

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7920



Introduced by **HON. NICANOR M. BRIONES**
Representative, AGAP Party List

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Animal meat and other animal products have been a staple not only in the Filipino diet, but also in the manufacturing of other food products. In fact, poultry and livestock are known to be the most important agricultural subsectors in the country. Its supply, however, is continuously threatened by rising costs of production, especially fuel and feeds, and animal disease outbreaks.

The Avian Influenza or Bird Flu outbreak was first declared in the country in 2017. Since then, four million birds including chickens, quails, and ducks have either died from the disease or have been culled to contain its spread. More than five years have passed, the disease remains a threat to poultry farmers as no vaccine has yet been available.

The same goes with African Swine Fever or ASF. More than three million hogs have been killed due to the disease. This translates to millions of pesos lost by livestock raisers. Unfortunately, as ASF continues to affect various parts of the country, local hog production in affected cities and municipalities are limited. Thus, resort to imported pork and pork products becomes inevitable.

However, importation cannot be the end resolution of these problems. These animal diseases are not confined to the Philippines. Many countries have likewise reported of such outbreaks. ASF and bird flu are just a few of the animal diseases whose outbreaks have great impact to the economy and the every day life of the Filipinos. We recall the mad cow disease, leptospirosis, rabies, and other parasitic infections. Certain animal diseases can also be transmitted to humans, thus posing dangers to human health as well. Hence, animal health is just as important as our health. What we need is to build our capacity to protect animal health and control the spread of such diseases.

The Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) was created in 1930 by virtue of Act 3639. The BAI was mandated to “investigate, study and report upon the condition of the domestic animals in the Philippine Islands, their improved methods of reproduction and care, inquire into and report the causes of dangerous communicable diseases among them, and the means for the prevention and cure of the same”. Meanwhile, veterinary services remained with the local government units by virtue of the Local Government Code.

The 1987 Constitution mandates the protection of the people’s right to health. The Constitution likewise ensures the protection of life, liberty and property and seeks the sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people as one of the nation’s economic goals.

This bill is therefore filed to strengthen animal health and veterinary services in the country and respond to the need of ensuring safe and adequate food made by the Filipinos for the Filipinos. This measure aims to improve and ensure animal production food safety and prevention, surveillance, and management of animal diseases, and promote compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures and other veterinary protocols with international standards.

The bill also provides for disease compensation and eradication trust fund that will compensate owners of culled animals, and the establishment of a competent national authority for animal health and veterinary services. This likewise strengthens local government veterinary services as it mandates the establishment of such in all classes of LGUs.

This measure also makes vaccination of animals mandatory for certain diseases. This also provides penalties for violations of this legislation such as failure to report notifiable diseases, refusal to vaccinate, and illegal use and sale of veterinary and human drugs, among others.

In sum, the bill recognizes animal health and veterinary services as a public good and aims to build stronger safeguards to promote animal health, animal welfare and animal production food safety, all towards the goal of attaining food security, protecting public health, and improving global trade competitiveness in the country.

With the foregoing premises considered, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


NICANOR M. BRIONES
Representative
AGAP Partylist

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 7920

Introduced by **HON. NICANOR M. BRIONES**
Representative, AGAP Party List

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE ANIMAL HEALTH AND VETERINARY SERVICES
IN THE PHILIPPINES OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANIMAL HEALTH
AND VETERINARY SERVICES ACT

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

Chapter I
INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Animal Health and Veterinary Services Act".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It shall be the policy of the State to promote and protect animal health, strengthen and enhance veterinary services and systems, and recognize the importance of animal health and veterinary services as a public good.

Towards this end, the State shall establish a competent national authority for animal health and veterinary services, ensure efficient delivery of sanitary measures, encourage the participation of various veterinary service providers, and secure the development of the animal industry for the attainment of stronger safeguards and food security for the country's animal and human populations, improved public health and environment, and enhanced global trade competitiveness.

SEC. 3. Coverage. - This Act shall apply to all programs, activities and undertakings of persons, corporations, associations, organizations, farmers, and private or government entities that, directly or indirectly, deal with animal health related matters such as, but not limited to:

- (a) Animal and zoonotic disease diagnosis, treatment, prevention, control and eradication;

- (b) Early detection systems and compulsory reporting of important animal diseases and zoonoses;
- (c) Regulation and monitoring of: (i) animals, animal products and by-products, and animal production practices; (ii) animal facilities, premises, equipment, means of transportation, and other inanimate objects in contact with animals and/or animal products; (iii) animal feeds, feed ingredients, supplements and additives; and (iv) veterinary drugs/products, veterinary biological and immunological products, veterinary cosmetics and veterinary devices;
- (d) Training and research on animal health; and
- (e) Use of veterinary drugs, veterinary biologicals and diagnostic reagents in animals.

SEC. 4. Objectives. - The State shall endeavor to achieve the following objectives:

- (a) Protect human and environmental health from hazards caused by animal diseases and zoonoses;
- (b) Establish a modern and responsive veterinary services;
- (c) Formulate, promote, enforce, implement rules, policies and programs for the promotion of animal health with One Health Approach;
- (d) Institutionalize national and local inter-agency, multi-sectoral cooperation on animal health and veterinary services program;
- (e) Ensure animal production food safety and security; and
- (f) Promote compliance and harmonization of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures and other veterinary protocols with international standards.

SEC. 5. Definition of Terms. - As used in this Act, the following terms and phrases shall be defined as follows:

- (a) **Accreditation** – the formal recognition by an independent body, generally known as accreditation body, that a certification body is capable of carrying out certification. Accreditation is not obligatory but it adds another level of confidence, as “accredited” means the certification body has been independently checked to make sure it operates according to international standards;
- (b) **Animal** – vertebrate and invertebrate species whether domestic or wild (exotic or indigenous) animals which include food producing, companion, aquatic, laboratory, birds, worms, bees and butterflies. The term excludes human;
- (c) **Animal Effects** – litter or manure, hay, fodder or the like, used as blankets, chains, harnesses, ropes, buckets, boxes or crates and the like used by animals;
- (d) **Animal Facility** – permanent or temporary structures or premises generally used for purposes of caring, breeding, rearing, holding,

gaming, training, trading, transporting, treating, testing and exhibiting animals, such as but not limited to farms, zoos, aviaries, apiaries, kennels, racetracks, cockpits, pet shops, pounds, animal rescue centers, airport and seaport quarantine stations, animal holding facilities including those found in ports, railways and bus stations, stables, livestock auction markets, slaughterhouses, veterinary clinics, and veterinary hospitals;

- (e) **Animal Feeds** – mixture or combination of feed ingredients, supplements and additives, in any form, by specific formula to be fed directly as a sole ration to animals which is capable of furnishing the nutritional needs or requirements of the animal in order to maintain life, promote growth, production and reproduction without any additional substance except water. This includes commercial, non-commercial and on-farm feeds;
- (f) **Animal Health** – the over-all physical condition and well-being of animal(s);
- (g) **Animal Identification** – the combination of the identification and registration of an animal individually, with a unique identifier, or collectively by its epidemiological unit or group, with a unique group identifier;
- (h) **Animal Identification System** – the inclusion and linking of components such as identification of establishments, owners, person or persons responsible for the animal(s), animal movements and other records with an animal identification;
- (i) **Animal Industry** – any activity relating to the production, breeding, caring, rearing, holding, trading, transporting, and use of animals; animal processing; and manufacturing, trading and marketing of animal production inputs such as, but not limited to feeds, veterinary drugs and biologicals;
- (j) **Animal Production Food Safety** – measures taken in farms and production areas to safeguard the health of the consuming public and ensure that the food derived therefrom is safe. This includes measures taken to regulate and control the introduction of non-food animals to the food chain;
- (k) **Animal Products and By-Products** – any meat, fat, milk whey, cream, butter, cheese, egg, honey or other food or foodstuffs derived from an animal; or any part of the viscera of an animal, hide, skin, hair, wool, feathers, shell, horn or hoof; or any article or substance derived from dung, urine, feces, bone, or blood of an animal; or any secretion of an animal or any product or biological preparation made or derived from any animal tissue or animal secretion; or any article or substance derived from an animal such as semen, whether or not

in combination with any article or substance; or any article or substance or thing that is declared by order to be an animal product for the purposes of this Act;

