



MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No: 09

Series of 2023

SUBJECT : DECLARATION OF QUEZON AS AVIAN INFLUENZA FREE PROVINCE

WHEREAS, the Province of Quezon had recorded a laboratory confirmed case of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Subtype H5N1 on 20 July 2022 affecting a commercial duck farm in the Municipality of Candelaria;

WHEREAS, upon detection of the disease, the Local Government Unit (LGU) of the Province of Quezon and the Municipality of Candelaria, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office IV-A (DA RFO IV-A) and the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), conducted disease investigation, immediate depopulation, cleaning and disinfection, movement restrictions and surveillance in the affected premises following the Avian Influenza Protection Program (AIPP) guidelines;

WHEREAS, laboratory 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 Quezon was on 20 July 2022;

WHEREAS, Article 10.4.6. of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE), 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 Quezon, 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 Quezon 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 Quezon.

Done this 21st of February 2023.

DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN
Senior Undersecretary

