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Jamaludin-Umno

REMAIN UNITED TO COUNTER NEGATIVE PERCEPTIONS, SAYS JAMALUDIN

KANGAR, April 28 (Bernama) -- Umno, the backbone of the ruling party, should enhance its strength to help counter the foreign media's negative portrayal of the country, Second Finance Minister Datuk Dr Jamaludin Jarjis said today.

He said Umno should prove that the people in the country were united and that unity would enable the country to register better economic growths.

The foreign media were jealous of the country's achievements and opposition parties were supporting their lies, he said when opening the Arau Umno Division delegates meeting here.

If Umno remained strong and the country's economy continued to expand, there would be no room for the foreign media to run down the country, he said.

Jamaludin said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would unveil a stimulus package next month to boost the country's economy.

The economic stimulus package is necessary to counter the effects of the Iraq war and the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which have adversely affected the tourism sector.

Jamaludin also announced the appointment of Beseri state assemblyman Zahidi Zainul Abidin as his political secretary effective April 1.

Zahidi, 42, is also the Padang Besar Umno Division deputy head.

-- BERNAMA

AD YBY