

## The Pesantren - based ruling elite in Sumenep in the post - new order Indonesia

Abdul Gaffar Karim, author

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### Abstrak

This paper discusses a dominant group in local politics of Sumenep that is based on a pesantren network that is usually referred to as the Bani Syarqawi. The author argues that the superiority of religious clerics (Kyai) over the mass in Sumenep has been mainly based on their adaptability to the transformational change of their role from traditional - charismatic to rational -authoritative by means of educational excellence and genealogical network that is both powerful and full conflict.