

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

2445

HOUSE BILL NO. _____



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 90-year old Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) is in urgent need of a massive overhaul so that it may sufficiently meet the needs of this agricultural sector, face the challenges of modern production vis a vis the ever growing food demand, and ensure that our animal industry is safe from diseases and global epidemics.

In 1930, BAI was created as a line bureau of the Department of Agriculture (DA) by virtue of Act 3639. Its original mandate was to investigate, study and report the cause of dangerous communicable diseases and the means of prevention, and in general, to promote the development of the livestock industries¹. Over the years, numerous measures have been adopted to enlarge the scope of its powers in response to executive directives and/or the prevailing needs of the industry at the time. Meanwhile, Executive Order 292 or the Administrative Code of 1897 and RA 7160 or the Local Government Code respectively allowed the decentralization of BAI's regional line functions and devolved most of its veterinary field services to the local government units (LGUs). As of the moment, there is no one law that comprehensively identifies the State's national agency for animal industry and specifies the scope of its powers and duties. This bill is hereby proposed to address this concern.

Under this bill, BAI shall be converted and renamed as the National Livestock and Veterinary Services Authority (NLVSA), and the offices under the former shall be abolished to give way to the organization of seven (7) key centers under the new NLVSA. All bills pertinent to the functions of then BAI, now NLVSA, are encapsulated herein to ensure the harmonious performance of its mandate and to prevent gray jurisdictional areas that NLVSA may share with LGUs or other government agencies.

NLVSA shall be an attached line agency up to the regional level, still under the DA, to be led by a Director General. It shall be primarily responsible for overseeing and promoting the health, welfare, and productivity of the national

¹ Sec. 3, Act 3639

animal population for food safety, food security and rural development. The bill enumerates ten (10) of its general powers, including Emergency Response in case of epidemics and disasters.

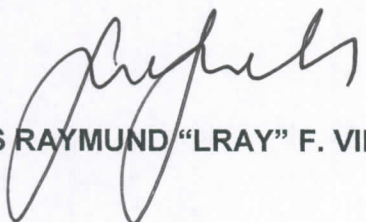
The importance of the support and cooperation of LGUs, non-allied government agencies, and non-government organizations (NGOs) is also recognized under this bill. The NLVSA is urged to establish agreements with various agencies and sectors, and foster partnerships with LGUs in the implementation of plans and programs in animal disease prevention, control, and eradication. This is also to guarantee the prompt mobilization of all essential personnel and resources of the government, as well as those of other concerned sectors, in the event of animal disease emergencies.

Another distinct feature of this bill are the penal provisions, both monetary fines and imprisonment, to be imposed upon any person found guilty of committing the any of the prohibited acts under the bill.

Finally, the Animal Industry and Veterinary Services Act, once passed, shall institutionalize programs to boost the animal industry of the country in terms of production and marketing. The research and development capabilities of NLVSA shall be strengthened. It shall endeavor to identify market profiles from local to national, and keep abreast of export strategies. NLVSA shall set up various information systems that are readily accessible to agri-businessmen, suppliers, producers, marketers, processors, industry associations, the government, and other stakeholders.

The aforementioned provisions are only some of the highlights of our proposed bill. This Representation is confident that it will be a big help to our animal industry that is yet to truly peak.

In light of the foregoing premises, the passage of this bill is urgently sought.



LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2445

Introduced by HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND VETERINARY SERVICES IN
THE PHILIPPINES

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

Chapter I
INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the "Animal Industry and Veterinary Services Act."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It shall be the policy of the State to promote and protect animal health and welfare, recognize the importance of efficient delivery of sanitary measures, establish a modern and responsive national veterinary authority, encourage the participation of various veterinary service providers, and secure the development of the animal industry in the attainment of greater safeguards and food security for the country's animal and human populations, improved public health and environment, and enhanced global trade competitiveness.

SECTION 3. *Coverage.* This Act shall apply to all programs, activities and undertakings of persons, corporations, associations, organizations, smallhold farmers, entities, or government agencies that, directly or indirectly, deal on the following:

1. Animal health related matters such as but not limited to:
 - a) Animal and zoonotic disease diagnosis, treatment, prevention, control and eradication;
 - b) Early detection systems and compulsory reporting of important animal diseases and zoonoses;

- c) Inspection and monitoring of (i) animals, animal products and by-products (ii) animal facilities, premises, equipment, means of transportation and other inanimate things in contact with animals and/or animal products (iii) animal feeds, feed ingredients, supplements and additives, (iv) veterinary drugs, biologicals, immunological products, cosmetics and devices;
- 2. Animal welfare;
- 3. Animal production;
- 4. Research and development on animal health and welfare, such as but not limited to, genetic improvement and operations of beef cattle, poultry, and small ruminant farms of the government for the conservation of native domestic breeds;
- 5. Marketing and product development;
- 6. Rational and judicious use of veterinary drugs, biologicals and diagnostic reagents in animals.

SECTION 4. Objectives. The State shall endeavor to achieve the following objectives:

- 1. To protect human and environmental health from hazards caused by animal diseases and zoonoses;
- 2. To establish a modern and responsive veterinary services;
- 3. To formulate, promote, enforce, implement rules, policies and programs for the promotion of animal health, animal welfare and environment-friendly animal production processes;
- 4. To institutionalize inter-agency, multi-sectoral and local government cooperation on animal health and veterinary service programs;
- 5. To ensure animal food production safety and food security in support of poverty alleviation;
- 6. To guarantee compliance and harmonization of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures and other veterinary protocols with international standards;
- 7. To promote an environment of global livestock trade competitiveness; and
- 8. To establish nucleus and multiplier livestock breeder and production farms in support of the government's modernization programs in agriculture.

Section 5. Definition of Terms. For the purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- a. Accreditation - refers to the procedure by which government agency having jurisdiction formally recognizes the competence of an inspection and/or certification body to provide inspection and certification services.
- b. Agribusiness - refers to the various businesses involved in food production, including farming, breed and feed supply, agrichemicals, farm and processing machinery, wholesale and distribution, processing, marketing and retail sales. It also means making a "simple farmer" or "small backyard operator" into an "entrepreneur," by legalizing their business venture with distinct identity and

by developing their own competitive edge in the industry group where they belong.

c. Animal - refers to vertebrate and invertebrate species whether domestic or wild (exotic or indigenous) animals which maybe food producing, companion, aquatic, laboratory, including birds, worms, bees and butterflies. The term excludes human and non-mammalian aquatic species.

d. Animal facility - refers to structures or premises generally used for the purpose of caring, breeding, rearing, holding, gaming, training, trading, treating and exhibition such as but not limited to, farms, zoos, aviaries, apiaries, kennels, racetracks, cockpits, pet shops, pounds, animal rescue centers, airport and seaport quarantine stations, animal holding facilities, stables, livestock markets, slaughterhouses, veterinary clinics, and veterinary hospitals.

e. Animal Health - refers to the over-all physical condition and well-being of animals.

f. Animal Identification - refers to the combination of the identification and registration of an animal individually, with a unique identifier, or collectively by its epidemiological unit or group, with a unique group identifier.

g. Animal Identification System - refers to the inclusion and linking of components such as identification of establishments, owners, person or persons responsible for the animal(s), animal movements and other records with an animal identification.

h. Animal Industry - refers to any activity relating to the production, breeding, caring, rearing, holding, trading, transporting and use of all animals; animal processing, marketing and feed milling;

i. Animal Health Technician - refers to any person who is authorized by the Professional Regulations Commission to carry out certain designated and delegated tasks under the responsibility and supervision of a duly licensed veterinarian.

j. Animal Production Food Safety and Security - refers to measures taken in farms and production areas to safeguard the health of the consuming public and ensure that the food derived therefrom is safe and of sufficient quantity or supply. This includes measures taken to regulate and control the introduction of non-food animals to the food chain.

k. Animal Products and By-Products - refer to any meat, fat, milk whey, cream, butter, cheese, egg or other food or foodstuffs derived from an animal; or any part of the viscera of an animal, hide, skin, hair, wool, feathers, shell, horn or hoof; or any article or substance derived from dung, urine, feces, bone, or blood of an animal; or any secretion of an animal or any product or biological preparation made or derived from any animal tissue or animal secretion; or any article or substance derived from an animal such as semen, whether or not in combination with any article or substance; or any article or substance or thing that is declared by order to be an animal product for the purposes of this Act.

