

Government To Withdraw Amendments To Election Offences Act
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 9 (Bernama) -- The government is withdrawing amendments to the Election Offences Act 1954 due to resistance from parliamentarians on both sides of the political divide.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Aziz said the government, opposition and the Election Commission (EC) today reached a consensus on the withdrawal of the Election Offences (Amendment) Bill.

"Tomorrow I'll table a motion in the Senate to withdraw the Bill," he told reporters at Parliament lobby here.

The Dewan Rakyat had passed the Bill on April 19 after being debated by members of parliament for over seven hours.

Tabled on April 9, the amendments were aimed at improving the election process, including extending the distance for the public to wait or being near the polling centre on polling day to 100m from 50m, except for voters who come to cast their votes.

Mohamed Nazri said besides lawmakers' stand on the matter, public opinion also played a role in the decision to withdraw the Bill.

On another matter, Mohamed Nazri asserted that EC chairman Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Yusof was not an Umno member.

"The Umno registration happened around 30 years ago when he lived in Ampang here, and the Umno branch there confirmed that he is no longer a member," he said.

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