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Republic of the Philippines

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

DILG-NAPOLCOM Center, EDSA corner Quezon Avenue, Quezon City  
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**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2020-140**

**TO : ALL PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY AND MUNICIPAL MAYORS, PUNONG BARANGAYS, DILG REGIONAL DIRECTORS AND FIELD OFFICERS, BARMM MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND OTHERS CONCERNED**

**CHIEF, PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE**

**SUBJECT : GUIDELINES ON THE RESUMPTION OF COCKPIT OPERATIONS OR COCKFIGHTING IN AREAS UNDER MODIFIED GENERAL COMMUNITY QUARANTINE (MGCQ) OR LOWER**

**DATE : OCT 23 2020**

**I. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE**

The confirmation of the Department of Health (DOH) of the first case of local transmission of the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID19) in the country prompted the issuance of Presidential Proclamation No 922 "Declaring A State of Public Health Emergency Throughout the Philippines" by President Rodrigo Duterte on March 8, 2020. Four days later, the national code alert of COVID 19 was raised to Code Red Sublevel 2 upon the recommendation of the DOH and the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF MEID). This was followed by the issuance of Presidential Proclamation No 929 on March 16, 2020. "Declaring a State of Calamity throughout the Philippines due to COVID 19

Continuous rise of confirmed cases of COVID19, prompted government to impose strict social distancing, health safety and

quarantine protocols, among other precautionary measures in order to contain and prevent the spread of the disease.

This global pandemic has not only posed a serious threat to the health and safety of the Filipinos but has directly affected the country's economy, disrupting operations of numerous businesses and livelihood among which includes the cockfighting industry. A 50 Billion Industry with 1210 cockpits affected with a loss of employment totaling 700,000 unemployed.

As the country prepares to slowly open industries, through the implementation of policies provided by the IATF MEID, which adopts the "whole of government" and "whole of society" approach in mitigating the impact of COVID 19. There is a need therefore to provide for guidelines that shall ensure that strict compliance of health and safety protocols are in place.

## II. PURPOSE

This Memorandum Circular is issued to enjoin all concerned local government units (LGUs) to undertake necessary actions in the management of cockpits and the conduct of cockfighting activities in areas placed under Modified General Community Quarantine or lower.

## III. LEGAL BASES

- **Sec. 447 (a) (3) (v) of the Local Government Code** gave the LGU the power to authorize and license the establishment of cockpits, regulate cockfighting, and the commercial breeding of gamecocks;
- **President Fidel V. Ramos issued Executive Order No. 149, series of 1993, entitled 'Streamlining the Office of the President'** Transferred the defunct Philippine Gamefowl Commission (PGC) to the Games and Amusements Board;
- **Philippine Gamefowl Commission** created by virtue of Presidential Decree 1802, established in 1981, empowered to regulate the conduct of international cockfight derbies and regular cockfighting in the country.

- **Presidential Decree 449** otherwise known as the Cockfighting Law of 1974, signed by President Ferdinand Marcos shall govern the establishment, operation, maintenance and ownership of cockpits
- **IATF Resolution No. 79, series of 2020**, allowing the operation of licensed cockpits and the conduct of cockfighting activities in areas placed under Modified General Community Quarantine or lower, subject to the strict observance with health and safety protocols and implementing guidelines of this Department.

#### **IV. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

In areas places under Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ) or lower, the operation of licensed cockpits and the conduct of cockfighting activities may be allowed, subject to the following conditions:

1. Strict observance of health and safety protocols, as laid down under Section V of these guidelines;
2. There shall be no in-person audience, online or remote betting, and the live broadcasting/telecasting of cockfighting; and
3. That the LGU, exercising sound judgment, upon compliance to the general provisions as stated above, decides to allow the operation of licensed cockpits, and the conduct of cockfighting activities in their areas of jurisdiction.

#### **V. HEALTH PROTOCOLS FOR THE RESUMPTION OF OPERATION OF LICENSED COCKPITS AND THE CONDUCT OF COCKFIGHTING ACTIVITIES**

1. The following are the minimum health protocols to be complied with in all the licensed cockpits allowed to operate:
  - a. Masks
    - i. Face masks must be worn at all times.

