

13 MAY 2001

STRONG ECONOMY WILL FOIL SPECULATORS' BID, SAYS MUSTAPA

JASIN, May 13 (Bernama) -- The government is confident that the country's strong economy will thwart efforts by speculators to bring down the value of the ringgit, Finance Ministry adviser Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said today.

He confirmed that some speculators were spreading rumours that the government would repeg the ringgit to the US dollar

"Although there are elements trying to bring down the economy by spreading rumours, it will not have any effect on the value of the ringgit which is pegged at RM3.80 to a US dollar," he told reporters after opening an explanation session on current issues organised by Melaka Umno here.

Mustapa, who is Umno information chief, was asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday that some speculators were buying large sums of US dollars in anticipation of the government devaluing the ringgit.

Mustapa said the activities of the speculators resulted in a slight fall in the country's reserves at the end of March and April.

-- BERNAMA

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