

Pakatan: Excessive Vitamin A in Kedai Rakyat milk powder
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 15 — The federal opposition today claimed that the milk powder sold in Kedai Rakyat 1 Malaysia (KR1M) contained over eight times the legal limit of Vitamin A, and may be harmful to children.

Pakatan Rakyat (PR) lawmakers told a press conference the 1 Malaysia-branded Growing Up Milk Powder for children above the age of one contained 6,012 international units (IU) of Vitamin A per 100kcal.

File photo of one Kedai Rakyat outlet.

DAP publicity chief Tony Pua said this was 802 per cent over the legal limit set under Regulation 389A of the Food Regulations Act 1985.

The Petaling Jaya Utara MP also said the amount of Vitamin A was 588 per cent over the United States Recommended Daily Allowance.

Excessive amounts of Vitamin A may lead to liver problems, reduced bone mineral density, skin discolouration and hair loss, he said.

PKR vice-president Nurul Izzah Anwar called for an independent investigation to ensure that goods sold in the thrift stores met regulations.

Pua also said the amount of calcium and iron in the milk powder did not meet the minimum required under the law.

The opposition pact has accused the government today of taking advantage of the poor by selling "substandard products" at the KR1M which were launched by Datuk Seri Najib Razak in June.

The prime minister launched the first of three shops now operating in the Klang Valley in response to rising inflation, which hit a two-year high of 3.5 per cent that same month.

KR1M, operated by hypermarket giant Mydin, offers 250 generic products like rice, oil, flour, bread, eggs, milk powder and diapers at prices 30 to 40 per cent lower than market rates, as well as branded goods.

Najib said more KR1M would be set up in other locations similar to the 1 Malaysia clinics his administration has established in states like Sabah and Sarawak.

At a press conference yesterday, Mydin denied allegations that KR1M sold higher priced but lower quality products.

Mydin managing director Datuk Ameer Ali Mydin only conceded that there was a misleading label on the 1 Malaysia oyster sauce bottle which should instead have stated it was oyster-flavoured sauce.

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