

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10536, May 15, 2013 ]**

**AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9262, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE MEAT INSPECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES"**

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

SECTION 1. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9296, otherwise known as "The Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines", hereinafter referred to as the "Act", is hereby amended by inserting between subsections 15 and 16, to be designated as subsection 16, to read as follows:

"SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* -

"x x x

"16. *Hot Meat* - the carcass or parts of carcass or food animals which were slaughtered from unregistered/unaccredited meat establishments and have not undergone the required inspection. It also includes undocumented, illegally shipped, and unregistered carcass, parts of carcass and meat products coming from other countries and those that are classified as hot meat by the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS)."

The succeeding subsections shall be renumbered accordingly.

SEC. 2. Section 7 of the Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 7. *Composition of the NMIS.* - The NMIS shall be headed by an Executive Director, a Deputy Executive Director and Regional Technical Directors III, all appointed by the President. The administrative, technical and support services of the NMIS shall be strengthened as may be appropriate and necessary to carry out effectively the provisions of this Act.

"The NMIS shall have the following divisions:

"a) Plant Operation and Inspection - which shall be responsible for the inspection and certification of meat and meat products and technical supervision of local government units (LGUs);

"b) Accreditation and Registration - which shall be responsible for the accreditation of meat establishments, rendering facilities, meat transport vehicles, meat establishment contractors, fabricators and suppliers and third party service providers and registration and certification;

"c) Enforcement and Food Defense - which shall be responsible for the enforcement of policies against hot meat and adulterated or misbranded meat products, and the

protection of meat products from hazardous contaminants;

"d). Meat; Import and Export Assistance and Inspection – which shall evaluate foreign meat establishments intending to export to the Philippines, accredit meat importers and exporters, inspect imported and certify for export meat and meat products, and provide technical assistance to meat exporters and importers;

"e) Meat Science and Technology – which shall be responsible for the technical training of veterinarians and meat inspectors on meat inspection, manages data on animal slaughter, provides technical assistance to the LGUs in the development of the LGUs meat control or inspection system, and develops safety and quality standards in consultation with the product standard setting agencies;

"f) Laboratory Services – which shall provide analytical services to detect contaminants in meat and meat products and data analysis;

"g) Consumer Information, Education and Assistance – which shall be responsible in conducting programs to inform, educate and assist consumers on meat safety and quality, conducts programs to promote meat safety and quality, and manages consumer complaints;

"h) Legal Affairs – which shall provide advice on all legal matters concerning the meat control or inspection system, provides NMIS and its personnel with legal assistance in litigation involving NMIS interest, conducts preliminary investigation on the basis of, and recommends the filing of appropriate legal and/or administrative actions on the basis of its findings;

"i) Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation – which shall be responsible for the research and formulation of appropriate policies and programs, development of the NMIS medium and long-term master plans and budget requirements, establishment and maintenance of NMIS data bank;

"j) Engineering and Climate Change – which shall provide technical assistance on the construction of in-house and meat establishments, assists in the development of standards for slaughtering and processing equipment, utensils and other paraphernalia used in meat inspection, and manages climate change programs;

"k) Administrative – which shall provide economical, efficient and effective services pertaining to human resource, records, equipment, security, logistics and related services; and

"l) Finance – which shall provide economical, efficient and effective finance and related services and shall administer the Meat Inspection Service Development Trust Fund (MISDTF).

"Appropriate sections and units shall also be established to fully complement the organizational structure of the NMIS "

SEC. 3. Section 9 of the Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 9. *Regional Technical Operation Centers (RTOC)*. – Upon the effectivity of this Act, the existing regional offices of the NMIS shall consist of the meat laboratories, technical, administrative and finance services to be manned by technical, administrative and finance personnel whose qualifications shall be determined by the Secretary of Agriculture and approved by the Civil Service Commission, to