

CLIPPINGS FOR TODAY JUNE 07, 2024

A. MANILA BULLETIN:

Imee Marcos slams rice duty rate cut

PBBM orders DPWH to fast-track flood control projects in Davao region

BOC vows round-the-clock shipment processing

Imported rice to flood market? Romualdez says it won't happen

Marcos to Davao del Norte farmers, fisherfolk: We will not abandon you

DMW, DA encourage OFWs to invest on agribusiness

Marcos orders BOC, DA to ensure 24/7 shipment processes

Government support to farmers won't take hit from rice tariff cut--Enverga

'Marcos got it right': Salceda reacts to rice tariff slash

B. THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Marcos Jr. wants speedy completion of Davao flood control projects

Marcos wants 24/7 port operations

Farmers to question legality of reduced rice tariff

Lahar monitored in waterways around Kanlaon

Aghon's agri, infra damage tops P1 billion — NDRRMC

C. PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Davao residents affected by El Niño get P60-M aid from gov't

Marcos orders DA, BOC to implement 24/7 shipment processing

Rice tariff cut won't spell deluge of importation, says Romualdez

Rice prices may go down by P5 to P6 per kilo due to tariff cut – solons

Romualdez: Tariff cut won't flood market with rice imports

D. BUSINESS WORLD:

Inflation picks up to 6-month high

Lower rice tariffs to bring down retail prices as early as July

Government warned against low tariff regime

House panel chairman promises RCEF support after rice tariff cut

Meat imports rise 11% led by pork, chicken

Farmers report drop in ginger farmgate prices as retail prices surge

E. MANILA STANDARD:

Quality, affordable rice aim of tariff cut — Speaker

NDA seeks P2.5b to buy 5k imported cattle, set up dairy labs

F. THE MANILA TIMES:

Wet and dry season preparedness

Inflation expected to peak in July

'Pliant Like a Bamboo'

G. MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT:

'Aghon' damage to infra, agri now at P1B

H. BUSINESS MIRROR:

El Niño, imports tack seen in agri jobs loss

PHL buys more pork, chicken abroad, 4-month imports up 11.3%

I. PILIPINO STAR NGAYON:

Pangulong Marcos inutos 24/7 pagbabantay ng BOC, DA

J. REMATE

24/7 shipment process iniatas sa BOC, DA

K. ABANTE:

P6 bawas presyo sa bigas nakaamba sa susunod na linggo- Speaker Romualdez

L. PEOPLE'S JOURNAL TONIGHT:

**DSWD chief joins PBBM in whole-of-nation aid giving to farmers, fisherfolk in
Davao Region**

MANILA BULLETIN:

Imee Marcos slams rice duty rate cut

BY DHEL NAZARIO

Jun 6, 2024 08:11 PM

AT A GLANCE

- Senator Imee Marcos slammed the government's proposal to lower the rice tariff from 35 percent to 15 percent, which she called it a "ham-fisted" solution to the high cost of rice.



Senator Imee Marcos (Senate PRIB)

Senator Imee Marcos slammed the government's proposal to lower the rice tariff from 35 percent to 15 percent, which she called it a "ham-fisted" solution to the high cost of rice.

Senator Marcos issued the statement Thursday, June 6 in Nueva Ecija, ahead of the announcement of national winners of the Young Farmers Challenge, an annual competition offering financial grants for innovative ideas in crop, livestock, and fish production. She conceived the program, which is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture (DA).

The lady senator said lowering the rice tariff would only benefit foreign suppliers exporting rice to the Philippines.

She also claimed that it would ruin the livelihood of local farmers who could not compete with cheaper rice imports.

"Rice-exporting countries are aware of our need to import rice and are taking advantage of it. They have raised their selling prices, which would neutralize the intended effect of lower tariffs," she explained.

Senator Marcos also pointed out that previous reductions on rice tariff--from 50 percent to 40 percent, to the prevailing 35 percent--have not resulted in lower prices in wet markets.

The prevailing price of the cheapest regular milled rice hovers at 50 pesos per kilo, which reflects an increase of 19 percent to 47 percent from year-ago prices of 34 to 42 pesos per kilo.

The senator also bewailed the absence of consultation by the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) with the Department of Agriculture (DA) and other stakeholders in the rice industry before recommending that rice tariffs be slashed and remain in effect until 2028.

"Lowering rice tariffs should only be an emergency measure, usually put in place for six months to one year. Is the NEDA projecting that the country will be in a rice emergency until 2028?" she asked.

The NEDA has not shown the public a cost analysis to prove whether or not the lower rice tariffs would indeed result in lower prices for consumers.

Senator Marcos emphasized that importation cannot be a long-term solution for the country to attain rice sufficiency, and urged instead the lease of uncultivated public land to farmers and the expansion of contract farming.

"We have no economies of scale. Farmers must consolidate to increase the country's rice supply, stabilize prices, and earn a decent income as well for themselves," she said, and cited that the average Filipino farmer tills only about two hectares of land.

"Contract farming would also allow farmers to better negotiate a fixed farmgate price with buyers of their crops even before planting has started," the senator added.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/6/imee-marcos-slams-rice-duty-rate-cut>

MANILA BULLETIN:

PBBM orders DPWH to fast-track flood control projects in Davao region

BY IVY TEJANO

Jun 6, 2024 05:18 PM

DAVAO CITY – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. directed the Department of Public Works and Highways on Thursday, June 6, to fast-track flood control projects in the Davao region.



PRESIDENT Marcos (FB)

Marcos issued the directive after the region experienced severe flooding in the first quarter of this year due to the low-pressure (LPA) and shearline.

DPWH-11 Director Juby Cordon reported that they have completed 154 flood control projects totaling 56,233.874 lineal meters from 2022 to April 2024.

Cordon said the government, through the Flood Management Program, aims to protect lives and properties against flash floods brought about by heavy downpour.

The program includes building and maintaining flood prevention structures and restoring flood control facilities in remarkable basins and principal rivers.

Marcos said he is committed to addressing flooding in the Davao region.

In a speech in Tagum City, Davao del Norte province, Marcos said the government is planning a comprehensive flood management system to address the concern.

Marcos visited the region to assist farmers, fishermen, and their families affected by the El Niño phenomenon.

He distributed assistance in Davao del Norte and Davao del Sur provinces. Some of areas in Davao del Norte experienced flooding during heavy downpour.

Marcos said the government aims to assist those affected by flooding and poverty by addressing these issues as part of the vision for a renewed Philippines.

The Chief Executive revealed that the current flood control project is not only designed for flood control. “We are collecting water for irrigation and fresh water supply for various households,” Marcos said.

He added that they will also incorporate solar panels into the project to generate free electricity.

Marcos directed the DPWH to fast-track other ongoing infrastructure projects in the region, such as the Mawab-Maragusan-Caraga Road, the Carmen-Tagum City Coastal Road, and the Mindanao Railway Project connecting Tagum City to Digos City.

Cordon said the DPWH, under the leadership of Secretary Manuel Bonoan, vowed to consistently carry out its role as the infrastructure arm of the Philippine government.

Marcos gave P10-million worth of assistance to fishermen, farmers, and families in the Davao region whose livelihoods were affected by the dry season.

He was accompanied by Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) chair Leo Tereso Magno and Special Assistant to the President Antonio Ernesto Lagdameo Jr.

Also in attendance were Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Secretary Rex Gatchalian, Department of Agriculture (DA) Sec. Francisco Laurel Jr., and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Benhur Abalos.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/6/pbbm-orders-dpwh-to-fast-track-flood-control-projects-in-davao-region>

MANILA BULLETIN:

BOC vows round-the-clock shipment processing

BY XANDER DAVE CEBALLOS

Jun 6, 2024 03:55 PM

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) on Thursday, June 6, said it will adhere to President Marcos' directive to implement around-the-clock shipment processing nationwide.

The BOC has affirmed to coordinate with all supply chain stakeholders to achieve a seamless 24/7 operation.

“This includes shipping lines, arrastre operators, terminal operators, warehouse facilities, financial institutions, and the trucking industry,” the bureau said in a statement.

These stakeholders play a vital role in ensuring efficient cargo release, encompassing stages such as pre-customs, customs proper, and post-customs processing stages.

“The synchronization of operations among these stakeholders is essential to minimize delays and ensure the swift processing and release of cargoes, contributing to the overall efficiency of the supply chain,” it added.

The Customs said that it is confident in achieving uninterrupted processing of imports, with the commitment of all parties involved, as envisioned by the president.

The bureau has also initiated various digitalization efforts, developing and implementing systems and projects to streamline customs processes, secure trade, and improve overall efficiency.

Marcos issued the order after the Private Sector Advisory Council's (PSAC) recommendation that the BOC and Department of Agriculture have round-the-clock shipping operations to allow continuous inspection, clearance, and payment processes, reducing costs and time.

Present during the meeting with the chief executive were PSAC Strategic Convenor Sabin Aboitiz, president and chief executive officer of the Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.; along with PSAC members Enrique Razon, Manuel Pangilinan, Eric Ramon Recto, Joanne de Asis, Ramoncito Fernandez, Rogelio Singson, Christian Gonzalez and Daniel Aboitiz.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/6/article-2371boctoensure247shipmentprocessnationwide>

Imported rice to flood market? Romualdez says it won't happen

BY ELLSON QUISMORIO

Jun 6, 2024 03:25 PM

AT A GLANCE

- House Speaker Martin Romualdez has quelled concerns that the reduction on imported rice tariff rate from 35 percent to 15 percent would lead to the local market getting "flooded" with imported rice, to the detriment of Filipino farmers.



(MANILA

BULLETIN)

House Speaker Martin Romualdez has quelled concerns that the reduction on imported rice tariff rate from 35 percent to 15 percent would lead to the local market getting "flooded" with imported rice, to the detriment of Filipino farmers.

In a press conference Thursday, June 6, at the Manila Golf and Country Club in Makati City, Romualdez explained that President Marcos' latest directive merely affected the tariff rate on the staple grain, while all regulatory measures remained intact.

"Binababa lang 'yon, tariff rate reduction. 'Yong pag-iimport hindi na 'yon babaha kasi there's a regular flow of

imports, 'yong pumapasok na bigas ay sapat lang talaga, hindi naman babaha, 'yong maa-adjust lang ay 'yong taripa," he said.

(It's just a tariff rate reduction. Imports won't flood the market because there's a regular flow of imports, and these are just enough, there will be no flooding, only the tariff will be adjusted.)

"Rest assured, this should be rest assured that there would be no flooding because the constant flow of rice will just be as is regulated," stressed the House leader.

At any rate, Romualdez added that Filipino farmers will continue to get their due subsidies and protection.

"Tuloy-tuloy pa rin 'yong suporta natin, 'yong subsidies sa ating local farmers (Our support and subsidies will continue for our local farmers), which is very, very important part of the whole sector, the industry."

The Speaker further said: "So there's nothing to worry there, and the farmers will always be protected."

The Leyte 1st district congressman says President Marcos--a former Department of Agriculture (DA) secretary--will always ensure that locally-produced rice will be prioritized.

"Just to reiterate, I'm sure the DA will see this, our President was just also a former secretary of agriculture, so the priority always is the locally-produced rice. The imports coming in (are) just to ano, support the shortfall, that's the only role of the imports," he said.

Romualdez led a consultation with rice industry stakeholders before holding the presser.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/6/imported-rice-to-flood-market-romualdez-says-it-won-t-happen>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Marcos to Davao del Norte farmers, fisherfolk: We will not abandon you

BY BETHEENA UNITE

Jun 6, 2024 02:34 PM

President Marcos has assured farmers and fisherfolk in Davao del Norte that they will not be abandoned amid the challenges brought by the El Niño phenomenon.



President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. leads the distribution of government assistance to farmers and fisherfolk in Tagum City, Davao del Norte on June 6, 2024. (RTVM Screenshot) In his speech during the distribution of government assistance in Tagum City on Thursday, June 6, Marcos recognized the challenges they are facing, vowing them that the national and local governments will continue to work together to assist them.

“Wala nang mas bibigat pa sa pakiramdam na masaksihan na unti-unting namamatay ang mga pananim o natutuyuan ang mga palaisdaan dahil sa matinding tag-araw (Nothing feels heavier than to witness that crops are dying or the fisheries are affected by the drought),” Marcos said.

"Kaya po ay hindi po namin kayo pababayaan. Kayo po ang sandigan ng ating bayan sa pag-unlad kung kaya't hindi kami titigil sa pag-agapay sa inyong lahat (We will not abandon you. You are our nation's pillar to progress, so we will not stop on helping you out)," Marcos told them.

Marcos cited latest data showing that over 1,000 families from 16 barangays in Davao Region were greatly affected by El Niño with an estimated cost of damage at P50 million.

The President said at least 10,000 beneficiaries from all provinces of Davao Region will receive P10,000 each.

