

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 251, June 15, 1995]

**DECLARING THE ISLAND OF LUZON AS CALAMITY AREA AS A
RESULT OF THE FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE EPIDEMIC,
RATIONALIZING PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES FOR THE
ERADICATION OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN THE COUNTRY,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE**

WHEREAS, there has been a series of reports of outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in the animal industry particularly on swine, cattle, and carabao in the entire Island of Luzon;

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Agriculture through a Technical Committee created to look into these reports have confirmed the presence of the said disease in the entire Island of Luzon;

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture has recognized that the alarming rate of the spread of the disease has reached epidemic proportions; further, that such a spread must be arrested and prevented from affecting the Visayas and Mindanao provinces, including Palawan, most of which are now declared FMD-free zones;

WHEREAS, there is a need to rationalize the functions of the various government agencies and local government units concerned in the eradication of the disease from Philippine soil;

WHEREAS, failure to eradicate the disease from the country will greatly affect the animal industry and the national economy, as it will tend to work against our global competitiveness in this particular agricultural sector when the effectivity of World Trade Organization shall have commenced;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FIDEL V. RAMOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. That the entire Island of Luzon be declared as a Calamity Area as a result of the foot and mouth disease epidemic.

SEC. 2. The initial amount of Twenty Million (P20,000,000.00) pesos be released from the President's calamity fund for the initial implementation of this Order, if the need arises, further fund releases from the calamity fund shall be allowed upon approval by the Office of the President.

SEC. 3. The Department of Agriculture, through the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), shall coordinate and supervise the implementation of the necessary preventive and control measures, the monitoring of the presence of the Foot and Mouth Disease, and the procurement, distribution, and administration of vaccines to the affected areas of the country.