



## **EXERCISE TO TEST OUR OPERATIONAL READINESS TO DEAL WITH A BIRD FLU OUTBREAK**

1 The Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) will test its emergency preparedness to respond to an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) or bird flu, through an exercise to be conducted on 18 Feb 2004.

2 This exercise will test AVA's crisis management framework and the operational readiness of all Government agencies involved when dealing with an outbreak of bird flu in a local poultry farm. The exercise will test :

- (a) the activation and recall process for emergency response staff;
- (b) AVA's logistics system to handle an outbreak;
- (c) the biosafety protection of personnel;
- (d) the efficiency of the culling operation;
- (e) the system for disposal of the culled poultry; and
- (f) AVA's coordination with all other agencies.

3 The exercise will be conducted at a poultry farm in Lim Chu Kang Agrotechnology Park. It will involve the culling and disposal of 5,000 retired layer chickens from the poultry farm.

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# **MEDIA RELEASE**