



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

MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 39
Series of 2020

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY BAN ON THE IMPORTATION OF POULTRY MEAT ORIGINATING FROM BRAZIL

WHEREAS, pursuant to Republic Act No. 10611 or the "Food Safety Act of 2013", the Department of Agriculture (DA) shall be responsible for the development and enforcement of food safety standards and regulations for foods in the primary production and post harvest stages of the food supply chain. It shall monitor and ensure that the relevant requirements of the law are complied with by farmers, fisherfolk and food business operators;

WHEREAS, Section 10 of the Food Safety Act provided that *in specific circumstances when the available relevant information for use in risk assessment is insufficient to show that a certain type of food or food product does not pose a risk to consumer health, precautionary measures shall be adopted*;

WHEREAS, there have been numerous reports on the detection of SARS-COV-2, the causative agent of COVID-19, in a surface sampling conducted in chicken meat imported from Brazil to China;

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization (WHO) has reported 3,109,630 COVID-19 confirmed cases with 103,026 deaths in Brazil, with a significant number of cases in workers of their local meat establishments;

WHEREAS, the health status of the workers in meat establishments is a primary consideration in the accreditation of foreign meat establishments in compliance with the Good Manufacturing Practices certification;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture, pursuant to the Section 15, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declaring that the state shall protect and promote the right to health of the people, shall immediately act for the protection of the Filipino consumers;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. DAR, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, by the authority vested on me by law, do hereby institute the following emergency measures on the importation of poultry meat from Brazil:

1. Temporary suspension of the accreditation of Brazilian Foreign Meat Establishments to export poultry meat to the Philippines pending the results of thorough assessment to be conducted by DA;

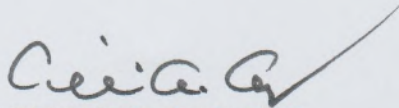
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2. Immediate suspension of the processing, evaluation of the application and issuance of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) import clearance to the above-stated commodities;

This ORDER shall take effect immediately.

Issued this 14th day of August 2020, in Quezon City.



WILLIAM D. DAR, PhD
Secretary



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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