- (l) **Capacity building** – defined as the development and strengthening of human and institutional resources of public and private sectors including non-government organizations;
- (m) **Capacity development** – comprehensive and sustainable process whereby people, organizations, and society strengthen, create, adapt, and maintain capacity over time;
- (n) **Certification** – the procedures by which official certification bodies or officially recognized certification bodies provide written or equivalent assurance that an establishment/entity conforms to requirements set by Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI);
- (o) **Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO)** – a veterinarian who has the responsibility and competence of ensuring and supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and guidelines in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the World Organization for Animal Health or *Office International des Epizooties* (OIE) in the entire country;
- (p) **Communicable Animal Diseases** – diseases which are transmissible from one animal to another;
- (q) **Competent Veterinary Authority** - the Veterinary Authority or other Governmental Authority of a Country having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code and in the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code in the whole territory;
- (r) **Confiscation** – the taking into custody of animals, animal parts and/or products, and/or of animal effects by the competent authority for its proper disposal for having been the subject of violation of rules and regulations or posing risk to general human and animal welfare;
- (s) **Disease** – the impairment of normal state of living animals showing sub-clinical, clinical/pathological manifestation with infectious and non-infectious condition;
- (t) **Domestic movement** – the transfer/transport of animals, animal product, by-products and effects within the country;

- (u) **Early detection system** – a system for the timely detection and identification of animal and zoonotic diseases which includes the following characteristics, namely: (i) representative coverage of target animal populations by veterinary field services; (ii) ability to undertake effective disease investigation and reporting; (iii) access to laboratories capable of diagnosing and differentiating relevant diseases; and (iv) training program for veterinarians and animal health technicians for detecting and reporting unusual disease occurrence;
- (v) **Emerging Disease** – a new infection resulting from the evolution or change of an existing pathogenic agent, a known infection spreading to a new geographic area or population, or a previously unrecognizable pathogenic agent or disease diagnosed for the first time and which has a significant impact on animal or public health;
- (w) **Epidemiology** – the science concerned with the study of factors determining and influencing the frequency and distribution of disease, injury, and other health-related events and their causes in a defined population;
- (x) **Eradication** – the elimination of a pathogenic agent or disease from the country or zone/area/region;
- (y) **Establishment** – entities engaged in the manufacture, production, preparation, handling, importation, exportation, sale, storage, offer for sale, distribution, transfer, use, testing, promotion, advertising or sponsorship of animals, animal products and by-products, veterinary drugs or products and veterinary biological products, animal feeds and feed ingredients, veterinary cosmetics, and veterinary devices;
- (z) **Exportation** – the transportation of commodities such as live animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, animal feeds, veterinary drugs/products and veterinary biological products from the Philippines to another country;
- (aa) **Exotic Animal Diseases** – any disease known to exist in foreign countries which is likely to be introduced in the country through importation of animals, animal products, animal by-products or animal effects, animal feeds, veterinary drugs/products and veterinary biological products;
- (bb) **Fake Veterinary Drugs** – counterfeit, falsified, unregistered veterinary drugs/products, as well as unapproved parallel imports, compounded pharmaceuticals and illegal autogenous vaccines;
- (cc) **Feed Ingredients** – all articles, in any form, that are added or mixed into the composition or which are used as raw materials in the formulation of a feed or ration, base feed, base mix, concentrate, feed

supplement, feed additive, specialty feed and/or special feed preparation purporting to supply additional nutrients, such as but not limited to, proteins, carbohydrates, fats, minerals, vitamins, growth promoting factors and/or correcting nutritional disorders;

- (dd) **First Border Inspection** – assessment and verification done on incoming animals, animal products and by-products, animal effects, animal feeds veterinary drugs/products and veterinary biological products at international ports of entry by veterinary quarantine officers;
- (ee) **Hazard** – a biological, chemical or physical agent, or a condition of an animal or animal product with the potential to cause an adverse health effect;
- (ff) **Importation** – the bringing into the country of commodities such as live animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, animal feeds, veterinary drugs/products and veterinary biological products from foreign countries;
- (gg) **Indemnification** – the payment for any loss of animals or damage to its by-products in accordance with the guidelines established by the Veterinary Authority;
- (hh) **Livestock** – food animals including poultry;
- (ii) **Networking** – the act of making contact and exchanging information with other people, groups and institutions to develop mutually beneficial relationships, or to access and share information;
- (jj) **Notifiable Disease** – disease listed by the Veterinary Authority and that, as soon as detected or suspected, must be brought to the attention of the Veterinary Authority in accordance with national regulations;
- (kk) **Notification** – the procedure by which the Local Veterinary Authority informs the National Veterinary Authority of the occurrence of an outbreak of disease or infection;
- (ll) **OIE (Office Internationale des Epizooties)** or the World Organisation for Animal Health – the intergovernmental organization responsible for improving animal health and veterinary services and is recognized as a reference organization by the World Trade Organization (WTO);
- (mm) **One Health** – a collaborative, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary approach ensuring communication and coordination at the local, regional, national, and global levels, with the goal of achieving optimal

health outcomes recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment;

- (nn) **Pre-border Inspection** – assessment of animal health inspection and biosecurity system of exporting countries prior to authorization of export;
- (oo) **Poultry** – chickens, turkeys, guinea fowl, gamefowls, ducks, geese, quails, pigeons, pheasants, partridges, and ratites reared or kept in captivity for breeding, production of meat or eggs for consumption or for re-stocking supplies of game;
- (pp) **Quarantine** – the act of isolating animals from other animals with no direct or indirect contact with other animals, to prevent the transmission of specified pathogen(s) while the animals are undergoing observation, and, if appropriate, testing and treatment, for a specified length of time and/or to determine their freedom from disease;
- (qq) **Quarantine Station** – a facility under the control of the Veterinary Authority where animals are maintained in isolation with no direct contact or indirect contact with other animals, to ensure that there is no transmission of specified pathogen/s outside the establishment while the animals are undergoing observation for a specified length of time and, if appropriate, testing and treatment;
- (rr) **Risk Analysis** – the whole of process of determining the hazard/s, the likelihood of the hazard to occur, and if it occurs how grave would it be. The process consists of the following steps, namely, planning, hazard identification, risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication;
- (ss) **Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)** – measures applied to: (i) protect human or animal life from risks arising from additives, contaminants, toxins or disease-causing organisms in their food; (ii) protect human life from plant-or animal-carried diseases; (iii) protect animal or plant life from pests, diseases, or disease-causing organisms; and (iv) prevent or limit other damage to a country from the entry, establishment or spread of pests. This also includes SPS measures taken to protect the health of fish and wild fauna, as well as of forests and wild flora;
- (tt) **Second Border Inspection** – activities done by a competent authorities such as the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS), and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) at authorized facilities such as cold storages and quarantine areas where thorough and final inspection of animals, meat and fish products are carried out;