- l. Animal Registry - refers to the list of information on animals (such identification, animal health, movement, certification, epidemiology, establishments) collected, recorded, securely stored and made appropriately accessible and able to be utilized by the NLVSA and its stakeholders.
- m. Border Post - refers to any airport, or seaport, railway station or road check-point open to domestic and international trade of commodities where veterinary inspections are performed.
- n. Buffer Zone - refers to an area established to protect the health status of animals in a disease-free country or disease-free zones, from those in a country or zone of a different animal health status, using measures based on the epidemiology of the disease under consideration to prevent spread of the causative pathogenic agent into a free country or free zone. These measures may include, but are not limited to, vaccination, movement control and an intensified degree of disease surveillance.
- o. Certification- refers to the procedure by which official certification bodies or officially recognized certification bodies provide written or equivalent assurance that animal control systems conform to requirements.
- p. Chief Veterinary Officer - refers to a veterinarian who has the responsibility and competence of ensuring and supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and guidelines in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the World Organization for Animal Health or Organization International des Epizooties (OIE) of the entire country.
- q. Compartment - refers to one or more establishments under a common biosecurity management system containing an animal subpopulation with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease or diseases for which required surveillance, control, biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade.
- r. Competent Authority - refers to the NLVSA which is the official authority charged by the government in the control of animal health, welfare, animal production food safety and veterinary services.
- s. Confiscation - refers to taking into custody of animals, animal parts and/or products, and/or of animal effects by the competent authority for its proper disposal for having been the subject of violation of rules and regulations or posing risk to general human and animal welfare.
- t. Control Area or Zone - refers to an area around the infected area where restrictions will reduce and/or limit the chance of further spreading the disease.
- u. Diseases - refer to the impairment of normal state of living animals showing sub-clinical, clinical/pathological manifestation with infectious and non-infectious condition.
- v. Early Detection System - refers to a system for the timely detection and identification of animal and zoonotic diseases which includes the following characteristics, namely; (a) representative coverage of target animal

populations by veterinary field services; (b) ability to undertake effective disease investigation and reporting; (c) access to laboratories capable of diagnosing and differentiating relevant diseases; and (d) training program for veterinarians and animal health technicians for detecting and reporting unusual disease occurrence.

w. Emerging Disease - refers to a new infection resulting from the evolution or change of an existing pathogenic agent, a known infection spreading to a new geographic area or population, or a previously unrecognizable pathogenic agent or disease diagnosed for the first time and which has a significant impact on animal or public health.

x. Epidemiology - refers to the science concerned with the study of factors determining and influencing the frequency and distribution of disease, injury and other health-related events and their causes in a defined population.

y. Equivalence of Sanitary Measures - refers to the state wherein the sanitary measure(s) proposed by the exporting country as an alternative to those of the importing country achieves the same level of protection

z. Eradication - refers to the elimination of a pathogenic agent or disease from the country or zone/area/region.

aa. Establishment - refers to entities engaged in the manufacture, production, preparation, handling, importation, exportation, sale, storage, offer for sale, distribution, transfer, use, testing, promotion, advertising or sponsorship of animals, animal products and by-products, veterinary drugs and biological products, feeds and feed ingredients, cosmetics, and devices.

bb. Exporting Country - refers to the country of origin of commodities which are sent to another country.

cc. Feed - refers to a mixture or combination of feed ingredients, supplements and additives, in any form, by specific formula to be fed directly as a sole ration to animals which is capable of furnishing the nutritional needs or requirements of the animal in order to maintain life, promote growth, production and reproduction without any additional substance except water.

dd. Feed Ingredients - refer to all articles, in any form, that are added or mixed into the composition or which are used as raw materials in the formulation of a feed or ration, base feed, base mix, concentrate, feed supplement, feed additive, specialty feed and/or special feed preparation purporting to supply additional nutrients, such as but not limited to, proteins, carbohydrates, fats, minerals, vitamins, growth promoting factors and/or correcting nutritional disorders.

ee. Free Zone - refers to an area which the absence of the disease under consideration has been complied in accordance with the requirements specified in the Terrestrial Code of the OIE for free status being met. Within the zone and at its borders, appropriate official veterinary control is effectively applied for animals and animal products, and their transportation.

ff. Governance - refers to the process by which the Philippines government (national, regional and local), private sector, industry associations and other

stakeholders collectively solve the problems, needs and concerns of the animal industry.

gg. Hazard - refers to a biological, chemical or physical agent in, or a condition of an animal or animal product with the potential to cause an adverse health effect.

hh. Indemnification - refers to the payment for any loss of animals or damage to its by-products in accordance with the guidelines established by the Veterinary Authority.

ii. Infected Zone - refers to an area in which the disease under consideration is present.

jj. Livestock - refers to food animals including poultry.

kk. Livestock Agribusiness Marketing - refers to the critical roles marketing plays in the successful operation of an agribusiness firm by focusing on the six major parts of agribusiness marketing system such as: 1) the agricultural input industries; 2) the impact of technology-induced changes on production practices and the need for marketing awareness on the part of farmers as a way to achieve greater profitability; 3) the commodity processing and food manufacturing industries; 4) the food wholesaling and retailing industries; 5) the food service industry; and 6) cooperative agribusiness.

ll. Livestock Marketing System - refers to livestock economics system that relies upon the markets and market forces to allocate resources and goods to determine prices and quantities of each product that will be produced.

mm. Marketing - refers to the process of planning the conception, pricing, promotion and distribution of goods and services to create exchanges that satisfy individual and organizational objectives.

nn. Market Infrastructure - refers to facilities including, but not limited to livestock "oksyon" market, wet/public market buildings, weighing scale center, holding pens, warehouses, market information centers, slaughterhouses, connecting roads, transport and communication and cold storage used by the livestock farmers in marketing their produce.

oo. Marketing Information System - refers to an information system concerned with the collection, storage, and analysis of information and data for marketing decision making purposes. Information for use in marketing information systems is gathered from customers, competitors and their products, and from the market itself.

pp. Marketing Intelligence - refers to data/information obtained both publicly & privately by market players that reflect a myriad of factors regarding prices, stocks, trends, government policies affecting supply or demand, production and consumption of products, by-products and allied products in an industry, e.g. animal industry, to achieve a marketing or business-related competitiveness.

qq. Market Research - refers to the identification of a specific market and measurement of its size and other characteristics collected from direct observation of the consumers (such as in retail stores), mail surveys,

telephone or face-to-face interviews, and from published sources (such as demographic data).

rr. Notifiable Disease - refers to disease listed by the Veterinary Authority, and that, as soon as detected or suspected, must be brought to the attention of the Veterinary Authority, in accordance with national regulations.

ss. Notification - refers to the procedure by which the Local Veterinary Authority informs the National Veterinary Authority, of the occurrence of an outbreak of disease or infection.

tt. *Office Internationale des Epizooties (OIE)* or the World Organization for Animal Health - is the intergovernmental organization responsible for improving animal health worldwide. It is recognized as a reference organization by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

uu. Quarantine - refers to the act of isolating animals from other animals with no direct or indirect contact with other animals, to prevent the transmission of specified pathogen(s) while the animals are undergoing observation, and, if appropriate, testing and treatment, for a specified length of time and/or to determine their freedom from disease.

vv. Production processes - refer to the transformational steps in the conversion of raw materials to finished products.

ww. Poultry - includes chickens, turkeys, guinea fowl, game fowls, ducks, geese, quails, pigeons, pheasants, partridges, and ratites reared or kept in captivity for breeding, production of meat or eggs for consumption or for restocking supplies of game.

xx. Professional Regulation Commission - Board of Veterinary Medicine (PRC-BVM) - refers to an autonomous authority regulating veterinarians and animal health technicians.

yy. Quarantine Station - refers to a facility under the control of the veterinary services where animals are under quarantine/isolation for observation.

zz. Risk - refers to the likelihood of the occurrence and the likely magnitude of consequences of an adverse event to animal or human health in the importing country during a specified time period, as a result of hazardous elements.

aaa. Risk Analysis - refers to the process composed of hazard identification, risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication.

bbb. Risk Assessment - refers to the evaluation of the likelihood and the biological and economic consequences of entry, establishment, or spread of a pathogenic agent within the territory of an importing country.

ccc. Risk Communication - refers to the interactive exchange of information on risk among risk assessors, risk managers and other interested parties.

ddd. Risk Management - refers to the process of identifying, selecting and implementing measures that can be applied to reduce the level of risk.

eee. Sanitary Measure - refers to any scheme or strategy applied to protect animal or human health or life within the territory of the country from the risks arising from the entry, establishment or spread of a hazardous element.

fff. Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures - refers to the set of legal framework for international trade of animals, animal products and by-products, veterinary biologics, drugs, products and devices, animal feeds and feed ingredients that is safe for public, animal and plant health with important provisions on harmonization, equivalence, assessment of risk and appropriate level of protection, regionalization, transparency and notification.

ggg. Shipping Permit - refers to the document issued by the NLVSA authorizing the person indicated therein to ship or transport the stated items to their indicated destination(s).

hhh. Third Party Certification or Independent Certification - refers to the process wherein a firm requires that its suppliers meet a certain standard and requests an independent organization that is not involved in the business relationship to control the compliance of the suppliers.

iii. Traceability - refers to the ability to follow or monitor the history/record of an animal or group of animals during all stages of its life.

jjj. Vaccination - refers to the successful immunization of susceptible animals through the administration of appropriate immunizing agents comprising of antigens or bacterins or any agent appropriate to the disease to be controlled.

kkk. Veterinarian - refers to a person who has been registered and issued a valid certificate of registration and professional identification card by Professional Regulatory Commission Board of Veterinary Medicine of the Philippines.

