

## TWO-MONTH NOTICE GIVEN

## BERSIH CHIEF FANN QUILTS AFTER POLLS

Rejection of his team in steering committee election 'a vote of no confidence'

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**C**OALITION for Clean and Fair Elections (Bersih) chairman Thomas Fann tendered his resignation with a two-month notice.

Thomas, in a statement, cited the rejection of his leadership and efforts to transform Bersih into a people's institution by the majority of the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that endorse the election watchdog.

He, however, would remain caretaker until a new chairman can be appointed.

His statement came 10 days af-

ter the end of the Bersih steering committee (SC) election (2023 to 2025).

"The five contested positions of deputy chair, treasurer and three committee member posts were won by the four candidates led by Wong Yan Ke, who stood against the team that I had put forward, except for one committee member post won by Aira Azhari, who came in third.

"The rejection of my team, which was led by Ngeow Chow Ying (outgoing treasurer), by the majority of the NGOs in this election, which saw a record 50 out of 60 endorsing NGOs participating (83.3 per cent), was a clear message to me that my vision and direction for Bersih were rejected.

"It was a vote of no confidence."

Fann said the divergent visions between his and Wong's teams were evident in the statements issued by both teams during the election, with Wong and his team pushing to restore Bersih a people's movement.

"While Wong's team, with four seats in the nine-member SC, does not necessarily represent the majority of the SC, he does have the mandate of the majority of the endorsing NGOs that voted.

"As much as his team and those who helped secured their victory are committed to restoring Bersih as a people's movement, I am committed to evolving Bersih to become a people's institution.

"In good conscience, I cannot lead a divided SC that is pulling in opposite directions or defy the will of the majority of the endorsing NGOs.

"Neither could I go against my own conviction and lead Bersih in its attempt to become a people's movement again when I believe that Bersih's future is for it to be an institution that is contributing ideas and solutions to

strengthen our parliamentary democracy."

While he believed that organising protest rallies, which has been Bersih's root as a people's movement, is one of the people's rights as a democracy, it is just

one of the many means to advocate for reforms.

The change in the political landscape after the 14th General Election (GE14), he added, had opened up other channels of engagement, and Bersih, under his leadership in the past five years, had used those channels and achieved impactful outcomes.

He said Bersih's viability as a people's movement ended on May 10, 2018 (the day after 14th General Election).

"It (Bersih) could either close shop, evolve into a political party (though that opportunity had long passed) or evolve into an ad-

vocacy institution to goes beyond regime change and focuses on changing the system.

"You can only be a people's movement if there are people behind you.

"It is normal to lose your momentum or support because most people's movement don't last beyond a few years or sometimes even months.

"I harbour no illusion that Bersih's past successes as a people's movement was due to the efforts of the SC or the NGOs.

"Rather, it was because of the mass support we received to demand for change during that period (prior to GE14).

"We, Bersih, were just a tool of history, doing the right thing at the right season.

"That season is over and has been for a long time."

He, however, said he accepted the outcome of the election and opted to make way to allow for the formation of a united SC with the election of a new chairman who championed restoring Bersih to a people's movement.



Thomas Fann

## DIGITALISATION

## E-Invoice will boost taxation system

**T**O support the growth of the digital economy in line with the 12th Malaysia Plan, the government will implement an e-Invoice system to improve the efficiency, transparency and management of tax administration.

An e-Invoice is a representation in digital form for transactions between sellers and buyers to replace the use of paper or electronic documents in digital format, such as .pdf, .jpeg or .doc, which contain the same essential information as traditional documents.

Tax administrators around the world are moving to e-invoicing in parallel to digitalisation, especially the Centralised Clearance Model, which verifies the validity of the invoice data before it is issued to the buyer.

More than 13 countries, such as Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Bahrain and Oman, are expected to introduce the Clearance Model by 2027.

In Malaysia, invoices will be issued for business transactions conducted business-to-business, business-to-government and business-to-client.

The e-Invoice implementation includes international and local transactions.