- (uu) **Shipping Permit** – the document issued by the BAI authorizing the person indicated therein to ship or transport the stated commodity to their indicated destination(s);
- (vv) **Swill** – kitchen refuse and scraps of waste food mixed with water for feeding to animals;
- (ww) **Traceability** – a tool for controlling disease in animals and food safety. It constitutes the ability to follow or monitor link between animal health, food safety and the organoleptic characteristics of food to its origin;
- (xx) **Transshipment** – the shipment of goods or containers to an intermediate destination and from there to yet another destination;
- (yy) **Vaccination** – the successful immunization of susceptible animals through the administration of appropriate immunizing agents comprising of antigens or bacterins or any agent appropriate to the disease to be controlled;
- (zz) **Veterinarian** – a person who has been registered and issued a valid certificate of registration and professional identification card by Professional Regulatory Commission Board of Veterinary Medicine of the Philippines;
- (aaa) **Veterinary Authority** – the government authority, comprising of duly licensed veterinarians and allied professionals, having the responsibility and competence of ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and guidelines in the Terrestrial Code of the OIE;
- (bbb) **Veterinary Biological Products** – all microorganisms (viruses, bacteria, fungi, protozoa, etc.) components or products of microorganisms, antigens, antisera, bacterins, immunoglobulins and analogous products of natural or of synthetic origin, including genetically modified organisms, diagnostic kits and reagents, serums, toxins and antitoxins intended for use in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of animal diseases and for veterinary research purposes;
- (ccc) **Veterinary Cosmetics** – any substance or preparation intended to be placed in contact with the various external parts of the animal body or with the teeth, mucous membranes of the oral cavity, with a view exclusively or mainly to cleaning them, perfuming them, changing their appearance and/or correcting the body odor, and/or protecting the body or keeping the same in good condition;

- (ddd) **Veterinary Devices** – any instruments, apparatuses, implements, machines, appliances or contrivances, including their components, parts and accessories intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment and prevention of animal diseases, or to affect the structure or any function of the body or animals;
- (eee) **Veterinary Drugs** – articles for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of diseases of animals;
- (fff) **Veterinary Health Certificate** – document issued by the licensed veterinarian specifying among others therein that the animals, animal products and by-products, or animal effects intended for transport are free from any communicable animal diseases or are not carriers thereof;
- (ggg) **Veterinary Paraprofessional** – a properly trained person who is authorized to carry out designated tasks related to veterinary medicine under the immediate supervision of a veterinarian;
- (hhh) **Veterinary Products** – collectively refer to veterinary biologicals, veterinary drugs/products, veterinary devices, and veterinary cosmetics as defined herein and to other substances applied to animal facilities such as but not limited to disinfectants, insecticides, and substances that modify or extend physiological functions, behaviors or availability such as but not limited to hormones, growth promotants, stimulants, enhancers, probiotics and acidifiers;
- (iii) **Veterinary Officer** – a duly-licensed veterinarian employed or deputized by the Director of the BAI specifically tasked to investigate, diagnose and control animal diseases, including the performance of such duties and functions provided in this Act and other laws;
- (iii) **Veterinary Services** – the activities in the implementation of animal health, welfare, feed control, and animal production food safety by government and non-government organizations;
- (kkk) **Zone** – a part of a country defined by the Veterinary Authority, containing an animal population or subpopulation with a specific animal health status with respect to an infection or infestation for the purposes of international trade or disease prevention or control.

Chapter II

STRUCTURE, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

SEC. 6. Organizational Structure. – The technical, administrative, finance and support services of the BAI shall be strengthened as may be appropriate and necessary to carry out effectively the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 7. Powers and Functions. – The BAI shall have the following principal powers through the Director or his duly designated representative:

- (a) **Regulatory Powers and Functions** - The BAI shall assume full control and direction in the conduct of animal disease surveillance, early disease detection and epidemiological investigation and disease diagnosis, prevention, control and eradication, and shall be the sole national controlling authority to regulate animal health, animal welfare, animal production food safety and matters connected or pertaining to, but not limited to, general sanitary measures, risk analysis, animal quarantine and inspection, animal feeds and feed ingredients, veterinary drugs/products, veterinary biological products, and other pharmaceuticals and products used on animals and the environment, animal facilities, equipment, veterinary devices and veterinary cosmetics, veterinary research, animal production and international certification procedures.

The BAI, in coordination with the competent authority on meat and meat products inspection, shall also be responsible in the regulation of importation and transport/movement of all meat products, including processed meat products.

- (b) **Policy Issuance on Animal Health & Veterinary Services and Systems and Technical Assistance and Supervision over all National Government Agencies and Offices with Animal Health Related Functions and Local Government Units** -

- (i) Policies related to veterinary services and animal health shall be formulated by the BAI, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, and jointly implemented by all national government agencies and offices with animal health related functions and the Local Government Units (LGUs).
- (ii) The BAI, in partnership with Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and/or other training service providers, shall extend training for capability building and strengthening of livestock and veterinary services and animal health related functions of all national government agencies and offices and LGUs.
- (iii) The BAI shall provide technical assistance to all stakeholders when requested. However, the exercise of technical supervision of all national government agencies and offices with animal health related functions and the local government units shall be vested solely with the BAI.

- (c) **Emergency Preparedness and Response** – The BAI shall lead and direct the investigation and management of outbreaks of dangerous communicable and zoonotic animal diseases, where the animal and/or human health status of the country is in actual or imminent danger and the economic status and food security of the country are threatened.

- (d) **Visitorial Power** – The BAI, through its duly authorized personnel, upon presenting appropriate credentials or authority to the owner, manager, or any person-in-charge, shall have the power to enter and inspect the premises of livestock and poultry farms and other animal establishments, conduct collection of laboratory specimens and samples, and when required by circumstances and as authorized by the Director, impose preventive and control measures therein, in coordination with concerned owners and caretakers.
- (e) **Declaration of Quarantine** – The Director or his authorized representative through a written order of quarantine shall cause the immediate closure, holding or detention for such period, if necessary, for observation and/or mandatory testing of animals, animal parts, products, and by-products, animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements and feed additives, veterinary biologicals, veterinary drugs/products and veterinary devices, and such other materials or substances which are suspected or deemed to be affected with or carriers of dangerous animal diseases or found to be undocumented, or of unknown source and conditions, and posing an imminent danger, threat and injury to the overall animal health situation in the country.
- (f) **Management of Veterinary Drug Residues, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), and Antimicrobial Use (AMU)** - The BAI and NMIS laboratories on veterinary drug residues, AMR, and AMU shall be merged and renamed as the Philippines Veterinary Drug Residues Center to strengthen the country's capability to detect veterinary drug residues, AMR, and AMU and to undertake intensive surveillance and control of the development and spread of antimicrobial resistant pathogens in animal production and in the food chain following the One Health Approach. The initial operation of the center during and the following year of the enactment of this Act shall be on a cost-sharing scheme between the BAI and the NMIS. Thereafter, the amount necessary to carry out this provision of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.
- (g) **Confiscation and Disposal** – The Director or his authorized representative, through an appropriate destruction order, shall have the authority to immediately confiscate and dispose of animals, animal parts, products, and by-products, animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements/additives, veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs/products, veterinary devices, other potential vectors of animal diseases and such other materials or substances that are declared prohibited or banned; or showing signs and symptoms of dangerous animal diseases; or, in case of animal feeds, veterinary drugs/products, biological and other materials or substances, tested positive for adulteration, or contamination with toxic chemicals or substances.

Articles or items that are undocumented or of unknown source and conditions, not covered in the preceding paragraph which the possessor, owner, consignee or importer, as the case maybe, failed to substantiate through submission of requisite documents, or establish the origin thereof and its compliance with pertinent regulations within seventy-two (72) hours from quarantine shall, likewise, be subject to confiscation and appropriate disposal.

- (h) ***Call for Assistance*** - The Director may call upon any government agency for any form of assistance consistent with its powers, duties, and responsibilities for the purpose of ensuring the effective and efficient implementation of this Act and the rules and regulations promulgated hereunder.
- (i) ***Delegation of Authority*** - The BAI Director shall have the authority to deputize government and private veterinarians to perform disease control functions, administer measures to address any animal health concerns, and such other functions for the proper implementation of national disease control policies and programs at all levels.