III. Veterinary Authority - refers to the government authority, comprising of duly licensed veterinarians, having the responsibility and competence of ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and guidelines in the Terrestrial Code of the OIE (World Organization for Animal Health).

mmm. Veterinary Biological Products - refer to all microorganisms (viruses, bacteria, fungi, protozoa, etc.), components or products of microorganisms, antigens, antisera, bacterins, immunoglobulins and analogous products of natural or of synthetic origin, including genetically modified organisms, diagnostic kits and reagents, serums, toxins and antitoxins intended for use in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of animal diseases and for research purposes.

nnn. Veterinary Cosmetics - refer to any substance or preparation intended to be placed in contact with the various external parts of the animal body or with the teeth, mucous membranes of the oral cavity, with a view exclusively or mainly to cleaning them, perfuming them, changing their appearance and/or correcting the body odor, and/or protecting the body or keeping the same in good condition.

ooo. Veterinary Device - refers to any instruments, apparatuses, implements, machines, appliances or contrivances, including their components, parts and accessories intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment and

prevention of animal diseases or to affect the structure or any function of the body or animals.

ppp. Veterinary Drug - refers to articles for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of diseases of animals.

qqq. Veterinary Products - as use in this Act shall collectively refer to veterinary biologicals, drugs, devices, and cosmetics as defined herein and to other substances applied to animal facilities such as but not limited to disinfectants, insecticides, and substances that modify or extend physiological functions, behaviors or availability such as but not limited to hormones, growth promotants, probiotics and acidifiers.

rrr. Veterinary Inspector - refers to any duly-licensed veterinarian employed by the national or local government unit primarily tasked to diagnose, investigate and control animal diseases and other such duties stipulated in this Act.

sss. Veterinary Personnel - refers to an employee working in a veterinary office.

ttt. Veterinary Services - refer to the activities in the implementation of animal health, welfare, feeds and animal production food safety by government and non-government organizations.

uuu. Zone / Region - refers to a clearly defined part of the country containing an animal subpopulation with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease for which required surveillance, control and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade.

vvv. Zoonosis - refers to any disease or infection which is naturally transmissible from animals to human.

Chapter II

STRUCTURE, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

Section 6. *The National Livestock and Veterinary Services Authority.* The Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) shall be renamed as the "National Livestock and Veterinary Services Authority (NLVSA)", an attached line agency up to the regional level under the Department of Agriculture, chiefly responsible for overseeing and promoting the health, welfare and productivity of the national animal population for food safety, food security and rural development.

The NLVSA shall be headed by a Director General, with the rank of undersecretary, who must possess a minimum experience of ten (10) years in practice as a duly licensed veterinarian. He shall be assisted by a Deputy Director General for Regulatory Services and a Deputy Director General for Research, Development and Extension Services, who, likewise, must both possess a minimum experience of ten (10) years practice as a duly licensed veterinarian.

The Director General and Deputy Directors General shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines, while the Center Directors, Regional Directors and Director for Administrative Support Services shall be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. All personnel below the Director and Regional Director levels shall be appointed by the Director General.

Section 7. Powers and Functions. The NLVSA shall have the following principal powers through the Director General or his duly designated representative:

1. **Regulatory Authority.** - The NLVSA shall have authority to regulate animal health, animal welfare, animal production food safety and matters connected or pertaining to, but not limited to general sanitary measures, risk analysis, animal quarantine, diagnosis of diseases, animal feeds and feed ingredients, veterinary drugs and biological products, and other pharmaceuticals and products used on animals and the environment, animal facilities, equipment, devices and cosmetics, veterinary research, animal production and international certification procedures.
2. **Technical Assistance and Supervision.** - The NLVSA shall provide technical training for the capacity building and strengthening of livestock and veterinary services related functions of all national government agencies and Local Government Units (LGUs). It shall exercise technical supervision over veterinary offices and veterinary related functions of all national government agencies and LGUs. This includes oversight authority to require mandatory notification and coordination, submission of reports and other pertinent data regarding animal disease situations, within the respective areas or jurisdictions of other government agencies and local government units.
3. **Assumption of Control.** - The NLVSA is authorized, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture and in coordination with the concerned LGU and regional officials of other agencies, to assume full control and direction in the management of local and regional outbreaks of dangerous communicable and zoonotic animal diseases, where the animal and/or human health status of the country, as recommended by the hereunder described National Advisory Committee on Animal Diseases and Emergency (NAC-ADE), is in actual or imminent danger.
4. **Visitorial Power** - The NLVSA, through its duly authorized veterinary officers, upon presenting appropriate credentials or authority to the owner, manager, operator, agent or any person within the premises, shall have the power to enter and inspect anytime but following down time requirements of livestock and poultry farms and other animal establishments, conduct collection of laboratory specimens and samples with proper description and receipt of those taken, and when required by circumstances and as authorized by the Director General or his representative, impose preventive and control measures therein, in coordination with, and as may be necessary, subject to biosafety entry requirements of concerned owners and caretakers.

5. Declaration of Quarantine - The Director General through a written order of quarantine shall cause the immediate holding or detention for thirty (30) days or for such longer period, if necessary, for observation and testing of animals, animal parts, products, and by-products, feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements and feed additives, veterinary biologics, drugs, products and devices, and such other materials or substances which are found or deemed to be infected or carriers of dangerous animal diseases.
6. Seizure and Confiscation - The NL VSA shall have the authority to seize and confiscate animals, animal parts, products, and by-products, feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements and feed additives, veterinary biologics, drugs, products and devices, and such other materials or substances that are undocumented, or of unknown source and conditions, and are showing signs of dangerous animal diseases, or reasonably suspected to be infected with or carriers of dangerous animal diseases, contaminated with toxic materials or posing an imminent danger, threat and injury to the overall animal health situation in declared disease-free zones, areas or compartments, and border posts of the country.
7. Animal Condemnation and Eradication Measures - The NLVSA shall have the authority to institute condemnation and eradication measures on animals that are diseased or reasonably suspected to be infected with diseases and are deemed a great risk to the livestock population and/or public health.
8. Call for Assistance - The Director General may call upon any government agency for any form of assistance consistent with its powers, duties, and responsibilities for the purpose of ensuring the effective and efficient implementation of this Act and the rules and regulations promulgated hereunder.
9. Delegation - The NLVSA shall have the authority to deputize local government and private veterinarians to perform disease control, measures to obviate any animal welfare concerns and animal health matters for proper implementation of national disease control policies and programs at all levels. The DG shall deputize Animal Welfare Officers from Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), citizens groups, community organizations and other volunteers who have undergone the necessary training and accreditation for this purpose. As such, the Animal Welfare Officers shall have the full authority to seize and confiscate affected animals in violation of the provisions of the Act, subject to existing rules and regulation on arrest and detention.
10. Emergency Response - In the event of natural and man-made disasters, the NLVSA shall ensure the safety and protection of the animal population following the quick response "Oplan Sagip Hayop" scheme. The NLVSA shall administer and supervise the effective implementation of this Act and its rules and regulations. It shall exercise such powers and perform such functions as may be necessary to carry out its duties and responsibilities under this Act.

Section 8. *Organizational Structure.* The technical, administrative, finance and support services of the NLVSA shall be strengthened as may be appropriate and necessary to carry out effectively the provisions of this Act. Various centers shall be established under the NLVSA and each Center shall be headed by a Director, who must possess a minimum practice of five (5) years as a veterinarian, with supervisory experience in any related field. Each center shall include divisions which shall be headed by a division chief with minimum management experience of three (3) years.

The Centers established are as follows:

1. Center for Animal Health and Welfare - The Center shall be responsible for veterinary epidemiology, animal disease surveillance systems, animal disease prevention, control and eradication programs, risk analysis, herd health management, animal welfare and animal health information.

The center shall have the following divisions: (a) Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics (b) Animal Disease Control and Veterinary Public Health, (c) Animal Welfare and (d) Animal Health Information and Communication.

