



JOINT DOH-DA-DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No. 2020 - 02

SUBJECT: GUIDELINES TO OPERATIONALIZE THE PHILIPPINE INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON ZONOSSES (PhiICZ)

Pursuant to the provisions of Malacañang Administrative Order No. 10 dated 11 April 2011, entitled "Creating the Philippine Inter-Agency Committee on Zoonoses, Defining Its Powers, Functions, Responsibilities, Other Related Matters and Providing Funds Thereof", the following guidelines are hereby promulgated for the information and guidance of all concerned.

I. BACKGROUND/RATIONALE

Over the last 30 years, new infectious agents/diseases affecting humans have emerged at a rate of more than one per year. Seventy-five percent of these have been zoonoses, i.e. Influenza A (H1N1), Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), Leptospirosis, Rabies and Nipah virus, which have had devastating effects on populations, economies and livelihood systems of the Asia Pacific Region;

At present, the emergence of at least 172 zoonotic diseases is attributed to changes in the earth's climate and ecosystems that are affecting the animal population and impacting on human health. Globalization characterized by ease of travel, increased trade and urbanization, where the human population occupies more and more natural habitats of animals, as well as greater demand for food due to increasing human population, have exacerbated the situation.

Emerging infectious diseases pose challenges to countries like the Philippines with limited animal and human health services. Presently, the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Agriculture (DA), and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) work in parallel but with limited areas for convergence of actions.

The key towards effective measures in detecting and controlling the emergence/re-emergence of zoonotic infections lies in the coordinated action of the animal-human health and environment sectors, a "One Health" approach. Towards this end, collaboration must be in place involving the DOH, DA, and DENR and the agencies and offices under each department to efficiently use government resources towards the development and implementation of collaborative plans of action in the prevention, early detection and control of zoonotic diseases;

THEREFORE, this Order is hereby issued to provide the guidelines for the effective operation of the Philippine Inter-Agency Committee on Zoonoses (PhiICZ) as the functional and sustainable "One Health" mechanism to strengthen the coordination between the animal-human health and environment sectors to prevent and control zoonotic diseases at the national and local levels.

II. DEFINITION OF TERMS

As used in this Order, the following terms shall be construed to mean:

- a. **Animal** - refers to invertebrate and vertebrate fauna, whether domestic or wild
- b. **Animal Health Sector** - refers to any entity dealing with animals and their well-being
- c. **Animal-human interface** - refers to the relationships and interactions between animals and humans concerning zoonoses
- d. **Biologics** - refers to:
 - i. Biological reagents for use in the diagnosis of certain diseases;
 - ii. Sera for use in the prevention and treatment of certain diseases;
 - iii. Inactivated or modified vaccines for use in preventive vaccination against certain diseases; and
 - iv. Genetic material of infectious agents
- e. **Competent Authority** - refers to the governmental authority of a country having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of public health, animal health and welfare, and biodiversity protection and conservation
- f. **Condemnation** - refers to the examination and judgment of meat and meat products according to approved protocols by a competent person, or otherwise determined by the controlling authority, as being unsafe or unsuitable for human consumption and requiring appropriate disposal
- g. **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 unrecognized pathogenic agent or disease diagnosed for the first time and which has a significant impact on animal or public health
- h. **Meat Establishments** - refers to premises such as slaughterhouse, poultry dressing plants, meat cutting plants, meat processing plants, cold storage, warehouse, and other meat outlets that are approved and registered by the Competent Authority in which food animals or meat products are slaughtered, prepared, processed, handled, packed and stored
- i. **Meat Inspection** - refers to an act by an official inspector to ensure compliance with the rules and regulations including but not limited to humane handling of slaughter animals, ante- and post-mortem inspection, quality assurance program, hygiene and sanitation program, good manufacturing program, sanitation standard operating procedures, hazard analysis critical control point program, residue control program on any meat and meat product, meat establishment and facilities, transport vehicles and conveyance

- j. **Notifiable Disease** - refers to any disease that is required by law to be reported to government authorities
- k. **Novel Disease** - refers to newly identified infectious diseases that are recognized in the human and animal hosts for the first time
- l. **One Health** - refers to an interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral approach to disease surveillance, monitoring, prevention, control and mitigation for human, animal, and environmental health
- m. **Re-emerging Disease** - refers to disease that once were major health problems globally or in a particular country, and then declined dramatically, but are again becoming health problems for a significant proportion of the population
- n. **Wildlife** - refers to wild forms and varieties of fauna, in all developmental stages, including those which are in captivity or are being bred or propagated
- o. **Zoonosis/Zoonotic Disease** [zoonoses: plural] - refers to any disease or infection which is naturally transmissible between animals and humans

III. VISION, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

A. Vision

A nation responsive in effectively preventing, mitigating and eliminating zoonotic diseases for a healthy human and animal population

B. Mission

Strong partnership protecting the Filipino people and the animal population through prevention and control of zoonotic diseases

C. Objectives

C.1. General Objectives

1. To develop a national strategy on the prevention and control of zoonoses; and
2. To establish a functional and sustainable mechanism to strengthen the coordination among animal-human health and environment sectors for the effective prevention and control of zoonotic diseases.

