



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

MEMORANDUM ORDER

No. 20
Series of 2020

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY BAN ON THE IMPORTATION OF DOMESTIC AND WILD HORSES INCLUDING SEMEN, OOCYTES OR EMBRYOS FROM THAILAND

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 BAI) 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 to the OIE submitted by Dr. Sorraivis Thaneto, Director General, Livestock Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Bangkok, Thailand, on March 27, 2020 there has been an outbreak of African Horse Sickness (AHS) in Pak Chong, Nong Sarai, Pak Chong, Nakhon Ratchasima, this is followed by two latest reports of disease outbreaks on April 3, 2020 and April 10, 2020 and the said disease outbreaks are continuing in the country;

WHEREAS, there is a need to prevent the entry of African Horse Sickness (AHS) to maintain the AHS free status of the country and protect the health of the local equine 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 horses including their semen, oocytes or embryos from Thailand:

1. Banning the importation of Domestic and Wild horses including their semen, oocytes or embryos from Thailand
2. Immediate suspension of the processing, evaluation of the application and issuance of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) import clearance to the above-stated commodity;
3. Stoppage and confiscation of all shipments of the above stated commodity into the country by all DA Veterinary Quarantine Officers/Inspectors at all major ports.

This **ORDER** shall take effect immediately.

Done this 16 day of April 2020.

WILLIAM D. DAR, PhD
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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For Signature: S-04-20-0136
Received . 15/04/2020 02:19 PM

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