THE ELECTION ALSO SAW 80% TURNOUT, THE LARGEST IN THE NATION’S HISTORY. THE OUTCOME DEEPENED THE CHALLENGE TO THE LEGITIMACY OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE PREDOMINANCE OF THE NATIONAL FRONT IS ATTRIBUTED TO MALAPORTIONMENT OF DISTRICT BOUNDARIES.

6. ROLE OF MEDIA
There is lack of equal and fair access to media, with Malaysian mainstream print and electronic media being biased against opposition parties because most are owned either by the government or interests closely linked to.

2. ELECTORAL ROLL
Among the electoral roll problems identified by the Malaysian Electoral Roll Analysis Project (Merap) are, voters who are above 85 years old and inconsistencies in the gender indicated by the identity card (IC) number and EC data. For instance, the findings of the Royal Commission of Enquiry on Immigrants in Sabah (2013) revealed that “Project IC” existed and there were 80,620 dubious IC holders listed in the electoral roll.

5. POSTAL AND ADVANCE VOTING
The custody of ballot papers is an issue because the ballot boxes were being stored in police stations under the custody of state officers and not party to what should reflect the EC principle of impartiality.

7. ROLE OF ELECTION COMMISSION (EC)
There have been questions on the impartiality of the EC, with its operation being closely linked with the government. For example, the independence of the EC is undermined by the practice of filling the commission with current and retired public servants.

4. VOTER REGISTRATION
The term of service of assistant registrar officers (ARO) of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and political parties were not renewed after the 2013 general election.

3. SECTION 9(A) OF THE ELECTIONS ACT 1958
It reads: “After an electoral roll has been certified or re-certified, as the case may be, and notice of the certification or re-certification has been published in the Gazette as prescribed by regulations made under this Act, the electoral roll shall be deemed to be final and binding and shall not be questioned or appealed against in, or reviewed, quashed or set aside by, any court.” This section was regarded as unconstitutional because it reduces the courts to administrative tribunals and goes against the separation of the Executive and the judiciary.

BN
PR
47 %
51%
42%
2%
133
89
SEA TS
89
SEA TS
89
89
2. ELECTORAL SYSTEM
Since independence in 1957, Malaysia has never seen a change of government. This is in large part due to the electoral system weighted heavily in favour of the ruling party. BERSIH 2.0’s eight demands stem from the continuing problems plaguing our electoral system.

THE ELECTORAL INTEGRITY PROJECT

2.0 EIGHT DEMANDS FROM THE CONTINUING PROBLEM IN FAVOUR OF THE RULING PARTY. BERSIH HEAVILY IN FAVOUR OF THE RULING PARTY. BERSIH 2.0. MOVING TOWARDS CLEAN AND FAIR ELECTIONS.
MISSION STATEMENT

BERSIH 2.0 STRIVES FOR DEMOCRATISATION WITH A FOCUS ON ELECTORAL REFORM SO THAT ALL MALAYSIANS MAY MEANINGFULLY DETERMINE OUR FUTURE.

ACCOMPANYING THIS MISSION, BERSIH 2.0 HAS EIGHT DEMANDS FOR ELECTORAL REFORM:

1. CLEAN THE ELECTORAL ROLL
2. REFORM POSTAL BALLOT
3. USE OF INDELIBLE INK
4. MINIMUM 21 DAYS CAMPAIGN PERIOD
5. FREE AND FAIR ACCESS TO MEDIA
6. STRENGTHEN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS
7. STOP CORRUPTION
8. STOP DIRTY POLITICS

Three mass rallies have been held for clean and fair elections in Malaysia under the banner of BERSIH; the first on 10 November, 2007, the second on 9 July 2011 and the third, which attracted over 250,000 people in 85 cities around the world, was held on 28 April 2012.

BERSIH 2.0 AND THE 2013 GENERAL ELECTION

"THE ELECTORAL PROCESS WAS MARRED BY ALLEGATIONS OF FRAUD, VOTE-BUYING, MANIPULATION OF THE VOTER’S REGISTRY AND VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION OF VOTERS."

PEMANTAU

For the 13th General Election in May 2013, BERSIH 2.0, together with other civil society groups and the help of 2,882 trained volunteers, carried out a citizens’ election observation missions called PEMANTAU. The initiative observed 87 federal constituencies and its goals were to reduce or prevent electoral fraud and to monitor all government institutions and agencies.

PEOPLE’S TRIBUNAL REPORT

In the wake of the finding by Pemantau and the failures of the election court to hear most of the petitions before it, BERSIH 2.0 established a People’s Tribunal to determine if the elections were free and fair. The Tribunal took the form of a commission of inquiry, led by a legal team who presented evidence and arguments to the members of the Tribunal. The independent panel was comprised of two international and three local experts. The public hearings were held over six days in September 2013 and in March 2014 the Tribunal published its report.