



Republic of the Philippines  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
Elliptical Road, Diliman  
1100 Quezon City

**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR**

No: 14

Series of 2024

**SUBJECT: DECLARATION OF BULACAN AS AVIAN INFLUENZA FREE PROVINCE**

**WHEREAS**, the Province of Bulacan had recorded ten (10) confirmed cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Subtype H5N1 which was confirmed through laboratory testing using RT-PCR. The cases were detected in the City of Baliwag and the Municipalities of San Rafael, San Ildefonso, San Miguel, Santa Maria, and Pulilan on various dates of January, February, July, October, November, December 2022 and January, February 2023 affecting ducks, quails, native chickens, chicken layers, broiler breeders, and gamefowl.

**WHEREAS**, upon detection of the disease, the Provincial Government of Bulacan and the concerned city and municipal government, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office III (DA RFO III) and the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), conducted disease investigation, immediate depopulation, cleaning and disinfection, movement restrictions and surveillance in the affected premises following the Avian Influenza Protection Program (AIPP) guidelines;

**WHEREAS**, continued disease monitoring and surveillance in the 1-km and 7-km surveillance zones surrounding the affected farms yielded negative test results for influenza type A virus;

**WHEREAS**, Article 10.4.6. of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE), Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2022) provides that the Avian Influenza free status of a previously free country or zone may be regained after a minimum period of 28 days after a stamping-out policy has been completed; disinfection of the last affected establishment was carried out and that consequent surveillance demonstrated the absence of infection;

**WHEREAS**, prior to the confirmation of the first case of HPAI H5N1 in Bulacan the province had been free from avian influenza in poultry and through the joint efforts of the LGU, DARFO, and BAI applying effective disease control measures such as stamping out, cleaning and disinfection operations, biosecurity and other quarantine activities, the risk of further spread from infected premises were effected without delay;



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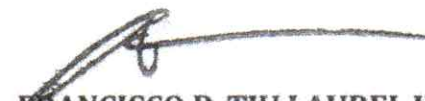
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**WHEREAS**, more than ninety (90) days have elapsed since the end of the cleaning and disinfection operations and that surveillance activities yielded negative AI test results;

**WHEREAS**, any reported evidence of confirmed AI incursion within the province will cause immediate notification to concerned offices (RVQS, RADDL, DARFO, PVO/PAO, CVO/CAO, MVO/MAO/MMO) and consequent revocation of this memorandum circular;

**NOW THEREFORE, I, FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL, JR.**, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, in accordance with the authority vested in me, do hereby declare Bulacan as Avian Influenza Free Province.

Done this 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 2024.

  
**FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.**  
Secretary *A*



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