Chapter III

PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL STAFFING OF VETERINARY SERVICES

SEC. 8. Chief Veterinary Officer. - The Director of the BAI, who is a duly licensed veterinarian, shall be the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) of the country. He shall be primarily responsible in the formulation and implementation of national policies, strategies, priorities and action plans on animal health, animal welfare and animal production food safety. He shall also represent the country in official international dialogues on animal health matters.

The CVO shall coordinate and establish linkages with allied government agencies, the private sector and academe in the implementation of plans and programs in animal disease prevention, control and eradication to ensure prompt mobilization of all essential personnel and resources in the event of animal disease emergencies.

The CVO shall address current, recurring, new and prospective national issues and concerns on animal health, animal welfare, safe animal feeds and animal production food safety and security, with regional and global impact through the help of other allied government agencies and stakeholders.

SEC. 9. Veterinary Officers (VOs) and Veterinary Paraprofessionals (VPPs). - The Director of the BAI shall appoint veterinarians and other personnel under its employ as Veterinary Officers and Veterinary paraprofessionals. He shall deputize other personnel under

regional offices and local government units as VO and VPP. He shall prescribe the duties and responsibilities of the VO and VPP.

In the interest of the service, the VO and VPP shall be entitled to incentives, overtime pay and reimbursement of expenses for services rendered outside of office hours which shall be chargeable to the parties served, at the rates prescribed by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture upon the recommendation of the Director of BAI.

SEC. 10. Veterinarians. – All government agencies and private entities performing veterinary and related functions shall cooperate fully with the Director of the BAI as CVO and comply with the set policies and technical standards for veterinary services and practices as set by BAI and Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).

SEC. 11. Hazard allowance. – VOs, VPPs, and other veterinarians employed or deputized by the BAI, including their administrative and support personnel directly exposed to veterinary public health related activities and research shall be entitled to hazard allowance and other benefits provided under Republic Act No. 7305, also known as the Magna Carta for Public Health workers and Republic Act No. 8439, also known as Magna Carta for Scientists, Engineers, Researchers and other Science and Technology Personnel in Government.

Chapter IV ADVISORY COMMITTEES

SEC. 12. National and Regional Advisory Committees for Animal Diseases and Emergency. – The existing National and Regional Advisory Committees on Animal Disease Control and Emergency (NAC-ADCE/RAC-ADCE), are hereby renamed as the National and Regional Veterinary Advisory Committee (NVAC/RVAC) providing advice to the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Chairperson of the NVAC shall be a duly licensed veterinarian of good standing, competence and probity in the veterinary profession. He shall be designated as such by the Secretary of Agriculture.

The manner in the filling up of the members of the committee and sub-committees shall be prescribed and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture upon recommendation of the Director of BAI. The composition of the committee shall be updated from time to time and as may be needed by circumstances.

SEC. 13. Duties and Functions. – The NVAC and RVAC shall be directly responsible to the Secretary of Agriculture and shall perform the following duties and functions:

- (a) To give advice and recommendations to the DA Secretary/BAI Director on the following issues and concerns:
 - (i) Prevention, control, eradication and monitoring of economically harmful animal diseases including those transmissible to humans.
 - (ii) Procedures to be followed in times of emergencies, e.g., epidemic of animal diseases and disasters, man-made and natural.
 - (iii) Verification of reports of emerging animal diseases. Assist in the dissemination of information in all aspects of animal diseases.
- (b) Create special working committees to address special issues and concerns of the Department through the BAI and the NMIS.

SEC. 14. Other Advisory Committees. – Other Advisory Committees may be created to assist the BAI in the implementation of its various programs and projects. All advisory committees shall be administratively and financially supported by BAI.

Chapter V

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REGIONAL FIELD AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT VETERINARY OFFICES

SEC. 15. Regional and LGU Assistance and Cooperation. – The DA Regional Field Offices (RFOs) and Local Government Units (LGUs) shall assist and closely cooperate with the BAI in the implementation of the provisions of this Act. They shall extend any available manpower, security, material and financial resources to any national animal disease prevention and control measures, animal welfare and other national programs being undertaken by the BAI within their respective jurisdictions.

SEC. 16. Oversight Function. – The BAI shall have oversight function over all national and regional government agencies and offices, and the local government units on animal health related functions. It has the power to review and monitor the implementation of the plans, programs, and projects on animal disease prevention, control, and eradication by the LGU veterinary officers (VOs) and veterinary paraprofessionals (VPPs) and to assess whether they are achieving expected results, outputs represent good value for money, and they are in compliance with all issued policies and ethical standards.

SEC. 17. Creation of Veterinary Positions in Local Government Units. Amending Sections 443, 454, 463, and 489, of Republic Act No. 7160, also known as the “Local Government Code of 1991”, as amended by Section 7 (10) of Republic Act No. 9482 otherwise known as the “Anti-Rabies Act of 2007”, the position of Provincial, City and Municipal Veterinarian is deemed mandatory in all classes of LGUs.

SEC. 18. Responsibilities of Provincial, City and Municipal Veterinarians. – In addition to the duties of LGU veterinarians as provided in Section 489 of Republic Act No. 7160, also known as the “Local

Government Code of 1991” and in all other relevant laws, LGU veterinarians shall perform the following:

- (a) Ensure the implementation of policies, rules and regulations issued by BAI and other concerned agencies in accordance with the provisions of this Act and its related laws, rules and regulations towards the enforcement of animal disease prevention, control measures and regulations;
- (b) Extend assistance, as may be necessary, to the BAI and other concerned agencies in the implementation or enforcement of animal disease prevention and control measures within their area of responsibility;
- (c) Comply with all reportorial and documentary requirements needed by the BAI and other concerned agencies in the implementation of this Act;
- (d) Establish database for animal facilities and establishments in their jurisdiction as defined under this Act; and
- (e) Link with national technical networks and administrative networks and comply with its respective standards in the practice of veterinary medicine.

SEC. 19. Issuance of Mayor's Permit. – No LGU shall issue any Mayor's Permit or Business Permit to operate any farm, slaughterhouse, clinic, animal facility, kennel or any other veterinary establishment unless the owner/operator has secured clearance from the provincial, city or municipal veterinarian attesting to the fact that the establishment has complied with all the requirements prescribed under national laws, rules and regulations.

Chapter VI

ROLE OF ALLIED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, NON-GOVERNMENT ENTITIES AND OTHER SECTORS

SEC. 20. Allied Government Agencies. – Allied government agencies that are performing veterinary services and related functions in accordance with their legal mandate shall continue to do so. The Director of BAI as the CVO may call upon the allied government agencies and academe in the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 21. Other Agencies and Sectors. – The BAI shall establish agreements with other government sectors, non-government entities, private sectors, academe and other relevant agencies such as but not limited to, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Department of National Defense (DND) and stakeholders in the implementation of plans and programs in animal disease prevention, control and eradication and ensure prompt mobilization of all essential personnel and resources in the event of animal disease emergencies.

Chapter VII

ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANIMAL PRODUCTION FOOD SAFETY

SEC. 22. *Duty to Report Notifiable Diseases.* – The BAI Director as the CVO shall issue the list of Notifiable Animal Diseases. This list shall be updated annually or as necessary.

All animal and livestock producers, owners, establishment operators, and managers, farm veterinarians, and farm consultants who have in their possession or care, animals or animal products infected or suspected to be infected, or have reasonable grounds to believe that the animal or animal product is infected with a Notifiable Disease are duty bound to report to the concerned Local Government Unit-Veterinary Office or to the BAI and DA RFO immediately within twenty-four (24) hours by the quickest means possible.