During the distribution of assistance, affected residents received rice assistance and 19,000 food packs worth P15 million from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Marcos also said around P10 million worth of assistance will also be distributed in Davao del Norte, which include the units of rice combine harvesters, floating tillers, walk behind transplanter, and four-wheel tractors that will be distributed to Purok 4 Anibongan Carmen Irrigators Association.

Some goats were also provided to farmers along with fertilizers and other equipment under the Coconut Fertilization Project of the government.

Thirty units of boats, “FB Pagbabago Boats,” were also given to fisherfolk.

Meanwhile, the Chief Executive also ordered the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to expand the supply of fish through the aquaculture production and planting of mangroves.

He said the assistance is part of the P60 million intended to be distributed to all affected farmers and fisherfolk in Davao Region, which include the financial assistance and technical support from the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

He said the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) have also provided funds for El Niño-hit farmers and fisherfolk.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/6/marcos-to-davao-del-norte-farmers-fisherfolk-we-will-not-abandon-you>

MANILA BULLETIN:

DMW, DA encourage OFWs to invest on agribusiness

BY AARON RECUENCO

Jun 6, 2024 10:18 AM



DMW Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac and DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel, Jr. sign an agreement that ensures technical assistance to OFWs who want to start a business on agriculture. (photo: DMW)

Overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who want to invest in agriculture are assured of assistance to earn more following the signing of agreement between the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) and the Department of Agriculture (DA).

DMW Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac said the agreement would pave the way to providing support and technical assistance to OFWs and their families who want to venture into agribusiness as a productive livelihood and investment opportunity.

“The agricultural sector is a worthwhile business and investment opportunity for our dear OFWs. The DMW is partnering with the DA to support them as we promote agribusiness as a sustainable and viable program for the reintegration of OFWs,” Cacdac.

“The MOU pledges to provide comprehensive support and technical assistance to prospective OFW ‘agripreneurs’ as part of the entrepreneurship development initiatives under the national reintegration program for OFWs and their families,” he added.

Under the agreement, both agencies will collaborate to conduct entrepreneurship development training programs and create forums and related activities for OFWs and their families interested in entering the agribusiness sector.

The DMW will conduct Financial Awareness Seminars and Small Business Management Training (FAS-SBMT) for selected and qualified OFWs to provide the assistance they need to jumpstart their agribusiness livelihood initiatives.

For his part, DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the department will provide enterprise business development services to prospective OFW agripreneurs, including access to markets, financing, resource institutions, and technical support in managing their agribusiness venture.

“We strive to honor the sacrifices and hard work of our OFWs by providing them viable job opportunities in the country. Ultimately, we hope to see our OFWs prosper in Philippine agriculture and every business,” said Laurel.

“Our efforts will be harmonized with the DMW to ensure a successful implementation of this initiative,” he added,

Caddac said reintegration is a key development agenda of the DMW as it fulfills its mandate to further harness the potential of OFWs as co-architects of national economic development, even as they continue their labor journey in the country for good.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/6/dmw-da-encourages-of-ws-to-invest-on-agribusiness>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Marcos orders BOC, DA to ensure 24/7 shipment processes

BY ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS

Jun 6, 2024 06:18 AM

AT A GLANCE

- Marcos said there should be three eight-hour shifts to ensure circadian operations across all government services related to logistics and supply chains.

President Marcos has ordered the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and the Department of Agriculture (DA) to deploy teams 24/7 to ensure uninterrupted shipment processes nationwide to accommodate the arrival of more ships into the country.



President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. (Malacañang photo)

Marcos said this during his fourth meeting with the Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC) – Infrastructure Sector Group on Wednesday, June 5.

During the meeting, the President said there should be three eight-hour shifts to ensure circadian operations across all government services related to logistics and supply chains.

"In this business, there's no after-hours. It can – it's ready 24/7," he said.

"So, let's not put an extra team, let's just keep it running. Whatever you have there in the day, let the same number of people that you have all 24 hours," he added.

According to the PSAC, this process will ensure continuous inspection, clearance, and payment processes, significantly reducing costs and time, particularly on the x-ray scanning operations of the BOC and DA's office tasked to inspect reefer vans.

PSAC Strategic Convenor, Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. President and CEO Sabin Aboitiz presented to President Marcos their recommendations during the meeting.

The PSAC is a group established under the Marcos administration to help the government deliver on its commitment to transform the Philippine economy by bridging the public and private sectors. It is led by experts across six main sectoral groups: agriculture, digital infrastructure, jobs, health care, infrastructure, and tourism.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/6/marcos-orders-boc-da-to-ensure-24-7-shipment-processes>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Government support to farmers won't take hit from rice tariff cut--Enverga

BY ELLSON QUISMORIO

Jun 6, 2024 06:19 PM

AT A GLANCE

- The Palace-ordered reduction on the duties imposed on imported rice won't lead to reduced government support for rice farmers, according to Quezon 1st district Rep. Wilfrido Mark Enverga.



Quezon 1st district Rep. Wilfrido Mark Enverga (Contributed photo)

The Palace-ordered reduction on the duties imposed on imported rice won't lead to reduced government support for rice farmers.

Quezon 1st district Rep. Wilfrido Mark Enverga, chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture and Food, gave this assurance to the sector during a press conference Thursday, June 6 at the Manila Golf and Country Club in Makati City.

According to Enverga, the proposed higher allocation of P15 billion for the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) under the House version of the revised Rice Tariffication Law (RTL) is guaranteed to be funded next year.

“We will make sure that our rice farmers won't be short-changed in this government effort to bring down the cost of rice for the benefit of millions of Filipino consumers. So, even if tariff collection falls short for RCEF allocation, the government will provide funds to fill whatever deficiency to ensure sufficient financing for the

Rice Fund,” said Enverga.

Earlier this week, President Marcos announced that the tariff for imported rice would be slashed from 35 percent to 15 percent. The money collected from this tariff forms the RCEF.

The current RCEF, otherwise known as Rice Fund, sets aside P10 billion a year to fund farm mechanization, provision of better seeds, as well as training on new farming technologies for the benefit of local farmers. The RCEF was supposed to end this year but pending legislation seeks to extend it until 2030.

Thursday's presser was preceded by a consultation between rice industry stakeholders and House of Representatives officials, including Speaker Martin Romualdez and Enverga.

The ranking congressmen wanted to ensure that the expected benefits of the impending tariff reduction will actually trickle down to consumers in the form of cheaper rice--the Filipino staple food.

Data from the Bureau of Customs (BOC) showed that tariff collection on rice imports in the first five months of 2024 has already reached P21 billion--more than enough to cover the proposed higher Rice Fund allocation.

“This is now a whole of nation approach. The private supermarket operators, who we met earlier, are willing to absorb some losses in support of this effort of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to bring down the price of rice,” Speaker Romualdez said.

“What we want is that every Filipino family table will have affordable, quality rice all year round,” he added.

Jeffrey Lim, president of SM Prime, the company of the Sy Group that runs supermarkets and other retail outlet; and Vicent Co, president of Puregold, were present during the consultative meeting.

“We’re anticipating that we will feel the impact on this tariff reduction as soon as possible, maybe before the SONA (State of the Nation Address),” said Romualdez, referring to the President’s upcoming annual speech this July 22.

The tariff reduction is expected to be implemented within the third quarter.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/6/government-support-to-farmers-won-t-take-hit-from-rice-tariff-cut-enverga>

MANILA BULLETIN:

'Marcos got it right': Salceda reacts to rice tariff slash

BY ELLSON QUISMORIO

Jun 6, 2024 11:19 AM

AT A GLANCE

- President Marcos' decision to slash reduce the tariff on rice imports from 35 percent to 15 percent bodes well for price stability on the staple grain, said economist-solon Albay 2nd district Rep. Joey Salceda.



Albay 2nd district Rep. Joey Salceda (Rep. Salceda's office)

President Marcos' decision to slash reduce the tariff on rice imports from 35 percent to 15 percent bodes well for price stability on the staple grain.

Thus, said economist-solon Albay 2nd district Rep. Joey Salceda, who commended the Chief Executive for making "the right move".

"It's good signaling for price stability. Of course, if global conditions change, it is within his power to adjust these tariffs," Salceda said, referring to Marcos.

"Inflation conditions today require some measure of forward policy guidance. That is especially the case with rice, which continues to be the single biggest determinant of

inflation, especially for the poor. In that respect, PBBM gets this move right," said the Bicolano.

For months now, Salceda, chairman of the House Committee Ways and Means, has said that the high cost of rice must be addressed in order to temper inflation.

"At the same time, we should ramp up efforts to deliver support to the domestic sector through the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF), which has already ballooned to about P30 billion a year," he said.

"The House under Speaker [Martin] Romualdez has already moved forward with its amendments to the Rice Tariffication Law, to make the RCEF more responsive to the needs of the domestic rice sector, and to restore key powers of the NFA (National Food Authority) to make cheap rice available to the poor," noted Salceda.

Romualdez is Marcos' top ally in the legislature, and is very much on the same page as the President when it comes to the goal of bringing down rice prices.

The RCEF, a key component of the Rice Tariffication Law, is meant to assist local rice farmers so they can be more productive.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/6/marcos-got-it-right-salceda-reacts-to-rice-tariff-slash>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Marcos Jr. wants speedy completion of Davao flood control projects

[Alexis Romero](#), [Edith Regalado](#) - The Philippine Star

June 7, 2024 | 12:00am



President Marcos greets a beneficiary of farm and fish equipment in Tagum, Davao del Norte yesterday.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — President Marcos has vowed to address flooding in Southern Mindanao as well as help farmers and fisherfolk improve their outputs.

Marcos yesterday directed the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to fast-track flood control projects in Davao region, where he distributed nearly P60 million in aid to sectors hit by the El Niño phenomenon.?

Speaking to residents in Tagum City, Marcos said the government flood control projects would perform other functions to address the needs of the residents such as storing water for irrigation and providing solar power.?

“I have given a directive to the DPWH... to fast-track the completion of the remaining flood control projects here. Because we are experiencing drought, our flood control project will have a different design,” Marcos said.?

“We will work to ensure that no Filipino is submerged in flood and poverty as soon as possible,” he added. Marcos provided a total of P59.52 million in financial assistance to El Niño-hit farmers and fisherfolk in Davao region in separate events held in Tagum and Digos.

During the event in Tagum, Marcos provided P10 million each to the provincial government of Davao de Oro, Davao del Norte and Davao Oriental. In Digos, he gave P19.52 million to Davao del Sur and P10 million to Davao Occidental.

The President assured residents of continued assistance and vowed to continue projects that would spur development.

“We decided to come here to inform you that we will not abandon you. The government is here to provide assistance especially in times of need,” he said. There has been no declaration of state of calamity in Davao region since the start of El Niño.

The calamity has so far affected 1,391 families or 4,173 people in 16 barangays.

Up to P49.58 million losses in agriculture have been reported, with 1,344 farmers and fisherfolk displaced by the phenomenon.

Aside from flood control projects, Marcos directed the DPWH to complete other pending infrastructure projects in the region, including the Mawab-Maragusan-Caraga and Carmen-Tagum City Coastal roads, and the Mindanao Railway Project from Tagum to Digos.

Marcos was accompanied by members of the Cabinet including Secretaries Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., Benhur Abalos and Rex Gatchalian of the departments of agriculture, interior and local government, and social welfare and development, respectively; Leo Tereso Magno, chairman of the Mindanao Development Authority, and Special Assistant to the President Antonio Ernesto Lagdameo Jr.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/06/07/2360959/marcos-jr-wants-speedy-completion-davao-flood-control-projects>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Marcos wants 24/7 port operations

[Alexis Romero](#) - The Philippine Star

June 7, 2024 | 12:00am



President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz answered questions from the members of the media during the joint press conference at the Chancellery as part of President Marcos' working visit to Germany on March 12, 2024.

PPA Pool Photos by Yummie Dingding

MANILA, Philippines — President Marcos has ordered a round-the-clock deployment of customs and agriculture department teams to ports to ensure uninterrupted processing of shipments, including the screening of imported goods such as food and agricultural products.

At a meeting with the Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC)-Infrastructure Sector Group last Wednesday, Marcos said the operations of all ports and the processing of shipments should be continuous to accommodate the arrival of more ships.

“In this business, there’s no after hours... It’s ready 24/7. So, let’s not put an extra team, let’s just keep it running. Whatever you have there in the day, let the same

number of people that you have all 24 hours,” Marcos told government officials and PSAC members during the meeting held at Malacañang. He noted that the setup would require three eight-hour shifts of personnel.

“Let’s keep it running, whatever you have in the day, that is the same amount, same number of people at night. This is not a skeleton crew but a full complement of personnel who will take care of any kind of business that is there,” the President was quoted by a PSAC statement as saying.

Marcos made the remark following the PSAC’s recommendation to let the customs and agriculture department produce a shifting schedule to ensure 24/7 operations across all government services related to logistics and supply chains.

According to PSAC, the process would ensure continuous inspection, clearance and payment process, significantly cutting costs and time, particularly on the x-ray scanning operations of government offices that inspect reefer vans.

