

Conference on the Proposed Anti-Party Hopping Law and Related Issues

9 May 2022 (Monday) | 9:00 am to 5:45 pm

Raja Aziz Addruse Auditorium
2nd Floor, Wisma Badan Peguam Malaysia
2 Leboh Pasar Besar, 50050 Kuala Lumpur

This event carries 7 CPD points.

Please note that this is a hybrid event. Participants will have the option to either join physically or virtually (via Zoom). This event will also be streamed live on the Malaysian Bar Facebook page.

The Bar Council, in collaboration with BERSIH, is organising a conference on the proposed anti-party hopping law and related issues.

An anti-party hopping law is part of the administrative transformations promised in the Memorandum of Understanding (“MoU”) signed between the Government and Pakatan Harapan, and which is to be implemented by 2022. The Government had announced on numerous occasions that a Bill would be tabled in the Dewan Rakyat in February’s sitting, but it did not happen. A special sitting was then called on 11 Apr 2022 where a Parliamentary special select committee (“PSSC”) was set up to study the matter. The fundamental issues with regard to the anti-party hopping law, such as the definition of party-hopping, as well as the necessary constitutional amendments, have arisen time and time again, with political parties and civil society organisations raising serious concerns on these issues from various perspectives.

The objective of this conference is to bring together all these concerns, for deliberation. Thus far, PSSC proceedings have not been made public. The goal at the end of this conference is:

- (i) to present a range of views in relation to anti-party hopping for the consideration of both PSSC and the Malaysian public; and
- (ii) to encourage public participation in lawmaking, beyond Parliament.

Join us for an in-depth discussion on anti-party hopping mechanisms!

[Register online here](#)

Programme

09:15 am

Welcoming Speech by **Thomas Fann**, *Chairperson, BERSIH*

Session 1: What should the anti-party hopping law cover? Expulsion? Coalition hopping? Independents joining the party(ies) concerned?

This session will focus on the definition of party-hopping within the proposed anti-party hopping law, and the implications of party-hopping, taking into consideration the health of parliamentary democracy and the dynamics in party politics.

Speakers

YB Dato' Sri Azalina Othman Said, *Former Deputy Speaker, Dewan Rakyat (July 2020 to August 2021); Member of Parliament (“MP”), Pengerang, Johore*

YB Gobind Singh Deo, *MP, Puchong*

YB Larry Sng Wei Shien, *MP, Julau*

YB Datuk Seri Mohd Redzuan bin Md Yusof, *MP, Alor Gajah*

Moderator: **Thomas Fann**, *Chairperson, BERSIH*

09:30 am

Session 2: Between a traditional Anti-Party Hopping Law and an Anti-Party Hopping Recall Law

This session looks into the different mechanisms to deter anti-party hopping — its pros and cons, reforms in connection with party-hopping, and how these can be applied in the context of Malaysia.

Speakers

YB Wong Chen, *MP, Subang*

Thomas Fann, *Chairperson, BERSIH*

New Sin Yew, *Co-Chairperson, Bar Council Human Rights Committee*

Moderator: **Mohamad Ezri Abdul Wahab**, *Vice-President, Malaysian Bar*

11:15 am

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02:00 pm

Session 3: State-level anti-hopping law — imposed or enabled?

This session will discuss the pros and cons of imposing or merely enabling state-level anti-party hopping laws, the obstacles posed by the Supreme Court's 1992 decision in the *Dewan Undangan Negeri Kelantan v Nordin Salleh* case that declared such laws unconstitutional, and proposed amendments to Article 10 and the Eighth Schedule of the Federal Constitution.

Speakers

Professor Wong Chin Huat, *Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia, Sunway University*

Amer Hamzah Arshad, *Partner, AmerBON*

YB Datuk Seri Panglima Wilfred Madius Tangau, *MP, Tuaran*

Moderator: **Maha Balakrishnan**, *Research Fellow, Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia, Sunway University*

03:45 pm

Session 4: Other instruments to discourage party-hopping

This session will touch on the pull-and-push factors of party-hopping and the necessary remedies against it.

Speakers

Tricia Yeoh, *CEO, IDEAS (Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs)*
(on equal constituency development funds and political finance)

Philip Koh, *Adjunct Professor, University of Malaya; Senior Partner, Mah-Kamariyah & Philip Koh* (on ending selective prosecution)

Nur Qyira Yusri, *Co-Founder, Undi 18* (on electoral system change)

Moderator: **Simraat Kaur**, *Research & Advocacy Analyst, Bait Al Amanah*

05:30 pm

Closing Remarks by Karen Cheah Yee Lynn, President, Malaysian Bar

This conference is free of charge, but **advance registration is required.**

Registration will close at

12:00 pm, 8 May 2022 (Sunday)

Please note that **no** additional registration will be accepted once the closing date is passed, or if the conference is full (whichever comes first).

We may not permit future registration if you fail to attend the conference after registering, unless you provide an acceptable and valid reason.

Should you have any enquiries, please contact:

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A collaboration between
Bar Council and BERSIH

