

**Taiping UMNO Backs Shafie For VP**  
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TAIPING, Sept 6 (Bernama) -- Taiping UMNO Friday stated its backing for Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal to be retained as vice-president at UMNO's polls next month.

Its chief, Datuk Ahmad Shalimin Ahmad Shafie announced this at the division's Aidilfitri open house held at the Taiping Municipal Council Hall.

Meanwhile, Shafie, who was present, told reporters he welcomed the support from Taiping UMNO and hoped UMNO's polls would be conducted in a gentlemanly manner.

Shafie is also Rural and Regional Development Minister and the MP for Semporna, Sabah.

The other incumbents are Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Defence Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, who is also Acting Transport Minister.

So far former Melaka chief minister, Datuk Mohd Ali Rustam and former Negeri Sembilan menteri besar Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad have thrown their hats in the ring.

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