2. Center for Veterinary Quarantine Services - The Center shall be primarily responsible in issuing import and export certifications and conducting pre- and post-border inspections and monitoring, accreditation, quarantine, and if warranted by biosecurity procedures, instituting immediate seizure and/or confiscation of animals, animal parts, products, and by-products, feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements and feed additives, veterinary biologics, drugs, products and devices, and such other materials or substances posing threat or harm to animal health. The Center shall also be responsible for the maintenance of quarantine stations and enforcement of animal quarantine and welfare rules and regulations in the various inland and offshore shipping routes of the country. The Center shall have the following divisions: (a) Sanitary and PhytoSanitary Trade Facilitation (b) Veterinary Quarantine Inspection and Monitoring, and (c) Biosecurity.

3. Center for Animal Disease Diagnosis (CADD)- The Center shall primarily conduct laboratory diagnosis of animal diseases and act as a repository of data on disease diagnosis. It shall be responsible for the management of regional veterinary diagnostic laboratories, including the monitoring of certified/accredited private animal disease diagnostic laboratories. CADD shall also be the National Reference Center for Animal Disease Diagnosis.

The Center shall have the following divisions: (a) Pathobiology, (b) Bacteriology & Mycobiology, (c) Virology, (d) Laboratory Standards and Compliance and (e) National Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory Information Management and Coordination.

4. Center for Animal Feeds, Veterinary Products and Establishments Regulation (CAFVPER)- The Center shall regulate the manufacture, production, importation, exportation, distribution, handling, sale, offer for sale, transfer, promotion, advertisement, the use and testing of premixes, animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements and feed additives, veterinary drugs, biologicals, cosmetics and devices and all other types of veterinary products and establishments. It shall likewise conduct assays on the quality, safety, potency and efficacy of these products and veterinary drug residues in animal products except meat.

The Center shall include the following divisions: (a) Registration, Licensing, & Accreditation, (b) Inspection and Compliance and (c) Laboratory Services.

5. Animal Genetic Resource Management and Improvement Center - This Center shall be responsible for formulating policies and programs for sustainable animal genetic resources of domestic animals. It shall prepare in consultation with various stakeholders the national strategy and action plan for the use, development and conservation of animal genetic resources in particular native food animals.

The Center shall have the following divisions: (a) Breed Registry and Central Data Management; (b) Gene Bank; (c) Native Pigs; (d) Native Poultry; (e) Native Cattle, Goat and Sheep; f) Native Horses.

6. Center for Animal Research and Product Development - This Center shall address the national agenda for all researches on animal health, animal welfare and animal production food safety and security in coordination, collaboration and consultation with international and local agencies and stakeholders. It shall also be responsible for the generation of technology, technology adaptation and demonstration necessary for maximum utilization of available resources in accordance with the requirements of the national animal research, production and development agenda and shall also serve as repository of all animal research and scientific information.

This Center shall have the following divisions: (a) Animal Production Research; (b) Veterinary Product Research and Standards Development; and (c) Animal Product Development.

7. Center for Livestock Trade Promotion and Development - This Center shall be primarily responsible for the promotion of the National Agenda for the development and implementation of sustainable livestock business development, animal industry strategic management, animal supply chain management, animal knowledge and information network, participatory 37

governance, animal market and post- production development and animal 38 market infrastructure and animal statistics and marketing intelligence, animal marketing system programs and activities.

The Center shall have following divisions: (a) Livestock Business and Industry Strategic Development; (b) Market and Post-production Development; and (c) Socio-Economic and Marketing Research.

Section 9. *Administrative Support Services.* The NLVSA shall be assisted by an Administrative Support Services which shall be headed by Director and Regional Chiefs of Division, who must possess a minimum management experience of five (5) years and three (3) years in any related field, respectively. It shall have the following divisions or units, as maybe applicable, to wit: (a) Assets and Finance; (b) Human Resource Development; (c) Property and Logistics Management; (d) Legal Support Services; (e) Monitoring & Evaluation; f) Planning & International Desk; and (g) Information and Communication Technology Management.

Section 10. *Regional Livestock and Veterinary Services Offices (RLVSOs).* Regional Livestock and Veterinary Services Offices of the NLVSA shall be created at the regional level to be headed by the Regional Director, who must possess a minimum experience of five (5) years as a veterinarian. He shall be assisted by Chiefs of Divisions necessary in the performance of regional operations.

All existing DA regional staff performing veterinary services and 5 functions are hereby transferred to the RLVSO.

Chapter III

CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER, VETERINARY INSPECTORS AND ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNICIANS

Section 11. *Chief Veterinary Officer.* The Director General of the NLVSA shall be the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) of the country. He shall be primarily responsible in the formulation and implementation of national policies, strategies, priorities and action plans on animal health, animal welfare and animal production food safety. He shall also represent the country in official international dialogue on animal health matters.

The CVO shall coordinate and, as much as possible, establish linkages with allied government agencies, the private sector and academe in the implementation of plans and programs in animal disease prevention, control and eradication to ensure prompt mobilization of all essential personnel and resources in the event of animal disease emergencies.

The CVO shall also endeavor to address current, recurring, new and prospective national issues and concerns on animal health, animal welfare, feeds and animal food production safety and security, with regional and global impact through the help of other allied government agencies and stakeholders.

Section 12. *Veterinary Officers (VOs) and Animal Health Technicians (AHTs).*

The Director General of the NLVSA shall appoint or deputize veterinarians and other personnel as VO and AHT. He shall prescribe the duties and responsibilities of the National and Regional VO.

When the interest of service so requires, the VO shall be entitled to incentives, overtime fees and reimbursement of expenses for services rendered outside of office hours which shall be chargeable to the parties served, at the rates to be prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture upon the recommendation of the Director General.

Section 13. *Magna Carta for Public Health Workers.* VOs, AHTs and other veterinarians employed or deputized by the NLVSA, including their administrative and support personnel directly exposed to veterinary public health related activities shall be entitled to additional compensations, and other benefits provided under Republic Act No. 7305, also known as the Magna Carta for Public Health Workers.

Chapter IV ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Section 14. *National and Regional Advisory Committees for Animal Diseases and Emergency.* The existing National and Regional Advisory Committees on Animal Disease Control and Emergency (NAC-ADCE/RAC-ADCE), which were created in the advent of emerging diseases are hereby renamed and institutionalized in this Act as the National and Regional Advisory Committees on Animal Diseases and Emergency (NAC-ADE/RAC-ADE) under the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Chairperson of the NAC-ADE shall be a duly licensed veterinarian of good standing in the veterinary profession, and a practicing veterinarian for at least ten (10) years with sufficient knowledge of the livestock industry and its animal related services. He shall be designated as such by the Secretary of Agriculture from the recommendation of the regular members from the private sector.

The manner in the filling up of the members of the committee shall be prescribed and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture upon recommendation of the Director General. The composition of the committee shall be updated from time to time and as may be needed by circumstances.

Section 15. *Duties and Functions.* The NAC-ADE and RAC-ADE shall submit their recommendations directly to the Secretary of Agriculture and perform the following duties and functions:

1. Recommend policies and measures on the following:
 - a. Risk analyses and import protocols, prevention, control, eradication and monitoring of economically harmful animal diseases including zoonotic diseases;
 - b. Procedures to be followed in times of emergencies, e.g., nationwide epidemic of food animal and zoonotic diseases and during disasters, either man-made or natural;
 - c. Verification of reports on emerging zoonotic animal diseases;
 - d. Support the CVO in sourcing funds from national and international funding agencies.
2. The NAC-ADE shall coordinate the activities of the various Regional Advisory Committee on Animal Diseases and Emergency (RAC-ADEs) which is the regional counterpart and have similar function advising the Secretary of Agriculture and the respective Regional Directors (RDs);
3. Create sub-committees to address special issues and concerns of the NLVSA and other agencies;
4. Assist in the review of policies, programs, and projects for the development of the National Veterinary Services; and
5. Assist in the evaluation of the implementation, efficiency and effectiveness of the programs and projects of the NLVSA.

Section 16. *National Advisory Committee for the Welfare of Animals (NACWA).*

The Committee of Animal Welfare (CAW) created under RA 8485 shall be renamed the NACWA which is a multi-agency/multi sectoral committee which shall be chaired by a representative from any of the private sector subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture. The Committee shall be responsible for the formulation of rules and regulations for the strict implementation of the provisions of this Act and RA 8485.

The NACWA shall be composed of representatives from the following agencies/sectors:

- a. Department of Agriculture;
- b. Department of Environment and Natural Resources;
- c. Department of Interior and Local Government;
- d. Department of Education;
- e. Provincial, City and Municipal Veterinarians' League of the Philippines;
- f. Philippines Veterinary Medical Association;
- g. Animal Welfare Organizations; and
- h. State and Private Universities and Colleges.

Section 17. *Animal Feeds Advisory Committee (AFSAC).* The Animal Feed Control Advisory Committee (AFCAC) created under Republic Act No 1556, as amended by Presidential Decree No.7, which adopted into law Senate Bill No. 627, is hereby renamed Animal Feed Services Advisory Committee with eleven (11) members, the composition of which shall be modified to add three (3) more members as follows: one legal representative from the NLVSA, one representative from the Legal Division of DA and one from the Philippine College of Veterinary Feed Practitioners.

