

**Nazri: Amendments to Election Offences Bill to be withdrawn**  
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**By MARTIN CARVALHO**

KUALA LUMPUR: The Election Offences Amendment Bill passed in Parliament in April will be withdrawn after meeting with resistance from lawmakers on both sides of the political divide.

"There were three amendments to the Bill when put to the Dewan Rakyat for debate and two more when presented at the Dewan Negara.

"Since there was a lot of resistance, the Government decided to abort the Bill after consultation with the Opposition and Election Commission," Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Aziz told reporters at Parliament lobby here Wednesday.

He said he would table a motion in the Senate Thursday to withdraw the Bill.

Ipoh Timur MP Lim Kit Siang, who spoke on behalf of Pakatan Rakyat, said the decision was agreed upon by all parties concerned.

However, he noted that the EC should hold public engagement and consultations with relevant parties before proposing amendments to the Government in the future to avoid a similar situation.

The amendments to the electoral laws were proposed to streamline and further improve the polling process.

One amendment was the removal of the mandatory requirement for the appointment of a polling or counting agent by a candidate's election agent.

Another amendment was not to allow any political party office less than 100m from the polling centre, compared to the present 50m ruling.

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