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MANILA BULLETIN:

DA, DMW to help OFWs find agri investment opportunities

BY MANILA BULLETIN

Jun 7, 2024 05:42 PM

The Department of Agriculture (DA) signed an agreement with the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) to help millions of overseas Filipino workers find new job opportunities in the country, especially in agriculture and agribusiness.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. stated that the DA and its attached bureaus and agencies are fully committed to promoting programs, projects, and activities that cultivate prospective agripreneurs.

They pledged to provide technical assistance, agri-loans and credit services, agribusiness training, market linkage, and information materials.

These efforts will be coordinated with those of the DMW to ensure the successful implementation of the initiative.

About one-tenth of Filipinos live and work overseas, sending tens of billions in foreign exchange back home, which supports consumer spending and fuels economic activity.

Many of these overseas workers endure the loneliness of being away from their families and friends.

They long for better-paying jobs or opportunities to invest in businesses in the Philippines to be with their loved ones and secure a better future for them.

“We strive to honor the sacrifices and hard work of our OFWs by providing them with viable job opportunities in the country. Ultimately, we hope to see

our OFWs prosper in Philippine agriculture and agribusiness,” Tiu Laurel said.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/7/da-dmw-to-help-of-ws-find-agri-investment-opportunities>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Farmers, fisherfolk hit by El Nino in Bicol receive gov't aid from PBBM

BY NINO N. LUCES

Jun 7, 2024 01:51 PM

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. distributed on Friday, June 7, government assistance to farmers and fisherfolk in the Bicol region affected by the El Nino phenomenon.



MARCOS (PCO FB)

The distribution for beneficiaries from Albay, Catanduanes, Sorsogon, and Masbate was held at the Albay Astrodome here.

Department of Social Welfare and Development Secretary Rex Gatchalian joined Marcos in distributing P10,000 cash aid to at least 5,000 beneficiaries under the agency's Ayuda para sa Kapos ang Kita Program (AKAP) that seeks to address inflation and protect the purchasing power of Filipino families.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. distributed hybrid rice seeds, fertilizer discount vouchers, and farm inputs.

Beneficiaries also received machinery and high-value crops from the Department of Agriculture (DA)-Bicol.

A total of P642,695,625.60 worth of various government aid such as hybrid rice and fertilizer discount vouchers was distributed to farmers in two provinces of Bicol – P182,787,963.60 in Albay and P459,907,662 in Camarines Sur – during the event.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) provided assistance to fisherfolk in Bicol, including bottom set gill nets, fiber boats with complete accessories and 7.5 horsepower gasoline engines, P10,000 cash assistance for seaweed farmers, and 30,000 bangus or milkfish fingerlings for El Nino-affected bangus operators.

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) conducted payouts for Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) beneficiaries.

DOLE-Bicol officer-in-charge Imelda Romanillos said that 1,188 beneficiaries from 13 out of 70 barangays here received payouts amounting to P4,692,600 at the Bagumbayan Covered Court in Legazpi.

The Department of Agrarian Reform distributed Certificates of Land Ownership Awards (CLOAs) to farmer-beneficiaries from all provinces in Bicol.

Interior and Local Government Secretary Benhur Abalos and Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado M. Estrella III were also present in the event.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/7/pbbm-distributes-gov-t-aid-to-farmers-fisherfolk-hit-by-el-nino-in-bicol>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Hataman bats for farmers' subsidy, protection amid rice tariff cut

BY DEXTER BARRO II

Jun 7, 2024 05:53 PM

AT A GLANCE

Following the Palace-ordered tariff cut on rice imports, House Deputy Minority Leader and Basilan lone district Rep. Mujiv Hataman says he is mulling the filing of a measure that would enhance the protection and increase subsidies for Filipino farmers.



(Keith Bacongco/MANILA BULLETIN)

Following the Palace-ordered tariff cut on rice imports, House Deputy Minority Leader and Basilan lone district Rep. Mujiv Hataman says he is mulling the filing of a measure that would enhance the protection and increase subsidies for Filipino farmers.

In a statement on Friday, June 7, Hataman expressed worries that local farmers will feel the brunt of the tariff reduction since it will pave the way for increased competition in the market.

“Sa inaasahang pagbaba ng presyo ng imported na bigas dahil sa pagbaba ng taripa, sana ay bigyang proteksyon ng pamahalaan ang ating mga maliliit na magsasaka, dahil ang maliit nilang kinikita ay baka mabawasan pa at di kayanin ang kompetisyon sa merkado, he explained.

(With the expected drop in the price of imported rice due to the drop in tariffs, I hope the government will give protection to our small farmers because their meager income could shrink further and they will not be able to compete in the market.)

President Marcos recently approved the reduction of the tariff on imported rice from 35 percent to 15 percent.

