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PACKAGE-ANNOUNCE

ACTING PM TO ANNOUNCE STIMULUS PACKAGE SOON, SAYS SECOND FINANCE  
MINISTER

KUALA LUMPUR, April 7 (Bernama) -- Acting Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will make an announcement on the much awaited economic stimulus package soon, said Second Finance Minister Datuk Jamaludin Jarjis today.

He, however, averted specifics when asked by reporters, on when and what was in store for the property sector which the government intended to use as the economy's domestic source of revenue growth.

Jamaludin was asked this at a press conference after the launch of the National Property Information Centre's (Napic) 2002 Property Market Report released here today.

Asked on whether Abdullah would be making an announcement on details of the package or another speculated delay following the Iraq war and the outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, he declined to comment.

A local daily quoted unnamed sources, reported today that Abdullah was expected to announce the government's economic stimulus package plan which was originally scheduled on March 26, this week.

The newspaper reported that the delay was due to the government's decision to reassess the impact of the Iraq war on the economy which would provide special focus on affected sectors, such as insurance and transportation.

Last month, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said the package would be broad-based and might include fiscal and monetary measures to encourage private investment and domestic spending. -- BERNAMA

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