

[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 22, February 05, 2020]

DIRECTING ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO STRICTLY IMPLEMENT AND COMPLY WITH THE "NATIONAL ZONING AND MOVEMENT PLAN FOR AFRICAN SWINE FEVER" UNDER DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ADMINISTRATIVE CIRCULAR NO. 12 (S. 2019)

WHEREAS, the African Swine Fever (ASF), despite having no known effect to humans, is a severe and highly contagious viral disease affecting domestic and wild pigs, with a case-fatality rate approaching 100%, caused by a resistant virus with no developed cure to date;

WHEREAS, the ASF is estimated to have affected more than 20 million pigs in Asia since 2018 and has caused serious economic and production losses in affected countries;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture (DA) has confirmed the occurrence of the virus in several areas in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, Republic Act (RA) No. 9296 or the "Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines," declares it a policy of the State to prevent the entry of disease-carrying animals into meat establishments and ensure the safety and quality of imported meat and meat products;

WHEREAS, under RA No. 10611 or the "Food Safety Act of 2013," the State aims to protect the public from food-borne and water-borne illnesses, and unsanitary, unwholesome, misbranded or adulterated foods;

WHEREAS, Section 15 of RA No. 10611 states that the DA shall be responsible for food safety in the primary production and post-harvest stages of food supply chain and foods, whether locally produced or imported;

WHEREAS, the DA, in its effort to manage, contain and control the ASF virus, has issued DA Administrative Circular No. 12 (s. 2019) on the "National Zoning and Movement Plan for the Prevention and Control of ASF," and has classified the country into various zones with respective movement protocols;

WHEREAS, RA No. 3639 declares the following acts as unlawful: (i) knowingly transporting domestic animals suffering from any dangerous communicable disease from one province or municipality to another; (ii) removing any class of animals from infected localities when there is a declaration that a dangerous communicable disease prevails therein, and when there is a danger of spreading such disease by transporting such class of animals outside the said locality; (iii) willfully importing animals, animal effects, parts or products from another country where a dangerous