

**Election court strikes out Baram parliamentary seat petition**  
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The Election Court in Miri yesterday struck out a petition by Roland Engan of Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) against the election result of the Baram parliamentary constituency in the May general elections with costs of RM25,000.

The amount was to be paid to the duly elected Baram MP, Anyi Ngau of Barisan Nasional (RM15,000) and the Election Commission's returning officer Joseph Belayong Punan (RM10,000).

The sum was seen to be a more reasonable amount compared with the RM150,000 awarded by the Terengganu Election Court to Barisan Nasional (BN) assemblyman Tengku Putera Tengku Awang, after striking out the petition by PAS' Ahmad Zamani Yusof yesterday.

The RM150,000 awarded is a record amount for an election petition.

In yesterday's election petition, Election Court judge Chew Soo Ho allowed Roland's counsel, Baru Bian's application to withdraw the petition at the onset of preliminary objection hearing.

The Borneo Post reported that the judge said the RM25,000 cost was not a punitive action taken against the petitioner but took into account the painstaking preparation undertaken by the respondents in challenging the petition.

Roland filed the petition on June 12 to declare null and void the results.

Sarawak now has only one more election petition to be heard.

BN's candidate for the Sarikei parliamentary constituency, Ding Kuong Hing, filed a petition at the Sibu High Court to nullify the results of the polls.

He lost the seat to DAP's Wong Ling Bui by a 505-vote majority. He obtained 13,758 votes against Wong's 14,263 votes.

In Ding's petition, he named returning officer David Liao, the Election Commission and Wong as the first, second and third respondents, respectively. – August 2, 2013.

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