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FULL BIOGRAPHIES OF NOMINEES FOR THE NATIONAL-LEVEL BERSIH 2.0 STEERING COMMITTEE ELECTION

| Position | Nominee | Nominating Organisation(s) | Biography |
|----------|---------------------|---|--|
| Chair | Maria Chin Abdullah | AWL, CIJ, CRC - KLSCAH, Dapur Jalanan, ENGAGE, HAKAM, IKRAM, IRF, Kelab Bangsar, LLG, SUARAM, WAMI, WAO | <p>Maria Chin Abdullah is the current steering Committee member of BERSIH 2.0 (Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections). In 2009, together with some members of the NGOs, she initiated the transition from BERSIH to a purely civil society-led BERSIH 2.0. She plays a key leadership role in BERSIH 2.0's programmes, advocacy, including organising its two largest rallies, calling for clean and fair elections in Malaysia.</p> <p>She is a founder member and executive director of Persatuan Kesedaran Komuniti Selangor (Empower), an NGO focusing on building women's leadership and community capacity for youth and grassroots women leaders. She helped trained over 400 local women leaders and politicians from across political parties to strengthen their advocacy actions. She sits as board of director for the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for</p> |

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| | | | <p>Women (ARROW), a regional organisation working on women's health and rights. She is an advisory member of the Majlis Permuafakatan Wanita Selangor, working on gender equality policies for Women's Affairs, Selangor state government.</p> <p>She holds a Bachelor of Science in Applied Economics and Master of Science in Urban Development Planning.</p> |
| Vice Chair | Dr. Ahmad Farouk Musa | AWL, CRC - KLSCAH, EMPOWER, ENGAGE, Kelab Bangsar, LLG, WAMI, WAO | <p>Ahmad Farouk Musa is an academician at Monash University, Malaysian Campus. He was a trained cardiothoracic surgeon and an ardent researcher who had presented his work across Asia and Europe. He headed the medical team for Bersih 2 and 3. Apart from his academic and surgical world, he is actively involved in social work. He works for the promotion and establishment of civil society and had delivered talks related to Islam at universities and other Islamic centers in Malaysia. He had been involved in interfaith dialogues especially with regard to Christian-Muslim relations and also intra-faith dialogues especially the Shii-Sunni discourse. He writes for a column at the Islamic Party (PAS) official organ <i>Harakahdaily.net/en</i> with the intention to reappraise the understanding of the Islamists and infuse progressive and democratic</p> |

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| | | | <p>ideas. He also writes to other established web-portals like <i>Malaysiakini</i>, <i>The Malaysian Insider</i> and <i>Free Malaysia Today</i>. He is also a steering committee member of BERSIH 2.0, a powerful coalition promoting clean and fair elections. He is the founder and Director of Islamic Renaissance Front (IRF), an intellectual movement and a think tank focusing on youth empowerment and promotion of intellectual discourse and reformation.</p> |
| | Syed Ibrahim Syed Noh | SUARAM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice President, Pertubuhan IKRAM Malaysia (IKRAM), 2009- now • Chairman, Gerakan Mansuhkan ISA, 2002 – now • Chairman, Malaysians for Free and Fair Elections (MAFREL), 2008-now • Steering Committee, PEMANTAU Rakyat PRU13 • Executive Council Member, Gabungan Bertindak Malaysia (GBM), 2012-now <p>Syed Ibrahim is a committed activist and a defender of human rights. As the Chairman of Gerakan Mansuhkan ISA, Syed has played a key role in the first ever biggest anti-ISA Rally in 2009. He build on the strong foundation laid by GMI's predecessors and lead GMI in upholding human rights for a society that is for fair trial,</p> |