The government expects the price of rice to drop to as low as P29 per kilo with measures such as these.

“Kapag bumaba ang presyo ng bigas sa merkado, baka hindi na makasabay ang ating mga magsasaka. Kung matutupad ang target ng ating gobyerno na pababain ang presyo ng bigas sa P29 per kilo, baka di na makabenta ang ating mga rice farmers,” argued Hataman.

(When the price of rice in the market drops, our farmers may not be able to keep up. If our government's target of lowering the price of rice to P29 per kilo is fulfilled, our rice farmers may not be able to make a sale anymore.)

Hataman said the government should not only increase financial subsidies to rice farmers but also include them in financial assistance programs.

He specifically cited the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS) and the Ayuda para sa Kapos ang Kita Program (AKAP), both under the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

“Malaking tulong ang kanilang kakailanganin para makipag-kumpetensya sa merkado (They will need a lot of help to compete in the market),” he stressed.

Hataman also noted that the National Food Authority (NFA) should only buy from local farmers.

This, in the event the agency regains its mandate to offer cheaper rice under

the proposed amendments to the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL).

“Hiling din natin sa kasalukuyang administrasyon, i-prioritize natin ang ating rice farmers kapag bumibili ng bigas ang pamahalaan (We also request the current administration to prioritize our rice farmers when the government buys rice). This should be a matter of national policy,” said Hataman.

“At habang ginagawa natin ito, sana ay paigtingin ng pamahalaan ang competitiveness programs nito para sa ating mga rice farmers sa pamamagitan ng teknolohiya at mas murang paraan ng pagsasaka para sa long-term na solusyon sa ating problems sa food security,” he added.

(And while we are doing this, I hope the government will intensify its competitiveness programs for our rice farmers through technology and cheaper farming methods for the long-term solution to our food security problems.)

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/7/hataman-bats-for-farmers-subsidy-protection-amid-rice-tariff-cut>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Long-term plans in place to improve Bicol's agri sector—Marcos

BY BETHEENA UNITE

Jun 7, 2024 02:42 PM

President Marcos has assured Bicolanos that long-term plans to improve the region's agriculture sector are in place, particularly in Camarines Sur.

President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. (RTVM Screenshot)

During the distribution of government assistance in Pili, Camarines Sur on Friday, June 7, Marcos renewed his commitment to boost the agriculture sector, stressing its potential to uplift the lives of Filipinos.

“Naniniwala ako sa potensyal nitong baguhin ang buhay ng bawat Pilipino kaya naman po ay ilang beses ko nang nabanggit na kailangan talaga nating tutukan ang [pagpapalago] ng inyong sektor (I believe that it has the potential to change the life of every Filipino, that is why I have been saying this that we need to focus on improving the sector),” Marcos said in his speech.

"Para naman sa long-term plans, para sa matagalan na plano, ang DA (Department of Agriculture) rin po ay masusing nagpapalano at nagpapatupad [na] ng mga paunang hakbang (For the long-term plans, DA is thoroughly planning and implementing the first steps)," Marcos added.

The President said the long term plans of the DA include the construction of farm-to-market roads, expansion of fishery and agricultural lands, improvement of irrigation system and other infrastructures that support agriculture value chain.

Agri roads

Marcos announced the completion of eight farm-to-market road projects around Bicol, adding that nine more agricultural roads will be constructed in various areas in the region.

The completed road projects in Camarines Sur include the P 24,934,000 road concreting (0.98 kms) in Barangay Camagong, Cabusao; P24,929,000 road concreting (1.48 kms) in Barangay Veneracion, Pamplona; P24,932,000 road concreting (1 km) in Barangay Sagrada, Minalabac; P24,941,000 road concreting (1.5 kms) in Barangay San Agustin, Bula; and P24,938,000 road concreting (0.62 km) in Barangay Laganac, Balatan. Other completed roads were the P24.9-million (0.75 km) road in Barangay San Antonio, Buhi, Camarines Sur, and P42-million farm-to-market roads in Barangays San Pablo and Tarum in Libmanan town.

Marcos also said that the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) is also working to address perennial flooding in the Camarines Sur plains caused by overflow of the Bicol River Basin (BRB), which affects the province's agriculture sector.

Camarines Sur's major industries include farming, fishing, and tourism. Among its agricultural products are rice, corn, coconut, sugar, and abaca.

Other agri efforts

Aside from repairing and building farm-to-market roads, the President said the DA is also pushing for science-based and climate resilient farming technologies, as well as the construction of agro-processing facilities in Strategic Agriculture and Fisheries Development areas.

Financial assistance to farmers such as loans and insurance are also in place, in addition to enticing investors to put their money in the Philippine agriculture sector for capitalization, Marcos added. He further said that the government is also focusing on improving the fishery sector of Camarines Sur.