Section 18. *Mandatory Review and Evaluation.* The recommendations of the NAC-ADE, NACWA, and AFSAC shall be subject to mandatory review and evaluation by the Director General, before the same are submitted for final approval by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Section 19. *Other Advisory Committees.* Other Advisory Committees may be created to assist the NLVSA in the implementation of its various programs and projects.

Chapter V

LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND LOCAL VETERINARY OFFICES

Section 20. *LGU Assistance and Cooperation.* Local Government Units (LGUs) shall assist and closely cooperate with the NLVSA in the implementation of the provisions of this Act. They shall extend any available manpower, security, material and financial resources to any national animal disease prevention and control measures, animal welfare and other national programs being undertaken by the NLVSA within their respective jurisdictions.

Section 21. *Creation of Municipal Veterinary Positions.* The position of municipal veterinarian shall be mandatory in all first-class municipalities and optional in other municipalities.

Section 22. *Responsibilities of Provincial, City and Municipal Veterinarians.* In addition to the duties of a veterinary officer as provided in Section 489 of Republic Act No. 7160, also known as the "Local Government Code of 1991", it shall be the duty of veterinary officers, as the case maybe, to:

1. Ensure the implementation of policies, rules and regulations issued by NLVSA and other coordinating agencies in accordance with the provisions of this Act and its related laws, rules and regulations towards the enforcement of animal disease prevention, control measures and animal welfare regulations.
2. Extend assistance, as may be necessary, to the NLVSA in the implementation or enforcement of animal disease prevention and control measures, and animal welfare within their area of responsibility.
3. Comply with all reportorial and documentary requirements needed by the NLVSA in the implementation of this Act.

Section 23. *Issuance of Mayor's Permit.* No LGU shall issue any Mayor's Permit to operate any farm, clinic, animal facility, kennel or any other veterinary establishment unless the owner/operator has secured clearance from the provincial, city or municipal veterinarian attesting to the fact that the establishment has complied with all the requirements prescribed under NLVSA rules and regulations.

Chapter VI

ROLE OF ALLIED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND NON-GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Section 24. *Allied Government Agencies.* Allied government agencies that are performing veterinary services and related functions shall continue to do so. The Director General (DG) of the NLVSA as the national competent authority shall call upon other allied government agencies and academe in the implementation of this Act.

Section 25. *Other Agencies and Sectors.* The NLVSA shall establish agreements with other government sectors, private sectors, academe and other relevant agencies and stakeholders in the implementation of plans and programs in animal disease prevention, control, eradication and to ensure prompt mobilization of all essential personnel and resources in the event of animal disease emergencies.

Section 26. *Responsibilities.* All government agencies and private entities performing veterinary and related functions shall cooperate fully with the Director General and comply with the set policies and technical standards for veterinary services.

Chapter VII

ANIMAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND ANIMAL PRODUCTION FOOD SAFETY

Section 27. *Duty to Report Notifiable Diseases.* All animal and livestock producers, owners, operators, farm managers, farm veterinarians, animal facility operators and farm consultants who have in their possession or care, animals or animal products infected or suspected to be infected, or have reasonable grounds to believe that the animal or animal product is infected with a Notifiable Disease are duty bound to report to the concerned Local Government Unit -Veterinary Office or to the NLVSA or to the RLVSO immediately within 24 hours by the quickest means possible.

These notifiable diseases are, but not limited to, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Classical Swine Fever (CSF, Hog Cholera), Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HP AI), Newcastle Disease (ND) or Avian Pest, Rabies, Anthrax and Hemorrhagic Septicemia.

The NLVSA shall provide a complete list of Notifiable Diseases and their reporting guidelines which shall be updated from time to time.

Section 28. *Proper Disposal of Dead Animals and Potentially Infective Materials.* Dead animals, manure, and other potentially infective materials from regular operations of farms, clinics, animal facilities shall be disposed in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations and guidelines set by NLVSA.

Section 29. *Animal Disease Surveillance and Epidemiology.* All agencies performing veterinary services shall be responsible in monitoring animal disease situation by conducting regular surveillance of the animal and livestock population in their respective jurisdiction and are required to report periodically to the NLVSA.

Section 30. *National Registry, Animal Identification and Traceability of Livestock.* A national registry of animal facilities and establishments shall be established by the NLVSA. An animal identification system shall also be developed to be able to trace the origin of each animal or groups of animals. The NLVSA in consultation with livestock stakeholders shall also establish farm classification system in accordance with accepted standard and parameters.

Section 31. *Mandatory Vaccination.* To prevent, control, and eradicate emerging or re-emerging, communicable and exotic diseases, all animals shall have to be vaccinated in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of this Act.

Section 32. *Emergency Preparedness.* The NLVSA shall draft the National Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Plans in response to animal health, welfare and animal production food safety. Measures shall also be developed to mitigate the effect of climate change in the livestock industry.

Section 33. *Animal Welfare Practices.* All animal producers, owners, operators, farm managers, farm veterinarians, animal facility operators and farm consultants who have in their possession or care, animals shall adopt and observe animal welfare regulations and practices.

Section 34. *Animal Health, Welfare and Animal Production Food Safety Information System.* The NLVSA shall develop a more effective animal health information system involving agencies and other stakeholders on animal health, welfare and animal production food safety including the establishment of an effective information network.

Section 35. *Risk Analysis.* Principles of risk analysis shall be incorporated in all policy formulation and standard setting.

Section 36. *Veterinary Public Health.* The NLVSA shall take the lead role in the formulation and implementation of veterinary public health programs and activities particularly in the prevention and control of zoonoses and food safety.

Section 37. *Mandatory Engagement of the Professional Services of a Veterinarian.* All animal establishments such as but not limited to farms, zoos, kennels, apiaries, aviaries, livestock markets, animal race tracks and cockpits shall engage the professional services of a veterinarian based on minimum number of animals and other parameters to be prescribed by the NLVSA, in consultation with concerned sectors.

Section 38. *Farm Inspection and Certification.* The NLVSA in consultation with stakeholders shall establish standards and parameters on farm inspection and certification.

Chapter VIII QUARANTINE MEASURES AND FACILITIES

Section 39. *Border Post Entry.* The importation of animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal feeds and feed ingredients, veterinary drugs, veterinary biologicals, veterinary cosmetics and veterinary devices, and other potential vectors of animal diseases shall be subjected to close veterinary inspection at ports of entry, and if warranted, placed under quarantine, and tested as may be deemed appropriate and necessary. Such importation must comply with prescribed documents, such as, but not limited to (I) an Authority to Import duly issued by the NLVSA and secured prior the importation, and an International Health Certificate and/or Sanitary Phytosanitary (SPS) Clearance, or its equivalent, and such other documents as may be required by the NLVSA to be obtained from the proper authorities of the country of origin.

Section 40. *Boarding Inspection of Carriers.* All vessels and planes, domestic or international, are subject to boarding inspection upon arrival, and before departure for any unloaded and undeclared importation, unauthorized exportation, or local shipment of regulated or prohibited animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal feeds and feed ingredients, veterinary drugs, veterinary biological, veterinary cosmetics, veterinary devices, and other potential vectors of animal diseases. The captain, master or skipper, other officers and crew members, and agent of such carriers shall render assistance as the Veterinary Officer and his deputies may reasonably request to facilitate the discharge and disposal of illegal articles.

Section 41. *Release from Customs Zone.* The Bureau of Customs or its representative shall not allow the release of any article of importation that is subject to veterinary inspection, quarantine and examination procedures unless the NLVSA or its duly authorized representative has issued a Veterinary Quarantine Compliance Certificate or Lifting of Quarantine for the particular shipment, as the case may be.

Section 42. *Prohibited Importation.* No importation of animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects and other related products, such as but not limited to fodder crops and forage, shall be allowed from countries known or declared to be infected with a dangerous communicable animal disease or diseases which has been banned to export the said products to the Philippines and where there is a possible danger of spreading or introducing such disease or diseases into the Philippines by the importation of such item. All in-transit shipments at the time of the occurrence of the foreign disease or contagion shall be subjected to strict disposal, and as the NLVSA may determine, in the overriding interests of protecting the animal and public health of the country.

Section 43. *Wildlife and Endangered Species.* In accordance with Section 2 of Article 14 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

on effect on domestic legislation and international conventions. all kinds of wildlife that are subject to veterinary quarantine regulations shall be under NLVSA jurisdiction.

Section 44. *Exportation Clearance or Certificate.* No animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, animal feeds, veterinary drugs, veterinary products and veterinary biological products shall be allowed to be exported and loaded on board ships and airplanes or any vehicle unless it is accompanied by a Veterinary Health Certificate or International Veterinary Certificate or Commodity Clearance duly issued by the NLVSA, and it has complied with the quarantine requirements of the country of destination.

