

Pakatan MPs dispute Health Ministry's findings on KR1M milk
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By Clara Chooi

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 25 — Pakatan Rakyat (PR) MPs are disputing the Health Ministry's declaration of the 1 Malaysia milk powder as safe for consumption, claiming its minister had miscalculated the recommended dosage of Vitamin A.

DAP MP Tony Pua said Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai had misread the Food Regulations Act on the maximum amount of Vitamin A that individuals can consume in one day when comparing it with his ministry's test results on the milk's nutrient content.

"We dispute his findings. In fact, we are shocked.

"He read the table (in the Act) wrong and miscalculated on the permitted daily dosage of Vitamin A," Pua told a press conference today.

Pua (picture) noted that in Liow's explanation on Wednesday, the minister had justified declaring the Growing Up Milk Powder as safe by pointing out that it only contains 3,240 IU (international units) of Vitamin A per 100g.

He said minister had pointed out that according to the law, the permitted dosage is 5,000 IU.

But referring to copies of the Act distributed to the press today, Pua pointed out that the permitted 5,000 IU dosage was the "maximum amount in recommended daily servings" and not per 100g.

He said on the label of the 1 Malaysia milk powder, the recommended daily servings for consumers was four scoops (30g each), four times a day, which amounts to 480g per day.

"At 3,240 IU per 100g, this would amount to 15,552 IU per day, well above the recommended 5,000 IU dosage per day for Vitamin A.

"We want him to clarify his claim that there is no overdose of Vitamin A... his calculations appear to be flawed," said Pua.

He also questioned Liow's remark that the opposition had referred to the wrong ruling in the Act when disputing the nutrient content of the milk.

According to Liow, Pua had wrongly referred to Rule 398A of the Act for "follow-up formula" instead of Rule 395 for "growing-up milk powder", which the former said the 1 Malaysia milk powder is categorised under.

But, according to Pua, Rule 395 refers to "food not elsewhere standardised", which is specific to food products for which the standard has not been expressly prescribed elsewhere in the Act.

He pointed out that under Rule 398A, "follow-up formula" refers to food intended to be fed to an "infant from the sixth month on and for children", saying that the 1 Malaysia milk

powder qualifies for this category.

"The label on the milk box states that the product is for toddlers aged one and above... meaning it is for young children, which Rule 398A refers to. What's did Liow mean, then, when he said 'growing-up' milk and 'follow-up' milk are different?" Pua asked.

Pua, along with several PR lawmakers, recently claimed that the 1 Malaysia Growing Up Milk Powder does not contain at least 15 of the legally required essential fatty acids, vitamins and minerals and is seriously deficient in calcium and iron content.

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

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