- ii. Masks with vents should not be used.
  - iii. Cloth masks, with additional filter such as tissue paper or similar material, may be used as long as they are clean and washed daily. The filter should be changed daily or after every sneezing or coughing episode, and should be properly disposed of after use. Hands should be washed/disinfected before replacing the filters.
  - iv. Frequent mask handling and manipulation should be avoided.
  - v. No face mask, no entry.
- b. Face shields
- i. Face shields shall cover the entire face (completely cover the sides and length of the face).
  - ii. Visor-type face shields shall not be allowed.
  - iii. Face shields and masks should be worn together at all times.
  - iv. No face shield, no entry.
- c. Physical Distancing
- i. Physical distancing based on existing or prevailing guidelines as to minimum distance shall be observed at all times. This must be practiced in combination with the wearing of masks and face shields.
  - ii. A MAXIMUM of THREE (3) persons are allowed INSIDE THE RING / RUWEDA, and four (4) owners and one (1) handler for each owner outside the ring.
- d. Temperature Check
- i. Temperature check shall be mandatory prior to entry.
  - ii. Persons with fever, or with COVID-19 symptoms shall not be allowed entry.
- e. Disinfection
- i. Frequent handwashing with soap and water or the application of alcohol-based disinfectants shall be mandatory.
  - ii. Foot and wheels bath sanitation shall also be mandatory prior to entry.
  - iii. Regular sanitation of facility shall be conducted before and after every event.

2. The following disinfecting/washing resources, supplies/materials should be made available to employees and clients/visitors:
  - a. hand washing stations, and
  - b. soap and sanitizers.
3. Display of signages/visual cues and reminders to practice proper handwashing, and other hygiene behaviors among employees is mandatory. These include:
  - a. Hand washing with soap and water, or use of hand disinfectants with alcohol-based sanitizers specifically, but not limited to, the following instances:
    - i. Before and after handling food or eating;
    - ii. After using the bathroom;
    - iii. Before and after taking off their face mask and/or face shield;
    - iv. After touching frequently-touched surfaces and objects (e.g. stair railings, elevator controls, door knobs); and
    - v. Before and after touching their face.
  - b. Discouraging sharing of personal items or utensils to prevent possible transmission.
4. Adequate ventilation should be enforced.
  - a. Natural air flow exchange (opening windows, opening doors, turning off air-conditioning units to reduce air recirculation) is highly encouraged.
  - b. If possible, the installation of exhaust fans, installation of air filtration devices with High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters or the recalibration of building heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems should be explored.
5. Shouting of bets is prohibited. Cashless betting via e-wallet, mobile phones and tablets are highly encouraged.
6. No live streaming devices shall be allowed inside the arena. In-person audience, online or remote betting, and the live broadcasting/telecasting of cockfighting are prohibited.
7. Other issued guidelines on the operation of workplaces to manage the impact of COVID-19 must also be complied with.

## **VI. REPORTING AND MONITORING**

The Mayors shall be responsible in the monitoring of the re-opening of cockpits, focused mainly on no-live streaming, and public exhibition of cockfights.

The LGUs, with the assistance of the DILG C/MLGOOs, shall submit monthly reports to their respective DILG Regional Offices, which shall submit the same to Regional Inter-Agency Task Force as needed.

The Chief of Police in each LGU shall assist in the monitoring and inspection of cockpit arenas.

## **VII. SANCTIONS**

Failure to comply with this Memorandum Circular shall result to the automatic closure of cockpits, and the officials and employees shall be dealt with in accordance with pertinent laws, rules and regulations.

## **VIII. EFFECTIVITY**

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately.

## **IX. APPROVING AUTHORITY**

  
**EDUARDO M. AÑO**  
Secretary

## **X. FEEDBACK**

Related queries regarding this Memorandum Circular must be directed to the Bureau of Local Government Supervision with address at 25/F, DILG-NAPOLCOM Center, EDSA cor. Quezon Avenue Quezon City, 1104, through the following contact



information: (02) 8876-3454 locals 4207 and 4212 and email  
address: [dilg.blgslgrd@gmail.com](mailto:dilg.blgslgrd@gmail.com) for appropriate action.