C.2. Specific Objectives

1. To develop, update and recommend policies, guidelines and plans of action on prevention and control of zoonotic diseases;
2. To develop and implement coordinating mechanisms for early detection and response to zoonotic diseases;

3. To conduct risk analysis which includes assessment, management and communication and advise on a coordinated response to zoonotic disease outbreaks;
4. To provide a venue for information sharing and coordinated actions;
5. To develop and implement an organized and systematic approach to risk reduction measures;
6. To organize a network of experts who will provide sound scientific advice; and,
7. To recommend priority areas for research which will serve as basis for policies, guidelines and plans of action

IV. SCOPE AND IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

These guidelines shall apply to all concerned sectors including but not necessarily limited to the following: National Government Agencies (NGAs), Local Government Units (LGUs), civil society organizations, private entities and the community involved in the prevention and control of zoonoses.

V. DECLARATION OF POLICIES

This Administrative Order shall be guided by laws, legal mandates and policies such as, but not limited to:

- A. Act No. 2711 on Animal Quarantine – Statutory Mandate of BAI on Animal Quarantine pursuant to Sections 1761 – 1770 of Act No. 2711 (Revised Administrative Code of 1917) which adopted by reference in Section 5 of Act No. 3639 (Approved on December 7, 1929)
- B. Act No. 3573 – An Act which provides for the Prevention and Suppression of Dangerous Communicable Diseases (Approved on November 26, 1929)
- C. Republic Act (R.A.) No. 8485 – “The Animal Welfare Act of 1998”, as amended by R.A. No. 10631
- D. R.A. No. 9147 – “Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act” of 2001
- E. R.A. No. 9271 – “Quarantine Act of 2004”
- F. R.A. No. 9296 – “The Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines” of 2004, as amended by R.A. No.10536
- G. R.A. No. 9482 or the “Anti- Rabies Act of 2007” – “An Act Providing for the Control and Elimination of Human and Animal Rabies, Prescribing Penalties for Violation Thereof and Appropriating Funds Therefor”
- H. Executive Order (E.O.) No.338, series of 2001 – Restructuring the Department of Agriculture, Providing Funds Therefor, and for Other Purposes
- I. E.O. No.201, series of 2003–Defining the Powers, Functions and Responsibilities of Government Agencies in Response to the SevereAcute Respiratory Syndrome Contagion
- J. E.O. No. 280 series of 2004 – Defining the powers, functions, and responsibilities of government agencies in response to Avian Influenza (AI) or Bird Flu virus and related matters thereto
- K. E.O. No. 826 series of 2009 – Defining the Powers, Functions, and Responsibilities of Government Agencies in Response to Ebola Reston Virus Infection and Matters Related thereto

- L. E.O. No.168, series of 2014 – Creating the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Philippines
- M. Joint DOH-DA Administrative Order No. 001 series of 2005 – “Adopting the Avian Influenza Protection Program (AIPP) Manual of Procedures and establishing the National Avian Task Force (NAITF)”
- N. DOH Administrative Order No. 2007-0036 – Guidelines on the Philippines Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response (PIDSAR) Framework VIII.A. 1.b.1. Immediately notifiable diseases/syndrome or event
- O. DA-Administrative Circular No. 03 s. 2018 - Amendment to DA Administrative Order No. 01, series of 2012 on Declaring the List of Notifiable Animal Diseases
- P. DOH Memorandum No. 2014-0260 – Interim Guidelines on the Preparedness and Response to MERS-CoV
- Q. DOH Memorandum No. 2014-0381 – Preparedness and Response Plan for the Prevention and Control of Ebola Virus Disease

VI. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee shall be composed of the representative of each Department Secretary and the heads of the following agencies or their duly-designated representative:

A. Department of Health

- 1. Bureau of Local Health Development (BLHD)
- 2. Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ)
- 3. Disease Prevention and Control Bureau (DPCB)
- 4. Epidemiology Bureau (EB)
- 5. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- 6. Health Emergency Management Bureau (HEMB)
- 7. Health Facilities Development Bureau (HFDB)
- 8. Health Promotion and Communication Service (HPCS)
- 9. Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM)

B. Department of Agriculture

- 1. Agriculture and Fisheries Information Division (AFID)
- 2. Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI)
- 3. Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)
- 4. National Dairy Authority (NDA)
- 5. National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS)
- 6. Philippine Carabao Center (PCC)

C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

- 1. Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB)
- 2. Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)
- 3. Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB)
- 4. Office of the Undersecretary for Policy and Planning

Other partners, but not limited to the following, shall be invited when specific concerns related to their mandates and specialities are needed:

- 1. Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG)
- 2. Department of Education (DepED)

3. Academic Institutions
4. Research Institutions
5. Surgeon General of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Medical Corps
6. Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Veterinary Corps
7. Association of Municipal Health Officers of the Philippines (AMHOP)
8. Provincial, City, and Municipal Veterinarians League of the Philippines (PCMVLP)
9. Private Sector/Industry Representatives
10. Non-Governmental Organizations
11. House and Senate Committees on Agriculture
12. House and Senate Committees on Health
13. House and Senate Committees on Environment and Natural Resources
14. National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC)
15. United Nations agencies

The DOH, DA, and DENR shall Chair/Co-Chair the Committee on a two-year rotational basis. The Committee shall meet semi annually and whenever the need arises. The current Committee Chair shall designate a secretariat from its Department during its particular term.

