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#### Opposition bid to stop tabling of motion fails

THE Opposition tried but failed to stop the tabling of a motion supporting the Election Commission's proposal to create new parliamentary and state seats.

Acting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was about to read the motion when Kerk Kim Hock cited a Standing Order.

The DAP Kota Melaka member said the Government was acting in haste to endorse the commission's proposal, saying this was not necessary as Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had announced that the general election would not be held until he steps down in October.

Kerk expressed surprise the House saw it fit to give priority to the matter but rejected motions to debate more pressing matters like the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak.

Deputy Speaker Datuk Muhammad Abdullah rejected Kerk's complaint, ruling that all requirements had been adhered to in the tabling of the motion.

Che Ghani Che Ambak (Pas-Setiu) then stood up, citing another provision under the Standing Order.

"Mr Speaker, I contest the rights of the acting Prime Minister to table the motion because under the regulations, it is clearly defined that it is the duty of the Prime Minister."

Backbenchers booed Che Ghani for his feeble attempt to derail the tabling.