



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ISABELA
City of Ilagan

Office of the Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 02 Series of 2026

RECONSTITUTION OF THE PROVINCIAL TASK FORCE BIRD FLU THAT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE IN THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF AVIAN INFLUENZA (BIRD FLU) IN POULTRY AND IN HUMAN HEALTH IN THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the state to promote a just and fair environment for trade and other economic activities and provide effective mechanism or measures to promote the well-being of its citizens and safeguard them from human activities that pose risk to public health and safety;

WHEREAS, the Province of Isabela is one of the provinces that has a progressive poultry industry with big poultry inventory raised by backyard as well as commercial growers, and that their products are not just consumed in the province but are also shared to other provinces and regions.

WHEREAS, the province had previously recorded three (3) confirmed cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) Subtype H5N1 in the City of Cauayan and municipalities of Alicia and Gamu, Isabela on April 21, May 23 and November 07, 2022 respectively. With the continued disease containment joint efforts of C/MLGUs concerned, Provincial Government of Isabela through the Provincial Veterinary Office, Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office No. 2 (DA – RFO 2) and Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and following the Avian Influenza Protection Program (AIPP) guidelines, Isabela was declared as Avian Influenza Free Province through Department of Agriculture issued Memorandum Circular no. 55, series of 2023, dated December 20, 2023.

WHEREAS, Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) remains a national concern affecting ten (10) provinces/city of Kalinga, Benguet, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Laguna, City of Manila, Cotabato, South Cotabato, Davao del Sur and Isabela as per BAI - Avian Influenza Status Update Report dated December 5, 2025.

WHEREAS, the recent outbreaks of Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) in the aforementioned areas demonstrates how fast the disease may be transmitted thereby posing threat to the poultry industry in the province and causing alarm to the poultry raisers as well as to the consumers.

WHEREAS, Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) recently recurred in Gamu, Cauayan City and Quezon, Isabela on October 14, October, 24 and November 26, 2025 respectively. Disease investigation and surveillance was promptly conducted and the samples collected was examined at BAI through RT-PCR which yielded positive to HPAI, a strain which causes a highly infectious respiratory disease in poultry and transmissible to human.

WHEREAS, upon detection of the disease, the Provincial Government of Isabela, through its Provincial Veterinary Office, in close coordination with the DA – RFO 2, BAI, and concerned C/MLGUs immediately applied disease control measures such as stamping out, cleaning and disinfection operation, movement restrictions, biosecurity and continuous surveillance in the affected areas.

WHEREAS, there is an urgency to reconstitute the Provincial Task Force Bird Flu that will continue monitoring and quarantine of poultry transported to Isabela, as well as set up related procedures that will ensure the quality and safety of poultry meat products in Isabela.

NOW THEREFORE, I, RODOLFO T. ALBANO III, Governor of Isabela, by virtue of powers vested in me by law, do hereby decree the following:

Section 1. Reconstitution. The Task Force shall be composed of the following:

Chairman	-	HON. RODOLFO T. ALBANO III
Vice Chairman	-	HON. FRANCIS FAUSTINO A. DY
Task Force Commander (Committee on Animal Health Protection)	-	DR. HELEN C. SEVILLA Provincial Veterinarian
Task Force Commander (Committee on Human Health Protection)	-	DR. NELSON O. PAGUIRIGAN, MD, FPSMS Provincial Health Officer II
Members	-	MR. KIM PATRICK G. AGBAYANI Public Safety Officer
		PCOL. MANUEL B. BRINGAS Provincial Director, IPPO
		ATTY. EDUARDO R. CABANTAC Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator
		MR. ALFREDO R. PAGUILA Provincial Agriculture and Fishery Council Chairman
		ENGR. CORAZON D. TORIBIO, CESO V Provincial Director, DILG - Isabela
		MS. MARIA THERESA ARANETA-FLORES, CPA Provincial Treasurer
		MS. TERESA F. RESPICIO, CPA Provincial Budget Officer
		ATTY. ELIZABETH P. CUREG-BINAG Provincial Information Officer & Head Executive Assistant
		MR. SERGIO ST. GALAMGAM Provincial Agriculturist
		MR. RODRIGO T. SAWIT Provincial Government Services Officer
		FOR. GERONIMO P. CABACCAN, JR. Environmental and Natural Resources Officer

Section 3. Functions. The Task Force shall have the following functions:

- a) Intensify Animal Health Quarantine Checkpoint in the three (3) entry points (Municipalities of Cordon, Quezon, and San Pablo, Isabela) of the province for the inspection of incoming poultry animals and by-products including chicken dung;
- b) Ensure the compliance of incoming poultry suppliers with applicable agriculture and environmental laws, and identify irregular, inappropriate, suspicious, and potentially unsafe and unhealthy practices and procedures governing or related to the transport of the poultry to Isabela;

- c) Refer to the proper law enforcement authorities, all individual with complete documents who are involved in the transport of poultry animals fresh meat products, as well as those who are transporting unhealthy poultry animals;
- d) Conduct regular assessment of the health Inspection and Quarantine personnel to help determine the impact of the transported poultry on public health and safety;
- e) Create a database containing information gathered and researched, and raw and processed data that will be helpful in the conduct of monitoring activities, which can be accessed by members of the task Force;
- f) Recommend corrective mitigating measures in accordance with its mandate, including but not limited to penalties and fines, and the issuance of a temporary or permanent ban or erring outside suppliers who brought in sick or suspicious poultry, in violation of this order;
- g) Conduct regular meetings for cohesive action and systematic procedures;
- h) Request from any official, instrumentality or agency of the government or any private person or enterprise dealing in or engaged in public and health and safety, such data or information as it may need to implement its mandate;
- i) Recruit and screen persons from the private or public sector for designation as additional members of the Task Force, as necessary;
- j) Disseminate information on public health and food safety to all residents of Isabela, to raise awareness or increase public vigilance on food quality and safety issues as well as arm them with information on what signs or symptoms to look out for when raising poultry or purchasing fresh meat products;
- k) Submit a quarterly report of all findings and recommendations to the Provincial Governor for his action;
- l) Perform other tasks as may be necessary to achieve the objectives of the Task Force.

Section 4. Funding. Funding of the Task Force shall be sourced from the Office of the Governor.

Section 5. Repealing Clause. All issuance, orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof that are in consistent with any provision of this Order are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 6. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

Issued this 12th day of January, 2026 in the City of Ilagan, Isabela.


RODOLFO T. ALBANO III
Governor 



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