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| | | | equal, just and democratic. He is also a very cheerful, jovial and friendly person, displaying good leadership skills with his colleagues and peers. |
| Treasurer | Masjaliza Hamzah | CIJ | Masjaliza Hamzah was trained as an industrial engineer but worked as a journalist for almost 10 years at The Star. She was active in the NUJ Star branch and with fellow journalists, organised themselves at a time when media activism was frowned upon in the newsroom. Masjaliza and friends circulated a petition asking for the repeal of the Printing Presses and Publications Act in 1999. She was Programme Manager at Sisters in Islam for four years and is a current Board member. She was active in the women's movement, was on Amnesty International Malaysia's first elected board, and volunteered for SUARAM secretariat (2008-2013). Masjaliza joined CIJ in 2010 and spurred on CIJ's project to monitor media coverage of GE13. She played a supporting role in Pemantau, headed the committee which organised a series of public forums post GE13, and testified on media issues at the Tribunal Rakyat. |
| | Nahar Md Nor | IKRAM | Born on the 9 th of August 1961, Hj Nahar Md Nor graduated with a Degree in Accountancy. He is a Chartered Accountant and a Member of the Malaysian Institute of Accountants. |

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| | | | <p>His activism started in his student days. He held various positions in Pertubuhan Jamaah Islah Malaysia (JIM), including as Treasurer and Secretary General. Currently he is a member of the Central Executive Committee of Pertubuhan IKRAM Malaysia (IKRAM), leading the Community Services portfolio as well a member of IKRAM's Financial Committee.</p> <p>Hj Nahar was also a member of the Steering Committee of the Pemantau Pilihanraya Rakyat for the last General Election (GE13).</p> <p>He has been attending Bersih 2.0 Steering Committee meetings for the last two years, standing-in for one SC member from IKRAM</p> |
| <p>Steering Committee Members with Portfolio (two to be elected)</p> | <p>K. Arumugam</p> | <p>SUARAM</p> | <p>K. Arumugam is chairperson of Malaysia's human rights organization (SUARAM). He was founder member of CHILD Malaysia (1984) and Tamil Foundation (2003). He was the coordinator of the Indian Malaysian lobby group, Group of Concern citizens (1998) and Co Chairman of Coalition of Malaysian Indian NGOs formed after the Hindraf rally in 2007. He was also served as Bersih Steering committee member in the previous term.</p> <p>Civil Engineer turned lawyer, he holds a Bachelor of Engineering (1983) and</p> |

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| | | | <p>Bachelor of Jurisprudence (2003) from the University of Malaya and MBA from the University of Strathclyde (1995).</p> <p>He has co authored <i>Violence Against an Ethnic Minority In Malaysia: Kampung Medan, 2001, The Cry, March 8 (Tamil), November 25 (Tamil), Sri Lanka's Killing Fields-Genocide of Tamils</i> and co-authored <i>Othukkapaddum Samuthayam (Marginalised Community)</i>. He is also the editor of Tamil Monthly magazine <i>Semparuthi</i> since 2005 and one of the promoters of the Tamil section in Malaysiakini.</p> |
| | Ng Chak Ngoon | Tindak Malaysia | <p>Ng Chak Ngoon , BSc(Hons), MSc(Geology) Immediate past president of Malaysia Site Investigators Association.</p> <p>TindakMalaysia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strategy team • delimitation team • PACABA trainer. <p>PACA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subang Jaya (GE 03/2008) • Permatang Pauh (By-elections 08/2008) • Batu Sapi by-election (10/2010) • Limbang (State election, 04/2011) • Kota Damansara (GE 05/2013) <p>Other activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented malapportionment |

