



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

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OCOM Memo No. 16 - 2024

BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

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MEMORANDUM

**TO : ALL DISTRICT COLLECTORS
ALL SUB-PORT COLLECTORS
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED**

FROM : BIEVENIDO Y. RUBIO
Commissioner

APR 01 2024

**SUBJECT : ALLEGED SMUGGLING OF AFRICAN SWINE FEVER AND
AVIAN INFLUENZA VACCINES CONCEALED IN TRAVEL
LUGGAGES**

DATE : 25 March 2024

This has reference to the attached letter dated 04 March 2024 from Dr. Enrico Capulong, Officer-in-Charge Director, Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Animal Industry (DA-BAI) informing the Bureau of Customs about the information they received on the significant quantities of African Swine Fever and Avian Influenza vaccines crossing our border thru small tumblers, plastic glass, and similar improvisations with dry ice as preservative, which are allegedly concealed in travel luggage originating from Vietnam and other nearby Asian countries to avoid apprehension.

Informatively, the said products are under field trial stage, its premature/unauthorize use to vaccinate farm/food animals may lead to unwanted flare ups as reported lately in some parts of pork producing regions, thus, defeating the very nature of its primary purpose.

In view of the foregoing, you are hereby directed to exercise control in ensuring that such shipments are prevented from entering our borders; to coordinate with DA-BAI if such shipments are discovered through routine inspections; and further, to impose appropriate penalties in compliance with customs laws, rules, and regulations.

For appropriate action.



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BAGONG PILIPINAS



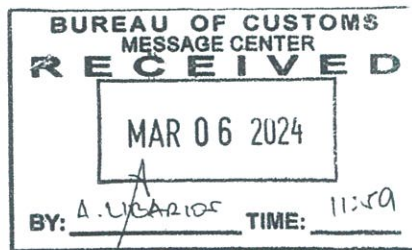
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09-47138

04 March 2024

BIENVENIDO Y. RUBIO
Commissioner
Bureau of Customs
Port of Manila



Dear Commissioner Rubio,

Greetings from the Bureau of Animal Industry!

It has come to our attention regarding the significant quantities of African Swine Fever (ASF) and Avian Influenza (AI) vaccines crossing our border thru small tumblers, plastic glass and similar improvisations with dry ice as preservative. These items were alleged to be concealed in travel luggages originating in Vietnam and other nearby countries in Asia to avoid apprehension.

At present, as the said products are under field trial stage, its premature/unauthorized use to vaccinate our farm/food animals may lead to unwanted flare ups, as reported lately in some parts of our pork producing regions, thus defeating the very nature of its primary purpose.

We have already witnessed the effects of ASF and AI and with its ramifications to our overall economy, it is clear that our continued coordinative efforts at the border is a matter of national security.

We appreciate your kind consideration on issues of mutual concern.

Respectfully yours,

ENRICO MIGUEL L. CAPULONG, DVM, MSA
Officer-in-Charge, Director