“The President’s directives mark a significant step towards modernizing our infrastructure and logistics sectors. By ensuring 24/7 port operations and integrating water-related projects, we are poised to see substantial improvements in efficiency and economic growth,” PSAC lead convenor and Aboitiz Group chief executive officer and president Sabin Aboitiz said in a statement.

“The commitment to resolving road blockages and developing a comprehensive supply chain roadmap will further streamline our processes and reduce costs,” he added.

PSAC said Interior Secretary Benhur Abalos had also committed to assign a point person to work with port operators and local governments to resolve road blockages leading to major ports nationwide, a move seen to address congestion and ensure smooth transport operations.

At the same meeting, Marcos ordered the Department of Public Works and Highways to combine its flood control program with other water-related projects, including irrigation, water supply and power generation.

He called for a cohesive strategy involving the energy and agriculture departments and the National Irrigation Administration.

Also discussed during the meeting were issues related to infrastructure and logistics.

In a statement, the Presidential Communications Office said Marcos expressed support for the old process of addressing right-of way issues to fast-track the completion of major infrastructure projects.

The old process involved securing the writ of possession after making a 15 percent initial payment for the property affected by the right-of-way process.

“That’s very, very timely because we had a briefing on the flagship projects and the delays – there is a huge delay in the right-of-way,” Marcos said.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/06/07/2360964/marcos-wants-247-port-operations>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Farmers to question legality of reduced rice tariff

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

June 7, 2024 | 12:00am



In this undated file photo, farmer harvests the rice from the field.

The STAR / Andy G. Zapata Jr., File photo

MANILA, Philippines — Farmers will question the legality of the reduced tariffs on imported rice approved by President Marcos, former agriculture secretary Leonardo Montemayor said yesterday.

“We will consider filing a temporary restraining order in court, mobilizing for nationwide protest actions,” Montemayor told The STAR.

Farmers’ groups will meet this weekend to finalize their moves against the tariff cuts.

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board chaired by Marcos approved on June 3 the new Comprehensive Tariff Program for 2024-

2028, which includes the reduction of rice tariff for in- and out-quota rates from 35 to 15 percent.

Marcos lowered rice tariffs until 2028 to bring down rice prices to P29 per kilo, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said earlier.

All safety nets for local farmers were removed by the tariff cuts and the prior issuance of Administrative Order 20, which removed non-tariff barriers on the importation of agricultural products, Montemayor said.

“There will be strong backlash (from) farmers (and) millers across commodities like rice, corn, pork and chicken. Almost all the tariff and non-tariff protection for agriculture, especially sensitive products, were removed,” he added.

The NEDA Board’s decision is not yet executory, he noted.

“It still needs an executive order to be signed by the President between now and the resumption of Congress on the last Monday of July. We are hoping that within this period, we can still appeal to the Department of Agriculture (DA), NEDA and the President to reconsider their decision,” Montemayor said.

The reduced rice tariff will not guarantee a decline in its retail price amid price increases in the international market and the depreciation of the Philippine peso against the dollar, he argued.

Farmers were not consulted by the DA nor the Tariff Commission before lowering the rice tariff, he noted.

“As a matter of normal procedure, the Tariff Commission holds hearings before the NEDA Board decides on the tariff cuts, but this did not happen,” he explained.

The farmgate price of palay will be affected by the flooding of imported rice, Montemayor said.

“Our estimate is that the losses to the farmers would reach P44 billion. Aside from this, the collection of the Bureau of Customs will also decrease. Our estimated forgone revenue for BOC is P15 billion, so all in all, the losses of farmers and the BOC will reach P60 billion (yearly),” he said.

Price monitoring

A watchdog group yesterday contradicted the DA’s monitoring that the prevailing price of rice ranged between P49 and P53 per kilo, saying that monitoring in Metro Manila markets is higher, between P54 and P64 per kilo.

“I went to the market and I saw P52 per kilo of rice, but the retailer admitted that while the price was the lowest in the market, the stock was limited and it was done as members of the media frequented the market,” Bantay Bigas spokesperson Cathy Estavillo said in a radio interview.

The landed cost of imported rice is P49 to P50 per kilo based on data, she noted.

This contradicted the government’s claim that the retail price of imported rice would go down by as much as P6 per kilo, she added.

As for the targeted P29 per kilo of rice, Estavillo said it is only available in certain Kadiwa stores.

P7 rice price drop uncertain

The projected drop in retail rice prices by as much as P7 per kilo may not fully materialize since it would depend on how much savings traders and retailers would pass on to consumers, experts said.

The government does not have any mechanism to ensure that importers and retailers would pass on to consumers their tariff savings, former agriculture secretary Emmanuel Piñol pointed out.

Premium-grade rice has been brought in by importers instead of the 25 percent broken variety affordable to the public, he noted.

Piñol proposed requiring half of importers’ shipments to be 25 percent broken rice, which would ensure the availability of affordable rice.

Imported rice stocks account for at least 20 percent of the country’s total staple supply since rice trading has been liberalized and deregulated in 2019.

The Philippine Statistics Authority earlier estimated that rice prices would drop by as much as P7 per kilo due to lower tariffs.

The DA earlier said it would seek congressional support for a higher National Food Authority budget to ensure it will purchase palay at a “reasonable price” and ensure farmers would profit.

Premium-grade rice is “not for the mass market,” said University of Asia and the Pacific-Center for Food and Agribusiness head Senen Reyes.

The retail price of imported 25 percent broken rice with a 15 percent tariff would be between P40 and P45 per kilo, he noted.

If imported supplies were of premium grade or five percent broken rice, then it would be more expensive, he said.

“How can you pull down (the market prices) if importers are bringing in the more expensive rice?” Reyes added.

Rice retailers may continue tracking prices being offered by the NFA as a factor in their final selling price, he said. As a rule of thumb, the price of rice is at least double the farmgate price of palay. – **Jasper Emmanuel Arcalas, Ramon Efren Lazaro**

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/06/07/2360980/farmers-question-legality-reduced-rice-tariff>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Lahar monitored in waterways around Kanlaon

[Romina Cabrera](#) - The Philippine Star

June 7, 2024 | 12:00am



An emergency rescue team inspects a river in Barangay Masulog, Canlaon City, Negros Oriental, which has turned gray after floodwater with lahar flowed down from the uplands.

ALDO BANAYNAL, THE FREEMAN

ADVERTISEMENT

MANILA, Philippines — Lahar flows were monitored in at least four waterways surrounding Kanlaon Volcano in the last couple of days, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

State volcanologists said the thunderstorm generated volcanic sediment flow or lahar on the southern slopes of the volcano.

Three seismic stations of the Kanlaon Volcano Network detected the lahar that began at around 1 p.m. on Wednesday.

Grey cohesive mud, plat debris and gravel were deposited by the lahar in the waterways of Tamburong Creek, Intiguiwan River in Guinpanaan and upstream Baji-Baji Falls, as well as the Padudusan Falls and Binalbagan River.

Affected by lahars were Barangays Biak-na-Bato, Calapnagan and Cabacungan in La Castellana, as well as Masulog in Canlaon City.

The lahars were generally confined in the channels but flows along Tamburong Creek overflowed and dumped deposit on a stretch of the main road in Biak-na-Bato, that rendered it impassable to motorists.

Phivolcs warned that continued rains could continue to generate lahars, as well as muddy stream flow or muddy runoff in rivers draining in the southern Kanlaon edifice.

Phivolcs said 27 volcanic earthquakes were recorded since Wednesday morning. Sulfur dioxide emissions were monitored at a slightly lower 3,464 tons per day but plumes were still voluminous, standing at 1,500 meters tall.

State weather bureau Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) has forecast thunderstorms today that could generate larger volume of lahar.

In an interview with RMN dyHB, Science Secretary Renato Solidum raised the possibility of another eruption of Kanlaon, citing its characteristics. The volcano is currently at Alert Level 2 (increased unrest).

Potable water needed

Residents of local government units affected by the Kanlaon volcano phreatic explosion in central Negros are in dire need of potable water, as rivers, streams and springs are contaminated with lahar.

Biak-na-Bato barangay chairman Joselito Martinez in La Castellana town, Negros Occidental, whose village was hit by lahar flow, said they need more potable water.

Water shortage was also reported in the barangays of La Carlota City in Negros Occidental, and Canlaon City in Negros Oriental.

Canlaon City Mayor Jose Cardenas also confirmed that water in Brgy. Masulog is contaminated with lahar. He added that the city government deployed its water filtration truck in the barangay to address potable water needs of residents.

La Carlota Water District general manager Homer Bermudo said water supply in barangays Ara-al and San Miguel was contaminated with sulfur.

Cadiz City Mayor Salvador Escalante Jr. sent two potable water stations to La Castellana to provide drinking water to the affected residents.

For his part, Senate Majority Leader Francis Tolentino has emphasized the need for the government to ensure clean and potable water supply for residents affected by the recent eruption of Mt. Kanlaon.

“Regarding the water supply in Kanlaon, although there is abundant water, it may be contaminated by ashfall. Coordination with local water districts is necessary,” Tolentino said.

In response, Department of Social Welfare and Development Assistant Secretary Irene Dumlao gave assurance they will review existing agreements with water district utilities to secure clean water supply.

661 families affected

At least 661 families or some 2,400 individuals from various localities and villages are affected by Mount Kanlaon’s unrest in Negros.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC) said 330 families or 1,285 persons are taking shelter in eight different evacuation centers. Affected communities include 18 different barangays in Western Visayas and four others in Central Visayas.

The NDRRMC said assistance is being provided for affected families through the DSWD which has so far distributed more than P2.1 million worth of food and other items.

Some 1,501 passengers are also stranded in various locations in Western Visayas and so far, 20 domestic flights and one international flight have been cancelled.

The NDRRMC said at least two cities or municipalities have been placed under state of calamity and are receiving necessary assistance from various government agencies.

No impact on food supply

For his part, Department of Agriculture (DA) Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa gave assurance that the damage of the Mt. Kanlaon eruption to the agriculture sector was minimal and will not affect the country’s food supply.

De Mesa said that most of Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental are known for high value crops. He added that the DA is also validating if there are plantations affected by the lahar flow.

“It (impact of lahar flow) included in the validation. I have no exact data as regions 6 and 7 have yet to provide us the report on the affected areas,” De Mesa said.

According to De Mesa, production in the two provinces is not that big compared to the total output in the entire region.

“We have yet to receive the damage report as the data gathering is ongoing. The priority right now is the safety of the people and the animals within the vicinity of Mount Kanlaon,” De Mesa said.— **Gilbert Bayoran, Michael Punongbayan, Delon Porcalla, Bella Cariaso, Jun Elias, Rudy Santos**

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/06/07/2360999/lahar-monitored-waterways-around-kanlaon>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Aghon's agri, infra damage tops P1 billion — NDRRMC

Philstar.com

June 6, 2024 | 5:15pm



In this handout photo taken on May 26, 2024 and released on May 27, 2024 by the Philippine Coast Guard, children are evacuated from a flooded area by coast guard personnel in Lucena, Quezon Province, amid heavy rain brought by tropical storm Ewiniar.

Photo by Handout / Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) / AFP

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Aghon's damage to infrastructure and agriculture reached P1 billion nationwide, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported on Thursday.

Aghon, the first cyclone to hit the country this year, impacted 123 facilities in CALABARZON, bringing the cost of infrastructure damage to over P942.5 million.

An additional 7,659 houses in CALABARZON and Eastern Visayas were reported damaged.

Agricultural damage in CALABARZON and MIMAROPA, meanwhile, was estimated at P85.6 million. Around 1,300 farmers and fishers in those two regions were affected.

Aghon battered the country with heavy rain and strong winds in late May. It made nine landfalls over Visayas and Southern Luzon.

According to the disaster agency, over 152,266 people from Luzon and Visayas were impacted by Aghon. Six people were reported dead, while eight people were injured.

The government distributed P15.3 million in aid to affected residents. — **Gaea Katreena Cabico**

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/06/06/2360829/aghons-agri-infra-damage-tops-p1-billion-ndrrmc>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Davao residents affected by El Niño get P60-M aid from gov't

By: [Jean Mangaluz](#) - Reporter / [@JMangaluzINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 05:28 PM June 06, 2024



President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. at the Villamor Airbase in Pasay City in this file photo taken on May 28, 2024. INQUIRER.net file photo / RYAN LEAGOGO

MANILA, Philippines – Nearly P60 million in financial aid was distributed on Thursday to Davao residents affected by the El Niño phenomenon.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. led two separate distribution events in Davao, one in Tagum City, and another in Digos City.

“Batid natin na ang tagtuyot ay hindi lamang nagdudulot ng matinding pinsala sa ating mga sakahan at palaisdaan. Ito rin ay nagiging sagabal sa kabuhayan at pagtupad sa pangarap ng maraming Pilipino,” Marcos said in his speech in Digos.

