



23 February 2016

DA-BAI ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR

No. 03

Series of 2016

SUBJECT: REACTIVATION/ ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL AND LGU VETERINARY QUARANTINE CHECKPOINTS IN STRATEGIC LOCATIONS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY FOR EARLY CONTAINMENT OF DANGEROUS COMMUNICABLE ANIMAL DISEASES.

WHEREAS, veterinary quarantine checkpoints served as the key factor to the success of Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) control and eradication campaign in Luzon, and the protection of the vulnerable areas of Visayas and Mindanao from the spread of the disease, earning eventually for the country an international recognition as FMD free Philippines without vaccination from the World Organization on Animal Health (OIE) in 2010;

WHEREAS, alarming number of poultry deaths has been reported recently and was confirmed to have been caused by New Castle Disease also known as Avian Pest in Luzon, with Central Luzon having the highest number of incidents;

WHEREAS, the occurrence or emergence of dangerous communicable animal diseases constantly poses an eminent threat to the growth and development of the country's livestock and poultry industry;

WHEREAS, management of animal movement through monitoring and inspection at checkpoints is a proven and effective tool in controlling the spread of diseases, in conjunction with intensive animal vaccination strategy;

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), through its National Veterinary Quarantine Services Division (NVQSD), has been expanded and reorganized into a line division up to the regional level pursuant to its approved rationalization plan under Executive Order No. 366, series of 2004;

WHEREAS, local government units (LGUs) exercise delegated animal quarantine authority within their territorial jurisdiction pursuant to Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PROCESO J. ALCALA, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby institute the following measures:

1. Directing the BAI and all Regional Directors to coordinate with the LGUs regarding the establishment/ reactivation of regional and inter-provincial checkpoints at strategic highway/road locations within their respective territorial jurisdiction;
2. Checkpoints shall be operated, jointly or separately as the circumstances require, by BAI-NVQSD and LGU concerned. DA-RFOs shall provide manpower assistance to the checkpoints whenever feasible and requested by BAI-NVQSD.
3. BAI-NVQSD shall exercise supervision and control on all its regional and inter-provincial checkpoints, while those established by LGUs shall abide by the checkpoint protocols and operating procedures to be prescribed by the BAI, in consultation with the LGUs and DA-RFOs;
4. The BAI and DA-RFOs are hereby authorized to source funds for the establishment and operation of checkpoint facilities from their respective budgets in accordance with applicable budgetary, accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

This Circular shall take effect immediately.

PROCESO J. ALCALA
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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General Documents: OSEC-02-16-0000
Received 02/01/2016 08:12 AM