SEC. 23. *Proper Disposal of Potentially Infective Materials.* – Dead animals, manure and other potentially infective materials from regular operations of farms, slaughterhouses, clinics, animal disease diagnostic laboratories, and other animal facilities shall be disposed in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations and other specific guidelines issued by BAI and other regulatory agencies.

SEC. 24. *Animal Disease Surveillance and Epidemiology.* – All agencies and entities performing veterinary services shall be responsible in monitoring animal disease situation by conducting regular surveillance of the animal and livestock population in their respective jurisdiction and are required to report to BAI as provided by Chapter VII of this act.

SEC. 25. *Registration and Traceability.* – Each farm shall be issued a number which the owner shall use to identify the animals coming from the farm. The same farm and animal identification number shall be used by the NMIS in the identification and traceability of the meat. Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, the BAI and NMIS shall issue the guidelines on farm registration, identification, and traceability which shall be jointly implemented by BAI, NMIS, and the LGUs. All animal raisers, backyard and/or commercial, shall register with the LGU where the farm is located.

SEC. 26. *Animal Health Information System.* – The BAI shall strengthen the Philippine animal health information system involving other agencies and other stakeholders on animal health through the establishment of an effective information network. All information derived from the system shall be consolidated into the National Registry.

SEC. 27. *Mandatory Vaccination.* – The BAI shall issue a list of diseases requiring mandatory vaccination to prevent, control, and eradicate emerging or re-emerging, communicable and exotic diseases. All animals

shall have to be vaccinated in accordance with the guidelines issued by BAI. In case of refusal to vaccinate despite due notice, the BAI shall have authority to require the LGU concerned to revoke the Mayor's and Business Permits issued for the operation of the establishment, and/or impose fines or penalties to owners.

SEC. 28. *Emergency Preparedness.* – The BAI shall draft the National Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Plans in response to animal health and animal production food safety issues. Measures shall be developed consistent with One Health approach and shall be regularly tested through simulation exercises.

SEC. 29. *Risk Analysis.* – Principles of risk analysis shall be incorporated in all policy formulation and standard setting such as, but not limited to, declaration of animal diseases, emergency, quarantine, and importation of animals, animal products, by-products, veterinary biological products, animal feeds and animal effects.

SEC. 30. *Veterinary Public Health.* – The BAI shall take the lead role in the formulation and implementation of veterinary public health programs and activities particularly in the prevention and control of zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance, and animal production food safety.

SEC. 31. *Veterinary and Related Researches on Animal Health.* – All government agencies, entities or instrumentalities, and government academic institutions conducting veterinary and/or related researches on animal health shall furnish a copy of the research output to the BAI. An experts team for research and development composed of veterinarians, researchers, marketing professionals and legal practitioners shall assist the researcher in determining the area of application, the end users, the follow-up research/es when needed, and the marketability of the new technology, and provide expert advice on the ways forward to the researcher and interested user/s, create a research registry, develop a communication plan, and publish annually all veterinary and related researches for the information of the stakeholders. *Provided*, that intellectual property right shall not be impaired. *Provided further*, that Department of Agriculture through the National Livestock Program shall provide priority funding support to developed technology that will prevent, control, stamp out, and eradicate zoonosis and diseases of economic importance.

SEC. 32. *Researches on Animal Health.* – The Department of Agriculture shall prioritize funding support to develop technology that will prevent, control, stamp out, and eradicate zoonosis and diseases of economic importance. All government agencies, entities or instrumentalities, and government academic institutions conducting veterinary and/or related researches on animal health shall furnish a copy of the research output to the Bureau of Animal Industry.

SEC. 33. Prohibition of Swill Feeding. – Feeding of swill is prohibited unless it is properly heated or re-cooked since it can potentially cause infection in animals. The BAI, together with concerned government agencies and other entities, shall take initiatives to develop technologies to transform swill into safe material for animal feeding and other uses. It shall be the duty of the LGU to monitor the disposal of swill in their locality in accordance to the guidelines set by BAI.

SEC. 34. Mandatory Engagement of the Professional Services of a Veterinarian. – All animal facilities and establishments such as, but not limited to, farms, zoos, kennels, apiaries, aviaries, livestock markets and slaughterhouses, animal race tracks and cockpits shall engage the professional services of a veterinarian based on minimum number of animals and other parameters to be prescribed by the BAI, in consultation with concerned sectors.

SEC. 35. Standards, parameters and protocols for Animal Health Farm. – The BAI, in consultation with stakeholders, shall establish the standards, parameters and protocols pertaining to animal health and good animal husbandry practices for purposes of undertaking farm inspection and issuance of certification.

CHAPTER VIII

QUARANTINE MEASURES, FACILITIES AND BORDER SECURITY

SEC. 36. Veterinary Quarantine. – The BAI shall upgrade the veterinary quarantine system in order to prevent the entry of animal diseases and other hazards into the country. This shall include modernizing and upgrading the quarantine stations to facilitate the inspection of animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal feeds and feed ingredients, veterinary drugs/products, veterinary biologicals, veterinary cosmetics and veterinary devices through the construction of first and second border facilities, designated cold examination areas at ports, checkpoints, installing disinfection systems and proper disposal facilities and procedures for condemned items as listed in this paragraph.

SEC. 37. Import Border Control. – The BAI shall institute measures to protect the country's borders through implementation of pre-border measures based on risk analysis, first border measures, second border measures and release from custom zones. The BAI shall issue regularly an updated list of prohibited importation from countries known or declared to be infected with dangerous communicable diseases. All kinds of wildlife that are subject to veterinary quarantine regulations shall be under BAI jurisdiction. All transshipments of live animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal feeds and feed ingredients, veterinary drugs/products, veterinary biologicals, veterinary cosmetics and veterinary devices at domestic or international ports of call shall comply with the animal health and welfare rules and regulations prescribed by the BAI.

SEC. 38. *Export Control.* – No animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal feeds and feed ingredients, veterinary drugs/products, veterinary biologicals, veterinary cosmetics and veterinary devices shall be allowed to be exported and loaded on board ships and airplanes or any vehicle unless it is accompanied by the prescribed documents and such other documents as may be required by the competent authority and it has complied with the quarantine requirements of the country of destination.

SEC. 39. *Domestic Movement.* – All inland and inter-island shipments of animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal feeds, feed ingredients, veterinary drugs/products, veterinary biologicals, veterinary cosmetics and veterinary devices from one province or region/ or island province/region to another shall be accompanied by a veterinary health certificate and transport authorization duly issued by the BAI or duly authorized representative. All agencies/entities managing airports and seaports shall require the owner, agent or master of carrier, or vessel or other means of transport to secure and submit a copy of clearance from the Veterinary Officer/Inspector or his deputies assigned thereat as a prerequisite to issuance of clearance to depart from the port. The Veterinary Quarantine Officer (VQO) shall clear all shipments of animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal feeds, feed ingredients, veterinary drugs/products, veterinary biologicals, veterinary cosmetics and veterinary devices being carried by incoming or outgoing domestic vessel or aircraft.

(a) ***Illegal or Unauthorized Movement*** – Shipments of animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal feeds and feed ingredients, veterinary drugs/products, veterinary biologicals, veterinary cosmetics and veterinary devices which are found to be in violation of this Act and its rules and regulations, or orders of the Director or his duly authorized representative shall be confiscated and disposed of in a manner prescribed by the BAI.

(b) ***Registration of Commercial Traders and Shippers*** – All commercial livestock trader and shippers or handlers of live animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal feeds, feed ingredients, veterinary drugs/products, veterinary biologicals, veterinary cosmetics and veterinary devices who are engaged in the inter-provincial, inter-regional, inter-island and international shipment/ transportation of livestock shall register with the BAI in order to maintain disease free areas and achieve safe, clean and orderly handling of commodities through the various stages of marketing or distribution channels.

