

**Do Not Politicise Petroleum Royalty Payment Committee – Shafie
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SEMPORNA, Aug 4 (Bernama) -- Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal hopes no quarters would attempt to politicise the government setting up a special committee to study the issue of payment from petroleum revenue to states in the East Coast of Peninsular Malaysia.

Shafie, who is also Umno vice-president, said the committee could be the channel to enable appropriate payment to the states which contributed to the nation in petroleum production.

"Therefore, the committee proposed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak should be well received. So, do not politicise the matter.

"The important thing is that the revenue obtained is channeled in the interest of the people and national development," he said.

Shafie was speaking to reporters after a special meeting with Umno division chiefs and imams from Semporna here Saturday, when commenting on Najib's announcement over the setting up of the committee.

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