

**[BAI DA ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 12, S.
2009, June 30, 2009]**

**WITHDRAWING VACCINATION FOR FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE
IN THE PHILIPPINES**

WHEREAS, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is a trans-boundary animal disease that hampers trade of susceptible animals and their products and by-products, causing an estimated 2 billion pesos in direct losses in the peak of its outbreak in 1995;

WHEREAS, the Philippines program to control and eradicate FMD spanning for more almost 15 years has resulted to the OIE recognition of Mindano, Visayas, Palawan and Masbate as FMD Free Zones where vaccination is not practiced in 2001 and 200 respectively;

WHEREAS, the effort to control and eradicate FMD in Luzon where the disease is considered to be endemic has resulted to total control and eventual eradication with the last recorded outbreak in December 2005;

WHEREAS , attempts have been made to apply for international recognition of Luzon as an FMD free area where Zone 1 comprising of the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Region II, with the provinces of Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union in Region I and Aurora in Region III, and Zone 3 comprising of Region IVB (except Palawan) and Region V is being applied as zones where vaccination is not practiced and Zone 2 comprising Regions III (except Aurora), National Capital Region (NCR) and Region IV A as zone where vaccination is practiced, has not been granted by OIE in light of on-going trade between regions thereby allowing the possibility of mixing vaccinated and unvaccinated animals;

WHEREAS, the particular zone being applied as free with vaccination has been noted by the OIE to have insufficient vaccination coverage in relation to recommended vaccination coverage in the OIE Code where very few farmers in Zone 2 are now vaccinating for FMD and even the few vaccinating are not doing systematic mass vaccination of their animals;

WHEREAS, the above mentioned international recognition is vital to the livestock industry of the country if we are to survive markets globalization;

WHEREAS, a nationwide consultation with all concerned stake holders particularly farmers have culminated to a consensus to withdraw vaccination in Luzon to address the concern on zoning and insufficient vaccination coverage;

WHEREAS, the National FMD Task Force is conducting a routine and risk based surveillance system that compliments clinical monitoring and negative monitoring system to ensure that there is no circulation of FMD virus that may endanger the withdrawal procedure and that this has been fully explained to the stake holders in the conduct of consultations;