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| | | | <p>chart to PSC Electoral Reform hearing in Kota Kinabalu, 12/2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researcher in Bersih's People Tribunal (09/2013) <p>Delivered paper in Second International Conference on Elections and Democracy: Continuity and Change in Kuching (2013) at Kuching Conference (2013): <i>The Influence Of Electoral Laws On The Conduct Of Elections In Malaysia</i></p> |
| | Farhana Bte Halim | AWL, EMPOWER, IRF, Kelab Bangsar | <p>Admitted to the Malaysian Bar as an advocate and solicitor in 2007 and subsequently, volunteered with the Bar Council Legal Aid Center (LAC). In LAC, was involved with Legal Aiders and was appointed as the Legal Aiders Public Relation Head for the 2010 tenure. Also was actively involved with the LAC Urgent Arrest Team. In 2011, became a volunteer lawyer with Suaram for Gerakan Mansuhkan ISA (GMI), and participated in its nationwide campaign for the immediate release of the ISA detainees in Kamunting Detention Centre. Also is a committee member with the Suaram Ops Scorpene Team which runs an anti-corruption campaign in relation to the purchase of Scorpene submarine by the government of Malaysia. For the 2013 General Election, assisted the Paya Besar</p> |

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| | | | <p>Parliamentary candidate as a volunteer. On top of being a commercial litigator also practices in areas of public interest and human rights.</p> |
| | Hishamuddin Rais | Dapur Jalanan, Kelab Bangsar | <p>Hishamuddin Rais needs no introduction. A prominent social activist, he is also known as TukarTiub among the netizens. He served in the last Steering Committee of Bersih 2.0, putting up all his efforts in mobilizing the people to be part of Bersih rallies.</p> <p>Hishamuddin Rais finished his secondary education at the Malay College Kuala Kangsar. In 1971, he pursued his study in South East Asian History at the University of Malaya. Actively involved in the campus politics, he was then Elected Secretary General of now banned University of Malaya Students Union (UMSU) in 1973.</p> <p>He left Malaysia in 1974 after a huge student demonstration now historically known as The Baling Peasant Protest 1974. During his exile, he studied French Language at University Catholic of Leuven la Neuve and finished his study in Arts too at Brixton College London. Graduated in film and video from University of Westminster London 1992, he produced the controversial 1997's film Dari Jemapoh ke Manchestee when returned to Malaysia.</p> |

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| | | | <p>During the political crackdown of Reformasi, he helped organise several street demonstrations from 1998 to 2000 following the ouster of deputy premier Anwar Ibrahim. In 2001 he began a two-year jail sentence under the Internal Security Act, which permits detention without trial.</p> <p>Immediately after being released from ISA, he started what he left before; the continuous effort of empowering and recruiting the youths from different social and economic background. Based in Bangsar Utama, he develops the youth in that area with the help of students from various institutions under the name of Universiti Bangsar Utama. He is now continuing his activism by advocating few other youth's societies like Kelab Bangsar Utama, Dapur Jalanan, and Teater Bukan Teater.</p> |
| | New Sin Yew | AWL, EMPOWER, SUARAM | <p>New Sin Yew is a libertarian and a practicing lawyer involved in various constitutional law and human rights causes. He actively advocates against state suppression of the freedom of expression, arbitrary detention and state violence. He has previously represented various activists, including PY Wong, Hishamuddin Rais, Adam Adli, Tian Chua when they were arrested. He was also involved in a number of</p> |

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| | | | <p>public interest litigation cases, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SUARAM’s judicial review application against the harassment by the Registrar of Societies; • The criminal charge against Lena Hendry of Pusat KOMAS under the Film Censorship Act 2002 for screening No Fire Zone: The Killing Field of Sri Lanka, a film about the genocide in Sri Lanka; • Himpunan Hijau Raub’s criminal charge under the Peaceful Assembly Act 2012; • Parti Sosialis Malaysia’s civil suit against the Government of Malaysia and others for wrongful arrests under the Emergency Ordinance; <p>Recently, he was on the team representing the Malaysian Bar during the SUHAKAM inquiry concerning the incidents during and after BERSIH 3.0. Sin Yew has a great interest in the election process and is familiar with election laws, procedures and regulations, having acted in a number of election petitions and also challenge against the Election Commission for failing to update the electoral roll. Taking into account his passion against injustice and</p> |

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| | | | his technical experience with regards to electoral issues, he believes that he is able to contribute to the Steering Committee especially in the impending delimitation exercise. |

For corrections, please contact <media@bersih.org>. Biographies were provided by nominating organisations.