According to the Chief Executive, the national government will provide more than 617 farm machineries and equipment worth P20.66 million to prop up the province's agriculture production.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/7/long-term-plans-in-place-to-improve-bicol-s-agri-sector-marcos>

MANILA BULLETIN:

DTI, TikTok to accelerate e-commerce, boost MSMEs

BY BERNIE CAHILES-MAGKILAT

Jun 7, 2024 05:52 PM

From L to R: TikTok representative Nerissa Tan, TikTok representative Roy Teo, DTI Undersecretary Allan Gepty, DTI Secretary Fred Pascual, TikTok Vice President of Public Policy, Helena Lersch, and PTIC-Singapore Commercial Counsellor Carla Grepo

Building on the momentum of the Philippines' digital transformation initiatives, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and leading social media platform Tiktok are in discussion for possible collaboration on the establishment of a Content Creator Academy to foster Filipino talents and creative minds for a deeper digital integration in the country.

The possible collaboration was raised during DTI Secretary Alfredo E. Pascual meeting with Tiktok representatives in Singapore on June 5 where they agreed to strengthen existing partnerships and explore potential collaboration to support the country's innovation economy.

According to Pascual, the strong partnership between the DTI and TikTok seeks to empower MSMEs, uplift communities, and increase market access, particularly in rural areas, as outlined in the E-Commerce Philippines 2025 Roadmap.

"Our collaboration with TikTok represents a pivotal step in propelling e-commerce forward in the Philippines. This partnership is poised to significantly bolster the growth and development of the digital marketplace, benefiting businesses, consumers, and the overall economy," said Pascual.

"TikTok's influence in empowering local micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) is undeniable, and their accelerated adoption of e-commerce is crucial for revolutionizing production sectors, generating high-quality employment opportunities, and elevating the competitiveness of Philippine products on the global stage," Pascual emphasized.

The popular social media platform allows users to create, share and discover short-form videos.

TikTok was introduced in the Philippines last May 2017 while the TikTok Shop was launched in April 2022. Currently, there are about 53 million TikTok users in the country and about two million sellers in the TikTok Shop.

During the meeting, the DTI recognized TikTok's generous support as a major sponsor of the upcoming first Cashless Expo, a collaboration between the DTI, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, and the private sector. The expo will be in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, aiming to promote digital payments in the agricultural and trade sectors.

The Philippine delegation also welcomed TikTok's Safety Enforcement Tool (TSET), a platform designed to promote consumer protection. TSET is a portal built for verified government agencies and law enforcement representatives to securely request and monitor the progress of content takedown.

While the DTI is eager to explore the implementation of TSET, it underscores the critical need for transparent information sharing regarding government reports. With the passage of the ITA, all platforms including TikTok are expected to adhere to the regulations outlined in the new law.

Additionally, the DTI commends TikTok for its participation in the e-commerce memorandum of understanding (MOU) facilitated by the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines. This MOU aims to combat counterfeiting and piracy online, fostering a safer e-commerce environment for consumers and brand owners.

Moreover, the DTI chief expressed appreciation for TikTok's swift action in response to show cause orders issued by the DTI-Fair Trade Enforcement Bureau concerning the sale of vape products. To date, TikTok removed 570

user-generated content and 337 associated products—demonstrating its commitment to comply with local laws and regulations.

"We encourage TikTok to continue its compliance with relevant local laws and regulations. The Philippine government's task force investigating issues surrounding TikTok will remain impartial and provide the platform with opportunities to address and clarify concerns," Pascual said.

TikTok has been a proactive partner of the Philippine government in shaping the future of e-commerce in the country, said DTI. The company has provided valuable insights and participated in the consultations for the Internet Transactions Act (ITA) and the upcoming E-Commerce Roadmap 2025.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/7/dti-tik-tok-to-accelerate-e-commerce-boost-msm-es>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Get ready to dive into the most flavorful edition of MAFBEX

More flavors and tasty treats to keep its visitors coming back for more

BY MB LIFESTYLE

Jun 7, 2024 10:27 PM

The Manila Foods and Beverages Expo 2024 (MAFBEX) is aiming to be bigger than ever before, delivering more flavors and tasty treats to keep its visitors coming back for more. Its organizer, Worldbex Services International, has always dedicated its time to make sure that each year, it will deliver the busiest and most satisfying food event in the country.



On its most flavorful 18th edition, MAFBEX will feature different zones, events, and activities to satisfy your cravings for unique taste bud treats. A huge part of MAFBEX is the establishment of zones and areas covering

hundreds of exhibitors, from local and international, related to culinary arts. The different zones include Food & Beverage, Condiments, Packaging, Equipment, Franchise and The Brew District. Each zone will surely transport your senses into the next level of culinary experience, showcasing the industry to its fullest and providing you with tons of options to inquire about.



