

**Three PAS MPs break away from party stand, vote against 2016 Budget**  
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**By Nawar Firdaws**

**Pokok Sena MP Datuk Mahfuz Omar stresses the move taken by himself and two other party comrades is not in contradiction with what the rest of the party had agreed to. — TRP pic**

**KUALA LUMPUR,** While PAS as a party had taken a stand not to participate in the voting for 2016 Budget, three of its members, chose to break ranks by voting against it.

The three who went against the party consensus were Pokok Sena MP Datuk Mahfuz Omar, Pasir Puteh MP Nik Mazlan Nik Mohamad and Kubang Kerian MP Ahmad Baihaqi Atiqullah.

The names were revealed by Mahfuz when met at the Parliament lobby soon after the voting was completed.

According to Mahfuz, who voted “for a new budget”, the move taken by the trio was not in contradiction with what the rest of the party had agreed to.

“It did not differ from the party stand. The party agreed not to vote in support for the Budget, and I voted against the Budget.

“I voted for a new Budget because I care for the people and I don’t want a Budget that burdens them.

“My other (PAS) compatriots did not vote in favour of the Budget, so it’s pretty much the same,” the former PAS information chief said.

When asked if he feared possible repercussions as a result of his rogue move, Mahfuz said he did not need to be afraid as he felt what he did was not against the party’s decision.

Four of the 14 PAS lawmakers were reportedly not present for the vote, including party president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang.

Hadi was reported to have earlier said that PAS would opt out of the voting process as the party’s policy was to support things that were good for the people.

The statement was made despite PAS having previously said that it would support any efforts aiming to show lack of confidence against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak.

The 2016 Budget’s first reading was carried out this evening. It was passed with 128 votes in favour for the Budget and 74 votes against it.

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