VII. FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

The PhilCZ shall:

1. Ensure that the animal and human health sectors' plans, programs and activities are consistent with the National Strategic Work Plan;
2. Review and develop policies, programs and guidelines to ensure the proper implementation of the prevention and control programs on zoonoses;
3. Develop and coordinate capacity building programs and prioritize activities towards improving national and local capabilities;
4. Foster cooperation and commitment between the animal and human health sectors through coordination of activities, exchange of advices and assistance whenever possible;
5. Provide recommendations/advice to the President of the Republic of the Philippines through the Secretaries of the DA, DOH and DENR in times of crises or as deemed necessary (i.e. epidemics of zoonotic nature);
6. Recommend research priorities and ensure dissemination and use of research findings;
7. Organize a pool of experts to provide technical advice on zoonotic diseases;
8. Coordinate and collaborate with other sectors/organizations as necessary to carry out its duties and responsibilities; and
9. Monitor and evaluate implementation of the Committee's programs and policies.

VIII. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF AGENCIES

A. The DOH, DA and DENR shall:

1. Develop and disseminate policies, guidelines, and issuances on zoonotic diseases;
2. Provide epidemiologic data on zoonotic diseases as basis for policy formulation and decision-making;
3. Provide accurate and timely information to specific target audiences;

4. Undertake priority researches and ensure dissemination and use of research findings; and
 5. Serve as Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretariat of the Committee.
 - a. DOH shall serve as Chair and Secretariat of the Committee and DA shall serve as the Vice-Chair for the first two years;
 - b. DA shall serve as Chair and Secretariat of the Committee and DENR shall serve as the Vice-Chair for the next biennium;
 - c. DENR shall serve as Chair and Secretariat of the Committee and DOH shall serve as the Vice-Chair for the third biennium.
 - d. After the 3rd biennium, the aforementioned cycle shall recur.
- B. The DOH shall serve as the lead agency on the prevention and control of zoonotic diseases in humans. It shall:
1. Conduct capacity-building for its technical and field personnel;
 2. Conduct pro-active prevention, detection and response to public health concerns on matters pertaining to zoonotic diseases, food safety, sanitation and vector control;
 3. Adopt additional measures upon the recommendation of the Committee to be undertaken in the health facilities for the prevention and control of zoonotic diseases; and
 4. Disseminate information covering zoonoses in humans as may be approved by the Committee.
- C. The DA shall serve as the lead agency on the prevention and control of zoonotic diseases in livestock, poultry and other domestic animals. It shall:
1. Conduct capacity-building for its technical and field personnel;
 2. Conduct pro-active prevention, detection and response to public health concerns on matters pertaining to zoonotic diseases, food safety, sanitation, vector control and humane disposal of animals;
 3. Adopt additional measures upon the recommendation of the Committee to be undertaken in animal facilities to include but not limited to farms, stockyards, auction markets, meat establishments, feeds and pharmaceuticals/drugs/ biologics outlets for the control and prevention of zoonotic diseases; and
 4. Disseminate information covering zoonoses in livestock, poultry and other domestic animals as may be approved by the Committee.
- D. The DENR shall serve as the lead agency on zoonotic diseases in wild fauna. It shall:
1. Conduct capacity-building for its technical and field personnel as well as LGUs, local communities and other parties concerned. The training shall include wild fauna specimen preservation and other skills necessary to ensure proper implementation of this Order;
 2. Develop and implement protocols for the detection, prevention and control of wild fauna diseases including humane disposal of wild fauna;
 3. Adopt additional measures upon the recommendation of the Committee to be undertaken in protected areas, in wildlife facilities such as but not limited to zoological parks and wildlife rescue centers in identified risk areas for the control and prevention of zoonotic diseases; and
 4. Disseminate information covering wild fauna zoonoses as may be approved by the Committee.

IX. REPORTING AND RESPONSE MECHANISM

A. Criteria for Reporting

Diseases that need to be reported for the attention of the Secretaries should be of national importance that could cause crisis and epidemic such as but not limited to novel zoonotic disease and emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases.