(We are aware that the dry spell did not just cause damage to the crops and fisheries, it also became a hindrance to livelihood and making the dreams of Filipinos come true.)

According to the Palace, the breakdown of aid distribution per province is as follows:

- **Davao de Oro: P10 million**
- **Davao del Norte: P10 million**
- **Davao Oriental: P10 million**
- **Davao del Sur: P19.52 million**

Davao has reported an agricultural loss amounting to P49.58 million, with 4,173 individuals affected.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) turned over 30 22-footer FB Pagbabago Boats, two units of rice combine harvesters, four-wheel tractor and floating tillers, four walk-behind transplanters, and more to farmers in Davao del Norte.

In Davao de Oro, farmers also received a bio-secure climate-controlled swine facility-finisher.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1949046/davao-residents-affected-by-el-nino-get-p60-m-aid-from-govt>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Marcos orders DA, BOC to implement 24/7 shipment processing

By: [Jean Mangaluz](#) - Reporter / [@JMangaluzINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 08:25 AM June 06, 2024

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ordered a non-stop deployment of teams from the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and the Department of Agriculture (DA) to ensure round-the-clock shipment processing nationwide.

In a statement on Thursday, the Palace said the President announced the order during a meeting with the Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC) – Infrastructure Sector Group on Wednesday. Present in the meeting representing PSAC were business leaders Enrique Razon, Manuel Pangilinan, Eric Ramon Recto, Joanne de Asis, Ramoncito Fernandez, Rogelio Singson, Christian Gonzalez, and Daniel Aboitiz.

“In this business, there’s no after-hours. It can – it’s ready 24/7. So, let’s not put an extra team, let’s just keep it running. Whatever you have there in the day, let the same number of people (be there) all 24 hours,” Marcos said during the meeting.

“So, three eight-hour shifts,” Marcos added. According to the Palace, Marcos issued the order when the PSAC recommended that the DA and the BOC should have a shifting schedule to allow round-the-clock shipping operations.

The decision would allow continuous inspection, clearance, and payment processes, reducing costs and time, said the Palace, citing the PSAC.

<https://business.inquirer.net/462645/marcos-orders-da-boc-to-implement-24-7-shipment-processing>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Rice tariff cut won't spell deluge of importation, says Romualdez

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lalu](#) - Reporter / [@GabrielLaluINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 03:56 PM June 06, 2024



Rice is the top staple food of Filipinos. INQUIRER.net stock images

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s approval of reduced rice tariff would not result in the flooding of importation, Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez assured the public on Thursday.

The top leader of the House of Representatives said in a press briefing that rice importation flow will remain the same because the tariff cut is just aimed at absorbing the impact of high rice prices in the world market.

“Iyong pag-iimport hindi na ‘yon babaha kasi there’s a regular flow of imports, ‘yong pumapasok na bigas ay sapat lang talaga, hindi naman babaha, ‘yong maa-adjust lang ay ‘yong taripa. So ‘yong babayaran lang, mababawasan lang,” explained Romualdez, following a meeting with stakeholders from the rice industry

(There would be no flooding of imported rice because there's a regular flow of imports, what goes inside the country is only enough, only the tariff was adjusted. Only the payments would be reduced.)

“The imports coming in [are] just to ano, support the shortfall, that's the only role of the imports [...] kasi tumaas ‘yong world market prices eh, kaya sasabihin ng ating Presidente kasi tumataas masyado ‘yong world prices para hindi masyadong affected ‘yong local market prices, binabawasan ‘yong taripa para to absorb,” he added.

(The imports coming in are just to support the shortfall, that's the only role of the imports...because world market prices have increased, that's why our President would say that the world prices spiked so to mitigate the effects on local market prices, the tariff is reduced.)

Romualdez also reiterated that support to farmers would continue, as the provision of assistance through the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) would go on.

Tariffs required of imported rice are directed into the RCEF, as provided under Republic Act No. 11203 or the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL).

“Our support to the farmers will continue, through the subsidies to our local farmers which is very, very important part of the whole sector, the industry,” Romualdez said. “We support them, the subsidies will continue, they are a very, very important part of the agriculture sector, particularly for rice production.”

“So rest assured, this should be rest assured that there would be no flooding because the constant flow of rice will just be as is regulated. There's most, wala pang 400,000 yata a month, so that's it, it stays as it is, it's only the reduction of the tariff. So the protection for our farmers through subsidies will continue [...] So there's nothing to worry there,” he added.

Last Tuesday, Socio-economic and Development Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said President Marcos approved tariff cuts on rice, coal, and other basic commodities.

Balisacan said Marcos, who chairs the National Economic and Development Authority Board, approved the new Comprehensive Tariff Program for 2024-2028, which calibrates tariff rates until 2028.

On Wednesday, Romualdez and other lawmakers said they believe the rice tariff reduction would bring about lower rice price in the local market. However, the Speaker maintained there is still a need for long-term solutions – particularly amendments to the RTL.

The [House approved on May 21 House Bill No. 10381](#), which seeks to amend the RTL, to restore some of the National Food Authority (NFA) functions.

If signed into law, NFA will have the “authority to oversee and ensure compliance with all pertinent standards and regulations, leveraging its established expertise and nationwide network to uphold the national interest, in rice buffer stocking and food security,” by placing a new Section 5 in R.A. No. 8178.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1948984/rice-tariff-cut-wont-spell-deluge-of-importation-romualdez>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Rice prices may go down by P5 to P6 per kilo due to tariff cut – solons

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lalu](#) - Reporter / [@GabrielLaluINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 06:34 PM June 06, 2024



A worker stacks rice at a warehouse of the National Food Authority (NFA) in Visayas Avenue in Quezon City in this file photo taken on January 15, 2020. House lawmakers say rice prices may go down due to cut in rice tariff. INQUIRER PHOTO / GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

MANILA, Philippines — Rice prices may go down by P5 to P6 per kilogram between June or July due to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s approval of the reduced tariff rates for rice, House of Representatives lawmakers said on Thursday.

During a press briefing after meeting stakeholders from the rice industry, House committee on agriculture chairperson and Quezon 1st District Rep. Wilfrido Mark

Enverga said that the number was based on the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) computation.

“As far as PSA has reported out, it’s going to be less by P5 to P6 per kilo(gram). P5 to P6 per kilo,” Enverga said when he and Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez were asked about the possible impact of the tariff cut on market prices.

Deputy Majority Leader and ACT-CIS party-list Rep. Erwin Tulfo said the number could be lower depending on the peso-dollar exchange rate — with a stronger peso possible decreasing rice prices even more.

“Pero that’s depending on the, that P5 to P6 at the current exchange rate po ‘yon P58 po (per \$1), if the dollar goes down, mas mataas pa doon, so depending on the dictate of the exchange rate,” he noted.

(But that’s still depending on the — that P5 to P6 at the current exchange rate po ‘yon P58 (per \$1), if the dollar goes down, then the rice price cut will be higher, so it is dependent on the dictate of the exchange rate,” he noted.

Romualdez meanwhile clarified that the expected rice price reduction is not only confined to rice sold in Kadiwa stores, as the tariff cuts will have a nationwide effect.

According to Romualdez, they have also talked to importers and market retailers about the possibility of selling Kadiwa products in major grocery chains — with one major player already agreeing to this scheme.

“That’s still in a limited market so to speak, because Kadiwa really was intended to target the marginalized sector and then provide very basic na goods and commodities. However as I said, with the whole-of-nation approach, stores will be part of the program because we’re talking to the importers, to the traders, we’re talking of course to the local producers,” Romualdez said.

“But even, I’ll be specific, we talked to a grocery chain, they are also ready to carry Kadiwa rice in their stores [...] for so long as stocks and inventories permit, they will carry that,” he added. “They’re also volunteering, and subject to the policies of the Kadiwa, they even want to support by providing an outlet within their stores to provide the Kadiwa stores with other basic commodities in the stores that are not yet readily available, at 10 to 15 percent discount.”

Last Tuesday, Socio-economic and Development Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said that the President had already approved the reduction in the tariffs on rice, coal, and other basic commodities.

Balisacan said the President, who chairs the National Economic and Development Authority board, approved the new Comprehensive Tariff Program for 2024-2028, which calibrates tariff rates until 2028.

However, several observers questioned the deduction in the tariff rates, noting that this move would only encourage more imported rice to come into the country.

Romualdez and Enverga countered this, saying earlier that the rice tariff reduction is only aimed at absorbing the impact of high rice prices in the world market.

Romualdez also reiterated that support to the farmers would continue, as the provision of assistance through the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) would continue.

Tariffs required of imported rice are directed into the RCEF, as required by Republic Act No. 11203 or the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL).

On Wednesday, Romualdez and other lawmakers said they believe the rice tariff rate reductions would result into a lower rice price at the local market. However, the Speaker still maintained that there is still a need for long-term solutions — particularly amendments to the RTL.

Last May 21, the House approved House Bill No. 10381, a proposal seeking to amend the RTL, to restore some of the National Food Authority (NFA) functions.

If signed into law, NFA will have the “authority to oversee and ensure compliance with all pertinent standards and regulations, leveraging its established expertise and nationwide network to uphold the national interest, in rice buffer stocking and food security,” by placing a new Section 5 in R.A. No. 8178.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1949074/rice-prices-may-go-down-by-p5-to-p6-per-kilo-due-to-tariff-cut-solons>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Romualdez: Tariff cut won't flood market with rice imports

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lalu](#) - Reporter / [@GabrielLaluINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 03:26 PM June 06, 2024

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s approval of the reduced tariff rates for certain basic products would not result in a deluge of imported rice, House of Representatives Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez said on Thursday.

Romualdez, in a press briefing after meeting rice industry stakeholders, said the rate of the country's rice importation would remain the same. He said the tariff cut is aimed at absorbing the impact of the high rice prices in the world market.

“Binababa lang yung tariff rate. ‘Yong pag-iimport hindi na ‘yon babaha kasi there’s a regular flow of imports. ‘yong pumapasok na bigas ay sapat lang talaga, hindi naman babaha, ‘yong maa-adjust lang ay ‘yong taripa,” he said.

(They are only trying to reduce the tariff rates. There would be no flooding of imported rice because there’s a regular flow of imports. What goes into the country is enough, only the tariff was adjusted.)

Romualdez said importation is meant to bridge the shortfall in supply and the tariff cut is intended to mitigate the effects of the spike in the world market price of rice on local prices.

Spike in world market prices

Romualdez also reiterated that support to the farmers would continue, as the provision of assistance through the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) would be maintained.

Tariff collections from imported rice are directed into the RCEF, as required by Republic Act No. 11203 or the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL).

“Our support to the farmers will continue, through the subsidies to farmers who are a very important part of the whole sector, the industry,” Romualdez said. “We support them, the subsidies will continue, they are a very, very important part of the agriculture sector, particularly for rice production.”

“So rest assured...that there would be no flooding (of imports) because the flow of (imported) rice will stay as it is. The protection for our farmers through subsidies will continue [...] So there’s nothing to worry there,” he added.

Last Tuesday, Socio-economic and Development Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said the President had approved the reduction in the tariffs on rice, coal, and other basic commodities.

Comprehensive Tariff Program

Balisacan said the President, who chairs the National Economic and Development Authority board, approved the new Comprehensive Tariff Program for 2024-2028, which calibrates tariff rates until 2028.

On Wednesday, Romualdez and other lawmakers said they believe the rice tariff rate cut would result in the lowering of the staple’s prices in the local market. However, the Speaker maintained that there is still a need for long-term solutions to the country’s rice issues— particularly amendments to the RTL.

Last May 21, the House approved House Bill No. 10381, a proposal seeking amendments to the RTL, to restore some of the National Food Authority’s (NFA) functions.

If signed into law, the NFA will have the “authority to oversee and ensure compliance with all pertinent standards and regulations, leveraging its established expertise and nationwide network to uphold the national interest, in rice buffer stocking and food security,” by placing a new Section 5 in R.A. No. 8178.

<https://business.inquirer.net/462672/romualdez-tariff-cut-wont-flood-market-with-rice-imports>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Inflation picks up to 6-month high

June 6, 2024 | 12:34 am



Inflation rose for a fourth straight month in May, the statistics agency said on Wednesday. — PHILIPPINE STAR/RYAN BALDEMOR

By **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**, *Reporter*

INFLATION ACCELERATED to a six-month high in May, driven by the faster rise in utility and transport costs, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said on Wednesday.

The consumer price index (CPI) picked up to 3.9% year on year in May from 3.8% in April but slowed from 6.1% in the same month last year.

It was the fastest inflation since 4.1% in November and matched the 3.9% inflation in December.

May inflation also fell within the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' (BSP) 3.7-4.5% forecast for the month. However, it was slightly below the 4% median estimate in a *BusinessWorld* poll of 16 analysts last week.

May also marked the fourth straight month of faster annual inflation, and the sixth straight month that inflation settled within the BSP's 2-4% target band.

Month on month, inflation inched up by 0.1%. Stripping out seasonality factors, month-on-month inflation picked up by 0.3%.