Another MAFBEX highlight is Chefs of the World, a live cooking demo featuring the country's top chefs and culinary influencers presenting simple yet 5-star-worthy recipes. The Chefs of the World Stage, located in the main lobby, will showcase some of the best chefs in the country today: Chef Ylyt Frixiah Manaig (@cheflyt_tv), a food vlogger and content creator; Chef Gerick Manalo (@gerickmanalo), a Cornerstone artist, celebrity chef, and content creator; and Chef Irish Manrique of Let's Eat Pare, Executive Chef, COO, and food influencer. These three are just a few of the extraordinary chefs and newsmakers who have made an impact in the industry.



As you enter MAFBEX, you'll find pavilions showcasing local industries in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Department of Trade and Industry, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, and the Association of Laguna Food Processors Inc. Explore food and beverage options from around the world at MAFBEX 2024. International exhibitors from Hong Kong, China, Russia, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Korea will present their culinary innovations to Filipino consumers.



MAFBEX will also host a series of competitions to add excitement for visitors. The main event is the MAFBEX Culinary Cup: Home Chef Edition. Witness the grand kitchen showdown of the top eight finalists live at the MAFBEX Kitchen and prepare for a gastronomic journey as they compete for the coveted title of "Home Chef 2024."



Visit MAFBEX 2024, happening from June 12 to 16 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila. You may get your tickets now at <https://mafex.com/>

This event is organized by Worldbex Services International and for the benefit of ABS CBN Foundation Inc. For inquiries and concerns, call (02)8656-96-39, or email us at inquire@worldbexevents.com.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/7/get-ready-to-dive-into-the-most-flavorful-edition-of-mafbex>

MANILA BULLETIN:

PH bans bird, poultry imports from Australia following bird flu outbreak

BY JEL SANTOS

Jun 8, 2024 03:37 PM



The Department of Agriculture (DA) has imposed a ban on the importation of domestic and wild birds from Australia following reported outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza (H7N3 and H7N9) in Victoria.

The outbreaks, reported on May 23 in Meredith and May 25 in Terang, were confirmed by the Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness and submitted to the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) by Australia's Chief Veterinary Officer.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. issued Memorandum Order No. 21, halting imports of wild and domestic birds, including poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs, and semen from Australia.

As such, the agriculture department said the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) will suspend the issuance of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearances (SPSIC).

"All shipments from Australia that are in transit, loaded, or accepted at port before this order's official communication to Australian authorities will be allowed, provided the products were slaughtered or produced on or before May 9, 2024," the DA chief stated in the memorandum he signed on June 6.

With a total amount of 5,365 metric tons as of April of this year, Australia was the fourth-largest supplier of imported chicken meat, accounting for four percent of all chicken imports, according to the DA.

It added that Australia is the third largest source of mechanically deboned meat (MDM), contributing 4,162 metric tons, or 6.1 percent of total volume of MDM imports.

“During the same period, the Philippines has imported 46,987 heads of day-old chicks and 30,780 pieces of hatching eggs,” the agency said.

Bird flu or avian influenza is a virus that mainly affects birds but can also infect humans and other animals.

It spreads easily among birds and can cause serious illness and death in domestic poultry like chickens and turkeys. The virus spreads through direct contact with infected birds, contaminated surfaces, or through the air over short distances.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/8/ph-bans-bird-poultry-imports-from-australia-following-bird-flu-outbreak>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Reduced tariff rates to cut down rice prices — DA

Gabriell Christel Galang - Philstar.com

June 7, 2024 | 9:05am



A man rests on sacks of rice along a street in Manila on May 9, 2024.

AFP / Jam Sta. Rosa

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) is optimistic that cutting rice tariffs will lead to a significant drop in retail prices, according to Agriculture chief Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.

Laurel said that the agency is taking proactive efforts to reduce the price of rice, aiming to lower it by P6 to P7 per kilo, based on estimates from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

“We will do everything within our power, especially those granted to the

Department of Agriculture under the Price Act, to make sure the substantial cut in rice tariff will translate to a significant reduction in retail price of the grain,” he said.

As of Thursday, the DA reported the following per kilo price averages: P48 to P55 for local well-milled rice, P45 to P52 for regular milled rice, P57 to P65 for special rice, and P51 to P58 for domestic premium rice.

The DA also planned to use its budget to make up for the potential lack of money for the Rice Competitive Enhancement Fund (RCEF), which is valued at around P10 billion.

The RCEF is intended to enhance farm mechanization, technological advancements, inputs, farmer training, and other financial aids but is set to end by 2025.

“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 will be extended until 2030 to improve the lives of millions of impoverished rice farmers,” Laurel said.

The agriculture sector will further seek support from the Congress to increase their funding for inputs like fertilizer, as well as financial backing to maintain the boosted palay buying price of the National Food Authority (NFA).

