

## **Shafie Proposes Debate For All Top Umno Posts**

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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 7 (Bernama) -- With 11 days to go before the Umno vice-presidency race, incumbent Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie has welcomed a debate among the contestants.

He said such debate should also be extended to those vying for top posts in the Wanita, Youth and Puteri wings although their elections were just around the corner.

"Don't just focus on vice-presidential candidates, what about Umno Supreme Council and wings contenders.

"The debate will enable delegates to evaluate candidates' grasp of issues, not only on administrative and political matters, but also their vision," he told reporters after witnessing the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Mara and the Honolulu-based East West Center here today.

Shafie, who is also rural and regional development minister, was commenting on a proposal thrown by former Umno deputy president and former deputy prime minister Tun Musa Hitam that the six vice-presidential candidates faced off in a televised debate.

Another incumbent, Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, who is defence minister, has said no to the debate while contender Datuk Mukhriz Tun Dr Mahathir, who Kedah menteri besar, is for it.

Other contenders are Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who is home minister, Felda chairman Tan Sri Mohd Isa Abdul Samad, who was former Negeri Sembilan menteri besar and former Federal Territories minister, and Senator Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam, who was former Melaka chief minister.

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