



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

MEMORANDUM ORDER NO. 32
Series of 2019

**SUBJECT: ENHANCING ANIMAL DISEASE REPORTING AND CONTROL
THROUGH PROVISION OF COMPENSATION FOR SWINE
CULLED DURING GOVERNMENT-ORGANIZED DEPOPULATION**

WHEREAS, in the exercise of the mandate of Section 7, Chapter 2, Book IV of Executive Order No. 292 entitled: INSTITUTING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF 1987, the Secretary of the Department is empowered to promulgate rules and regulations necessary to carry out department objectives, policies, functions, plans, programs and projects; and issue administrative orders necessary for the efficient administration of the offices under the Secretary and for proper execution of the laws relative thereto.

WHEREAS, there were emerging and re-emerging local diseases that strike the livestock and poultry industry in the Philippines but the same are not listed in the World Organization for Animal Health as OIE-listed diseases. Thus, the Department of Agriculture (DA) through its Secretary issued Administrative Circular No. 03, Series of 2018, amending Administrative Order No. 01, Series of 2012, on Declaring the List of Notifiable Animal Diseases by incorporating Swine diseases and infections in the lists of Notifiable Animal Diseases and the OIE-listed diseases.

WHEREAS, Administrative Circular No. 03, Series of 2018 further states that any unusual clustering of similar symptoms or syndromes or more than the perceived mortalities/morbidities that are yet unknown in origin shall be considered notifiable to consider emerging and re-emerging diseases;

WHEREAS, prompt reporting of diseases of suspected cases is vital and of paramount importance for an efficient, well-coordinated response and immediate implementation of control measures;

WHEREAS, there is a need to streamline and further rationalize the systematic process of disease reporting in accordance with the principles of economy, efficiency, and checks and balances;

WHEREAS, indemnification on the affected industry will alleviate production and financial losses incurred by the farmers and will facilitate disease reporting;

WHEREAS, a standard payment system is appropriate and consistent with the objective of the government for a transparent and legitimate release of cash assistance to affected farmers;

Section 1. Statement of Policy. The National Government adopts a policy of concerted efforts among national and local government agencies, private sector and affected stakeholders to manage, contain and control the spread of swine diseases. In pursuance thereof, the DA shall encourage early reporting of actual or suspected animal diseases by the farmers affected by government-organized culling operations through a provision of financial assistance in cash and/or credit in order to ease the production and financial losses incurred by the farmers.

Section 2. Eligibility to Compensation. This provision of compensation shall be limited to backyard swine farms. A backyard farm refers to parcel of land with a maximum of 20 adult pigs (or equivalent number of young animals as defined by the Philippine National Standard - Code of Good Animal Husbandry Practice for Swine). The backyard swine farmers must be in actual possession of the animals ordered to be culled through government - organized culling operations to further prevent the spread of notifiable disease in accordance with applicable legislation to be eligible for compensation.

Section 3. Establishment of the Special Account. A special account for payment of compensation shall be set up by the DA subject to applicable laws, rules and regulations.

Section 4. Financing. The special account shall be initially funded by the Department of Budget and Management for TWO HUNDRED FIFTY MILLION PESOS (P 250, 000, 000.00). Other funds subsequently deposited to the special account may include government contributions, donations and fees payable to the affected farmers.

Section 5. Implementation. The Office of the DA Secretary and his designated officials for this purpose shall be responsible for ensuring effective compensation procedures in conformity with the usual auditing and accounting procedures.

Section 6. Compensation Procedure Manual. The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Livestock and the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) shall prepare a Compensation Procedure Manual, to be approved by the Secretary, which shall embody the procedure and operational aspect of compensation, including registration of animal owners and producers, charging of fees to prospective beneficiaries of the special account and rates/range of compensation payments, subject to usual auditing rules and regulations.

Section 7. Incident Command/s for ASF control. The DA Regional Office shall organize its own Task Force or Regional Incident Command for the control of African Swine Fever (ASF) disease. The Local Government Authorities for ASF control also known as the LGU Incident Command shall be created by the Local Chief Executive of the affected area. The composition of Local Government Authorities for ASF control shall be defined and/or modified in consultation with the DA Regional Executive Director. Functions of the **Incident Command for ASF control** shall include culling and compensation operations.

Section 8. Nature and Extent of Compensation. Compensation paid from the special account shall refer exclusively to animals which are ordered to be culled to prevent spread of such animal diseases **since the beginning of the ASF outbreak in**

the Philippines and shall not cover other losses such as destruction of contaminated feedstuffs and other products, disinfection of plants and equipment and other control measures (direct culling costs, protection of members of Incident Command for ASF control), restocking costs, economic losses for drop of market conditions, and improvement of biosecurity measures. Such losses may be compensated through such other means as may be made available by the Government

Section 9. Compensation Rates. Compensation rates shall be adjusted from time to time through an Administrative Order issued by the DA Secretary for all animal species and various categories. Rates of compensation shall be uniform throughout the country.


Section 10. Payment Procedures. Compensation payments from the special account may be made in cash, cheques, post office, vouchers or bank transfer as may be specified in the Compensation Procedure Manual.

Section 11. Database. The DA shall keep and progressively update information necessary for the operation of the compensation mechanism in accordance with this policy, which may include among others information regarding animal owners and producers, number, species and categories of animals, farm operation information, market prices, compensation paid from the special account, and estimates of financing needs.

Section 12. Settlement of Disputes. A mechanism for the settlement of disputes regarding the operation of the mechanism shall be set up, including appeals to the Secretary and to the courts of law.

Section 13. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect immediately.

DONE, in the City of Quezon, this 2 day of December, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Nineteen.


WILLIAM D. DAR, PhD
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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