

# Preemptive measures vs ASF implemented

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Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte ordered the implementation of preemptive measures in two barangays even before the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) confirmed the existence of African swine fever (ASF)

"Since we were just allowed yesterday afternoon to open the rectifiers for actual assessment of the damage, we can only build the actual damage scenario probably in two that will pass through Masinag, Emerald, Santolan and Legarda.



Several blood samples from hogs in Barangays Tandang Sora and Pasong Tamo submitted to the BAI tested positive for ASF.

Belmonte said the number of Quezon City barangays with ASF has increased to five, including Bagong Silangan, Payatas and Tatalon.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) earlier clarified that Barangay Commonwealth was inadvertently mentioned in its previous advisory.

The City Veterinary Office, headed by Dr. Anamarie Cabel, already started culling hogs voluntarily surrendered by backyard raisers in Tandang Sora and Pasong Tamo ahead of the release of BAI test results.

Belmonte told reporters the culling of hogs who showed symptoms of ASF is part of the preemptive measure the city adopted.

With the positive test, pigs within the one-kilometer radius of the two barangays will be culled, per the 1-7-10 protocol for ASF.

Belmonte renewed her call to hog raisers in the city to voluntarily surrender their pigs so they can avail of the local government's financial assistance of P3,000 per pig.

An additional P5 million was released to augment the initial P10 million fund earmarked by the city for the financial assistance to hog raisers who will voluntarily

surrender their live pigs for culling.

Meanwhile, the Quezon City government filed several cases against a man for slaughtering and selling pigs from Barangay Payatas, where thousands of hogs were recently culled due to the spread of the ASF in the area.

Cabel said charges for violation of the Food Safety Act and Sanitation Code and illegal slaughtering have been filed against Orlando Onque.

Local authorities caught Onque red-handed while selling meat exposed to the ASF virus in Barangay Bahay Toro last Sunday.

The city veterinarian said they acted on a tip from Onque's neighbors that he was slaughtering and selling meat sourced from pigs from Barangay Payatas.