

## **Budget 2017 passes Dewan Rakyat, most PAS MPs absent**

**MalaysiaKini.com**

**Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016**

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PARLIAMENT | Budget 2017 has passed the Dewan Rakyat after a bloc vote ended with 105 votes in favour and 73 votes against.

Only two PAS members were present during the vote, which took place at about 11pm, while most opposition lawmakers from other parties were present.

Dr Nik Mazlan Mohamad (PAS-Pasir Putih) abstained from the voting, while Mahfuz Omar (PAS-Pokok Sena) voted against.

Nik Mazlan, when met, said the official party stand was to abstain from the budget vote.

"But look at how late it is, we didn't know there will be a vote," he said when asked why most of the PAS lawmakers were missing.

This comes hours after Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi announced that PAS president Abdul Hadi Awang's motion on proposed amendments to the Syariah Courts (Criminal Jurisdiction) Act would be debated this week.

Meanwhile, former deputy prime minister Muhyiddin Yassin (Bersatu-Pagoh) and Parti Warisan Sabah (Warisan) deputy president Darrel Leiking were also present during the vote.

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