Core inflation, which excludes volatile prices of food and fuel, slowed to 3.1% in May from 3.2% in April and 7.7% in the same month a year ago.

From January to May, headline inflation averaged 3.5%, matching the BSP's full-year forecast.

"The inflation outturn is consistent with the BSP expectations that inflation could temporarily accelerate above the target range over the near term due to adverse weather conditions on domestic agricultural output and positive base effects," the central bank said in a statement.

National Statistician Claire Dennis S. Mapa said the inflation uptick was driven by the faster increase in the housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels index. It rose to 0.9% in May from 0.4% in April.

"One of the main contributors to the increase in housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels was the slower pace of decrease in electricity prices... (and) the faster rise in prices of liquified petroleum gas (LPG), which had 9.4% inflation," he said in mixed English and Filipino.

He also noted that the yellow and red alerts placed on the Luzon and Visayas grids contributed to higher electricity prices.

Mr. Mapa also noted the faster annual growth in transport index at 3.5% in May from 2.6% in the previous month and -0.5% in May 2023. This was driven by higher gasoline and diesel prices, as well as rising fares for passenger transport by sea.

Meanwhile, the heavily weighted food and non-alcoholic beverages index was the main contributor to overall headline inflation, accounting for 56.6% or 2.2 percentage points (ppts).

The food index rose to 5.8% in May, slowing from 6% a month ago and 7.4% in May 2023. The cereals and cereal products index, which includes rice, eased to 16.6% from 16.9% in April.

Rice inflation eased to 23% from 23.9% a month earlier. May marked the second straight month of slower rice inflation.

PSA data showed that the average price of a kilo of well-milled rice declined to P56.06 in May from P56.42 in April while special rice dropped to P64.41 from P64.68 per kilo.

Mr. Mapa noted that rice prices continue to see "incremental decreases" as global rice prices are also going down.

He also cited faster inflation in the ready-made and other food products, particularly ginger. The average price of a kilo of ginger rose to P148.72 in May from P127.66 in April.

Meanwhile, the inflation rate for the bottom 30% of income households settled at 5.3% in May, the same as a month ago but slower than 6.7% a year earlier.

In the first five months, the inflation rate averaged 4.6% for the bottom 30%.

In the National Capital Region (NCR), inflation quickened to 3.1% from 2.8% in April. Inflation in areas outside NCR averaged 4.1%, unchanged from the previous month.

RISKS**TO****INFLATION**

Meanwhile, the BSP said that risks to the inflation outlook continue to tilt toward the upside.

“Possible further price pressures are linked mainly to higher transport charges, elevated food prices, higher electricity rates, and increase in global oil prices,” it said.

However, the central bank said it still expects average inflation to return to the target range for both 2024 and 2025.

PSA’s Mr. Mapa said that inflation could ease further after the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board recently approved a medium-term plan to reduce tariffs on key agricultural and industrial products. Tariffs for rice imports will be slashed to 15% from 35% previously until 2028.

“Our inflation of rice has a very substantial contribution to overall inflation. It’s even bigger for the bottom 30% income households... It would reduce the overall inflation, given the contribution of rice to the overall inflation, all things being the same,” Mr. Mapa said.

NEDA Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan said in a statement on Wednesday that the tariff reduction will “help manage food inflation, promote policy stability and investment planning, and enhance food security.”

POLICY**IMPLICATIONS**

The central bank said it will consider the latest inflation data in its next policy review on June 27.

“The BSP also continues to support the National Government’s nonmonetary measures to address supply-side pressures on prices and sustain the disinflation process,” it added.

Chinabank Research said in an e-mail note that recent nonmonetary measures could result in a lower inflation path and ensure that full-year inflation falls within the BSP’s target.

“While unfavorable base effects will continue to help drive up inflation until July and upside risks persist, recent nonmonetary interventions such as tariff cuts on key commodities and the exemption of agri-trucks from toll fee hikes starting this month brought positive developments to the inflation outlook,” it said.

The BSP earlier said that inflation could overshoot the 2-4% target band from May to July amid base effects.

“The monthly year-on-year inflation is expected to peak in July and anticipated to begin its downward trend in August,” Metrobank Research and Market Strategy Department said in a report.

Pantheon Macroeconomics in an e-mail note said that it expects inflation to average 3.3% this year, below the BSP’s full-year target.

Chinabank Research said that latest inflation data may also prompt the BSP to begin policy easing earlier than expected.

“(This) could support possible local policy rate cuts as early as the latter part of 2024 especially if the Fed starts cutting rates,” Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. Chief Economist Michael L. Ricafort said.

Pantheon said it expects the BSP to cut by a total of 75 basis points (bps) this year, beginning in August.

The Monetary Board last month kept its benchmark steady at a 17-year high of 6.5%. The central bank raised borrowing costs by 450 bps from May 2022 to October 2023.

BSP Governor Eli M. Remolona, Jr. earlier said that the Monetary Board can begin policy easing as early as August.

Metrobank Research said it expects the BSP to begin its easing cycle in the fourth quarter should the US Federal Reserve start cutting in September.

Mr. Remolona earlier said that the BSP does not need to wait for the Fed and can cut ahead of the US central bank.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2024/06/06/599941/inflation-picks-up-to-6-month-high/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Lower rice tariffs to bring down retail prices as early as July

June 6, 2024 | 12:33 am



The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board has approved a medium-term plan to lower tariffs on agricultural and industrial products, including rice. — PHILIPPINE STAR/EDD GUMBAN

THE GOVERNMENT'S move to slash tariffs on imported rice could bring down average retail prices by P6-P7 per kilo as early as July, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Wednesday.

“The potential price reduction will be between P6 and P7 per kilo... In a month’s time we can expect that the prices would drop,” Agriculture Assistant Secretary and Spokesperson Arnel V. De Mesa said in a virtual briefing.

He said consumers could see the drop in retail prices of imported rice by July or August, noting that it takes around two to three weeks for imports to arrive in the country.

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board has approved a medium-term plan to lower tariffs on agricultural and industrial products. This included the further reduction in rice import tariffs to 15% from 35% until 2028.

“We will do everything within our power to make sure the substantial cut in rice tariff will translate to a significant reduction in retail price of the grain,” Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. said in a separate statement.

According to the DA’s Price monitoring of Metro Manila markets as of June 4, a kilo of imported well-milled rice was P52-P55, while regular milled rice was P49-P51 per kilo.

The Department of Finance earlier said that it is willing to forego an estimated P10 billion in tariff collections to lower the price of the food staple.

Mr. Tiu Laurel said the agency will plug the potential funding gaps for the Rice Competitive Enhancement Fund (RCEF). RCEF is funded by tariff collections on rice imports, mandated under Republic Act No. 11203, the Rice Tariffication Law.

“Our priority is to ensure that our rice farmers will continue to benefit from the Rice Fund created under the Rice Tariffication Law and is confident it will be extended until 2030 to improve the lives of millions of impoverished rice farmers,” he said.

The DA is seeking to extend RCEF and bring back some regulatory powers to the NFA to bring down rice prices.

LOWER

INFLATION

Meanwhile, HSBC economist for ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Aris D. Dacanay said the implementation of lower tariffs on key commodities would likely help cool inflation,

The consumer price index (CPI) may ease by as much as 1.8 percentage points if the government swiftly implements the lower tariffs on rice, corn, pork and mechanically deboned meat, he said at a media briefing.

“But if, let’s say, the rice tariff rate cut happens tomorrow, or happens within June, I do think that’s a big downside risk to the inflation outlook, and perhaps, you know, inflation will not breach target,” he said.

Annual inflation quickened for a fourth straight month in May. Inflation rose to 3.9% year on year in May from 3.8% in April but slowed from 6.1% in the same month last year.

May marked the sixth straight month that inflation settled within the central bank’s 2-4% target band.

Mr. Dacanay said inflation may likely breach the government’s 2-4% target until July due to unfavorable base effects.

“It’s going to range between 4% and 4.5%, perhaps up until July. It’s only in August where it will return back to within target,” he said. — **Adrian H. Halili** *with inputs from B.M.D.Cruz*

<https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2024/06/06/599940/lower-rice-tariffs-to-bring-down-retail-prices-as-early-as-july/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Government warned against low tariff regime

June 6, 2024 | 12:31 am



Workers arrange sacks of National Food Authority (NFA) rice in Balagtas, Bulacan. — PHILIPPINE STAR/MIGUEL DE GUZMAN
By **Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza**, *Reporter*

TRADE PROTECTION is needed if the government is serious about rescuing its agriculture and manufacturing sectors, experts said after the Philippines announced a new low tariff regime covering industrial and agricultural products.

Farmers, meanwhile, said the government has failed to keep its promise that it would not reduce tariffs for sensitive agricultural commodities while the Philippines is still a party to the world's largest free trade agreement.

The country has been lowering tariffs since the early 1980s, with manufacturing falling to its smallest share of economic output since 1949 and agriculture down to its smallest in the country's history, said Jose Enrique A. Africa, executive director of think tank Ibon Foundation.

“Mindlessly cutting tariffs further will just continue this long-term trend of weakening agriculture and manufacturing,” he said in a Facebook Messenger chat.

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board on Monday approved a medium-term plan to lower tariffs on agricultural and industrial products, amid concerns over rising inflation, and slowing manufacturing output.

Under the Comprehensive Tariff Program for 2024 to 2028, the government would keep the rates for more than half of the tariff lines for products that have relatively low tariffs, a move that NEDA Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan said would boost manufacturers’ competitiveness.

“Agricultural and industrial competitiveness is, most of all, built up from the ground with state subsidies and support to build capacity astride judicious trade and tariff protection,” Mr. Africa said.

He cited the case of the United States, which has been on a mission to subsidize its manufacturing sector amid growing competition with China, which accounted for 28.4% of global manufacturing output last year.

“If an industrial power like the US sees the need for protection, it’s bizarre that the underdeveloped Philippines somehow thinks otherwise,” he said.

Under the tariff program, the reduced tariff rates for corn, pork and mechanically deboned meat that started in 2019 would be kept until 2028. Rice tariffs will go down to 15% from the current 35% until 2028.

Raul Q. Montemayor of the Federation of Free Farmers lamented that the government earlier assured farmers that rice and other sensitive agricultural commodities would not suffer any diminution in tariff protection while the Philippines is part of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

The National Government has also failed to consult stakeholders before deciding to lower tariffs for industrial and agricultural products including rice, he added in a Viber message.

“NEDA has deprived industry stakeholders of their right to genuine consultation and due process,” he said.

Proposed tariff changes have to undergo hearings conducted by the Tariff Commission, which will then give the recommendations to the NEDA Board chaired by the President.

Mr. Montemayor said further reduction in rice tariffs would “hugely” affect the “morale and productive efforts” of three million domestic rice farmers and the rice industry as a whole, noting that the country’s dependence on rice imports has grown to 25% from 10%.

“Our experience since trading in the rice industry was liberalized... and tariffs were lowered also on non-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) rice imports has not been salutary. But rice retail prices have risen,” he said. “That the 15% tariff on rice will provide major and lasting relief to consumers is more a shot in the dark than a probable result.”

The Samahan ng Industriya ng Agrikultura said that when the Finance department last year announced plans to lower rice tariff, Vietnam and Thailand started to increase rice prices to \$680 per metric ton (MT) from \$630/MT of the 5% broken rice variety.

Non-ASEAN rice exporters like India and Pakistan simply increased their export tax, it said in a Viber message.

As of end May, the Philippines has already imported two million MT of rice, equivalent to 53% of projected imports.

The agriculture sector's contribution to the gross domestic product last year fell to 8.6% — the smallest in the country's history — from 9.55% a year earlier.

Political economy researcher Hansley A. Juliano from the Ateneo de Manila University noted the farm sector's weakening power in terms of policy lobbying.

“Unfortunately, our farmer sector is getting older so just by themselves, even the successful agrarian reform beneficiaries and cooperative farm movements, they're not really a strong lobby,” he said via Messenger chat.

Meanwhile, the government's move to reduce tariffs on coal is unlikely to lower the cost of electricity as coal prices continue to rise, Greenpeace Philippines campaigner Khevin Yu said via Messenger chat.

He said the move will prolong the country's reliance on coal and affect its transition to renewables.

“The best way to reduce electricity cost is to utilize the cheapest source of energy which is renewable energy,” he added, blaming “faulty operational capacity” of coal-fired power plants that led to yellow power alerts across the main island of Luzon.

A 2024 Green Economy Report for Southeast Asia led by Bain & Company said the Philippines saw a 57% increase in “green” investments to \$1.46 billion in 2023, but still falls short of the over \$16 billion in required capital investments needed for its green transition.

“NEDA should instead create more incentives for power generators, distributors and even for electric consumers who use renewables,” Mr. Yu said.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/top-stories/2024/06/06/599938/government-warned-against-low-tariff-regime/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

House panel chairman promises RCEF support after rice tariff cut

June 6, 2024 | 9:07 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR/KRIZ JOHN ROSALES

LEADERS of the House of Representatives said on Thursday that they will continue to support farm modernization despite the potential loss of funding from rice import tariffs, which the government reduced to 15% from 35%.

The Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF), which finances industry modernization, is by law the recipient of P10 billion a year from rice import tariffs. RCEF tariff support is authorized by the Rice Tariffication Law of 2019.

“Even at the higher allocation of P15 billion for the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund under the House version of the revised (Rice Tariffication Law), we are already assured it will be funded for next year,” Quezon Rep. Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga said in a statement.

Mr. Enverga chairs the House Committee on Agriculture and Food.

The government earlier this week approved a revised tariff program for 2024 to 2028 — which includes a reduction of rice tariffs to 15% from 35%.

The 2019 law liberalized rice imports but charged a 35% tariff on imported grain. The 35% rate originally applied to rice from Southeast Asia, but the government subsequently applied that rate to rice from any country of origin.

“We will make sure that our rice farmers aren’t short-changed in this government effort to bring down the cost of rice,” Mr. Enverga said. “So, even if tariff collection falls short for RCEF allocation, the government will provide funds to fill whatever deficiency to ensure sufficient financing for the Rice Fund.”

Speaker and Leyte Rep. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez described the tariff cut as a means of reducing the retail price of the staple. “The reduction in tariffs will make imported rice cheaper,” he said in a briefing.

Well-milled rice prices in late May averaged P48 to P55 per kilo while regular-milled rice sold for P45 to P52, according to Department of Agriculture price monitors.

Mr. Enverga urged the Department of Trade and Industry to monitor the entire rice supply chain to ensure that the benefits of cheaper rice are passed onto consumers and not captured by any one segment of the chain. — **Kenneth Christiane L. Basilio**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/06/06/600294/house-panel-chairman-promises-rcef-support-after-rice-tariff-cut/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Meat imports rise 11% led by pork, chicken

June 6, 2024 | 9:06 pm



MEAT IMPORTS rose 11.3% during the four months to April, led by increased shipments of pork, chicken, and beef, the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) reported.

The BAI tallied imports of 397 million kilograms of meat during the four-month period, against 356 million kilos the prior year.

Meat imports in April rose 35.6% to 122.74 million kilos.

Shipments of pork increased 17.99% to 193.15 million kilos during the period, accounting for 48.73% of the total.

“Importers are likely positioning in anticipation of higher prices abroad, a weaker peso, as well as lower hog production due to El Niño. It is noteworthy that offal volume decreased, perhaps indicating greater attractiveness of pork meat at the current import duty rate,” Meat Importers and Traders Association President Emeritus Jesus C. Cham said in a Viber message.

The National Economic and Development Authority Board has approved a medium-term plan to lower tariffs on agricultural and industrial products. This included the extension of the reduced-tariff regime on pork imports.

Pork tariffs were retained at 15% for shipments within the minimum access volume and 25% for those exceeding the quota.

He added that as most imports are contracted three months in advance, “We will see how in the next few months how it will affect imports,” Mr. Cham said.

Spain supplied around 50.9 million kilos of pork, followed by Brazil (44.4 million kilos), and Canada (26.2 million kilos) during the period.

Shipments of chicken totaled 134.47 million kilos in the four months to April. Shipments rose 2.41% and made up 33.9% of meat imports.

Brazil remained the top supplier of chicken with shipments of 70.5 million kilos, followed by the US (46.6 million kilos), and Australia (5.4 million kilos).

“This probably shows the continued demand for lower priced chicken,” he said.

Making up 13% of total imports, beef shipments increased 21.9% during the period to 51.53 million kilos.

“The high retail price of pork is pushing consumers toward mid-range beef,” he added.

Beef from Brazil amounted to 17.2 million kilos, followed by Australia (16.1 million), and Ireland (5.1 million).

Turkey imports, which accounted for 0.12% of the total, surged to 483 thousand kilos from 89.9 thousand a year earlier.

Meanwhile, duck, lamb, and buffalo meat imports declined during the period.

Buffalo imports, which accounted for 4.17%, fell 9.65% during the four months to April to 16.5 million kilos.

Shipments of duck declined 59.8% to 51 thousand kilos, while lamb imports fell 27.3% to 164 thousand kilos. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/06/06/600277/meat-imports-rise-11-led-by-pork-chicken/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Farmers report drop in ginger farmgate prices as retail prices surge

June 6, 2024 | 9:04 pm



SAAD.DA.GOV.PH

FARMERS have reported declining farmgate prices for ginger, coinciding with a spike in retail prices in Metro Manila markets, analysts said.

Jayson H. Cainglet, executive director of the Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura said that farmgate prices in Nueva Vizcaya have dropped to as low as P30 per kilogram.

According to Department of Agriculture (DA) price monitors, Metro Manila prices for ginger were between P220 and P280 per kilogram as of June 5.

“Problem talaga ng DA ang monitoring and logistics support para makuha sa areas na walang trading hub ang mga ani ng farmers (It’s really a problem for the DA to monitor and provide logistics support in areas with no trading hubs),” Mr. Cainglet said in a Viber message.

He added that farmgate prices for ginger of P180 per kilo suggest that the retail price should be between P220 and P230.

“Normally, ginger is harvested before the rainy season, so the high prices now are quite surprising,” Raul Q. Montemayor, national manager of the Federation of Free Farmers, said in a Viber message.

The department has said that the spike in ginger prices may have been caused by the increased demand from food processors, crowding out consumers.

“On the local front, the demand for ginger for processing has also grown, so it is being made into tea,” Agriculture Assistant Secretary and Spokesperson Arnel V. de Mesa said in a briefing on Thursday.

“So, the demand is now big for processing ginger,” he added.

Mr. De Mesa said that imported ginger declined last year to about 143 metric tons, citing data from the Bureau of Plant Industry. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/06/06/600272/farmers-report-drop-in-ginger-farmgate-prices-as-retail-prices-surge/>

Quality, affordable rice aim of tariff cut — Speaker

By Rio N. Araja

June 7, 2024, 12:30 am

Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez yesterday urged government agencies and the private sector to adopt a whole-of-nation approach in complying with President Marcos Jr.'s instructions to make available lower price of rice to the public as soon as possible.

He made the appeal in a meeting which he hosted for government agencies — the Department of Agriculture, Department of Trade and Industry and Bureau of Customs at the Makati Golf and Country Club, Makati City.

Representatives of SM supermarkets and Puregold stores, which are among the biggest retailers of rice and other basic goods in the country, also attended the meeting.

“The President is doing everything in his power to bring down the price of rice and make them available to millions of Filipinos in all parts of the country. It is now our obligation to work together and adopt a whole-of-nation approach to make this possible,” Romualdez said.

While P29-per-kilo rice is already available in the Kadiwa stores in all regions, the reach of these stores is still very limited and their stocks limited, the Speaker lamented.

“What we envision is not only to make affordable rice available in Kadiwa centers, but make quality affordable rice to the general public. In all markets, in all parts of the country, all the time,” he said.

With help from Congress, the administration is using all the powers in its arsenal to bring down not only the price of rice but also of other basic food items and agricultural products, Romualdez said.

“The reduction in tariff for rice is just one of the approaches. The expansion of Kadiwa stores is another. We are hopeful that the Senate will approve their version of

the amendments to the Rice Tariffication Law which the House of Representatives passed last month,” he said.

He allayed the fears of farmers’ group that the reduction of rice tariff would flood the Philippine market with imported rice at the expense of locally-produced rice.

“There is nothing to fear about massive importation. Our priority is still locally-produced rice. We only resort to importation only to offset our shortfall in rice production,” he said.

“We are only reducing tariffs to absorb price shocks in the world market and free-fall in foreign exchange. This is just stop-gap measure and our goal is still rice sufficiency and affordability,” he added.

He assured the farmers that the subsidies to rice production would continue even with losses in revenues as a result of the reduced tariff in rice.

“Just from January to May this year alone, the Bureau of Customs had already collected P21.6 billion earmarked for subsidy to rice farmers. Government has enough resources to continue the subsidies, and Congress is ready to provide more funds if still needed,” he said.

Meanwhile, Quezon Rep. Mark Enverga assured that the reduced duties on imported rice would not adversely affect government support to rice farmers.

“Even at the higher allocation of P15 billion for the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund under the House version of the revised RTL, we are already assured it will be funded for next year,” said Enverga who chairs the House committee on agriculture.

The current RCEF, also known as the Rice Fund, sets aside P10 billion a year from tariff collection from rice imports to fund farm mechanization, provision of better seeds and the training on new farming technologies.

The RCEF was supposed to end this year but lawmakers have sought to extend the rice fund until 2030.

“We will make sure that our rice farmers won’t be short changed in this government effort to bring down the cost of rice for the benefit of millions of Filipino consumers. So even if tariff collection falls short for RCEF allocation, the government will provide funds to fill whatever deficiency to ensure sufficient financing for the Rice Fund,” Enverga said.

The tariff reduction is expected to be implemented within the third quarter.

Data from the Bureau of Customs showed that tariff collection on rice import in the first five months of 2024 already reached P21 billion, more than enough to cover the proposed higher rice fund allocation.

<https://manilastandard.net/news/314456375/quality-affordable-rice-aim-of-tariff-cut-speaker.html>

MANILA STANDARD

NDA seeks P2.5b to buy 5k imported cattle, set up dairy labs

By Manila Standard & Rio N. Araja

June 6, 2024, 10:20 pm

The National Dairy Authority (NDA) is seeking a P2.5-billion budget for the procurement of 5,000 heads of imported cattle and the setting up of laboratory facilities in six regions to boost the domestic milk production.

“We support the goal of the National Dairy Authority to increase the dairy production and develop our local dairy industry. That is why we are pushing for an additional budget for all agencies involved,” Agri party-list Rep. Wilbert Lee said.

Apart from buying cattle, research and development on carabaos also need to be boosted, Lee added.

“Research and innovation on both cattle and carabaos are vital to ensuring that the dairy industry continues to improve practices and minimize impacts of extreme weather conditions while improving milk production,” he noted.

“Right now, only about P89 million has been allocated for the Research and Development of the National Carabao Development Program and P274 million for their herd build-up of genetically improved dairy buffalos. We should increase our support here,” the lawmaker stressed.

According to him, carabaos are “hardy, low-maintenance animals.”

“They can thrive on local grasses and do not need expensive feeds, making them well-suited for small-scale farmers. Apart from their agricultural use, carabaos also provide milk,” Lee said.

The program is set to bolster local dairy stocks and local milk production through a series of strategic initiatives.

<https://manilastandard.net/news/national/314456334/nda-seeks-p2-5b-to-buy-5k-imported-cattle-set-up-dairy-labs.html>

Wet and dry season preparedness

By John Lesaca

June 7, 2024

IT always happens.

We are always unprepared. For many lifetimes and generations, we have gradually abandoned preparedness for our type of weather. Climate change exacerbates this lack of preparedness.

Preparing for both wet and dry seasons requires a comprehensive, holistic and practical approach intended to meet the specific challenges of each season. Let's get ready, everyone:

Before the wet season starts:

- Inspect your roof for any signs of wear and tear, and make necessary repairs to prevent leaks. Be careful when climbing up the roof, it may be slippery. Apply waterproof sealants to walls, foundations and any areas prone to leaks.

- Ensure that gutters and downspouts are free of leaves, branches and other debris to allow proper drainage and prevent water damage. Dredge your own canal or creek. Make sure the drainage systems are clean. For communities, it will be helpful if each neighbor cleans the drainage passing through their household.

- In cases of weather alerts for strong typhoons, install storm shutters or use plywood to board up windows and doors to protect against strong winds and flying debris; Never go out of the house during severe typhoons — you might get hit by flying GI sheets or falling branches.

- Anticipate electrical outages. Keep flashlights, batteries, portable radios, candles and lighters or matches handy but in safe places.

Have at least a week's supply of canned goods, dried food and bottled water. Consider dietary needs and include baby formula if needed.

- Get a first aid kit and make sure it is well-stocked with bandages, antiseptic, medicines and any necessary prescription medications.
- For low-lying areas or flood-prone locations, always monitor water levels in anticipation of flooding. Store important documents in waterproof containers or bags. Use sandbags to divert water away from your home, especially if you live in a flood-prone area.
- During flooding, turn off electrical appliances and avoid contact with floodwater to prevent electrocution. Avoid wading in floodwaters as they can be contaminated with animal/rodent waste, sewage or chemicals.
- Monitor updates from Pagasa, DILG, DSWD and local news channels.
- Anticipate disasters — establish a communication plan with family members (even those who do not live with you) and have emergency contact numbers readily available.
- Know the locations of the nearest evacuation centers and safe zones. If none, locate the nearest area with a large open space (for earthquakes) and barangay evacuation halls — even basketball courts can serve as a temporary shelter.
- Conduct regular drills with your family so everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency.