B. Reporting of Zoonoses

B.1. Human Health Sector (See Annex 1)

1. Reports of suspect zoonotic illnesses/deaths from the community, barangay response teams, hospitals, laboratories, private practitioners as well as from the Municipal Health Office (MHO) and City Health Office (CHO) shall be submitted to the Provincial Health Office (PHO).
2. PHO shall validate reports of zoonotic diseases in coordination with the PVO and inform the DOH Regional Office (RO) of the results of the validation.
3. The RO shall assist in the investigation and inform the EB of the results.
4. Similarly, the Bureau of Quarantine, HEMB (OPCEN), government and private hospitals designated as sentinel sites shall inform the EB of any reported deaths or illnesses secondary to zoonoses for investigation.
5. Samples, if necessary or applicable, shall be sent to capable laboratories or to Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM). Result of laboratory test shall be communicated to the Department of Health upon confirmation.
6. The EB shall be responsible in confirming whether these reported illnesses and deaths are indeed due to zoonoses. The EB shall immediately inform DPCB of these reported zoonoses as well as the results of its investigation.
7. Cases of zoonotic diseases (suspected/confirmed) shall be reported immediately to the Secretary of the Health.
8. The Secretary of Health shall immediately inform the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources once a zoonotic disease is confirmed.

B.2. Animal Health Sector (See Annex 2)

B.2.1 Livestock, Poultry and Other Domestic Animals

1. Field reports of sick or dead animals of notifiable zoonotic diseases from Livestock Inspectors/Agricultural Technicians, meat inspectors, barangay response teams, DA Quick Response Teams, veterinary private practitioners as well as from the community shall be reported immediately to the Municipal/City/Provincial Veterinary Office (MVO/CVO/PVO) and BAI. This will also include reports of meat inspection findings from meat establishments (See B.2.2).

Note: Whenever there are no Veterinary Offices in the concerned local government, reports shall be submitted to the immediately concerned veterinarians in the Municipal/City/Provincial Agriculture Office (MAO/CAO/PAO).

2. These local government veterinary/agriculture offices shall verify and report to their respective DA-Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) in coordination with the Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (RADDL). The DA-RFO shall

then report and coordinate with the BAI (Animal Health and Welfare Division and Animal Disease Diagnosis and Reference Laboratory or ADDRL formerly the Philippine Animal Health Center) regarding disease investigation and laboratory testing.

3. The BAI shall also inform the DA-RFOs, DOH-ROs, and local government veterinary/agriculture offices of similar reports received from other sources for verification and reporting.
4. The BAI shall confirm and validate if the case is suggestive of a zoonotic disease or not, and inform immediately the DA-RFO and NMIS Central Office (NMIS CO). In turn, the DA-RFO shall inform the concerned LGU veterinarians and the NMIS CO shall inform its concerned Regional Technical Operation Center (RTOC) and Meat Inspection Officers of the results. The BAI can also directly inform the LGUs. Cases of zoonotic diseases (suspected/confirmed by the BAI) shall be reported immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture.
5. The Secretary of Agriculture shall immediately inform the Secretary of Health and the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources once a zoonotic disease is confirmed.

B.2.2 Meat Inspection Findings

B.2.2.1 Meat Inspection Findings from NMIS-Licensed Meat Establishments

1. Should there be an incidence of notifiable zoonotic disease during meat inspection in the meat establishment, all meat inspection officers assigned thereat must immediately notify their respective meat control officers at the RTOC.
2. The RTOC through the Plant Operation and Inspection Section shall verify the report and assist the meat inspection officers in the conduct of disease investigation, including sample collection and submission for laboratory confirmation, condemnation, and disposal of affected animals. Disease investigation and condemnation reports shall be submitted immediately by RTOC to NMIS CO (Office of the Executive Director and Plant Operation and Inspection Division-POID).
3. Samples shall be sent to NMIS Meat Laboratory or DA-RADDL/BAI-ADDRL for confirmation.
4. Results of the laboratory test, upon confirmation, and follow-up reports, thereafter, shall be communicated by RTOC to NMIS CO.
5. The RTOC through the Regional Technical Director shall immediately inform and coordinate with the NMIS CO, DA-RFO, MVO/CVO/PVO, and MAO/CAO/PAO.
6. The NMIS CO shall be responsible in coordinating with BAI and other government agency partners (when necessary) of the results of the disease investigation.
7. In the event a notifiable zoonotic disease is suspected/confirmed by BAI in an area, the NMIS CO, shall alert its RTOCs.
8. BAI shall report this zoonotic disease to the Secretary of Agriculture who will then immediately inform the Secretary of Health and the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources.

B.2.2.2 Meat Inspection Findings from Locally-Registered Meat Establishments

1. Reports of notifiable zoonotic disease during meat inspection from Local Municipal/City Meat Inspectors shall be reported immediately to the MVO/CVO/PVO, NMIS CO/RTOCs and BAI.

Note: Whenever there are no Veterinary Offices in the concerned local government, reports shall be submitted to the immediately concerned veterinarians in the MAO/CAO/PAO, and NMIS CO.

2. Field verification, laboratory confirmation, reporting and coordination activities will be done as stated in B.2.2.1 Item Nos. 2-7.