Since increasing its purchasing price in April, the NFA has procured 2.93 million bags of palay. The food authority plans to supply 500,000 bags from this stock to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Aside from the NFA, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) will push through its contract growing projects to provide a good market for rice farmers.

Last month, NIA announced that they will sell rice worth P29 per kilo in Kadiwa stores starting August via its 40,000-hectare contract farming agreement.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/06/07/2361029/reduced-tariff-rates-cut-down-rice-prices-da>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

P1.2-B intermodal terminal project pushed in Baguio City

Artemio Dumlao - Philstar.com

June 7, 2024 | 8:15pm



This undated file photo shows the city hall of Baguio.

Baguio City Facebook page

BAGUIO CITY— The Baguio City government began soliciting inputs from the public to be possibly incorporated in the terms for negotiations with the proponent for the construction of the P1.2 billion intermodal terminal within portions of the property ceded to the city by Department of Agriculture in 2018.

The project that will be undertaken through the public-private partnership (PPP) scheme was presented by the proponent, Megawide Construction Corporation, during a public consultation Wednesday this week.

Based on the presentation, the proponent will build the intermodal terminal within a 5-hectare portion of the 10-hectare land that was ceded to the local government to pave the way for the transfer of the south-bound buses from the present Gov. Pack road terminal.

The proponent will operate the terminal for a 40-year period where it will be paying the agreed lease rentals to the local government while the agriculture department will be getting a rental share of 20 percent from the lease rentals that will be paid to the city.

Bus companies that will be using the intermodal terminal will be paying to the proponent some P7,500 per unit per month as rental while passengers will be paying to the company P30 covering the use of the amenities that will be provided such as ticketing booths, trollies, karts, clean comfort rooms, free wifi services among others.

Earlier, the local government conferred to the proponent the Original Proponent Status (OPS) for the project and that both parties are now in the negotiation stage for the targeted 17-point

terms of reference which will be the one that will be published and opened to Swiss Challenge by interested companies wanting to offer superior terms compared to the ones of the proponent.

After both parties have agreed on the terms, the proposed project shall be submitted to the City Development Council for approval and subsequently to the local legislative body which will have some 120 days to either approve or reject the said proposal.

The construction of the intermodal terminal in Barangay Dontogan is just one of the local government's big ticket projects being subjected to the PPP scheme pursuant to the mandate of the government for the active participation of the private sector in the implementation of development projects in the different parts of the country.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/06/07/2361104/p12-b-intermodal-terminal-project-pushed-baguio-city>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

President Marcos orders flood control in Bicol fast-tracked

Helen Flores - The Philippine Star
June 8, 2024 | 12:00am



President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. leads the distribution of the presidential assistance to farmers and fisherfolk in four provinces of the Bicol region (Albay, Catanduanes, Sorsogon, and Masbate) at the Albay Astrodome, Legazpi City on June 7, 2024.

PPA pool photos by Niño Jesus Orbeta

MANILA, Philippines — To minimize the impact of typhoons and the looming La Niña on the Bicol region, President Marcos yesterday ordered the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to expedite flood control

projects in what is considered one of the most disaster-prone areas in the country.

The President gave the directive in his speech during the distribution of aid to El Niño-hit farmers and fisherfolk in Legazpi City, Albay.

He also directed local government units to brace for La Niña, which is characterized by excessive rainfall.

The government has rolled out preparedness measures with the onset of the rainy season, the President assured the public.

“You (LGUs) must also be prepared for strong typhoons that may hit the country and possible flooding,” he said in Filipino.

The President reminded local governments in Bicol to ensure there would be enough supply of food and other essential needs for those who would be displaced by weather disturbances.

In a speech in Pili, Camarines Sur earlier, Marcos ordered the DPWH to finish the flood control project at the Bicol River Basin to prevent massive flooding due to La Niña.

El Niño has ended but its impact on the country could continue at least in some parts, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) in its latest report.

A transition to La Niña is likely between July and September, it added. The state weather bureau has officially declared the start of the rainy season.

Typhoon Aghon, which hit the country late last month, left six people dead and some P57.5 million in damage to agriculture.

Lone enemy

Also in Pili, Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III said Marcos remains focused on fighting poverty despite persistent attacks by his detractors.

Estrella, who accompanied Marcos during the distribution of land titles to agrarian reform beneficiaries, said poverty is the President's lone "enemy."

"There are many who probably don't understand, throw mud, challenge (him)... They are saying anything that is not good about the President," Estrella said.

"But my question is, did you see our President hit back?... because he values their rights because we are in a democratic country," he said.

CLOAs, El Niño aid

The President led the distribution of land titles to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) as well as financial assistance amounting to P162 million to farmers and fisherfolk severely affected by El Niño in the Bicol region.

