



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

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No: 11

Series of 2024

SUBJECT: DECLARATION OF SULTAN KUDARAT AS AVIAN INFLUENZA FREE PROVINCE

WHEREAS, the Province of Sultan Kudarat had recorded twenty-two (22) confirmed cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Subtype H5N1 which was confirmed through laboratory testing using RT-PCR. The cases were detected in the City of Tacurong and the Municipalities of Isulan, Lebak, Lutayan, and President Quirino on various dates of March, June, July, and November 2022 and February 2023 affecting duck, native chicken, chicken layer, turkey, guinea fowl, and goose.

WHEREAS, upon detection of the disease, the Provincial Government of Sultan Kudarat and the concerned city and municipal government, in coordination with Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office XII (DA RFO XII) 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 Sultan Kudarat, 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 operations, biosecurity and other quarantine activities, the risk of further spread from infected premises were effected without delay;





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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;

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 Sultan Kudarat as Avian Influenza Free Province.

Done this 22nd of MARCH 2024.

FRANCISCO P. TIU LAUREL JR.
Secretary *A*



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according to ISO 9001"