

PAS stands firm, won't vote against Budget 2016
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By Ram Anand

PAS today reiterated its decision to abstain from voting for or against Budget 2016, party Youth chief Nik Mohamad Abduh Nik Abdul Aziz said today.

He said this was because the Islamist party did not completely reject the latest federal budget tabled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak on October 23.

Yesterday, PAS president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang had said the party would not vote down the budget, despite Pakatan Harapan's intention to do so as a form of no-confidence vote against Najib.

"Our MPs will continue debating the budget constructively. There are things we like about it, there are also things we don't like," he told reporters outside the Parliament today.

"So we will abstain (berkecuali) when the vote comes."

PAS has 14 MPs in Parliament.

However, Nik Abduh said abstaining from the vote did not mean PAS was having political cooperation with Barisan Nasional (BN).

"The budget is intended for the good of the rakyat. But we will remain as an opposition party, we will not have political cooperation with BN."

He said PAS was merely ready to discuss "issues" with BN.

"We are ready to sit down and discuss national issues, in fact, I think the government should start taking in opinions and suggestions from all opposition parties." – November 2, 2015.

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