Of the figure, P10.28 million was turned over to Camarines Norte Gov. Ricarte Padilla and P50 million to Camarines Sur Gov. Luigi Villafuerte.

The President also distributed over P41.55 million in financial assistance to Albay Gov. Edcel Grex Lagman, P10.23 million to Catanduanes Gov. Joseph Cua, P36.79 million to Masbate Gov. Antonio Kho and P13 million to Sorsogon Gov. Jose Edwin Hamor in Legazpi City, Albay.

While authorities have seen no need to declare Bicol under a state of calamity, El Niño has affected around 80,479 families, or 368,360 individuals from 918 barangays in the region and left damage to agriculture amounting to P532.87 million.

Aside from the presidential assistance, the Department of Social Welfare and Development also distributed P10,000 each to 5,000 beneficiaries composed of farmers, fisherfolk and families.

Marcos also distributed a total of 1,208 Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOAs) and electronic titles (e-titles) to 1,105 ARBs in Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur.

In a speech in Pili, the President said DAR had already distributed about 30,000 CLOAs and electronic titles from January to May this year.

He said 36,000 more CLOAs and e-titles are expected to be turned over to ARBs before the end of the year.

During an event in Pili, Marcos was serenaded by children and grandchildren of beneficiaries, some of whom are octogenarians.

After their performance, the children asked the President for a selfie to which he immediately obliged.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/06/08/2361194/president-marcos-orders-flood-control-bicol-fast-tracked>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Zambales fisherfolk seek aid amid ‘sigwada’



In this coastal village of Calapandayan in Subic town, Zambales province, many fishermen have to reduce, if not halt, their fishing activities because of huge waves and strong winds during the monsoon season, locally known as “sigwada.” | PHOTO: Joanna Rose Aglibot

SAN ANTONIO, Zambales — Some small-scale fishermen in this province are demanding preemptive measures from the national government amid the approaching southwest monsoon (habagat) that will impede their fishing activities.

In a statement on Friday, Joey Marabe, provincial coordinator of the fisherfolk group Pamalakaya, said the government must mobilize its calamity assistance and emergency funds to assist coastal families who will be affected by the monsoon, commonly known in coastal areas as “sigwada.”

During the sigwada, many fishermen have to reduce, if not halt, their fishing activities because of huge waves and strong winds.

“It is already considered fortunate if fishermen [could] fish a few times a week. This means prolonged hunger among our families along the coast,” said Marabe.

More than 27,000 registered fishermen across this province are already bracing for this recurring seasonal loss that could last until September.

“Thus, we demand that the government make use of a portion of the P31 billion Calamity Fund, while the Department of Agriculture (DA) can utilize the P1 billion Quick Response Fund (QRF) allocated to regions to provide rural sectors with pre-disaster financial assistance and other forms of economic aid,” Marabe said.

Pamalakaya said the fishing sector “suffered from hunger and poverty” in the previous years because of the government’s ‘failure’ to provide livelihood support and sufficient relief.

“Natural disasters are worsened by the government’s poor disaster preparedness, lack of substantial response, and climate change mitigation program. This makes the government criminally liable for negligence and incompetence to concretely act in these trying times,” Marabe said.

The fisherfolk group said that aside from this province, some coastal communities in Manila Bay have started to endure the approaching sigwada in the last weeks of May.

“In the province of Cavite, there have been reports of houses damaged due to the simultaneous impact of Typhoon Aghon and the storm surge in the last week of May. A few fishermen have also started looking for alternative sources of livelihood during times when going out to sea is difficult,” Ronnel Arambulo, Pamalakaya, national vice chairperson, said in a statement.

Pamalakaya said it is conducting a nationwide campaign for concrete economic aid and livelihood support.

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The campaign aims to mobilize affected fishermen nationwide and urge the national government to effectively address the situation.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1949337/zambales-fisherfolk-seek-aid-amid-sigwada>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

WHO: First human case of H5N2 bird flu died from multiple factors

Agence France-Presse / 07:51 AM June 08, 2024



This photograph taken on December 2, 2021, shows a sign of the the World Health Organization (WHO) and their headquarters in Geneva. (Photo by Fabrice COFFRINI / AFP)

GENEVA, Switzerland — A man infected with H5N2 bird flu, the first confirmed human infection with the strain, died from multiple factors, the World Health Organization (WHO) said Friday, adding that investigations were ongoing.

The WHO announced Wednesday that the first laboratory-confirmed human case of infection with the H5N2 avian influenza virus had been reported from Mexico.

Mexico's health ministry said the 59-year-old man had "a history of chronic kidney disease, type 2 diabetes (and) long-standing systemic arterial hypertension."

He had been bedridden for three weeks before the onset of acute symptoms, developing fever, shortness of breath, diarrhea, nausea, and general malaise on April 17.

The man was taken to a hospital in Mexico City a week later and died that day.

