

**Do Not Manipulate Islam For Political Mileage, Says Shafie
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 27 (Bernama) -- Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal reminded certain quarters in the country not to manipulate Islam for political mileage.

Shafie, who is also Rural and Regional Minister, said this irresponsible action always reared its ugly head when an election nears.

"The hudud issue will always crop up...when there is no election, it (hudud) is placed on the backburner. So we can see clearly what these quarters are up to," he told reporters after closing the National Islamic Religious Council Congress at the Putra World Trade Centre here Tuesday.

Shafie said he concurred with Raja Muda Perak Raja Dr Nazrin Shah who yesterday reminded Muslims in the country to defend the sanctity of Islam and not to allow the religion to be manipulated to serve selfish interests.

"This is important so that Muslims in the country do not quarrel among themselves," Shafie said.

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