SEC. 40. *Quarantine Protocols.* – The BAI shall establish and implement protocols prescribing standard operating procedures for Veterinary Quarantine Services, declaration of affected areas, premises or zones under quarantine, movement in infected areas, lifting of order of quarantine, duty of owner or holder, controlled shipments, depopulation

order, destruction order, cleaning and disinfection order, disease-free areas and disposal of food/garbage from vessels or plane.

SEC. 41. *Expenses of Quarantine and Authority to Dispose.* – The owner, consignee, or possessor of the imported animals placed under the 30-day quarantine shall shoulder all quarantine-related costs such as testing of animals and shall reimburse the BAI for other incidental expenses incurred during the quarantine period of such animals. In case of his failure to do so after a notice of release of quarantine has been issued and duly served upon him, the BAI shall have the right to auction off his animals to recover such expenses made after due notice.

SEC. 42. *Payment of Expenses.* – All charges for insurance, storage, demurrage, cartage, labor and other incidental expenses relative to the inspection, cost of disinfection and disposition and other post border requirement shall be paid by the importer, exporter, shipper or consignee, as the case may be.

SEC. 43. *Non-Liability Clause.* – The Veterinary Quarantine Officer or any other authorized personnel of the Veterinary Quarantine Services shall not be held liable for damages to the live animals, meat products, commodities or any other damages in the course of implementation of the provisions of this Act, as well as its implementing rules and regulations.

SEC. 44. *Responsibility of Bureau of Customs (BOC), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) and Operators of Other Ports.* –

- (a) The BOC, PPA, CAAP and other seaport and airport authorities shall fully cooperate with the Veterinary Quarantine Service in the enforcement of this Act or any rules and regulations issued in the implementation thereto, and enforce the same in so far as they are connected with matters of shipping, navigation and transportation, or shipment/transport of animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, animal feeds, and veterinary drugs/products and veterinary biologics.
- (b) The CAAP and other airport authorities shall provide a respectable Veterinary Quarantine Office space in all airports in the country free of charge, while the PPA and other seaport authorities shall provide the same for the establishment of Veterinary Quarantine Stations/Offices within the port premises, also free of charge.

Chapter IX

DISEASE COMPENSATION AND ERADICATION TRUST FUND

SEC. 45. *Creation of a Disease Compensation and Eradication Trust Fund.* – A Disease Compensation and Eradication Trust Fund is hereby established and the initial amount or seed fund of Two Billion Pesos

(Php 2,000,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the purpose. Thereafter, the Fund shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act in such amounts as may be warranted by existing needs and requirements.

The Fund shall be held in a special trust account by the Bureau of Treasury to be released to the BAI in accordance with existing rules and regulations. The Fund shall not be reduced below Two Billion Pesos (Php 2,000,000,000.00) annually and any unobligated amount remaining after a fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund.

SEC. 46. Authority of LGUs to create the Local Disease Compensation and Eradication Fund. – Cities and municipalities are granted the authority to create a counterpart Local Disease Compensation and Eradication Fund by way of an ordinance. The Fund shall be sourced from amounts collected from owners of animals slaughtered in the slaughter/dressing facility located within their jurisdiction, at rates prescribed by the local Sanggunian. Following the national guidelines prescribed by BAI on fund utilization as required under Sections 45 and 50 of this Act, the LGU shall be responsible in the use of their locally generated fund, complying with existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SEC. 47. Fund Utilization. – The Fund shall be applied for the payment of compensation to the owner of animals that are culled as part of the government's disease control program. It shall also be utilized for the payment of other expenses directly connected with controlling, eradicating or preventing, the spread of any animal disease decreed by the BAI.

SEC. 48. Coverage of Compensation. – Only those animals that were culled pursuant to the Depopulation Order issued by the Director to prevent further spread of the disease shall be indemnified.

SEC. 49. Compensable Amount. – The amount of compensation payable shall not be more than sixty percent (60%) of the market value of the identified animals that are ordered depopulated on account of a disease.

SEC. 50. Issuance of Compensation Guidelines. – Guidelines for the payment of compensation shall be prescribed by the BAI, in consultation with stakeholders.

Chapter X

VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC AND ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES

SEC. 51. Official Accreditation. – The BAI shall be responsible for regulating both government and private veterinary testing laboratories. Only results from BAI officially accredited veterinary diagnostic and analytical testing laboratory facilities shall be recognized for purposes of diagnosis and analysis. The BAI shall develop guidelines and standards in the official

accreditation of various veterinary laboratory facilities and adopt quality systems towards international certification.

SEC. 52. *National Veterinary Laboratory Network.* – A National Veterinary Laboratory Network that includes among others, diagnostic, analytical and chemical laboratories both public and private, shall be established by BAI to meet all the needs of the Veterinary Services for a sustainable, effective, safe and efficient implementation of the provisions of this Act. The laboratory network shall include modern methodologies, infrastructure, equipment, maintenance and personnel. Performance of laboratories shall be regularly reviewed, audited and updated through national, regional or international proficiency testing and competency assessment programs. The BAI shall be responsible in gaining access to international reference laboratories or OIE reference laboratories to obtain further confirmatory tests analysis.

SEC. 53. *Biosafety and Biosecurity.* – Standards and guidelines for laboratory biosafety and biosecurity shall be established and practiced by veterinary and feed analysis laboratories based on national and international recommendations.

SEC. 54. *Reference Diagnostic Laboratory.* – The BAI-Animal Disease Diagnosis and Reference Laboratory (ADDRL) shall serve as the national reference laboratory for animal disease diagnosis and analysis. The ADDRL shall join international competency assessment to maintain its capacity as the reference laboratory.

Chapter XI

REGULATIONS ON ANIMAL FEEDS AND VETERINARY DRUGS AND PRODUCTS

SEC. 55. *Controlling authority.* – In the overriding interests of protecting the animal and public health of the country, the BAI is the national controlling authority for veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs/products, veterinary devices, veterinary cosmetics, mixed animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements, feed additives, concentrates, base feeds, base mixes, specialty feeds, special feed nutrient preparations, other feed products and their establishments. The BAI shall provide the necessary rules and regulations on their manufacture, production, importation, exportation, distribution, handling, storage, sale, and use.

SECTION 56. *Collaborating Agreement.* – To ensure livestock protection from diseases and prevent associated human health risks, the BAI will enter into collaborating agreement with Food and Drug Authority (FDA) where BAI shall report on the registration of relevant products to FDA and set regular meetings to update FDA on the product registration and other issues.

SEC. 57. *Licensing of animal feeds, veterinary drugs/products and biologics establishments.* – Any entity desiring to engage in the manufacture and/or production, importation, exportation, repacking distribution and sale of veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs and products, veterinary devices, veterinary cosmetics, mixed animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements, feed additives, concentrates, base feeds, base mixes, special feeds, special feed nutrient preparations, other feed products shall first be licensed by the BAI.

SEC. 58. *Registration of Products.* – Each type, brand or kind of veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs/products, veterinary devices, veterinary cosmetics, veterinary cosmetics, mixed animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements, feed additives, concentrates, base feeds, base mixes, specialty feeds, specialty feed nutrient preparations, and other feed products, manufactured, imported, distributed, exported or offered for sale shall first be registered with Bureau of Animal Industry.

SEC. 59. *Importation of Animal Feeds, Veterinary Biological products, Veterinary Drugs and Related Products.* – Importation of veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs/products, veterinary devices, veterinary cosmetics, mixed animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements, feed additives, concentrates, base feeds, base mixes, specialty feeds, special feed nutrient preparations, other feed products without valid SPS and permits duly issued by the BAI shall not be allowed entry. All in-transit shipments at the time of the occurrence of a foreign disease or contagion shall be subjected to strict quarantine and laboratory testing, or automatically denied entry and/or confiscation and disposal, as the BAI may determine, in the overriding interests of protecting the animal and public health of the country.

