

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 137, November 28, 1993]

PROVIDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE DEVOLUTION OF CERTAIN POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE NATIONAL MEAT INSPECTION COMMISSION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

WHEREAS, Section 17 of Republic Act No. 7160 provides for the establishment and operation of public slaughterhouses as one of the basic services and facilities to be undertaken by cities and municipalities;

WHEREAS, Section 447 (a) (3) (vii) and (5) (ii) (iv) and similar paragraphs of Section 58 of Republic Act No. 7160 provide that the sangguniang bayan and sangguniang panlungsod shall enact ordinances that shall regulate the sale of meat, fish, vegetables, fruits, fresh dairy products, and other foodstuff for human consumption; establish or regulate the construction and operation of public markets, slaughterhouses or animal corrals; or grant a franchise to any person to establish and operate the same as may be allowed by existing laws; and to levy, assess, collect taxes, fees, and charges as may be necessary for these purposes;

WHEREAS, Section 489 (a) (2) (3) (i) (iii) of Republic Act No. 7160 provides that there shall be a local veterinarian in every province and city, and if a municipal government deems it necessary to appoint a municipal veterinarian, who shall advise the governor or the mayor, as the case may be, on all matters pertaining to the slaughter of animals and the regulation of slaughterhouses and other veterinary related services in the preparation and preservation of meat, milk and dairy products;

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 7394, otherwise known as the Consumers Act of the Philippines, provides that the Department of Agriculture shall inspect and analyze consumer products related to agriculture to determine conformity to established quality and safety standards; and to levy, assess, collect, and retain fees as are necessary to cover the cost of inspection, certification, analysis, and test of samples of consumer products;

WHEREAS, the National Meat Inspection Commission (NMIC) of the Department of Agriculture, created under Presidential Decree No. 7 and Letter of Instruction No. 16, is responsible for promulgating specific policies and procedures governing the flow of livestock and livestock products through various stages of marketing and the proper preservation and inspection of such products;

WHEREAS, there is a need to harmonize the various provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991 and the Consumers Act of the Philippines, including the

role of the National Meat Inspection Commission in the establishment, operation, and regulation of slaughterhouses, livestock, and meat inspection, and the imposition and collection of fees and other charges rendered thereon;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FIDEL V. RAMOS, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, and upon recommendation of the Oversight Committee created under Section 533 of Republic Act No. 7160, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Construction, Improvement, Expansion, and Operation of Slaughterhouses. - To prevent wastage in terms of time and valuable logistics and to maintain a uniform, high standard of sanitation in the operation and maintenance of slaughterhouses, the NWIC and the LGUs concerned shall perform the following:

(a) The city or municipality:

(1) shall, by ordinance, establish and operate a public slaughterhouse. In the construction, improvement, and expansion of such establishment, the city or municipality shall conform to applicable local and national policies, standards, and guidelines. For this purpose, the concerned local government unit may seek the assistance of the NMIC and other government agencies;

(2) shall, upon approval by a majority vote of all the members of the sangguniang panlungsod or sangguniang bayan, grant a franchise to any person, partnership, corporation, or cooperative to establish, construct, operate, and maintain slaughterhouses as may be allowed by applicable laws, provided that cooperatives shall be given preference in the grant of such a franchise;

(3) shall, by ordinance, sell, lease encumber, or otherwise dispose of its slaughterhouse to ensure active participation of the private sector in local governance; and

(4) shall authorize the establishment and operations of private slaughterhouses, whether for public use or exclusively as part of meat processing complex;

(b) The province shall:

(1) ensure that the establishment and operation of the slaughterhouses of its component cities and municipalities are in accordance with the policies, standards, and guidelines set by the national and provincial governments;

(2) provide technical supervision and may give financial assistance in the establishment and operation of slaughterhouses owned by its component cities and municipalities; and

(3) review the ordinances of component cities and municipalities on matters relating to the establishment and operation of slaughterhouses and the granting of franchise thereof, including the imposition of taxes, fees and charges;

(c) The NMIC shall:

(1) formulate national policies, guidelines, rules and regulations governing the establishment and operations of slaughterhouses; and

(2) exercise technical supervision over the establishment and operations of slaughterhouses with authority to recommend sanctions and closure to local chief executives for those that do not comply or meet the requirements and standards set thereof;

SEC. 2. Classification and Accreditation of Slaughterhouses. - The NMIC shall, based on established standards for production, plans, designs, and specifications, classify and accredit slaughterhouses in accordance with the following:

"AAA" - Those with facilities and operational procedures appropriate to slaughter livestock and fowls for sale in any market, domestic or international.

"AA" - Those with facilities and operational procedures sufficiently adequate that the livestock and fowls slaughtered therein are suitable for sale in any market domestic or international.

"A" - Those with facilities and procedures of minimum adequacy that the livestock and fowls slaughtered therein are suitable for distribution and sale only within the city or municipality where the slaughterhouse is located.

SEC. 3. Meat Inspection. - All livestock and fowls slaughtered for food and their meat products shall be subjected to veterinary inspection and examination before distribution and sale. To effectively implement meat inspection, the NMIC and the LGU concerned shall perform the following:

a) The NMIC shall:

(1) formulate national policies, guidelines, rules and regulations, quality and safety standards governing marketing, marketing preservation, and inspection of meat and meat products;

(2) formulate and implement rules and regulations governing the import and export of meat and meat products;

(3) exercise technical supervision over local meat inspectors in class "AAA" slaughterhouses and, in "AA" when there is regular distribution of meat outside of the province or of the independent city;

(4) in coordination with the LGU, provide direct technical supervision over operation of class "AAA" slaughterhouse and in class "AA" in case of preceding paragraph;

(5) certify the fitness for human consumption of meat and meat products intended for export and for distribution outside of the province or of the independent city; and

(6) provide laboratory support to the meat industry.

(b) The Provincial Government, thru its provincial veterinarian, shall:

(1) regulate the flow of meat and meat products within the provincial jurisdiction in accordance with national policies, guidelines and standards;