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Malaysia

Poultry and Products

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Approved by:

Jonathan Gressel

U.S. Embassy, Kuala Lumpur

Prepared by:

Jacelyn Chang

Report Highlights:

Malaysia continues to battle with bird flu with the third case reported on September 11. The challenge now is to contain the avian flu from spreading the 10 km radius quarantine zone.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Kuala Lumpur [MY1]
[MY]

Malaysia continues to battle with bird flu (highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1), which hit three new locations within a 10 km radius of the quarantined area of the Tumpat district in Kelantan, Northern Malaysia, just as culling of birds, chicken and ducks ended on September 10 in Kampung Belian. Kampung Belian was where the second case of bird flu was detected. The challenge now is to contain the avian flu from spreading beyond a 10 km radius quarantine zone across the three districts.

On September 11, the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) confirmed that the highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 strain was detected in dead poultry in Kampung Kebakat in Tumpat, Kampung Paloh Hilir in Pasir Mas and Kampung Cabang. DVS ordered the culling of birds, chickens and ducks in these villages immediately. The Department also banned the movement of poultry in and out of Kelantan and assured the public that all poultry products from the rest of the country are safe for consumption. In addition to tightening security measures at the 32-km border between Thailand and Kelantan, checkpoints in Perak, Kedah and Perlis are being monitored.

Smuggling activities, especially of poultry, along the Malaysia-Thai border is a matter of great concern. Fighting cocks, smuggled by villagers in Kampung Paloh Hilir are believed to be the cause of the latest outbreak. The second incident last week was due to chicken that was brought in from Thailand by one of the villagers in Kampung Belian. There are locations along the Golok River where cross-border trade has been in existence for generations which needed close monitoring.

Mosques, believed by the government to be an effective medium, are being used to educate the villagers and public on the danger, consequences and penalties of smuggling poultry. Farmers and traders who smuggle chicken or other bird should expect heavier fines and possibly imprisonment.

Compensation for birds culled, especially the prized competition ones, seem to be a contentious issue among the villagers. RM10 (\$2.63) per bird is meager compared to the market value of these birds which are up to RM10,000 (\$2,632) at their prime. It was reported that some owners have hidden their prized birds, which are regularly entered for beauty and singing competitions across the border.

Up until end of last week, the Malaysian government was upbeat about resuming exports of poultry and eggs to Singapore. In an interesting development mid last week, the Singapore Agri-Food and Veterinary Authorities (AVA) were in Malaysia to discuss the possibility of allowing imports of poultry and eggs from Johor and Malacca. The Malaysian government needs to assure AVA of its biosecurity measures to control the outbreak and to contain the avian flu from spreading beyond a 10 km radius quarantine zone. No information is available on the progress of these discussions.

END OF REPORT