

## Japan Government Falls Apart Again

Contributed by Tom McGregor  
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The Japanese government faces another standstill, in which only its bureaucracy continues to function. On Wednesday, Japan's opposition-controlled upper house passed a censure motion on Wednesday against Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda, increasing tensions to make him call for an early election soon.

According to Reuters, "the reprimand is non-binding, but effectively means that the opposition will stop cooperating with the government on most bills, including key ones on deficit financing and voting reform that need opposition votes to pass."

The motion passed overwhelmingly, with 129 votes in favor and 91 against, as boos rang out in the chamber. Members were mocking the prime minister's foreign policy and demanded early elections.

As reported by Reuters, "Noda promised this month to call an election to parliament's lower house as the price for opposition support for his plan to raise the sales tax to offset rising social security costs."

Nevertheless, Noda is delaying elections, since he knows his party would be trounced.

To read the entire article from Reuters, link here: [Tmcgregordallas@yahoo.com](mailto:Tmcgregordallas@yahoo.com)