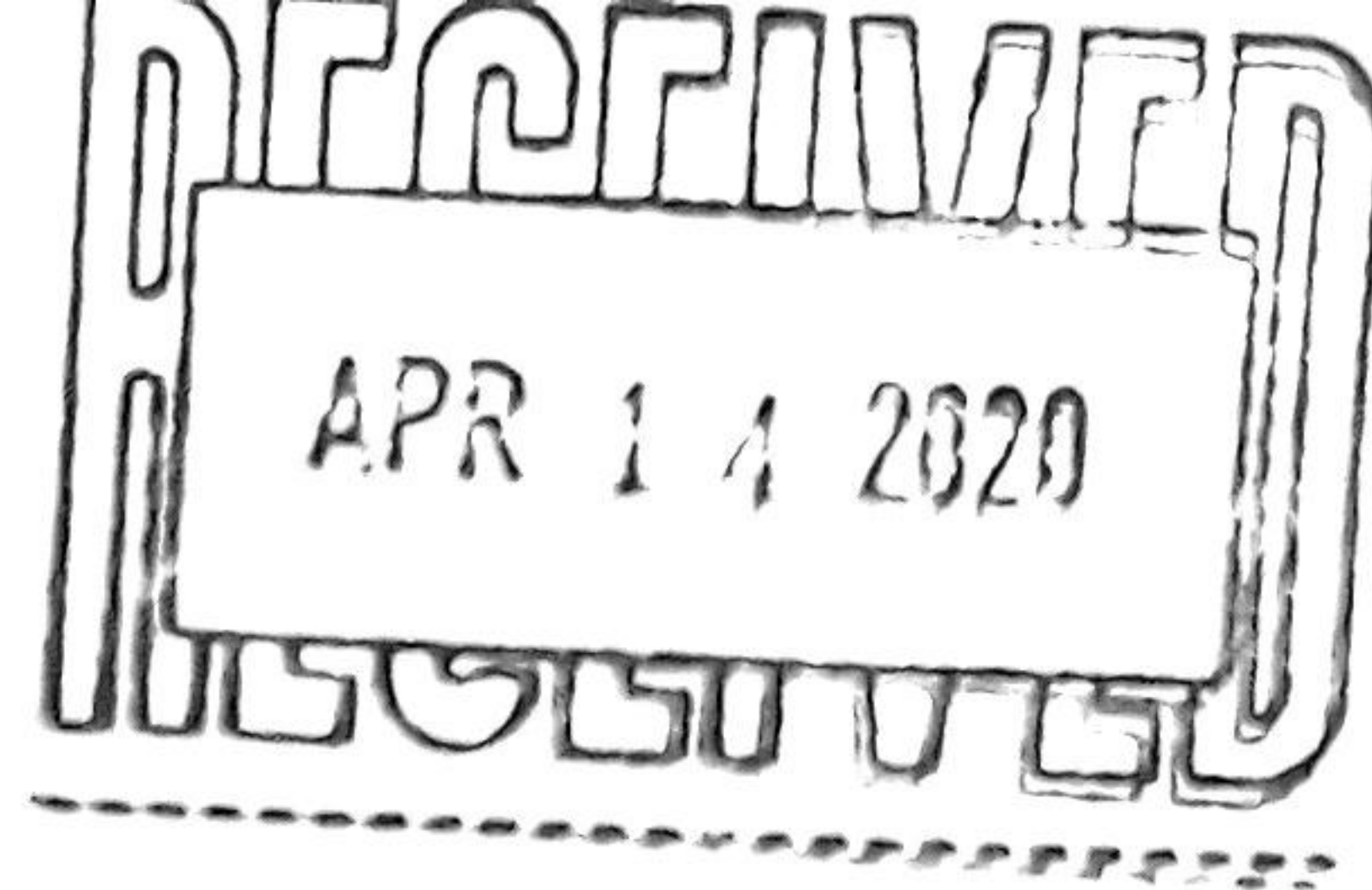




Republic of the Philippines  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
Elliptical Road, Diliman  
1100 Quezon City



**MEMORANDUM ORDER**

No. 17  
Series of 2020

**SUBJECT: TEMPORARY BAN ON THE IMPORTATION OF DOMESTIC AND WILD BIRDS AND THEIR PRODUCTS INCLUDING POULTRY MEAT, DAY OLD CHICKS, EGGS AND SEMEN ORIGINATING FROM *Romania***

**WHEREAS**, Section 6 and 7 (2) and (4) of Executive Order No. 292 provides the authority and responsibility for the exercise of the mandate of the Department and for the discharge of its powers and functions shall be vested in the Secretary, who shall have supervision and control of the Department, to establish the policies and standards for the operation of the Department pursuant to the approved programs of government and promulgate administrative issuances necessary for the efficient administration of the offices under the Secretary and the proper execution of the laws relative thereto;

**WHEREAS**, Section 1770 of Act No. 2711 (Revised Administrative Code of 1917) which was adopted by incorporation together with Sections 1761-1769, in Section 5 of Act 3639 (Charter of Bureau of Animal Industry) empowers the Department Head to issue a general order preventing the entry of animals, animal effects, parts or products from any country with dangerous communicable animal disease;

**WHEREAS**, based on the official report submitted by Dr Robert Viorel Chioveanu, President, Secretary of State, Chief Veterinary Officer, Veterinary Services, National Sanitary Veterinary and Food Safety Authority, Bucharest, Romania to the World Organisation for Animal Health on 18 January 2020, there was one (1) outbreak of H5N8 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Seini, Maramures affecting birds on 13 January 2020, as confirmed by the Institute for Diagnostic and Animal Health (National laboratory);

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to prevent the entry of HPAI virus to protect the health of the local poultry population;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. DAR**, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, by the powers vested in me by law, do hereby institute the following measures for the importation of domestic and wild birds and their products from Romania:

1. Banning the importation of domestic and wild birds and their products, including poultry meat, day old chicks, eggs and semen;
2. Immediate suspension of the processing, evaluation of the application and issuance of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) import clearance to the above-stated commodities;
3. Stoppage and confiscation of all shipments of the above stated commodities (with the exception on heat treated products) into the country by all DA Veterinary Quarantine Officers/Inspectors at all major ports of entry.

This **ORDER** shall take effect immediately and shall remain enforced unless revoked in writing. All orders inconsistent herewith are deemed revoked.

Done this 20th day of March 2020.

  
**WILLIAM D. DAR, Ph.D.**  
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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*A food-secure Philippines*  
*with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk*

