

**Umno Not Only Fought For Independence But Also Islam**  
**Bernama**  
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PUTRAJAYA, Nov 19 (Bernama) -- Umno, since it was formed in 1946, not only fought for national independence, but always defended and fostered Islamic development.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom said the Barisan Nasional government supported by Umno not only championed Islam but also focused attention to education, infrastructure and the economy.

Umno helped build 22,000 mosques and surau, personal obligation classes with 34,000 teachers, Islamic higher learning institutions and formed the Tabung Haji which is making profits of billions of ringgit and paying a huge amount in tithes annually, he told reporters here.

Unfortunately, he said Umno's effort was often forgotten and taken for granted by Muslims in the country.

He said the younger generations should know about Umno's struggle for Islam and realise that power struggles between Muslims would only disunite them.

He said Muslims should unite in view of the numerous challenges being faced including those relating to faith, Merdeka Sexuality Programme and protest against sacrifices in public places.

In fact, certain elements had surfaced who dared to raise issues related to Islam by taking advantage of the discord among Muslims.

In this context, he urged Umno members to be more firm in uniting Muslims by practicing the concept of 'Gentleness in firmness'.

The Kedah Umno Information chief said some Muslims also seemed to be defending issues raised by irresponsible quarters merely due to differences of ideology and politics with the parties questioning the quarters concerned.

Jamil Khir said Muslims regardless of political ideologies must continue to find ways to strengthen unity and not bow to those who did not want to see Muslims united.

He said a balance between religious demands and career should also be strengthened while absorbing the 1Malaysia concept by Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

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