B.2.3. WildlifeSector – Terrestrial (see Annex 3)

1. Any person or office from any public or private entity who may have encountered/observed apparently sick or dead wild animals must send a spot report to the nearest Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) or to the DENR-National Capital Region through the Conservation and Development Division (CDD), as the case may be. The report shall contain information on what species, where and when the sick/dead wild animals were observed/encountered.
2. The CENRO/CDD shall verify the report and send the validated report to the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) or to the DENR-NCR Director, as the case may be. CENRO/CDD shall secure the specimen and coordinate with Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB) in the collection of samples from the secured specimens.
3. The PENRO shall send report to the concerned DENR Regional Office.
4. The DENR Regional Office shall send report to the DENR Central Office through the Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations who shall refer it to the BMB.
5. The CENRO/CDD or BMB shall send the samples collected to the nearest DA-RADDL or BAI-ADDRL for laboratory testing. The BMB shall immediately coordinate with the BAI-AHWD, in case the results of the laboratory test suggest zoonotic disease.
6. With the above information, the BMB shall immediately submit an urgent report to the DENR Secretary, copy furnished the Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations. Results of the laboratory tests are relayed both to the DENR Office of the Undersecretary for Field Operations and Office of the Secretary.
7. The DENR Secretary shall immediately relay the report on zoonotic disease detection to the Secretary of Health and the Secretary of Agriculture.

C. Coordination and Collaboration: Convening the PhiICZ

1. When there is a zoonotic disease situation of national importance, the PhiICZ shall be convened upon the advice of any of the Secretaries of the DOH, DA and DENR regardless which Department reported the situation (see Annex 4).
2. Once convened, the PhiICZ shall collect, collate, and analyze reports provided by all agencies concerned.
3. To ensure consistency and coherence of information, all updates and recommendations to all concerned agencies and other stakeholders must emanate from the PhiICZ (see Annex 5).
4. The PhiICZ recommendations shall focus on a joint response, but not limited to the following:
 - a. Risk Assessment;
 - b. Risk Management such as disease investigation, prevention and control measures, and joint surveillance; and
 - c. Risk Communication

X. FUNDING

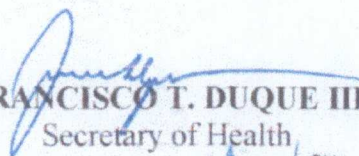
Each concerned department shall appropriate at least two million pesos (Php 2,000,000.00) annually for the operations of the PhilCZ.

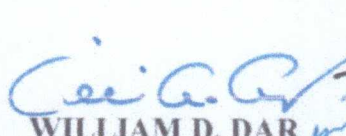
XI. REPEALING CLAUSE

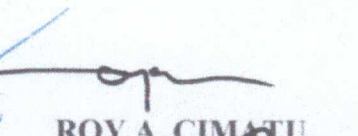
All previous issuances, orders, rules and regulations or any provisions thereof inconsistent with this Order are hereby deemed repealed or modified accordingly.


XII. EFFECTIVITY

This Joint Administrative Order shall take effect immediately.


FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III
Secretary of Health
once 1/15/20


