



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman
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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No: 37
Series of 2022

SUBJECT : DECLARATION OF BATAAN AS AVIAN INFLUENZA FREE PROVINCE

WHEREAS, the province of Bataan was affected by Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Subtype H5N1 last March 2022 after a backyard mallard duck farm tested positive for the virus;

WHEREAS, upon detection of the disease, the Local Government Unit of Bataan, in coordination with DA Regional Field Office III and the Bureau of Animal Industry, conducted disease investigation, immediate depopulation, cleaning and disinfection, movement restrictions and surveillance in the affected premises following the Avian Influenza Protection (AIPP) guidelines;

WHEREAS, results of subsequent disease monitoring in the 1-km and 7-km surveillance zones surrounding the affected farms yielded negative test results for influenza type A virus. The last HPAI H5N1 laboratory detection in Bataan was on 22 March 2022;

WHEREAS, Article 10.4.6. of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2021) 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 Bataan, 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 and other quarantine activities, the risk of further spread from infected premises were effected without delay; and that more than forty (40) days have elapsed since the end of the clean-up and disinfection operations; and surveillance has been carried out in accordance with the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code and the AIPP with the province of Bataan yielded negative AI test results;

NOW THEREFORE, I, DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN, Senior Undersecretary of the Department of Agriculture, in accordance with the authority vested in me, do hereby declare the Avian Influenza freedom of the province of Bataan.

Done this 14th of November 2022.

DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN
Senior Undersecretary



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