



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

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No: 55

Series of 2023

SUBJECT: DECLARATION OF ISABELA AS AVIAN INFLUENZA FREE PROVINCE

WHEREAS, the Province of Isabela had recorded three (3) confirmed cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Subtype H5N1 which was confirmed through laboratory testing using RT-PCR. The cases were detected in chicken layer, duck, gamefowl, pigeon, and native chicken from the city of Cauayan and municipalities of Alicia and Gamu on April 21, May 23, and November 07, 2022.

WHEREAS, upon detection of the disease, the Provincial Government of Isabela, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office II (DARFO II) 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, continued disease monitoring and surveillance in the 1-km and 7-km surveillance zones surrounding the affected farms yielded negative test results for influenza type A virus;

WHEREAS, Article 10.4.6. of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE), Terrestrial Animal Health Code (2022) 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 Isabela, the province had been free from avian influenza in poultry and through the joint efforts of the LGU, DARFO II, and BAI in applying effective disease control measures such as stamping out, cleaning and disinfection operations, biosecurity and other quarantine activities, the risk of further spread from infected premises were effected without delay;

WHEREAS, more than ninety (90) days have elapsed since the end of the cleaning and disinfection operations and that surveillance activities yielded negative AI test results;





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NOW THEREFORE, I, FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR., Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, in accordance with the authority vested in me, do hereby declare Isabela as Avian Influenza Free Province.

Done this 20th of DECEMBER 2023.

FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.
Secretary



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