WILLIAM D. DAR
Secretary of Agriculture
once 1/15/20


ROY A. CIMATU
Secretary of Environment
and Natural resources
once 1/15/20

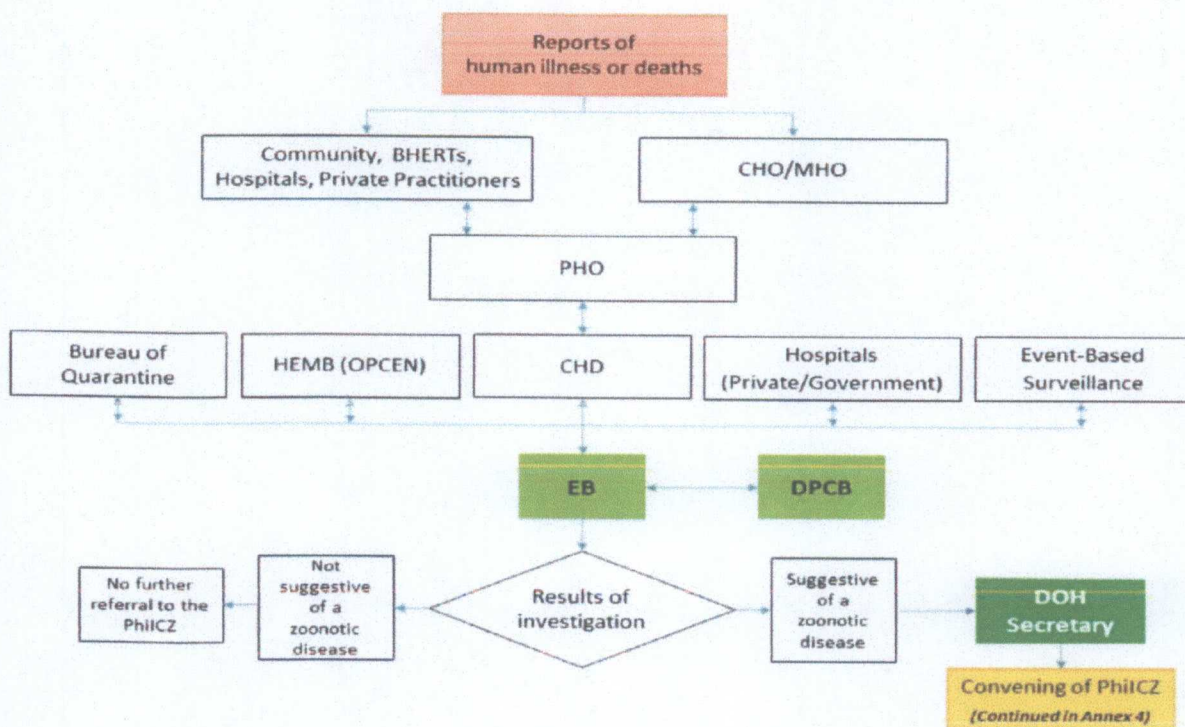
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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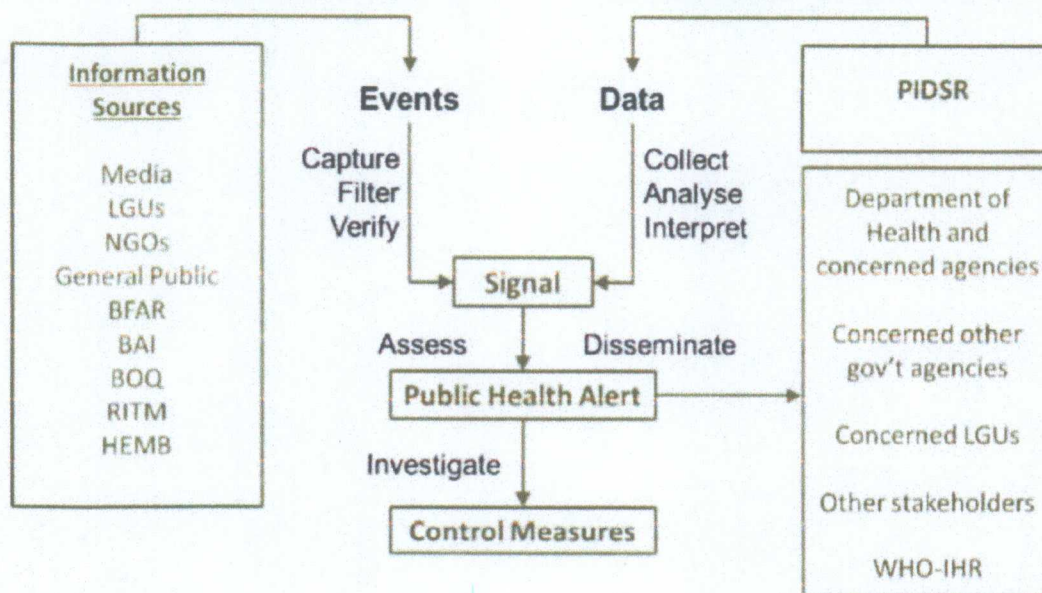
ANNEX 1

REPORTING FLOWCHART FOR ZONOOSES (Human Health Sector)