Dry season preparation:

- Install rain barrels or other rainwater collection systems to store water during the rainy season for use during the dry months. Check daily and make sure that they are as clean as possible.

- Do not waste water. Observe water-saving guidelines and always anticipate water rationing. Use water-saving fixtures like low-flow showerheads and faucets to reduce water consumption.
- Regularly check and repair any leaks in faucets, pipes and hoses. For gas-powered appliances like ovens and dryers, ensure that the supply tubes and pipes are leak-proof.
- Remove dry leaves, twigs and other flammable materials from around your home to reduce the risk of fire. Invest in fire extinguishers and keep them in key locations. Make sure everyone in the household knows how to use them. If you live in a fire-prone area (houses with no firewalls, or wooden residential areas with little space between houses, create firebreaks by clearing vegetation and establishing buffer zones around your property.
- Drink plenty of water and avoid prolonged exposure to the sun to prevent dehydration and heat stroke. Golfers and outdoor sportsmen as well as construction workers, beware of the heat. Apply sunscreen and wear protective clothing, such as hats and sunglasses, to shield against harmful UV rays. Avoid caffeine and alcohol as these can increase the rate of dehydration. Place a wet cloth or apply ice packs on your wrists and neck to cool down.
- Wear loose-fitting, light-colored clothing and hats to reflect heat and keep you cool. Avoid going out between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. when the sun is at its peak.
- Use energy-efficient appliances and light bulbs to reduce electricity consumption. Make sure to turn off electric fans or air-conditioners to prevent fires.
- For agriculture, plant crops that are more resilient to drought and require less water. Use efficient irrigation methods, such as drip irrigation, to minimize water wastage and maximize water usage.
- Review and update your home insurance policy to ensure it covers natural disasters like floods, storms, fire and drought.

– Participate in community preparedness programs and support local efforts to build resilience against seasonal challenges. Continuously review and update your preparedness plan to adapt to changes in climate patterns, personal circumstances and advancements in technology or best practices.

Hopefully, the above guidelines will help safeguard your health and ensure your family's safety during adverse weather conditions.

Maybe we should also include scouting once again in our schools' elective subjects. I learned all of the above from scouting. Its global motto: *Be prepared.*

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/06/07/opinion/columns/wet-and-dry-season-preparedness/1950248>

Inflation expected to peak in July

By Niña Myka Pauline Arceo

June 7, 2024

UNFAVORABLE base effects and lingering upside risks will continue to push inflation up in the coming months, analysts said, with the peak likely to be hit in July.

Consumer price growth rose for a fourth straight month in May to 3.9 percent, from April's 3.7 percent, due to rising housing, power and utility costs. It was lower, however, than the 4.0 percent expected by economists.

"We think the upward momentum may persist in the next two months given unfavorable base effects, weaker peso and lingering food supply issues," Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) senior economist Emilio Neri said in a note.

Food inflation has already slowed to 6.1 percent last month from April's 6.3 percent. Rice inflation, which contributed to the uptick in inflation from the previous months, also declined to 23.0 percent from 23.9 percent.

Neri said inflation would return to target in August and settle at 3.5 percent this year.

Metrobank Research and Market Strategy echoed his outlook, saying that inflation will peak in July and begin its downward trend in August.

Its full-year forecast, however, is a higher 4.0 percent.

Chinabank Research also noted unfavorable base effects and upside risks but said that recent nonmonetary interventions such as tariff

cuts on key commodities and the exemption of trucks carrying farm goods from toll fee hikes could have a positive impact.

"These measures could result in a lower inflation path than previously projected and help ensure full-year inflation settles firmly within the BSP's (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas) target," it said.

Improving inflation, Chinabank Research said, could give the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas enough reason to cut rates sooner despite the attendant risks.

"This encouraging development in inflation, despite risks still tilted to the upside, could prompt the central bank to adopt an even less hawkish stance in its policy meeting this June," it said.

"Furthermore, the favorable inflation outlook, supported by the government's nonmonetary measures to ease price pressures, will also likely boost optimism for imminent rate cuts from the BSP."

Neri, meanwhile, said rate cuts will only be considered once inflation stabilizes within the BSP's target range in the third or fourth quarter.

While BSP Governor Eli Remolona Jr. has said that cuts could start ahead of the US Federal Reserve (Fed) in August, the BPI economist said "a narrowed interest rate differential increases the risk of currency depreciation, which could outweigh recent deceleration in food prices."

He expects a rate cut of around 50 basis points this year, assuming the Fed eases in the second semester.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/06/07/business/top-business/inflation-expected-to-peak-in-july/1950325>

'Pliant Like a Bamboo'



By Dr. Fermin D. Adriano, PhD

June 7, 2024

SEVERAL decades ago, a Filipino writer by the name of Ismael V. Mallari wrote an essay entitled "Pliant Like a Bamboo" to pay tribute to the Filipino people's resilience. The essay used a story in Philippine folklore, about a sturdy mango tree and a pliant bamboo, to describe how Filipinos have withstood tragedies.

Feeling strong and sturdy because its roots are deeply embedded in the soil, the mango tree boasts that it can weather the strongest of storms while ridiculing the bamboo that it has no chance of surviving the howling winds. The following day, however, the mango tree has fallen but the bamboo survives.

Mallari attributed the bamboo's resilience to its being pliant in nature. Instead of resisting the lashing wind, the bamboo bent in the direction where it blew. In contrast, the mango resisted the force of nature and eventually succumbed.

The Filipino people are like the bamboo, Mallari declared. Though appearing weak, Filipinos are resilient enough to have withstood centuries of successive and oppressive colonial rulers. In the end, the Filipino nation rose from the sufferings of generations of Filipinos.

Today, the bamboo is now being heralded as a possible instrument in combating climate change. Studies show that this plant is capable of absorbing carbon emissions at a rate of 1.5 percent for every million hectares. It can absorb carbon 10 times more than a fir tree and 15 times more than a pine tree.

It can help purify water and hold soil together to prevent landslides and serious erosion because of its widespread roots. Moreover, it can be grown without massive labor inputs to ensure successful farming and can be harvested starting the fifth or seventh year, depending on the variety planted, up to a hundred years.

Bamboo is thus an ideal plant to make our denuded forest areas green again. It is estimated that out of the 30 million hectares of forest lands in the country, only around 7 million hectares are not denuded.

Besides its ecological benefits, bamboo can be used in the manufacturing of slats, boards, veneers, panels and strand lumber that are used as substitutes for steel and cement — materials that contribute to global warming. It can be made into columns and trusses, floor systems, and beams and ceilings. Finished products like doors, decking, stairs, moldings and floorings can also be made of bamboo. In addition, bamboo waste products can be converted into energy.

The current global export market is over \$8 billion a year, with the expectation that demand for these materials, because of their eco-friendliness, will increase as building construction experiences an upswing due to the combined effects of population growth and economic progress in developing countries.

China has been characteristically quiet about the huge potential of bamboo as a construction material as it dominates the global export market and recognizes the tremendous economic opportunities. It has hardly shared knowledge on research that it is undertaking on varietal improvement and the appropriate varieties that should be grown in various agro-climatic settings. There is nothing to fret about, however, because China's behavior just makes good business sense.

Fortunately, there are firms in the Philippines like Rizome and Kapwa Agroforestry Corp. that are promoting bamboo farming on

mountainous and denuded areas in the country. There are more interested parties considering the significant financial and ecological returns that bamboo plantations can generate and the support extended by the Department of Trade and Industry for the development of the bamboo industry.

An initial 424,000 hectares is being targeted for bamboo farming. Rizome claims that it can develop 4 million hectares if the proper support from the government and investors is obtained. Four million hectares planted to bamboo can remove around 6 percent of carbon in the global atmosphere. The ability of bamboo and Rizome to reduce global carbon emission has been recognized by Elon Musk's \$100-million carbon removal project. Rizome has been nominated as one of the recipients of this prestigious award.

But for the bamboo industry to realize its full development potentials, it is indispensable that problems along its entire value chain be addressed. This means examining and responding to the gamut of challenges confronting bamboo production, processing and marketing.

China has been quietly doing this. It has significant investments in varietal research improvement. It has produced the necessary machines to process bamboo into various forms that can be sold to the world market. It sells bamboo products all over the world, including the Philippines, where our leading construction material warehouses resell them.

The foremost bottleneck starts at the production level and there are two of them that I can see. One is whether we are producing and cultivating the right varieties for planting in targeted areas with varying agro-climatic characteristics. There will be a need to establish bamboo nurseries in strategic areas. The other, meanwhile, is to secure the land for bamboo plantations to ensure a steady supply of raw materials for processing by bamboo manufacturers.

The first is a function most appropriately done by research institutions. The UP Los Baños, the foremost agricultural and forestry university in the country, can take the lead on this. It should even establish an international institute on bamboo to conduct varietal improvement and other related research. Such an institute will benefit not only the Philippines but also neighboring Asean countries that have the agro-climatic conditions favorable for bamboo farming.

This project is worth the support of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples and the University of the Philippines.

Bamboo can help alleviate the adverse impacts of climate change, restore our denuded forest lands, and prevent soil erosion and landslides. Bamboo farming also has economic potential as it can provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for rural workers and generate foreign exchange revenues for the country.

All the above results hew very closely to our development goals. The problem now is to convince our policymakers to devote more attention and the necessary resources for this clear agricultural commodity winner.

fdadriano88@gmail.com

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/06/07/business/top-business/pliant-like-a-bamboo/1950314>

‘Aghon’ damage to infra, agri now at P1B

By Victor Reyes June 7, 2024

THE cost of damage to infrastructure and agriculture due to the onslaught of typhoon “Aghon” has reached over P1 billion as of yesterday.

In a situation report, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) placed the cost of damage to infrastructure at P942.54 million.

The damage was in the Calabarzon region, specifically in the provinces of Quezon (P548.87 million), Batangas (P207.80 million), and Laguna (P185.86 million).

The cost of damage to agriculture was placed at P85.62 in Calabarzon and Mimaropa.

Aghon, the country’s first tropical cyclone for this year, made its first of nine landfalls in Eastern Samar in the Eastern Visayas region on May 24. It exited the Philippine area of responsibility five days later.

The official death toll from Aghon was placed at six — five in Quezon and one in Misamis Oriental. One was confirmed injured in Northern Mindanao though seven other cases, all in Bicol, are being subjected to validation process.

The NDRRMC said Aghon has affected 41,105 families or 152 persons in seven regions — Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas and the National Capital Region (Metro Manila).

Of the affected population, 22,642 families or 89,452 persons have been displaced. The number though was down to 760 families or 2,844 persons as of yesterday.

The NDRRMC said 7,659 houses were “totally” and “partially” damaged by Aghon in the Calabarzon and Eastern Visayas alone.

Nineteen cities and municipalities, all in Calabarzon, have declared a state of calamity, the NDRRMC also said.

It also said P15.3 million worth of assistance has been provided to those affected in Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Central Visayas and Eastern Visayas, the NDRRMC added.

https://malaya.com.ph/news_news/aghon-damage-to-infra-agri-now-at-p1b/

El Niño, imports tack seen in agri jobs loss

Cai U. Ordinario

June 7, 2024

JOB losses in the agriculture sector may continue because of the government's recent decision to reduce rice tariffs until 2028, according to local economists.

On Thursday, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said there were 2.04 million unemployed Filipinos in April 2024 and 7.04 million underemployed during the period. (See: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/06/06/phl-employment-rate-up-to-96-in-april-24-psa/>).

However, National Statistician Claire Dennis S. Mapa said the El Niño phenomenon led to the reduction of 818,000 jobs in the agriculture and forestry sector. Of this number, 462,000 jobs were in rice production.

“This loss in jobs is due to the higher imports policy of the government regarding rice. With the recent decreased tariff plans in most product, especially rice, this decline in jobs in the rice industry will likely continue,” Ateneo de Manila University economist Leonardo Lanzona, however, told BusinessMirror.

This week, the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) Board led by the President, approved at its 17th Board meeting the reduction of rice tariffs to 15 percent until 2028 amid soaring international prices of the staple. (See: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/06/05/phl-cuts-rice-tariffs-to-temper-inflation/>).

Farm job loss goes on: Canlas

However, former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Dante V. Canlas agreed that the reduction in agriculture jobs may continue because of the reduction in rice tariffs. But, he added, it will not be in the same magnitude.

Canlas said farmers, especially rice farmers, who have the ability to compete with cheaper rice imports will continue to produce the country's food staple. Only those who are not competitive "will be driven out."

"The 818,000 jobs lost in agriculture, 400,000 of which are in rice, in one year are substantial. Job losses of those magnitudes may not continue unless another prolonged drought intervenes," Canlas told BusinessMirror.

"Additional job losses in the rice sector may be experienced from the slashes in tariffs under RTL [Rice Tariffication Law] but not in the magnitude of [this] year's job losses," he added.

However, Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) Roehlano Briones told this newspaper that the impact of the reduction in rice tariffs on jobs will not be severe.

