



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

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No: 01

Series of 2023

SUBJECT : DECLARATION OF RIZAL AS AVIAN INFLUENZA FREE PROVINCE

WHEREAS, the Province of Rizal had recorded three (3) laboratory confirmed cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Subtype H5N1 in the Municipality of Rodriguez, dated June 29, July 12 and July 15, 2022 affecting a commercial chicken layer farm, a backyard free-range chicken farm and a commercial contract grower farm, respectively;

WHEREAS, upon detection of the disease, the Local Government Unit of the Province of Rizal and the Municipality of Rodriguez, in coordination with Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office IV-A (DA RFO IV-A) 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 Rizal was on 15 July 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 Rizal, 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 Rizal 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-Free Status of the Province of Rizal.

Done this 4th of January 2023.

DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN
Senior Undersecretary



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