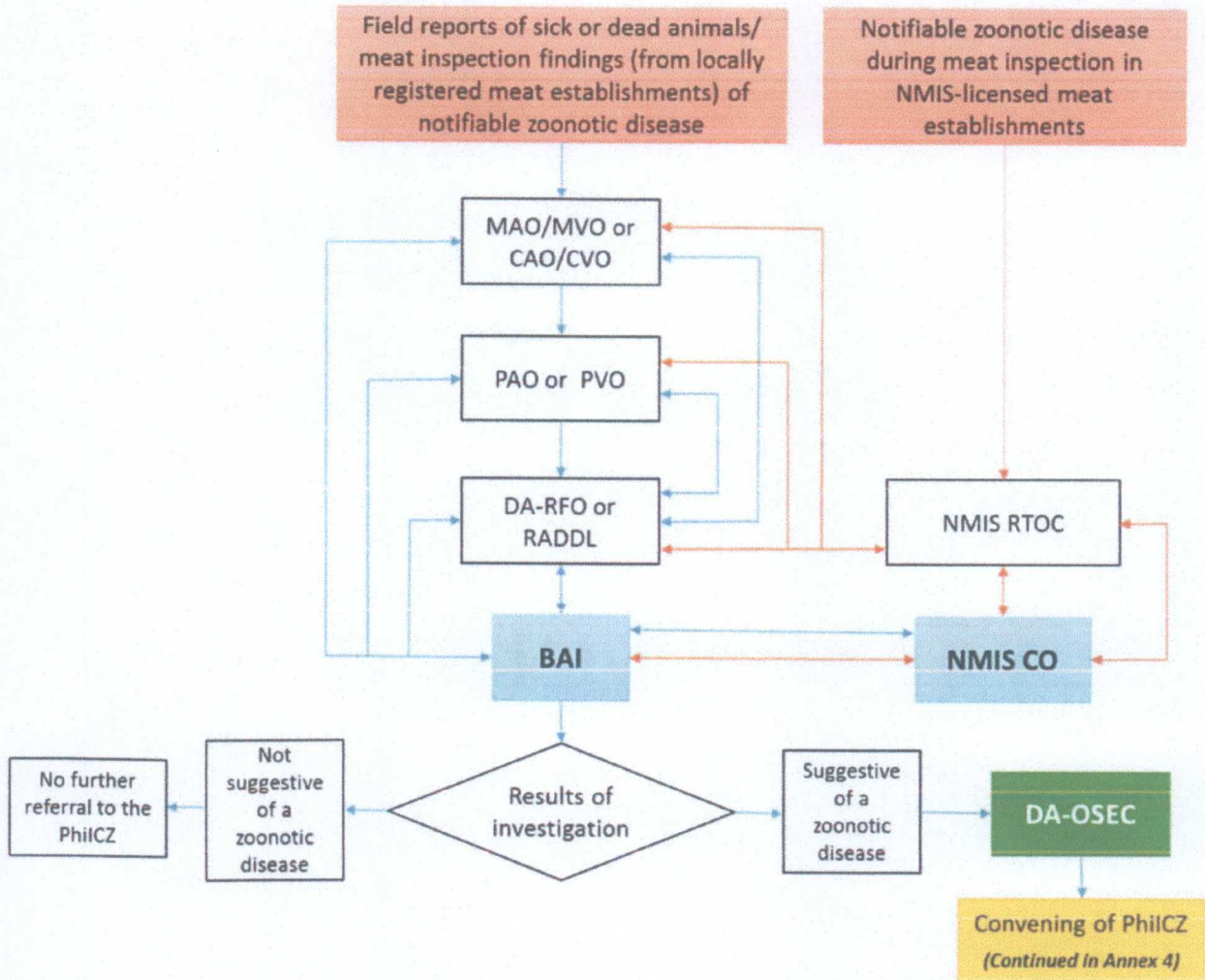
Event-based Surveillance

Routine Surveillance Systems



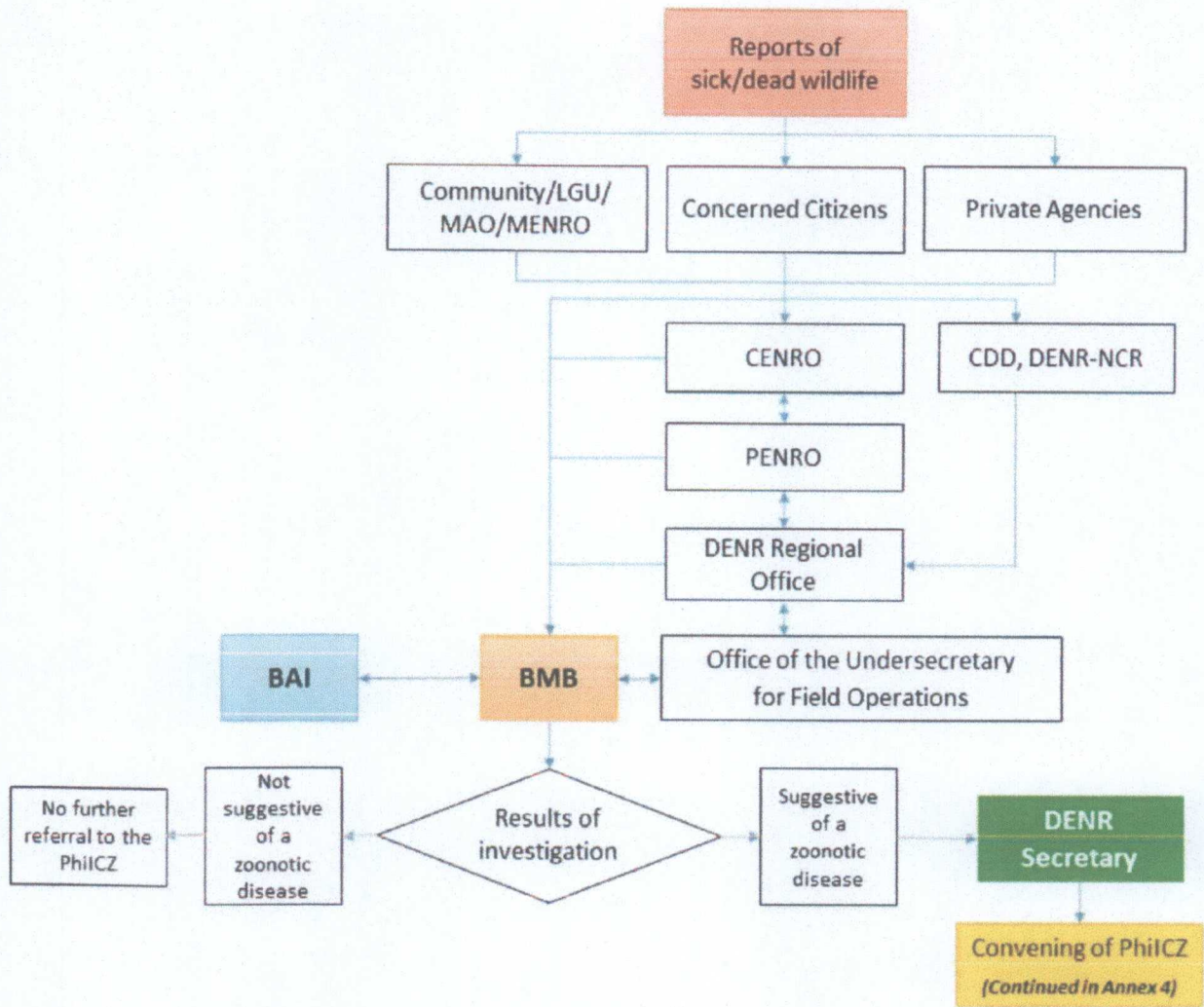
ANNEX 2

REPORTING FLOW CHART FOR ZONOOSES
(Animal Health Sector)



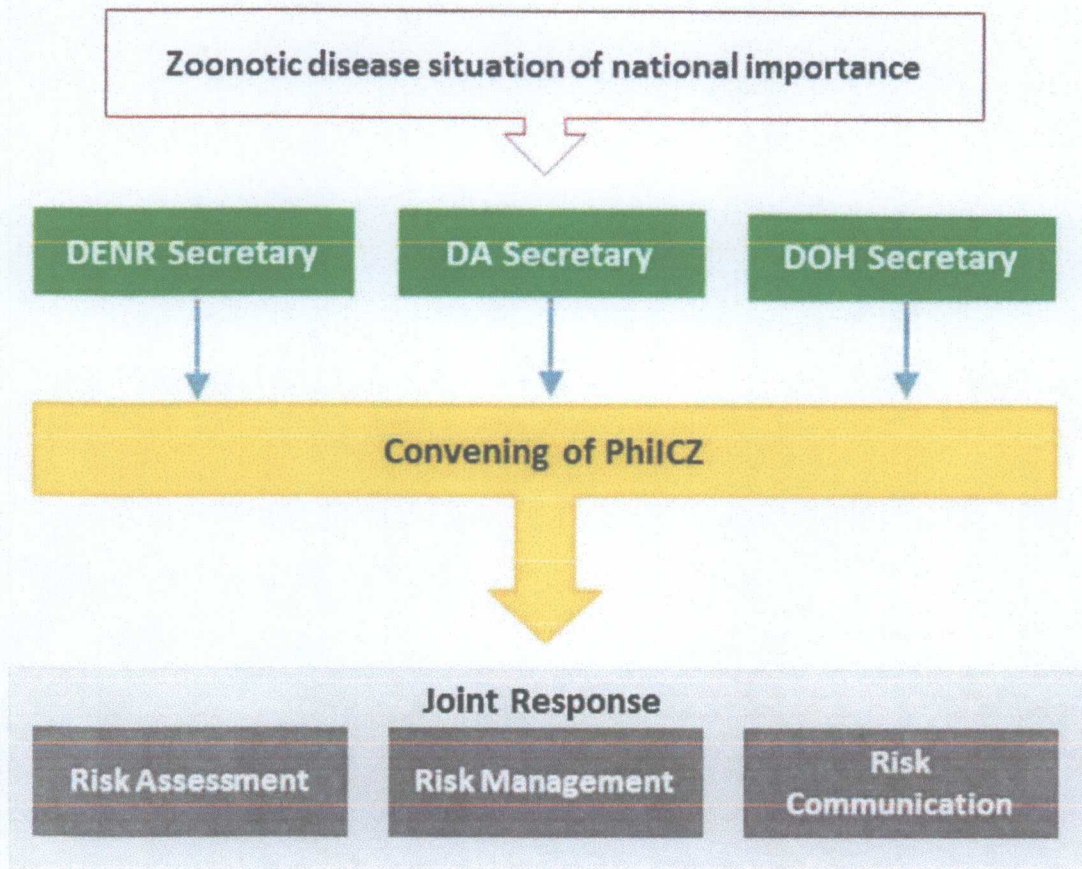
ANNEX 3

REPORTING FLOWCHART FOR ZONOOSES
(Wildlife Sector - Terrestrial)



ANNEX 4

REPORTING FLOWCHART TO CONVENE THE PhilCZ
AND ADDRESS ZONNOSES



ANNEX 5

FLOWCHART OF COORDINATION AND INFORMATION SHARING
FOR ZOOSES