Section 45. *Transshipment.* All transshipment of live animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, animal feeds, and veterinary products at domestic or international ports shall comply with the animal health and welfare rules and regulations prescribed by the NLVSA.

Section 46. *Domestic Shipping.* All inland and inter-island shipments of animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, veterinary drugs and veterinary biological products from one province or region to another shall be accompanied by a Veterinary Health Certificate or Shipping Permit duly issued by the Director General or his duly authorized representatives. The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) and other agencies/entities managing fishports, and other ports shall require the owner, agent or master of carrier, or vessel to secure and submit a copy of clearance from the Veterinary Inspector or his deputies assigned thereat as a prerequisite to issuance of clearance to depart from the port.

Section 47. *Illegal or Unauthorized Shipments.* Shipments of animals, animal products, animal by-products, veterinary drugs, veterinary biological products and animal feeds which are found to be in violation of this Act and its rules and regulations, or orders of the Director General or his veterinary quarantine officers shall be confiscated and disposed of in a manner prescribed by the Director General.

Section 48. *Registration of Commercial Livestock Traders and Shippers.* All commercial livestock trader and shippers or handlers who are engaged in the inter-provincial and regional shipment/transportation of livestock shall register with the NLVSA in order to maintain disease free areas and achieve safe, clean and orderly handling of commodities through the various stages of marketing or distribution channels.

Section 49. *Prescribing Standard Operating Procedures for Veterinary Quarantine Services in all Seaports and Airports.* The NLVSA shall establish a standard operating procedure for the Veterinary Quarantine Services at the different quarantine facilities such as but not limited to seaports and airports in the country.

Section 50. *Declaration of Infected Areas, Premises or Zones.* If the Director General has reasonable grounds to believe that any premises, place or area is infected with a Notifiable Disease, he may, by a written order, declare an area to be infected. In case of an outbreak of communicable animal and zoonotic diseases, the

Director General has the power to declare the area, region, province or specific Farm or establishment under quarantine.

Section 51. *Movement in Infected Areas.* Movement of animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, veterinary drugs, veterinary biological products, and transport vehicles reasonably suspected to be exposed or contaminated with a Notifiable Disease shall be restricted in areas, region, province or specific farm or establishment that are declared infected, unless authorized by the Director General or his duly-authorized representative. In the event of a disease outbreak, zones shall be established to restrict the movement of animals between zones. Notices declaring the areas under quarantine shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the Municipal and/ or Barangay hall, as the case may be.

Section 52. *Lifting of Order of Quarantine.* The Director General shall issue an order lifting the quarantine where the areas, region, province or specific farm or establishment declared to be infected are eventually determined to be safe and out of danger from such infection. This shall authorize the resumption of shipments within the affected places.

Section 53. *Duty of Owner or Holder.* A person who owns or is in charge of, or has in his or her possession or control, an animal or animal product which the person has reasonable grounds to suspect is infected with a Notifiable Disease must as far as practicable, keep that animal or animal product separate from not infected animals or animal products.

Section 54. *Controlled Shipments.* It shall be unlawful for any person to possess, administer or use infectious disease agents, for scientific, laboratory or other purposes, unless duly authorized by a special permit by the Director General to handle hazardous materials.

Section 55. *Depopulation Order.* The Director General or his duly authorized representative may, by a written Depopulation Order, require the stamping out of healthy animals in declared infected areas, premises or zones to prevent further spread of the disease.

Section 56. *Destruction Order.* The Director General or his duly authorized representative may, by a written Destruction Order, require the proper disposal of: any animal, animal product, and effect, and if deemed necessary, any expendable material such as, but not limited to, litter, bedding, feed bags, chick cartoon, animal crates, cage, and feeds which is infected or reasonably suspected to be infected with a Notifiable Disease; and confiscated expired, banned, unregistered, counterfeit, veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs and products.

Section 57. *Disinfection Order.* The Director General or his duly authorized representative may, by a written Disinfection Order, likewise, require the owner or person in charge or in apparent control of an area which is infected, or reasonably suspected to be infected with a Notifiable Disease, to clean and disinfect said area, including vehicles or any material found therein.

Section 58. *Disease-Free Areas.* Declaration of any area as disease-free shall be

made by the NLVSA Director General upon the recommendation of concerned animal health authorities of said office. The declaration of an area as disease-free shall be subject to the guidelines set by concerned NLVSA.

Section 59. *Expenses of Quarantine and Authority to Auction.* The owner, consignee or possessor of the animals placed under quarantine shall reimburse the NLVSA for the expenses incurred during the quarantine period of such animals, in case of his failure to do so after a Lifting Order of Quarantine has been issued and duly served upon him, the NLVSA shall have the right to auction off his animals to recover such expenses made.

Section 60. *Non—Liability Clause.* All charges for storage, demurrage, cartage, labor and delays incident to the inspection, cost of disinfection and disposition and other post entry requirement shall be paid by the importer, exporter, shipper or consignee, as the case may be.

Section 61. *The Veterinary Quarantine Service Officer (VQSO).* The VQSO or any other authorized personnel of the Center for Veterinary Quarantine Services shall not be held liable for damages to the commodity or any other damages in the course of implementation of the provisions of this Act, as well as its implementing rules and regulations.

Section 62. *Disposal of food or garbage from vessels or planes.* No food provisions or garbage shall be unloaded from vessels or airplanes if there is danger that such provision may introduce any communicable animal disease into the country, especially if such provisions originated from areas known to be infected with any communicable animal disease.

Section 63. *Role of BOC, PPA, ATO and other ports.* The BOC, PPA and other seaport and airport authorities shall cooperate with the veterinary quarantine service in the enforcement of this Act or any rules and regulations issued in the implementation thereto and shall give effect to the same in so far as they are connected with matters of shipping, navigation and transportation, or shipment/transport of animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, animal feeds, and veterinary drugs/products and veterinary biologics.

Section 64. *Establishment of Veterinary Quarantine Stations.* The NLVSA shall establish and maintain quarantine stations for the detention, treatment and observation of animals in such places as may be approved from time to time by the Secretary of Agriculture, and to place all animals arriving from foreign and domestic ports or interior places in quarantine for such time as he may deem necessary to prevent the introduction and spread of dangerous communicable animal diseases.

Chapter IX

INDEMNIFICATION AND DISEASE ERADICATION TRUST FUND

Section 65. *Creation of a Disease Compensation and Eradication Trust Fund.* A Disease Compensation and Eradication Trust Fund shall be provided for in the General Appropriations Act annually be held by the Authority. It shall not be reduced and shall not revert to the General Fund even if the same is not used for a current

fiscal year. An initial amount of Three Hundred Million Pesos (P300,000.000.00) is hereby appropriated to start the seed fund for the Disease Compensation and Eradication Trust Fund. subject to replenishment and increase to such amounts as circumstances may require.

Section 66. *Fund Utilization.* The Fund shall be applied for the payment of compensation to the owner of animals. It shall be utilized for the payment of expenses directly connected with controlling, eradicating or preventing, the spread of any animal disease that is notifiable or emerging or re-emerging, exotic and zoonotic including administrative expenses.

Section 67. *Coverage of Compensation.* Only those animals that were stamped out pursuant to the Depopulation Order issued by the Director General, as recommended by NAC-ADE and as approved by the Secretary of Agriculture, to prevent further spread of the disease should be indemnified. Dead animals due to notifiable and emerging or re-emerging exotic and zoonotic diseases are not compensable.

Section 68. *Compensable Amount.* The amount of compensation payable shall be more than sixty per cent (60%) of the market value of the identified animals that are ordered depopulated on account of a disease.

Section. 69. *Issuance of Compensation Guidelines.* Guidelines for the payment of compensation shall be prescribed by the NLVSA in consultation with stakeholders.

Chapter X

SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY (SPS) MEASURES, TRADE FACILITATION AND HARMONIZATION

Section 70. *International Harmonization.* The NLVSA shall study and review national standards on animal health, animal welfare and farm feed and food safety, participate in international for a relative to formulation and adoption of international standards and harmonize our national standards with relevant international standards.

Section 71. *Certification Systems.* The NLVSA shall, in consultation with stakeholders, develop certification systems including third party certifications on animal health, animal welfare, farm feed and food safety products, services and production in accordance with national and international standards.

Section 72. *Equivalence and Other Types of Sanitary Agreements.* The NLVSA, in consultation with other agencies and stakeholders shall develop, negotiate and implement appropriate level of protection (ALOP) in relation to human and animal life and health in its territory, based on the principle of equivalence and other types of sanitary and trade agreements with trading partners such as but not limited to, the application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SP5) Measures of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Section 73. *Transparency.* The NLVSA shall have the responsibility to notify the OIE and/or the WTO SPS Committee of the country's animal health, animal welfare

and animal production, food safety, sanitary and phytosanitary status, and other relevant matters. The NLVSA shall inform stakeholders on the changes in the regulations and decisions.

