



## **UPDATE ON SUSPENSION OF POULTRY IMPORTS FROM MALAYSIA – ESTABLISHING JOHOR AND MALACCA AS BIRD FLU FREE AREAS**

As announced last week, the Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) has sent an inspection team of 4 senior officers to Malaysia, following the proposal from Malaysia's Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) for exports of poultry and eggs to Singapore to resume from bird flu disease free areas in Malaysia. The Malaysian proposal included the setting up of buffer zones to isolate the disease free states from the affected area in Malaysia, roadblocks for movement control, and intensive disease surveillance programmes.

2 The AVA inspection team returned from the inspection visit late last week. Since then, there has been another round of discussion between AVA and DVS, which focused on the further strengthening of measures to effectively establish the states of Johor and Malacca as bird flu disease free areas. Issues discussed included the gazetting and enforcement of legislation to control the movement of poultry and poultry products into Johor and Malacca, and the intensification of disease surveillance programmes in these states.

3 Meanwhile, AVA is continuing its evaluation. Another team is presently inspecting all AVA-accredited poultry farms in Johor and Malacca to ensure that effective biosecurity measures are in place at each farm. These farms will only be allowed to resume export to Singapore if they meet AVA's stringent biosecurity criteria.

4 Inspection of all the 130 accredited farms and the establishment of the necessary bio-security measures are expected to be completed by the end of this week. AVA will also follow up to observe the actual implementation of the biosecurity measures, especially movement control on poultry and eggs, to ensure that they are effective. If AVA is satisfied that Johor and Malacca are free from bird flu and effective disease prevention and control measures have been put in place so that public and animal health will not be compromised, AVA will consider lifting the suspension on imports from the two states. This is contingent on the absence of any bird flu outbreak occurring outside the state of Kelantan.

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