

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
M a n i l a

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER No. 39
Series of 1923

SUBJECT: Regulating the Eradication of Coconut Bud-rot

WHEREAS, there exists in certain parts of the Philippine Islands the diseases commonly known as coconut bud-rot;

WHEREAS, this disease is a menace to the agricultural interests of these Islands; and

WHEREAS, adequate measures should be adopted to prevent the spread and to effect the control of the said disease.

THEREFORE, by authority of the provisions of Legislative Act No. 3027 the disease commonly known as coconut bud-rot is hereby declared to be dangerous plant disease and shall be dealt with as hereinafter prescribed;

SECTION 1. Whenever an outbreak of coconut bud-rot is known to exist in any locality of the Philippine Islands it shall be the duty of the Director of Agriculture or his authorized agent to inspect all coconut trees in that locality, to mark in a suitable manner all trees ascertained to be affected by the disease, and to issue notification in writing to the owners, lessees, or persons in charge of coconut plantations, groves, or trees advising them that the disease exists among their trees and indicating to them what trees are diseased.

SEC. 2. Whenever the Director of Agriculture or his authorized agent shall have issued notification in accordance with the provisions of Section 1 hereof, it shall be the duty of the owner, lessee, or person incharge of the coconut plantation, grove, or trees where the disease exists to destroy every affected tree by cutting down and completely burning the crown and other infected parts thereof.

SEC. 3. Failure to destroy affected trees within a period of fourteen days from the date of receipt of written notification shall be considered *prima facie* evidence of an endeavor to avoid the duties imposed by virtue of this order and shall render the owner, lessee or person incharge of the coconut plantations, groves, or trees liable to the full penalties provided by Section 13 of Legislative Act No. 3027, which is a fine not exceeding one thousand pesos, or imprisonment not exceeding six months, or both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.

SEC. 4. In order to carry out the provisions of this order the Director of Agriculture or any person acting in his behalf shall have access at all times into and upon any land occupied by any coconut tree or trees for the purpose of inspection.

SEC. 2. Sawdust shall either be thrown into the sea or river or entirely burned up. Manure shall be spread to dry or buried at least two feet deep. Dead, dying or decaying trunks of coconuts, buri and other palms, trunks or soft wood, bagasse, straw and other organic matter or rubbish shall be thoroughly burned up or disposed of in any other manner appropriate to the circumstances in accordance with the recommendations of the Director of Agriculture or his authorized agent.

SEC. 3. In order to carry out the provisions of this Order, the Director of Agriculture, or his duly authorized agent, or the president of the municipality concerned, or the latter's authorized representative, will at all times, for the purpose of inspection, have access to or upon any coconut grove, plantation or premises where any of the organic substances mentioned in Section 1 hereof is known or suspected to exist.

SEC. 4. Failure or refusal to comply with the written notification of the Director of Agriculture or of his authorized agent within a period of three weeks or twenty-one days from the date of receipt of said written notification shall be considered as prima facie evidence of a determination to evade the obligation imposed by virtue of this Order and shall render the person so notified liable to prosecution, and upon conviction he shall suffer the penalty provided in Section 12 of Act No. 3027, which is a fine not exceeding one thousand pesos (₱1,000) or imprisonment not exceeding six months, or both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.

SEC. 5. Any violation of this Administrative Order shall be immediately reported to and be investigated by the Director of Agriculture or by his authorized agent, or by the president of the municipality concerned.

SEC. 6. The provisions of this Administrative Order shall take effect on approval.

A true copy:
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