



December 31, 2021

**DR. EDGARDO E. TULIN**

President

Visayas State University

Visca, Baybay City, Leyte

Thru:

**DR. BEATRIZ S. BELONIAS**

Vice President, Academic Affairs

Chairperson, Academic Personnel Board and Scholarship Committee

**Dear Dr. Tulin,**

A pleasant day to you, Sir!

I am pleased to inform your good office that I have finished my MSc program (*Master of Science in Tropical Animal Health*) at the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp, Belgium and University of Pretoria, South Africa on December 2021. Currently, I am waiting to receive my diploma and Transcript of Records for the said programme as the Institute is closed for this holiday season.

Thus, I would like to reinstate and resume office at the College of Veterinary Medicine starting on January 10, 2022.

During my postgraduate study, my research focused on assessing the scope of zoonoses in animals from a veterinary perspective in the Philippines. Zoonoses are infectious diseases that are transmitted from animals to humans and vice versa. The underestimation and neglect of endemic zoonoses create negative implications in terms of acquiring resources for conducting researches and implementing sustainable control interventions. This can eventually pose a serious health threat in a wider range of vulnerable and disadvantaged populations because of its epidemic capability, increasing number of morbidity and deaths, and the absence of specific treatment and vaccines. Aside from its high burden on national and international healthcare systems, it also causes significant economic losses because of restricting and potentially banning animal trading, travels and tourism within and between countries, as well as with the declining animal health management and production systems. By conducting our research initiative, we were able to identify the most common zoonotic diseases in the Philippines which could pose a significant public health risk according to veterinary standpoint. This was done using the Delphi technique. The results of our study could serve as a baseline data for further epidemiological investigations in determining the prevalence and real burden of the prioritized zoonoses. Furthermore, our study can guide the country's policymakers in allocating resources more efficiently and cost-effectively.

With this, I am grateful to Visayas State University and to my College of Veterinary Medicine family for the support that I have received during my one year of study leave.