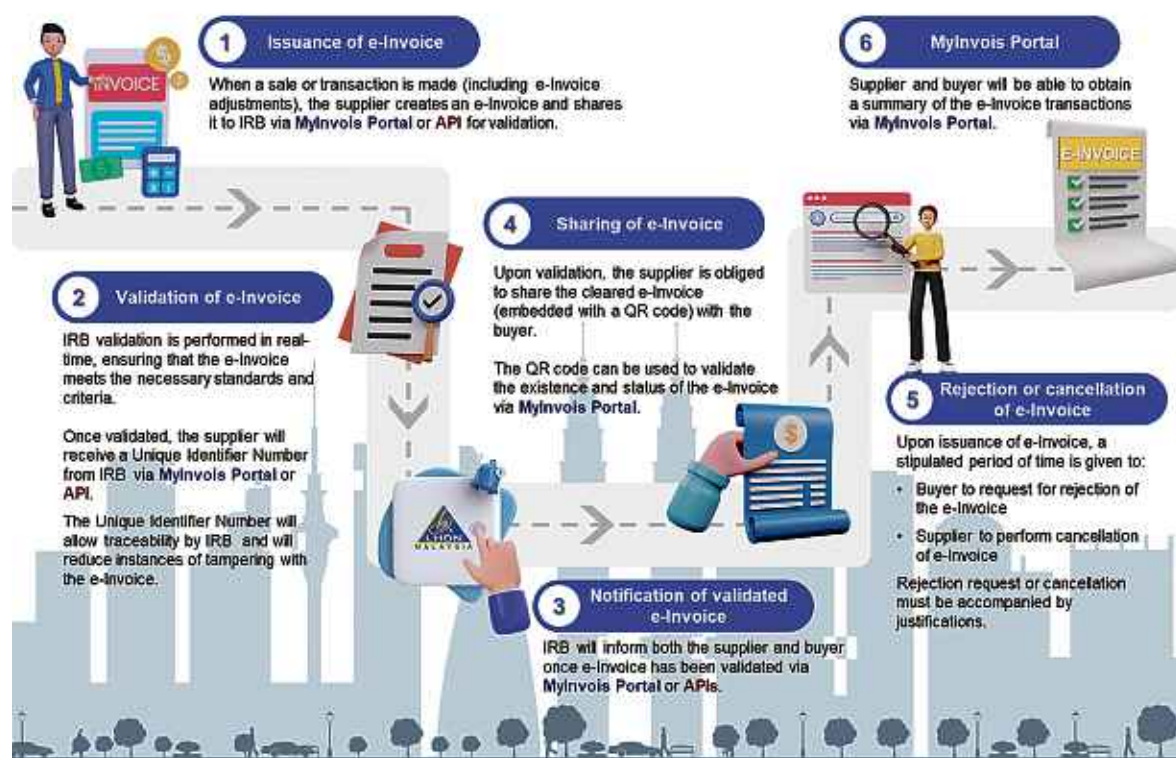
The Inland Revenue Board (IRB) is committed to strengthening e-invoice development and implementation by enhancing the guidance and reference for taxpayers, including the e-Invoice Guideline (Version 2.1) and the e-Invoice Specific Guideline (Version 1.1).

These can be accessed and downloaded via the link <https://www.hasil.gov.my/e-invois/>.

e-Invoice will improve the efficiency and streamline business operations of taxpayers and improve tax compliance, including reducing manual processes and errors, facilitating the filing of return forms, improving the efficiency of operations, and digitising cash and financial reporting.

To facilitate the transition to e-invoice, taxpayers can choose the most appropriate mechanism to transmit e-Invoice to IRB based on their business needs and specific circumstances.

Taxpayers can choose whether to use the MyInvois portal or the API (ap-



plication programming interface).

This is ideal for large taxpayers or businesses with high volumes of transactions as it requires an initial investment in technology and an extension to existing systems.

The workflow of e-Invoice implementation starts from the preparation of the invoice through MyInvois or API to the process of storing the certified e-invoice document in the IRB database for taxpayers to view

their history.

e-Invoice will be implemented in stages to ensure a smooth transition and ensure that taxpayers have sufficient time to prepare for and adapt to its implementation.

IRB is working with taxation practitioners and professional bodies in providing information regarding the process.

It has also signed a memorandum of understanding with the Malaysian

Digital Economy Corporation to coordinate the implementation of the National e-Invoicing Initiative with the nationwide tax compliance model, as well as sharing the implementation status and framework regarding the design, strategy and its progress.

Feedback or inquiries on the implementation of e-Invoice can be sent through email to [myinvois@hasil.gov.my](mailto:myinvois@hasil.gov.my).