"The death is a multi-factorial death, not a death attributable to H5N2," WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier told journalists in Geneva on Friday.

READ: First fatal human case of H5N2 bird flu identified – WHO

His body was tested for flu and other viruses, and H5N2 was detected, Lindmeier said.

Seventeen hospital contacts were identified but all tested negative for influenza.

In the man's place of residence, 12 contacts in the weeks beforehand were identified. All likewise tested negative.

"The infection of H5N2 is being investigated to see whether he was infected by somebody visiting or by any contact with any animals before," Lindmeier said.

The WHO on Wednesday said that the source of exposure to the virus was unknown, though H5N2 viruses have been reported in poultry in Mexico.

The United Nations' health agency assesses the current risk to the general population posed by the virus as low.

WHO: Two-year-old catches H5N1

Later on Friday, the WHO said a two-and-a-half-year-old girl tested positive for H5N1, a different strain of bird flu, and needed hospital intensive care treatment in Australia after returning from India.

"This is the first confirmed human infection caused by avian influenza A(H5N1) virus detected and reported by Australia," a statement said.

"The exposure likely occurred in India" where the girl had traveled, and where this group of "viruses has been detected in birds in the past," the WHO added.

The girl had traveled to Kolkata from February 12 to 29, returned to Australia on March 1 and was admitted to a hospital in in the southeastern Victoria state the following day.

The girl is reported to be well, the WHO said, while no relatives in either Australia or India have developed symptoms.

H5N1 spread

H5N1 first emerged in 1996 but since 2020, the number of outbreaks in birds has surged exponentially, alongside an increase in the number of infected mammals.

The strain has led to the deaths of tens of millions of poultry, with wild birds and land and marine mammals also infected.

The WHO said that from 2003 to May 22 this year, 891 cases of human H5N1 infections, including 463 deaths, were reported from 24 countries.

The human cases recorded in Europe and the United States since the virus surged have largely been mild.

H5N1 has been spreading for weeks among dairy cow herds in the United States,

with a small number of cases reported among humans.

But none of them are human-to-human infections, with the disease jumping instead from cattle to people, authorities have said.

Low food risk

Markus Lipp, senior food safety officer at the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, said the risk of contracting avian influenza through eating poultry was "negligibly low."

"In all the hundred years of avian influenza... there has not been any demonstrated food-borne transmission," he told the media briefing via video-link from the FAO's headquarters in Rome.

"Humans do not have avian influenza receptors in their gastro-intestinal tract, contrary to certain animal species, as far as we know. So there is a very slim likelihood, just from that perspective."

<https://globalnation.inquirer.net/238865/who-first-human-case-of-h5n2-bird-flu-died-from-multiple-factors>

Addressing food poverty



By Manila Standard

June 8, 2024, 12:15 am

The United Nations Children’s Fund has raised the warning: More than one in four children under the age of five worldwide live in “severe” food poverty.

This means over 180 million are at risk of experiencing adverse impacts on their growth and development.

In the Philippines (population 114 million), more than 13 million children – more than a third of all children in the country – live below the poverty line but the government has been aiming to reduce the poverty rate to 14 per cent by the early part of this decade.

UNICEF, which has offices in different countries including the Philippines, recommends young children eat foods daily from five of eight main groups — breast milk; grains, roots, tubers and plantains; pulses, nuts and seeds; dairy; meat, poultry and fish; eggs; vitamin A-rich fruits and vegetables; and other fruits and vegetables.

But 440 million children under the age of five living in about 100 low- and middle-income countries are living in food poverty, meaning they do not have access to five food groups each day.

Of those, 181 million are experiencing severe food poverty, eating from at most two food groups.

“Children who consume just two food groups per day — for example, rice and some milk — are up to 50 percent more likely to experience severe forms of malnutrition,” according to UNICEF chief Catherine Russell in a statement accompanying the report.

That malnutrition can lead to emaciation, a state of being abnormally thin that can be fatal.

Glad the Philippine government has adopted a 25-year long-term vision, via an executive order on Oct. 11, 2016 – supported by the Manila-based Asian Development Bank – as a guide for development planning to end poverty in this archipelagic nation by 2040.

The Ambisyon Natin 2040 (Our Ambition 2040) vision states by 2040 the Philippines will be a prosperous, predominantly middle-class society where no one is poor.

All future Philippine development plans to be crafted and implemented until 2040 will be anchored on Ambisyon Natin 2040 which will ensure the sustainability and consistency of government strategies, policies, programs and projects across political administrations.

Ambisyon Natin 2040, which reflects the long-term vision and aspirations of the Filipino people for themselves and for the country, is supported by ADB through technical assistance to the National Economic and Development Authority.

A national survey by NEDA as part of the visioning exercise showed 79 percent of Filipinos want a ‘comfortable and simple life’ by 2040.

