

1M'sia baby milk shelved, chilli sauce stays
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by Koh Jun Lin

Kedai Rakyat 1Malaysia (KR1M) has pulled its milk powder off the shelves a day after it was claimed that the content violates requirements of the Food Regulations Act 1985.

In a statement on its website today, KR1M said the product had been temporarily removed, but did not give any reason for this.

"KR1M milk powder supplier have [sic] been notified and products have been temporarily removed until further notice," it says.

As for claims that its line of chilli sauce, which is claimed to contain exceedingly high levels of heavy metals, KR1M said the content of the product does not run foul of the law.

"Currently lab tests from the supplier show the product formulation COMPLY [sic, emphasis by KR1M] with the Food Regulations Act," it says.

When contacted, Mydin Homamed Holdings Bhd managing director Ameer Ali Mydin (middle) said the milk powder was withdrawn pending investigations.

"As a responsible retailer, when we receive feedback from anyone regarding the quality of our products or allegation that the products do not meet certain standards, our standard operating procedure would be to withdraw the product from the shelves, send the products for further testing and decide on the next course of action," he said.

Chilli sauce sent for testing

On the chilli sauce, Ameer explained that it was not pulled off the shelves because the supplier's lab report does not support allegations made against the product.

However, he said a sample had been sent for independent testing as a precaution and the results will be known in a week.

DAP national publicity chief Tony Pua charged yesterday that the milk powder contained excessive Vitamin A while lacking in many other nutrients.

It was the latest in his recent string of allegations against KR1M, including allegedly exaggerated price savings on the products and violations of Food Act 1983 and Food Regulations 1985.

Mydin and its suppliers had refuted most of these allegations, claiming that Pua had only offered half-truths.

A separate report by Malaysian Association of Standards Users emerged yesterday, saying that the KR1M chilli sauce contained excessive heavy metals, which could lead to kidney damage.

The association's chief executive DN Ratna had urged that the Health Ministry should halt the sale of the sauce immediately.