

**Umno, Sabah BN Continue To Be Firm – Shafie  
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SEMPORNA, Aug 5 (Bernama) -- Umno and Barisan Nasional (BN) will remain strong and the party will continue to implement the needful to maintain the status quo.

Umno vice-president Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal said the claim that Umno and Sabah BN were no longer strong was just a political ploy of the opposition, especially its adviser, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said Anwar's exaggerations gave the impression that Sabah BN was weak.

"We are not overly worried about the exaggerations. We will take certain measures to ensure Umno and BN in Sabah are strengthened.

"BN component parties play an important role to ensure BN continues to remain strong," he said after a special meeting with village heads and chairmen of village development and security committees here today.

Shafie, who is also rural and regional development minister, was commenting on Anwar's eagerness to come to Sabah next week, reportedly with a 'surprise'.

He noted that as the opposition under Anwar did not get a place or make a major impact in the previous general election in Sarawak -- despite numerous exaggerations -- it would experience the same in Sabah.

On the repercussions of Datuk Seri Lajim Ukin's resignation from posts in Umno, to Sabah Umno, Shafie said Beaufort Umno division acting chief Isnin Aliasnih was currently organising his committee to strengthen the division.

Lajim has announced his resignation as a member of the Umno Supreme Council, Beaufort Umno division head and Beaufort Barisan Nasional chairman.

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