SEC. 60. *Temporary Revocation and Suspension of License or Permit, and/or Stoppage of Production.* – Failure of any grantee of license registration and permits to comply with any of the requirements provided in this Act or its implementing rules and regulations shall be sufficient ground for the immediate temporary suspension or revocation of such license or permit, and/or stoppage of production and marketing for the particular product, with authority to institute recall order for said product, subject to the institution of immediate formal proceedings against the grantee or licensee.

Chapter XII

CAPACITY BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 61. *Capacity Building.* – The BAI and ATI shall design a standard capacity building program that follows the Day One and advanced competencies prescribed by OIE. The program shall be implemented across national and local government units to address animal health. The academe and private sector shall be encouraged to adopt and implement the program.

SEC. 62. Capacity development. – The government shall ensure that necessary tools to implement animal health programs and address animal health challenges are developed and applied. These may include, but not limited to, use of epidemiology assessment tools, laboratory assessment tools and diagnostic kits, data management and analysis.

Chapter XIII

INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC COLLABORATION

SEC. 63. Membership to International Organizations. – The Philippines shall maintain its membership in the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and participate actively in activities relevant to animal health undertaken by other recognized international organizations such as, but not limited to, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO-UN) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

SEC. 64. Participation in International Meetings and Workshops on Animal Health. – The veterinary services at central and local unit levels shall ensure that veterinary staff participate in relevant international and national meetings and workshops on animal health to keep abreast with current developments on animal health.

SEC. 65. Collaboration with Partners to Strengthen Animal Health Capacity. – The veterinary services at central and local unit levels shall ensure that collaboration and cooperation with international development partners and national development partners involved in strengthening capacity on animal health are maintained and enhanced.

SEC. 66. Compliance with International Obligations/Standards. – The BAI, as the designated competent authority on animal health, shall be responsible for ensuring and/or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification, international reporting obligations and adoption of standards.

CHAPTER XIV

PROHIBITIONS AND PENALTIES

SEC. 67. Failure to Report Notifiable Diseases. – All animal producers, owners, operators, establishment managers, veterinarians, and consultants who have sufficient knowledge of a notifiable disease and fail to report it to the LGU Veterinary Office or to the BAI or to the DA RFO immediately within twenty-four (24) hours by the quickest means possible shall be fined for the first offense, the amount of not less than Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php 20,000.00) and for each succeeding offense by a fine of not less than Thirty Thousand Pesos (Php 30,000.00) or an imprisonment of not less than Thirty (30) days but not more than Six (6) months or both at the discretion of the court.

SECTION 68. Obstruction of Duty. – Any person who disobeys, evades, obstructs or hinders the BAI Director or any of his enforcement officers or deputized officers to perform his duty shall be penalized by a fine of Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php 20,000.00). A repetition of the same offense shall be penalized by a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 50,000.00) or an imprisonment of not less than Six (6) Months but not more than One (1) year, or both at the discretion of the court, and cancellation of the registration, permit, or license of such person, farm or establishment owner, transport operator whichever is applicable.

SEC. 69. False Statement. – Any person who knowingly makes false declaration or misleading statement, such as but not limited to forging and re-using of Veterinary Health Certificate, laboratory results and other relevant documents, in his application for an authorization shall be penalized by a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 50,000.00) or an imprisonment of not less than One (1) month but not more than Six (6) months, or both at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 70. Non-registration of Transport Facilities and Equipments. – Failure of the owner to register vessels, vehicles, and equipment related to transport of animals, animal products and by-products, animal feeds and feedstuffs, veterinary drugs/products, veterinary biological products, veterinary devices and other products shall be penalized by a fine of not less than Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php 20,000.00) or an imprisonment of not less than Thirty (30) days but not more than Sixty (60) days, or both, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 71. Unauthorized Transport and Movement of Products. – Any person, officers of corporation, association, organization, or establishment found to be transporting animals, animal products and by-products, processed animal products, animal feeds and feed ingredients, veterinary drugs, veterinary products, veterinary biologicals, veterinary cosmetics and veterinary devices without first securing authorization from the BAI shall be penalized by a fine of not less than Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php 20,000.00) for the first offense, not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 50,000.00) for the second offense, and not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 100,000.00) for the third offense. Likewise, any person found to be transporting animals, animal products and by-products, processed animal products, animal feeds and feed ingredients, veterinary drugs, veterinary products, veterinary biologicals, veterinary cosmetics and veterinary devices in a commercial quantity as defined by the BAI shall be penalized by a fine of not less than Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 250,000.00) for the first offense, Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 500,000.00) for the second offense, and One Million Pesos (Php 1,000,000.00) for the third and any succeeding offense, with an imprisonment of not less than Thirty (30) days, or both, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 72. *Non-observance of Prescribed Procedures.* – Any person or establishment operator which (a) during the course of regular operation fails to observe BAI or his authorized representative approved procedures, or (b) during seizure, detention or quarantine fails to seek clearance from BAI on the handling, disposal, or destruction and removal of live or dead animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs/products and veterinary devices, animal feeds and feed ingredients, shall be penalized by a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand pesos (Php 50,000.00) or an imprisonment of not less than Thirty (30) Days but not more than Sixty (60) days, or both at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 73. *Unauthorized Operation and Use of Registration Number.* – Establishment operators/owners found without a valid License to Operate from BAI or unlawfully using the registration number of another establishment shall be penalized by a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 100,000.00) or an imprisonment of not less than Thirty (30) Days but not more than One (1) year, or both, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 74. *Failure to Display and Use of Fake or Expired Registration Certificate.* – Establishment operators found not displaying the License to Operate or displaying fake or expired licenses in the premises of the establishments shall be penalized by a fine of not less than Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php 20,000.00) for the first offense and closure of said establishments for second offense.

SEC. 75. *Illegal Manufacture and Marketing of Animal Feeds, Veterinary Drugs/Products and Veterinary Biological Products.* – Any person or establishment operator engaged in the manufacture, trade, importation, distribution, use or sale of banned, substandard, tampered, adulterated, deficient, unlabeled or mislabeled, unbranded or misbranded, expired, repacked, unregistered or damaged through improper handling of veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs/products, veterinary devices, mixed animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements, feed additives, premixes, base feeds, base mixes, concentrates, specialty feeds, special feed nutrient preparations and other feed products, in any form shall be penalized by a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 100,000.00) but not more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 500,000.00) or an imprisonment of not less than Thirty (30) Days but not more than One (1) year or both, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 76. *Illegal Acts on Labeling of Fake and Adulterated Veterinary Drugs/Products and Veterinary Biological Products.* – Any person or establishment operator found guilty of tampering, altering, mutilating, destroying, obliterating or removing the whole or any part of the labeling material packages and tags or labels of, or using fake or adulterated veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs/products and veterinary devices, mixed animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements, feed

additives, base feeds, base mixes, concentrates, specialty feeds, special feed nutrient preparations and other feed products, in any form shall be penalized by a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 100,000.00) but not more than One Million Pesos (Php 1,000,000.00) or an imprisonment of not less than Sixty (60) Days but not more than One (1) year or both, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 77. *Illegal Use and Sale of Veterinary and Human Drugs.* – Any person found to be using and selling unauthorized veterinary or human drugs for animals raised for human consumption shall be penalized by a fine of not less than Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (Php 25,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 100,000.00) or an imprisonment of not less than Thirty (30) days but not more than One (1) year, or both, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 78. *Refusal to Vaccinate Animals.* – Refusal of an owner or caretaker to have his animals vaccinated against diseases covered by mandatory vaccination shall be penalized by a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 10,000.00) or an imprisonment of not less than Ten (10) Days but not more than Thirty (30) days, or both, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 79. *Other Violations of this Act.* – Any person, officers of corporation, association, organization or establishment found to be in violation of any of the provisions of this Act that are not covered by the foregoing provisions, or rules and regulations issued therewith, shall be penalized by a fine of not less than Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php 20,000) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 100,000) or an imprisonment of not less than Thirty (30) days but not more than One (1) Year, or both, at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 80. *Exceptions under certain conditions.* – Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed as requiring the Director to certify for prosecution any first violation of this Act whenever sufficient compliance and public interest, with no damage caused to the public or any individual, will be adequately served by a suitable written notice of violation and warning duly endorsed by the appropriate Hearing Committee described under Chapter XV hereof, and recommended by the Director to the Secretary of Agriculture for approval.

