

[**BPI SPECIAL QUARANTINE ORDER NO. 07, S. 2013, October 14, 2013**]

FORMALLY DECLARING A COCONUT SCALE INSECT (CSI) OUTBREAK IN COCONUT TREES IN SOME MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIES IN THE PROVINCES OF BATANGAS, LAGUNA, CAVITE, AND QUEZON DUE TO AN INFESTATION OF AN UNDETERMINED ASPIDIOTUS SP. AND PROVIDING MEASURES TO REGULATE AND PREVENT ITS SPREAD

WHEREAS, Sama-samang Aksyon ng Gobyerno, Industriya at Pamayanan (SAGIP) estimated that approximately 1,025,061 coconut trees are infested by CSI in some municipalities and cities in the provinces of Batangas, Laguna, Cavite and Quezon;

WHEREAS, the Crop Protection Cluster, University of the Philippines at Los Banos (CPC, UPLB) reported the major involvement in the CSI outbreak of an undetermined species of *Aspidiotus* distinct from the indigenous species *Aspidiotus destructor* Signoret;

WHEREAS, the coconut industry continues to contribute billion in dollars annually to the Philippine economy and it is critical for the Philippines to maintain or improve its position as the world's second largest producer of coconut and its by-products;

WHEREAS, if the spread of these invasive pests is not regulated and contained, it may virtually wipe out the coconut industry of the whole Southern Tagalog and eventually, of the country;

WHEREAS, joint and concerted official measures are being adopted to check, control and manage the increase and spread of these injurious insect pests, and;

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Plant Industry - Plant Quarantine Service (BPI - PQS) is tasked to implement and enforce the necessary quarantine measures to prevent the spread of these pests to non-infested areas.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, CLARITO M. BARRON, pursuant to provisions of PD 1433 also known as the *Plant Quarantine Decree of 1978* do hereby promulgate this special quarantine order as follows:

SECTION 1. For the purpose of this Special Quarantine Order, a CSI outbreak of an undetermined *Aspidiotus* sp. in coconut trees is formally declared in the municipalities of Agoncillo, Balete, Calaca, Laurel, Lemery, Malvar, Mataas na Kahoy, Nasugbu, San Juan, San Luis, San Nicolas, Sto. Tomas and Talisay including the cities of Lipa and Tanauan in the province of **Batangas**: the municipalities of Alaminos, Bay, Calauan, Cavinti, Kalayaan, Liliw, Los Banos, Luisiana, Magdalena, Majayjay, Nagcarlan, and Rizal as well as the cities of Calamba, San Pablo and Sta. Cruz in the province of **Laguna**: the municipalities of Alfonso, Amadeo, General Emilio Aguinaldo, Indang, Magallanes and Silang in the province of **Cavite**, and the municipalities of Dolores, Mauban and Sampaloc in the province of **Quezon**.