Section 74. *Zoning*. The NLVSA shall have the authority to apply for recognition to the OIE the disease-free zones and shall implement relevant measures and practices to establish and maintain these disease-free zones as based on physical boundaries.

Section 75. *Compartmentalization*. The NLVSA shall establish and maintain disease-free areas within its territory in accordance with OIE recommendations.

Chapter XI VETERINARY LABORATORIES

Section 76. *Certification and Accreditation*. The NLVSA shall be responsible for controlling both government and private veterinary testing laboratories. Only duly certified or accredited veterinary testing laboratory facilities are allowed to do diagnostic, feed analysis and other services. The NLVSA shall develop guidelines and standards in the certification or accreditation of various veterinary laboratory facilities and establish quality systems towards international certification.

Section 77. *Biosafety and Biosecurity*. Standards and guidelines for laboratory biosafety and biosecurity shall be established and practiced by veterinary and feed analysis laboratories per national and international recommendations.

Section 78. *Proficiency Testing*. A system of quality assurance shall be developed and implemented to ensure continuing proficiency and competency of certified or accredited diagnostic and assay laboratories.

Section 79. *Establishment of a Specialized Diagnostic Laboratory for Swine Diseases*. There shall be established a specialized laboratory for the diagnosis of swine diseases which have grown in complexity in recent years and adversely affected all farms in the country.

Chapter XII REGULATIONS ON ANIMAL FEEDS AND VETERINARY PRODUCTS

Section 80. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*. in consonance with RA No. 1556, as amended by PD No. 7, RA No. 1071, and Act No. 3101, the NLVSA shall provide the necessary rules and regulations on the manufacture, production, handling, storage, sale and use of veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs and products, veterinary devices, mixed animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements, feed additives, concentrates, base feeds, base mixes, specialty feeds, special feed nutrient preparations, other feed products and their establishments which have to be followed and complied with for registration.

Section 81. *Registration and Licensing*. Each class, type, brand or trade mark of

veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs, veterinary devices, veterinary cosmetics, mixed animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements, feed additives, concentrates, base feeds, base mixes, specialty feeds, special feed nutrient preparations, and other feed products, inclusive of the establishments shall be registered individually and shall be assigned separate registration numbers. A permanent Book of Records on the registration number, codes assigned on each product and indicated therein the class, type, brand or trade mark, technical description and manufacturer/importer of each product registered shall be kept.

Section 82. *Importation of Animal Feeds, Veterinary Biological Products, Veterinary Drugs and Related Products.* Importation of animal feeds, veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs and related products without valid SPS and permits shall not be allowed entry. Ail in-transit shipments at the time of the occurrence of the foreign disease or contagion shall be subjected to strict quarantine and laboratory testing, or automatically denied entry and/or confiscation and disposal, as the NLVSA may determine, in the Overriding interests of protecting the animal and public health of the country.

Section 83. *Temporary Revocation and Suspension of License or Permit, and/or Stoppage of Production.* Failure of any grantee of license or permit to comply with any of the requirements provided in this Act or its implementing rules and regulations shall be sufficient ground for the immediate temporary suspension or revocation of such license or permit, and/or stoppage of production and marketing for the particular product, with authority to institute recall order for said product, subject to the institution of immediate formal proceedings against the grantee or licensee.

Chapter XIII

ANIMAL AND LIVESTOCK TRADE PROMOTION

Section 84. *Animal Industry Market Profiles.* The NLVSA shall maintain a database of national, regional and local animal industry market profile to support the business development of animal industries and allied industries. it shall, likewise, integrate marketing information and develop a knowledge management system of the different commodities/industries from national to local level.

Section 85. *Country Animal Products Export Strategies.* The NLVSA shall formulate country animal products export strategies, conduct research and benchmark export/import protocols, prepare industry analysis and reports of potential export market of the different animal food commodities, and spearhead in the promotion of exportable products and by-products to improve the performance of local agribusiness establishments producing these tradable products and by-products.

Section 86. *Contracting and Subcontracting Arrangement.* The NLVSA shall facilitate and coordinate any contracting and subcontracting arrangement between local and foreign investors, as necessary to boost and improve the animal, animal products and by-products export and local trading performance of the animal industry stakeholders.

Section 87. *Export Incentives Programs.* The NLVSA shall formulate and implement the guidelines and policies for the registration and certification of bona fide and eligible exporters and facilitate and coordinate applicants and stakeholders that would like to avail of the different export incentives programs of the NLVSA, Department of Agriculture, and other government agencies that are also providing related services to stimulate international marketing of Philippine-made products.

Section 88. *Livestock Business and Industry Strategic Development.* The NLVSA shall formulate and regularly update short, medium and long-term livestock business and industry strategic development plan which will serve as guide and roadmap for the development of the different industries in the livestock sector cut across the agribusiness supply chain.

Section 89. *Livestock Marketing Information System.* The NLVSA shall strengthen the livestock marketing information system through the development of database systems, printed and online publications of marketing information which could be readily accessible to the input suppliers, producers, marketers, processors, industry associations, government and other stakeholders.

Section 90. *Socio-Economic and Marketing Research.* The NLVSA shall strengthen the utilization of social-economic and marketing research to maximize the benefit or the different methodologies and strategies of these interdisciplinary researches for the sustained growth and development and the trade promotion of the country's animal industry's products and services, considering the social and economic factors that contributes to the increase in income, employment generation, improvement of standard of living and quality of life of livestock farmers, traders, processors, consumers, and in incorporating the socio-economic impact assessment as an integral part of any project, program and policy implementation by the NLVSA and DA on the different industries/commodities.

Section 91. *Marketing Information Governance.* The NLVSA shall support the development of marketing information governance to achieve a more transparent, effective exchange and higher coverage of marketing information dissemination in a national scale. to boost the competitive advantage, strategic and supply chain management of local livestock farmers, traders, processors and other relevant stakeholders, considering the different bilateral and multilateral trade agreements in which the country is already a part of and continually complying with national commitments to efficiently compete in the local and in the international market.

Chapter XIV UTILIZATION OF GOVERNMENT FARMS

Section 92. *Public-Private Sector Participation.* The NLVSA shall maximize the economic potential of its various animal stock and research farms for the benefit of the animal industry through joint government and private sector initiative and participation in the utilization and development thereof.

Section 93. *Use of Government Lands for Quasi-Public Purposes.* All lands of

the government which have been reserved, donated, leased or acquired for animal stock farms or breeding purposes are hereby reclassified or allowed for quasi-public purposes. The Secretary of Agriculture upon the recommendation of the NLVSA in coordination with LGUs shall have the authority to enter into joint venture agreements over such lands with private individuals, corporations and cooperatives with the end in view of maximizing their full potential for livestock production purposes, processing and marketing in achieving the accelerated development of the livestock industry in accordance with the currently approved zoning ordinance.

Chapter XV

PROHIBITIONS AND PENALTIES

Section 94. *Failure to Report Notifiable Diseases.* All animal producers, owners, operators, farm managers, farm veterinarians, and farm consultants who have sufficient knowledge of a notifiable disease and fail to report it to the LGU Veterinary Office or to the NLVSA or to RLVSIO immediately within 24 hours by the quickest means possible shall be fined for the first offense the amount of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00), and for each succeeding offense imprisonment often (10) days.

Section 95. *Obstruction of Duty.* The farm or establishment owner, transport operator, animal facility operator or any person acting on his behalf who disobeys, evades, obstructs or hinders the NLVSA Director General, or any of his enforcement officers or deputized others to perform his duty shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00). A repetition of the same offense shall be punished by imprisonment of six (6) months and cancellation of the registration permit or license of such person, farm, establishment owner, or transport operator whichever is applicable.

Section 96. *False Statements.* Any person who knowingly makes false declaration or misleading statements in his application for license, certificate of product registration or permit, shall upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) and imprisonment of six (6) months.

Section 97. *Non-registration of Transport Facilities and Equipment.* Failure of the owner to register vessels, vehicles, and equipment related to transport of animals, animal products and by-products, animal feeds and feedstuffs, veterinary drugs, veterinary biological products, veterinary devices and other products shall upon conviction be penalized by a fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) and/or imprisonment of sixty (60) days.

Section 98. *Non-observance of Prescribed Procedures.* Any person or establishment operator which during the course of regular operation fails to observe NLVSA approved procedures or during seizure, detention or quarantine fails to seek clearance from NLVSA on the handling, disposal, or destruction and removal of live or dead animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs and veterinary devices, animal feeds and feed ingredients shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) and imprisonment of thirty (30) days.