SEC. 81. *Repeated Violation.* – Any person found to have committed a second violation of the same offense shall suffer the penalty of fine and imprisonment prescribed for said offense.

Chapter XV

REVOCATION AND SUSPENSION PROCEEDINGS

SEC. 82. *Institution of Complaint.* – The Director or upon the instance of any interested party may file a complaint before the hearing

committee for the formal suspension or revocation of the license or permit duly issued by the BAI for violation of its terms and conditions, or any provisions of the rules and regulations applicable thereto.

SEC. 83. *Hearing Committee.* – A hearing committee is hereby created to hear any complaint filed under the preceding section. It shall be composed of at least three (3) members. The Assistant Director and two (2) Division Chiefs or other BAI Officers as may be designated by the Director, as members thereof.

SEC. 84. *Powers and Functions.* – The Hearing Committee shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) To conduct formal investigation and hearings on the cases before it and make recommendations for appropriate actions thereon for approval of the Director;
- (b) To administer oaths, issue summons and subpoenas requiring the attendance and testimony of witnesses or the production of such books, papers, contracts, records, statement of accounts, agreements, and other documents as may be material to a just determination of the matter under investigation, and to testify in any investigation or hearing conducted in pursuance to this Act;
- (c) To hold any person in contempt, directly or indirectly, and impose appropriate penalties therefore ranging from One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00) to Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 10,000.00);
- (d) To enjoin any or all acts involving or arising from any case pending before it which, if not restrained forthwith, may cause grave or irreparable damage to any party or the government; and
- (e) To use every and all reasonable means to ascertain the facts, issues and applicable laws, rules and jurisprudence in each case speedily and objectively and without regard to technicalities of law or procedure, all in the interest of due process.

In any proceeding before the Committee, the parties may be represented by a legal counsel. The Committee Report, when approved by the Director shall be final and binding on the parties after the lapse of fifteen (15) days from its date of receipt by said parties. Subject to execution pending appeal, any aggrieved party may appeal to the Secretary of Agriculture within the same period.

Chapter XVI

GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 85. *Confidentiality of Technical Information.* – The BAI shall take such measure as may be necessary to protect trade, industrial and policy data of industry stakeholders acquired or gathered during the course of official business when disclosure of such information will prejudice the competitiveness or operational viability of concerned persons or entities.

SEC. 86. *Non-Liability Clause.* – All implementors of this Act shall not be held liable for any damages and losses incurred by any individual or entity arising from the performance of their duties and functions under this Act.

SEC. 87. *Regulatory Fees and Retention of Income.* –

- (a) The BAI shall have the authority to impose charges and fees, including but not limited to application, authorization, registration, inspection, certification, or processing fees for the services rendered in the implementation of this Act subject to the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture.
- (b) The fees imposed shall annually be determined and reviewed by the BAI and any proposed increase shall be published in a leading newspaper of general circulation.
- (c) All collected fees relative to the enforcement of this Act of the BAI collected relative to enforcement of regulatory and laboratory activities as mandated by this Act shall be deposited in an authorized government depository bank as a special account called Animal Health Protection Fund. Any interest earned by such fund shall form part of the retained income. Such fund shall be used primarily for but not limited to the acquisition and expansion of office and laboratory space, human resource development and expansion, animal health programs, hazard allowances, purchase of laboratory equipment and motor vehicles, the upgrading of its current facilities and equipment, and maintenance, other operating expenses of the central and regional laboratories, and other activities, services of the agency in the performance of its mandate and support enforcement and monitoring activities.
- (d) The Animal Health Protection Fund shall be allowed to accept grants, donations and other endowments from local and external sources in accordance with pertinent laws, rules and regulations.
- (e) Any contribution, donation, bequest, subsidy or financial aid which may be made to the BAI for the implementation of this Act shall constitute as an allowable deduction from the taxable income of the donor/giver and shall be exempted from donor's tax.
- (f) The retention, use and application of this fund shall not be delayed, amended, altered, or modified, or affected in any way by an order or directive from any executive office, but will be subject only to the general accounting rules and guidelines by the Commission on Audit (COA). The primary purpose of the fund as herein stated shall prevail over any other purpose that may be pursued by BAI on its own initiative or through an order or directive by any higher office. The BAI shall submit annually to the Secretaries of Agriculture and

Budget & Management a report on how funds were utilized including its accomplishments.

- (g) There shall also be established a legal fund out of the interest earned from the retained income for use in case of legal actions against the officials, employees of the BAI in the course of the exercise of their official functions and duties.

SEC. 88. *Foreign and Local Grants and Aids.* – The BAI, in itself, or in collaboration with other agencies shall receive grants and other funds for its research activities and various programs.

SEC. 89. *Veterinary Education.* – The BAI in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education and PVMA shall regularly provide recommendations to make the veterinary medical curriculum responsive to the needs and imperatives of the country.

Chapter XVII

TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

SEC. 90. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The BAI, in consultation with various stakeholders, shall formulate and recommend to the Secretary of Agriculture the necessary rules and regulations for the full implementation of this Act, provided, however, that the formulated rules and regulations shall be submitted to both Houses of Congress for information and guidance. Such rules and regulations shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

SEC. 91. *Modification Plan.* – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the BAI shall formulate and submit to DBM the organizational modification plan for the strengthening of BAI to implement the provisions of this Act. DBM shall review and approve the plan no later than ninety (90) days from its final submission by BAI.

SEC. 92. *Creation and Reclassification of Positions.* – The BAI is hereby authorized to create, upgrade, collapse or reclassify existing positions to veterinary and related positions necessary to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

Chapter XVIII

FINAL PROVISIONS

SEC.93. *Appropriations.* – The appropriations for BAI included in the budget of the Department of Agriculture under the current General Appropriations Act shall be used to effectively carry out the implementation of this Act. The appropriation may be augmented by the income which the agency is authorized to use under this Act. Thereafter, such sums as may

be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 94. *Mandatory Review.* – The Congress of the Philippines shall undertake a mandatory review of this Act at least once every five (5) years and as often as it may deem necessary, to ensure that veterinary policies and guidelines remain responsive to changing circumstances.

SEC. 95. *Repealing Clause.* – Any provision of law or regulation inconsistent with this Act shall be considered modified or repealed accordingly. However, the provisions of Act No. 3639, Republic Act No. 8435, as amended, otherwise known as the “Agricultural Fisheries Modernization Act”, Executive Order No. 292, otherwise known as the “Administrative Code of 1987”, Republic Act No. 1556, as amended by Presidential Decree No. 7, otherwise known as the “Livestock and Poultry Feeds Act”, Act No. 3101, Republic Act No. 1071, Republic Act No. 1578, otherwise known as the “Livestock Promotion Fund”, Batas Pambansa Blg. 97, Republic Act No. 8485, otherwise known as the “Animal Welfare Act of 1998”, Republic Act No. 10631, otherwise known as the “Anti-Rabies Act of 2007”, and such other laws which are not inconsistent with this Act shall remain valid and in full force and effect.

SEC. 96. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other portions or provisions hereof, which are not affected thereby, shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 97. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,