

Mydin hits back over Kedai Rakyat claims

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Mydin Mohamed Holdings Berhad, the operator of Kedai Rakyat 1Malaysia (KR1M) has rejected the majority of allegations - in particular by DAP's Tony Pua - that 1Malaysia products in its stores are higher priced and of lower quality.

Mydin managing director Ameer Ali Mydin was flanked by suppliers of all the disputed products and technical personnel armed with the respective laboratory reports to back his argument at a 90-minute press conference held at a Kelana Jaya store this afternoon

Ameer said only one of more than 10 allegations hurled by Pua - the DAP's Petaling Jaya Utara MP - was valid.

He conceded that Pua was correct about the misleading label on the oyster sauce product.

The sauce should be labelled as "oyster-flavoured sauce" because it contains no natural oyster extract. The product has since been taken off the shelves and the supplier has been told to rectify the shortcoming.

However, he called Pua "unfair" to his suppliers and said he was "hitting below the belt" in respect of the other allegations.

Ameer claimed that Pua's allegations were unfounded and "half true" because he had either compared the wrong products of different qualities and categories, or cited the wrong laws.

"Before you blame people, learn first or go to school... before you say something," he said of the Oxford graduate.

Response to E coli allegation

Responding to the staggering allegation that fresh milk sold in KR1M was contaminated with E coli, Corakmas, a government-owned milk supplier located in Alor Gajah, Malacca, made a vehement denial and produced laboratory test reports from the Veterinary Department confirming the milk was free from bacterial contamination.

Ameer echoed this, saying his company had received no complaints on the milk since it was on the shelves five months before.

He attributed the lab result obtained by Pua, which detected E coli in the milk, to negligence in handling the product after buying it from the shop.

On the withdrawal of the milk from the KR1M shelves, Ameer explained that sales were so good that the factory had to halt production for two weeks to upgrade its capacity in order to meet the high demand.

The technical personnel and supplier also claimed that Pua cited the wrong provisions or mistakenly categorised the products when accusing the 1Malaysia products of breaching the Food Act 1983 and

Food Regulations 1985.

Reiterating the statement of Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob, Ameer stressed that the comparison made by Pua was unfair as he singled out the products of Carrefour Big Saver, which are of lower quality, and not the Carrefour Brand which are of compatible quality with 1Malaysia products.

To prove his argument, two tables full of products from KR1M and Carrefour were shown to the media to observe their colour, appearance and size, to prove that the quality of 1Malaysia products were compatible with those of Carrefour Brand, which are generally priced higher.

Ameer also showed photocopies of receipts for several products bought from Carrefour the day after Pua's press conference, including toilet tissue, sweetened creamer, minced beef, french fries and carbonated drinks, to prove that they were sold at prices higher than those claimed by the opposition.

The irate businessman accused the parliamentarian of attempting to "kill" KR1M and stop the consumers from buying cheaper goods, which is something he "cannot understand".

However, Ameer revealed that the accusation by Pua has not only failed to turn away KR1M customers, but that the weekly sales volume had increased by 14 percent from RM188,000 to RM214,000.

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