Section 99. *Unauthorized Operation and Use of Registration Number.* Establishment operators/owners found without a valid License to Operate from NLVSA or unlawfully using the registration number of another feed, veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs and products establishments shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) and imprisonment of thirty (30) days.

Section 100. *Failure to Display and Use of Fake or Expired Registration Certificate.* Establishment operators found not displaying the Registration Certificate or displaying fake or expired certificates in the premises of the establishments shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) and closure of said establishments for second offense.

Section 101. *Illegal Manufacture and Marketing of Animal Feeds, Veterinary Drugs and Veterinary Biological Products.* Any person or establishment operator engaged in the manufacture, trade, importation, distribution, use or sale of banned, substandard, tampered, adulterated, deficient, unlabeled or mislabeled, unbranded or misbranded, expired, repacked, unregistered or damaged through improper handling of veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs and products, veterinary devices, mixed animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements, feed additives, premixes, base feeds, base mixes, concentrates, specialty feeds, special feed nutrient preparations and other feed products, in any form shall upon conviction be penalized by a fine of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) and imprisonment of thirty (30) days.

Section 102. *Illegal Acts on Labeling and Use of Fake Veterinary Drugs and Veterinary Biological Products.* Any person or establishment operator found guilty of tampering, altering, mutilating, destroying, obliterating or removing the whole or any part of the labeling material packages and tags or labels of, or using fake or adulterated veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs and veterinary devices, mixed animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements, feed additives, base feeds, base mixes, concentrates, specialty feeds, special feed nutrient preparations and other feed products, in any form, shall be fined One Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P150,000.00) and imprisonment of sixty (60) days.

Section 103. *Illegal Use and Sale of Veterinary and Human Drugs.* Any person found to be using and selling unlawful or unauthorized veterinary or human drugs for animals raised for human consumption shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of Twenty-five Thousand Pesos (P25,000.00).

Section 104. *Refusal to Vaccinate Animals.* Refusal of an owner or caretaker to have his animals vaccinated during outbreaks of notifiable and priority diseases, emerging or re-emerging diseases, and exotic diseases shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) and/or imprisonment of ten (10) days.

Section 105. *Other Violations of this Act.* Any person, officers of corporation, association, organization or establishment found to be in violation of any of the provisions of this Act that are not covered by the foregoing provisions or rules and regulations issued therewith shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine not less

than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) and/or imprisonment of six (6) months to one (1) year, at the discretion of the court.

Section 106. *Exceptions Under Certain Conditions.* Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed as requiring the Director General to certify for prosecution any first violation of this Act whenever sufficient compliance and public interest with no damage caused to the public or any individual will be adequately served by a suitable written notice of violation and warning duly endorsed by the appropriate Advisory Committee described under Chapter IV hereof, and recommended by the Director General to the Secretary of Agriculture for approval.

Section 107. *Repeated Violation.* Any person found to have committed a second violation of the same offense shall suffer the penalty of fine and/or imprisonment prescribed for said offense.

Chapter XVI

REVOCATION AND SUSPENSION PROCEEDINGS

Section 108. *Institution of Complaint.* The Director General or upon the instance of any interested party may file a complaint before the hearing committee for the formal suspension or revocation of the license or permit duly issued by the NLVSA for violation of its terms and conditions, or any provisions of the rules and regulations applicable thereto.

Section 109. *Hearing Committee.* A Hearing Committee is hereby created to hear any complaint filed under the preceding section. It shall be composed of at least three (3) members. The Director General or in his unavailability, the deputy head of the Center for Animal Products and Services Regulation, shall act as Chairman with the Division Chief of the commodity concerned and any other Division Chief of NLVSA as may be designated by the Director General as members thereof.

Section 110. *Powers and Functions.* The Hearing Committee shall have the following powers and functions:

1. To conduct formal investigation and hearings on the cases before it and make recommendations for appropriate actions thereon for approval of the Director General;
2. To administer oaths, issue summons and subpoenas requiring the attendance and testimony of witnesses or the production of such books, papers, contracts, records, statement of accounts, agreements, and other documents as may be material to a just determination of the matter under investigation, and to testify in any investigation or hearing conducted in pursuance to this Act;
3. To hold any person in contempt, directly or indirectly, and impose appropriate penalties therefor ranging from One Thousand to Ten Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00 to 10,000.00);
4. To enjoin any or all acts involving or arising from any case pending before the Hearing Committee which, if not restrained forthwith, may cause grave or irreparable damage to any party or the government;
5. To use all reasonable means to ascertain the facts, issues and applicable

laws, rules and jurisprudence in each case speedily and objectively and without regard to technicalities of law or procedure, all in the interest of due process.

In any proceeding before the Committee, the parties may be represented by a legal counsel. The Committee report, as approved by the Director General, shall be final and binding on the parties after the lapse of fifteen (15) days from its date of receipt of parties involved. Subject to execution pending appeal, any aggrieved party may appeal to the Secretary of Agriculture within the same period.

Chapter XVII GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 111. Confidentiality of Technical Information. The NLVSA shall take such measures as may be necessary to protect trade, industrial and policy data of industry stakeholders acquired or gathered during the course of official business when disclosure of such information will prejudice the competitiveness or operational viability of concerned persons or entities.

Section 112. Regulatory Fees and Retention of Income.

1. The NLVSA shall have the authority to impose charges and fees for the services as rendered subject to the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture;
2. All income of the NLVSA shall be deposited in an authorized government depository bank as a special regulatory fund. Any interest earned by such fund shall form part of the retained income. Such fund shall be used primarily for but not limited to the acquisition and expansion of office and laboratory space, human resource development and expansion, purchase of laboratory equipment and motor vehicles, the upgrading of its current facilities and equipment, and maintenance, and other operating expenses of the central and regional laboratories, and other activities, services of the agency in the performance of its mandate and support enforcement and monitoring activities;
3. The special regulatory fund shall be allowed to accept grants, donations and other endowments from local and external sources in accordance with pertinent laws, rules and regulations;
4. Any contribution, donation, bequest, subsidy or financial aid which may be made to the NLVSA for the implementation of this Act shall constitute as an allowable deduction from the taxable income of the donor and shall be exempted from donor's tax;
5. The retention, use and application of this fund shall not be delayed, amended, altered, modified, or affected in any way by an order or directive from any executive office but will be subject only to the general accounting rules and guidelines by the Commission on Audit (COA). The primary purpose of the fund as herein stated shall prevail over any other purpose that may be pursued by NLVSA on its own initiative or through an order or directive by any higher office. The NLVSA shall submit annually to the Secretaries of DA and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) a report on how funds were utilized including its accomplishments; and
6. There shall also be established a legal fund out of the interest earned from the

retained income for use in case of legal actions against the officials, employees of the NLVSA in the course of the exercise of their official functions and duties.

Section 113. *Appointment of Veterinary Attachés.* The DA shall strengthen the international animal health, disease surveillance, and information gathering capability by the appointment of veterinary attaches in countries that are major livestock trading partners in other countries. The NLVSA, subject to the approval of the Secretary of DA, and in coordination with other government entities concerned, may require Filipino representatives abroad and foreign-based personnel to assist in the collection of data on animal health, disease surveillance, and other related information.

Section 114. *Foreign and Local Grants and Aids.* The NLVSA, in itself or in collaboration with other agencies, shall receive grants and other funds for its research activities and various programs.

Section 115. *Veterinary Education.* The NLVSA in coordination with CHED and PVMA shall regularly provide recommendations to make veterinary medical curriculum responsive to the needs and imperatives of the animal industry.

Section 116. *Mandatory Review.* The Congress of the Philippines shall undertake a mandatory review of this Act at least once every five (5) years and as often as it may deem necessary to ensure that veterinary policies and guidelines remain responsive to changing circumstances.

Chapter XVIII TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

Section 117. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The NLVSA shall formulate and recommend to the Secretary of DA the necessary rules and regulations for the full implementation of this Act within a period of ninety (90) days after its effectivity.

Section 118. *Creation and Reclassification of Positions.* The NLVSA is hereby authorized to create, upgrade, collapse or reclassify existing positions to veterinary and related positions necessary to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

Chapter XIX FINAL PROVISIONS

Section 119. *Appropriations.* The appropriations for the NLVSA shall be included in the budget of the DA under the General Appropriations Act shall be used to effectively carry out the implementation of this Act. In addition hereto, the amount of One Hundred Million Pesos (P100,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the establishment of a specialized diagnostic laboratory for swine diseases as provided under this Act.

Section 120. *Repealing Clause.* All laws or parts thereof, decrees, orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 121. *Separability Clause.* If any of the provisions of this Act is declare invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 122. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect immediately following its publication in a newspaper of general circulation and in the Official Gazette.

Approved,