mahfuz Omar (Pokok Sena), Nik Mazlan Nik Mohamad (Pasir Puteh) and Ahmad Baihaki Atiqullah (Kubang Kerian).

PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang (Marang) was not present for the vote, along with three other PAS MPs. Seven PAS MPs abstained.

All BN and Independent MPs present voted for the budget. This includes former Selangor MB Abdul Khalid Ibrahim (Ind-Bandar Tun Razak).

The committee stage debates will take place after Question Time tomorrow.

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