

Health Minister: formalin-injected meat can be solved.



(KPL) The Health Ministry is not the main cause to the problem of formalin-injected meat by butchers, Health Minister Dr Ponemek Dalaloy pointed to the National Assembly session.

In the current market economic situation, when the mentality of craving for high profit, runs high in society, particularly among, said the Public Health Minister.

Most butchers in local market injected formalin into the meat for sale in order to keep it fresh, without taking into consideration of consumers' health, he added.

To this problem, the health ministry has so far announced and warned butchers and consumers to take caution of the meat contaminated with formalin. But that has yielded little effect, he complained.

However, this might be the weak point of the health ministry that its educational campaign could not go as far as to rural remote areas, since the campaign requires some budget, he said. He said that because of the long distance transportation, the majority of butchers would rather put formalin to the meat to keep it fresh instead of keeping it in ice containers.

He admitted that the health ministry alone could not handle the problem. It required collaboration and cooperation from other authorities as well.

“It is very difficult to solve this problem by only one ministry because it is related to many authorities and ministries,” he claimed. To this problem, the health ministry is accused of being negligent. But in fact this problem involves many parties and authorities, especially the authorities of processing industry, agriculture, transportation and border trade, he said.

All ministries should participate in solving this problem, the health minister said. He added that the drug and food inspection committee should jointly cooperate with all ministries to solve this problem.