Briones said in general, the agriculture sector has been shedding jobs and any further job losses may only be linked to this trend.

Canlas explained that job losses in the agriculture sector are consistent with a country's industrial development. He added that the employment share of agriculture jobs will decline as the economy becomes more service and industry-oriented.

"The magnitude of the shift tends to take place over a long time period depending on the speed of the economy's industrialization," Canlas stressed.

Lanzona said, however, that the El Niño phenomenon has been considered a threat since last year and the government could have offset the ill effects of the extreme weather phenomena through efforts to boost local production.

"The increased use of importation especially after El Niño reflects the overall incapacity of the government to develop the domestic agricultural sector which effectively is the main cause of the job losses," Lanzona said.

Quality jobs

The PSA data also showed that while more Filipinos became employed, there was also an increase in the number of workers looking for better employment.

The data showed over a million workers became invisibly underemployed in April 2024 compared to April 2023. This represented a 62.6-percent increase in invisible underemployment in the country.

Those considered in invisible underemployment are those working at least 40 hours in a week but still expressed the desire to have additional hours of work in their present job or to have an additional job, or to have a new job with longer working hours.

The data also showed that while visible underemployment decreased compared to last year, the number of Filipinos classified as visibly underemployed increased by 1.078 million from January 2024 and 1.154 million from March 2024.

The increase in the visibly underemployed was 32.2 percent between April 2024 and January 2024 and 35.3 percent between April 2024 and March 2024.

Visibly underemployed Filipinos are those working less than 40 hours in a week and expressed the desire to have additional hours of work in their present job or to have additional jobs.

Based on the PSA, on average, employed persons worked 40.5 hours per week. This was higher than the average hours worked in a week in April 2023 at 36.9 hours, but lower than the average hours worked in a week in January 2024 at 42.1 hours.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/06/07/el-nino-imports-tack-seen-in-agri-jobs-loss/>

PHL buys more pork, chicken abroad, 4-month imports up 11.3%

Ada Pelonia

June 7, 2024

THE country's meat imports grew by 11.34 percent to over 390,000 metric tons (MT) as of April 30, driven by higher pork and chicken purchases abroad.

Data from the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) showed that meat imports reached 396,385 MT from January to April this year compared to the 356,019 MT recorded in the same period in 2023.

Pork imports rose by 17.99 percent to 193,146 MT from 163,690 MT. Offals accounted for most of the pork shipments at 69,977 MT, but this is lower than the 79,269 MT recorded last year.

“Importers are likely positioning in anticipation of higher prices abroad, a weaker peso, as well as lower hog production due to El Niño,” the Meat Importers and Traders Association (MITA) President Emeritus Jesus Cham said via Viber.

“It is noteworthy that offal volume decreased, perhaps indicating greater attractiveness of pork meat at the current import duty rate,” he added.

Cham noted that since the arrivals were contracted over three months ago, the impact of the suspension of the pork quota was not felt.

“We will see how in the next few months how it will affect imports,” he said.

Based on BAI data, beef imports jumped by 21.90 percent to 51,527 MT from 42,271 MT last year. Beef cuts held the bulk of the imports at 33,571 MT.

“Perhaps the high retail price of pork is pushing consumers toward mid range beef,” Cham said.

Chicken meat imports also grew by 2.41 percent to 134,465 MT from 131,297 MT recorded in the same period last year. The country's imports of mechanically deboned meat (MDM) accounted for the bulk of chicken imports at 68,686 MT. This was followed by the purchases of chicken leg quarters at 41,571 MT.

The United Broiler Raisers Association (Ubra) attributed the high purchase of chicken products, particularly the MDM, to the anticipation of a hike in logistic costs and weaker peso.

“The end-users may have anticipated increasing logistics costs and the depreciation of the peso,” Ubra Chairman Elias Jose Inciong told the BusinessMirror via Viber.

Meanwhile, Spain was the Philippines's top supplier of pork from the January to April period at 50,935 MT followed by Brazil at 44,452 MT and Canada at 26,164 MT.

Brazil was also the country's major supplier of chicken at 70,508 MT with the United States trailing behind at 46,636.

In terms of beef imports, BAI data showed that Brazil was also the country's biggest supplier at 17,183 MT followed by Australia at 16,098 MT.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/06/07/phl-buys-more-pork-chicken-abroad-4-month-imports-up-11-3/>

Pangulong Marcos inutos 24/7 pagbabantay ng BOC, DA

Gemma Garcia

June 7, 2024 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Para masiguro na walang patid ang pagproseso sa mga pumapasok sa shipment sa bansa, inatasan ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ang Bureau of Customs (BOC) at Department of Agriculture (DA) na magtalaga ng 24 oras na deployment ng kanilang mga tauhan.

Sa ika-apat na meeting sa Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC)-Infrastructure Sector Group, iginiit ng Pangulo ang kahalagahan ng patuloy na shipment process sa bansa para mas marami pang mga kargamento o shipment ang ma-accomodate ng Pilipinas.

“In this business, there’s no afterhours. It can – it’s ready 24/7. So, let’s not put an extra team, let’s just keep it running. Whatever you have there in the day, let the same number of people that you have all 24 hours,” sabi pa ng Pangulo.

Ang mandato ng Presidente ay kasunod na rin ng rekomendasyon ng PSAC para magsagawa ang BOC at DA ng shifting schedule at masiguro ang 24/7 operations sa lahat ng serbisyo ng gobyerno na may kaugnayan sa logistics at supply chains.

Sinabi namam mg PSAC na ang nasabing proseso ay magsisiguro sa tuluy-tuloy na inspection, clearance, at payment process, na siyang magbabawas sa halaga at oras partikular na sa x-ray scanning operations ng BOC at DA na naatasan na mag-inspeksyon sa reefer vans.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2024/06/07/2360983/pangulong-marcos-inutos-247-pagbabantay-ng-boc-da>

REMATE:

24/7 shipment process iniatas sa BOC, DA

June 6, 2024 10:04



INATASAN ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ang Bureau of Customs (BOC) at Department of Agriculture (DA) na ipatupad ang 24/7 na deployment ng mga team para masiguro na walang itigil ang shipment process sa buong bansa.

Sa pagsasalita sa ika-apat na pagpupulong ng Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC) – Infrastructure Sector Group, araw ng Miyerkules, binigyang-diin ni Pangulong Marcos ang kahalagahan ng “round-the-clock shipment process” para ma-accommodate ang pagdating ng mas maraming barko sa bansa.

“In this business, there’s no afterhours. It can – it’s ready 24/7. So, let’s not put an extra team, let’s just keep it running. Whatever you have there in the day, let the same number of people that you have all 24 hours,” ayon kay Marcos.

“So, three eight-hour shifts,” dagdag na wika nito.

Ang pahayag ng Pangulo ay kasunod ng rekomendasyon ng PSAC na hayaan ang BOC at DA na mag-produce ng shifting schedule, siguraduhin ang 24/7 operations sa kabila ng serbisyo ng pamahalaan na may kinalaman sa ‘logistics at supply chains.’

Tinuran ng PSAC na ang hakbang na ito ay upang tiyakin na magpapatuloy ang inspeksyon, clearance at payment process, partikular na ang bawasan ang mga gastos at oras lalo na sa

x-ray scanning operations sa tanggapan ng BOC at DA na inatasan na inspeksyunin ang ‘reefer vans.’

Samantala, dumalo naman sa naturang pagpupulong sa Palasyo ng Malakanyang sina PSAC Strategic Convenor Sabin Aboitiz, President at CEO ng Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.; kasama ang mga miyembro ng PSAC na sina Enrique Razon, Manuel Pangilinan, Eric Ramon Recto, Joanne de Asis, Ramoncito Fernandez, Rogelio Singson, Christian Gonzalez at Daniel Aboitiz.

Binubuo ng mga kilalang tycoons at business leaders, ang PSAC ay regular na nagpupulong at nagrerekumenda sa Pangulo ng iba’t ibang polisiya at programa sa ilalim ng anim na sektor gaya ng “infrastructure, agriculture, digital infrastructure, healthcare, jobs at tourism.” *Kris Jose*

<https://remate.ph/24-7-shipment-process-iniatas-sa-boc-da/>

ABANTE:

P6 bawas presyo sa bigas nakaamba sa susunod na linggo- Speaker Romualdez

- [Abante News](#)
- [June 6, 2024](#)



Dahil sa pagbabawas ng taripa sa mga imported rice, inaasahan na bababa na rin ang presyo ng bigas hanggang P6 sa mga darating na linggo

Ito ang napag-usapan sa pulong na ipinatawag ni House Speaker Martin Romualdez sa Makati na dinaluhan ng mga opisyal ng Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Bureau of Customs, at mga kinatawam ng SM Grocery Chain at Puregold.

Ayon kay Speaker, “We are hoping na mararamdaman natin ang epekto ng pagbaba ng presyo ng bigas dahil sa pagbawas sa taripa sa Hulyo.”

“Hindi kayang i-implement this month ang murang bigas kasi may mga stocks pa ang mga traders na mahal ang pagkakabili nila ng bigas kaya kailangang ubusin muna ang stock nila,” anang lider ng Kongreso.

Tantiya ng DA at DTI, bababa sa P5 hanggang P6 kada kilo ang bigas dahil sa tariff reduction.

Pinawi rin ni Romualdez ang pangamba ng ilang farmer groups na baka bumaha na ng imported na bigas sa bansa dahil sa pagbawas ng rice tariff.

“Kontrolado pa rin ng DA ang bilang ng pagpasok ng bigas sa bansa dahil sa import permit na iisyu nito,; ayon kay Romualdez.

Pahabol ng mambabatas mula sa Leyte, “Target ng Pang. BBM na maibaba ang presyo ng bigas sa lalong madaling pa

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/06/06/p6-bawas-presyo-sa-bigas-nakaamba-sa-susunod-na-linggo-speaker-romualdez/>

PEOPLE'S JOURNAL TONIGHT:

DSWD chief joins PBBM in whole-of-nation aid giving to farmers, fisherfolk in Davao Region

Thursday, June 6, 2024 Journal Online



Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Secretary Rex Gatchalian joined President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. in the ceremonial distribution of various government assistance and services to select farmers, fisherfolk, and their families in Davao Region on Thursday (June 6).

“Hindi po namin kayo pababayaan. Kayo po ang sandigan ng ating bayan sa pag-unlad, kaya hindi kami titigil sa pag-agapay sa inyong lahat,” President Marcos Jr. said in his message to farmers and fisherfolk at the Davao del Norte Sports and Tourism Complex in Tagum City, Davao del Norte.

(Rest assured, we will not abandon you. You are the backbone of our nation’s progress, so we will not cease supporting all of you.)

The distribution of various government assistance is part of the administration’s whole-of-government approach to uplift the lives of Filipinos under the [Bagong Pilipinas](#)’ brand of governance.

“Lahat po ng mga departamento na makakatulong, isinama namin. Ito po ang tinatawag naming whole of nation approach. Ibig-sabihin ang buong pamahalaan, hindi lamang isang department, hindi lamang isang ahensya kung hindi ang buong pamahalaan ay nandiyan upang pagandahin at gawing matagumpay ang ating mga programa,” the President said.

(We have included all the departments that can help. This is what we call the whole of nation approach. It means that the entire government, not just one department or one agency, but the whole government is there to improve and ensure the success of our programs.)

President Marcos also vowed that the national and local governments will continue to collaborate to effectively and efficiently aid farmers and fisherfolk who are suffering from the effects of El Nino phenomenon.

“Sa panahon ng tagtuyot at tag-ulan, kaagapay ninyo kami sa pagbangon tungo sa mas maunlad na buhay,” President Marcos said.

(During times of drought and rainy season, we are with you in rising towards a more prosperous life.)

During the ceremonial turnover of aid, President Marcos, along with other government officials, personally led the distribution of Php10,000 in cash assistance to 10 beneficiaries from the provinces of Davao Del Norte, Davao De Oro, and Davao Oriental. Each provincial government also received Php10 million from the President.

For its part, the [DSWD](#) targeted to distribute 19,000 family food packs (FFPs) and disburse Php10,000 in cash aid each to 10,000 beneficiaries per province in the entire Davao region. The Office of House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez distributed 5 kilograms of rice to each beneficiary while the farmers and fisherfolk also received fishing boats and other different agricultural types of machinery.

Aside from Secretary Gatchalian, other Cabinet members who were present include Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Benjamin ‘Benhur’ C. Abalos Jr, Special Assistant to the President Secretary Antonio Ernesto Lagdameo Jr. and Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) Secretary Leo Magno.

Local officials from the different Davao provinces and Tagum City witnessed the distribution of government assistance.

Davao Region is the fifth region visited by the President and his team of Cabinet secretaries for aid giving to farmers and fisherfolk affected by El Niño.

<https://journal.com.ph/dswd-chief-joins-pbbm-in-whole-of-nation-aid-giving-to-farmers-fisherfolk-in-davao-region/>