



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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SUBJECT: LABORATORY DIAGNOSTIC FEE EXEMPTION FOR PORCINE EPIDEMIC DIARRHEA (PED) AT THE VETERINARY LABORATORY DIVISION – ANIMAL DISEASE DIAGNOSIS AND REFERENCE LABORATORY (VLD-ADDRL) OF THE BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY – ENDORSED BY THE PED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS, Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) is a viral disease of pigs which causes 100% mortality in piglets to affected farms. The disease is characterized by acute outbreaks of diarrhea and vomiting leading to severe dehydration and death of the animals. Sows, weaners, growers are also affected by the disease;

WHEREAS, in 2005, swine veterinary practitioners noticed recurring outbreaks of a disease affecting commercial and backyard piggery farms in Bulacan and Batangas. The presence of PED virus was later confirmed in 2006 through viral isolation from diarrheic piglets from these provinces;

WHEREAS, losses in pork supply due to unabated PED outbreaks were estimated at 174.6 million kilograms which is valued at P14.82 billion yearly;

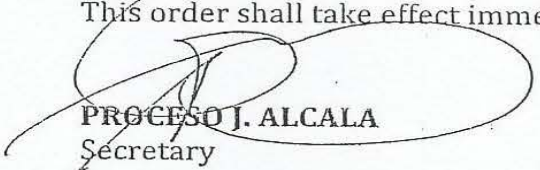
WHEREAS, while there are anecdotal accounts of PED have been affecting several piggeries by some swine practitioners and members of the Hog Raisers group, only a few samples are being submitted to VLD-ADDRL for PED diagnosis,

WHEREAS, one hindrance seen is the charging of a laboratory fee for PED diagnosis since most hog farmers cannot afford to pay the fee;

WHEREAS, to encourage more submission of samples from PED suspect cases, the laboratory examination for PED should be given as a service free of charge;

NOW THEREFORE, I, PROCESO J. ALCALA, Secretary of Agriculture, do hereby order the exemption of laboratory diagnostic fee for Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED) at the Veterinary Laboratory Division – Animal Disease Diagnosis and Reference Laboratory of the Bureau of Animal Industry effective immediately until December 31, 2015.

This order shall take effect immediately.


PROCESO J. ALCALA
Secretary