



## ISSUANCE OF DIRECTIVE TO PULAU UBIN RESIDENTS

1 The Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) has issued a directive today under the Animal and Birds Act to prohibit Pulau Ubin residents from keeping more than 10 poultry per household. The residents will be given two weeks to comply with the directive, failing which the excess poultry will be removed by AVA.

2 In view of the resurgence of bird flu in the region, there is a need to ensure that precautionary measures put in place in Pulau Ubin are maintained.

3 In February this year, AVA assessed the situation in Pulau Ubin and found that the small backyard poultry farms did not have proper biosecurity measures. Residents were also keeping poultry under free-range conditions. As such, the poultry were at risk of contracting bird flu through contact with infected wild birds. AVA thus issued a prohibition on poultry farming at Pulau Ubin on 4 Feb 2004. Nevertheless, farms and residents were allowed to keep a few poultry as pets on the condition that the poultry have to be caged. After assisting farms and residents to sell their excess poultry, AVA removed all remaining uncaged poultry on 6 Feb 2004.

4 However, during subsequent checks on Pulau Ubin, AVA found that the number of poultry kept by the residents had increased, despite repeated reminders by AVA officers to the residents to keep only up to 10 poultry per household. As most bird flu outbreaks in the region originated from backyard farms (eg. Thailand, Vietnam and the recent Kelantan case in Malaysia), the potential risk of backyard farms becoming infected cannot be underestimated. Thus it was necessary to issue the directive to prevent the incursion of bird flu into Singapore through such backyard poultry farms.

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5 AVA will allow Pulau Ubin residents to keep a maximum of 10 poultry per household. However, they must keep the poultry properly caged to prevent direct contact with wild birds. To ensure that the residents understand the directive, AVA officers was accompanied by grassroot leaders when they served and explained the directive to the residents.

6 We would like to reiterate that Singapore is free from bird flu and the poultry population in Pulau Ubin is healthy and unaffected by bird flu.

**Issued by Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority  
Ministry of National Development  
on 1 September 2004**

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