It revealed the most important economic goal is the eradication of poverty and hunger, and creating adequate jobs for all.

The survey also revealed the strong desire of Filipinos to work in their home country rather than overseas, and the importance of family togetherness in their futures.

We support communication and advocacy activities involving local governments and sectors like the academe, civil society and private institutions to establish ground and gather support and commitment.

<https://manilastandard.net/opinion/314456620/addressing-food-poverty.html>

MANILA STANDARD

PBBM to El Niño beneficiaries: Use gov't aid to rebuild lives



SERVING THE PEOPLE. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. leads the distribution of the Presidential Assistance to Farmers and Fisherfolk (PAFF) in four provinces of the Bicol Region (Albay, Catanduanes, Sorsogon, and Masbate) today at the Albay Astrodome, Legazpi City, June 7, 2024. This intervention aims to help Bicolanos affected by the El Niño phenomenon. PPA Pool Niño Jesus Orbeta

By Rio N. Araja & Charles Dantes

June 8, 2024, 12:35 am

President Ferdinand Marcos told farmers and fisherfolk in Albay on Friday to use all government assistance to rebuild their lives and livelihoods.

“All I ask from our beneficiaries is that you make the most of this opportunity to rise up and start again,” President Marcos said in his keynote address.

“Just know that I support all the ways that can help you be productive and your government. Let’s help each other, and we will all rise up together,” he added.

Along with the Department of Science and Technology, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration on Friday declared the end of El Niño. This means the conditions in the tropical Pacific have returned to El Niño Southern Oscillation-neutral levels.

The assistance to El Niño-hit communities included agricultural equipment and supplies from the Department of Agriculture (DA) and its affiliated agencies, such as open-source pumping sets, a cassava granulator, hybrid seeds, various fertilizers, and tractors from the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources also provided fishing boats and gillnets for the beneficiaries. Inbred certified seeds from the Philippine Rice Research Institute were also handed out.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) provided P10,000 each to 5,000 beneficiaries as House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez's office distributed five kilograms of rice per attendee. Additionally, the Office of the President (OP) extended P40,000 to 40 beneficiaries and around PhP100 million to the Provincial Governments of Albay, Catanduanes, Masbate, and Sorsogon.

This comprehensive assistance program underscores the government's commitment to supporting communities struck by El Niño, aiming to bolster agricultural productivity and food security in the region.

PAGASA said the transition from ENSO-neutral to La Niña remains likely at 69 percent by July, August or September 2024.

“With these developments, the final advisory for El Niño (2023-2024) is issued, and the Pagasa ENSO Alert and Warning System is now lowered to inactive (ENSO-neutral), while the La Niña Watch remains in effect,” the weather bureau said.

Despite the termination of El Niño and the prevailing southwest monsoon, the impacts of El Niño, such as warmer-than-usual surface temperature and below-normal rainfall, may still continue in several areas of the country,” it added.

All concerned government agencies and the general public are encouraged to monitor and take precautionary measures against the impending climate impacts, Pagasa administrator Dr. Nathaniel Servando said.

<https://manilastandard.net/news/314456717/pbbm-to-el-nino-beneficiaries-use-govt-aid-to-rebuild-lives.html>

MANILA STANDARD

NFA to surpass palay procurement

By Othel V. Campos June 7, 2024, 11:55 pm

The National Food Authority (NFA) is on track to surpass its palay procurement target for 2024, according to NFA acting administrator Larry Lacson.

Lacson said the NFA has already procured 98 percent of its target of 495,000 metric tons (MT) of rice for the year.

“We are confident that going to wet season, we will hit 100 percent of the target. We only need to fill the remaining two percent,” he said during a palay procurement sortie in Bulacan Friday.

The NFA’s aggressive buying in palay-producing provinces aims to achieve the target within 1 to 2 weeks and build stockpiles in preparation for the upcoming La Niña weather phenomenon.

The NFA’s rice equivalent stocks are sufficient for the Department of Social Welfare and Services (DSWD) needs, Lacson said.

Lacson reassured the public that the DSWD continues to procure rice from the NFA for prepositioning during lean months and as part of government social programs.

While the NFA currently has a 4-day rice inventory, additional purchases during the next cropping season will bridge the gap and fulfill the 9-day inventory requirement.

The NFA’s well-milled rice inventory currently sits at 136,000 MT, enough to feed Metro Manila for 35 days in case of a major typhoon. This represents a significant increase from the 145,000 bags of rice held last year.

Lacson emphasized that the recent reduction in rice import tariffs will not impact the NFA’s palay buying price.

The agency remains committed to supporting farmers by offering a competitive P30 per kilogram price for palay. The NFA will continue to monitor market trends and adjust their buying price slightly above market rates to incentivize farmers.

<https://manilastandard.net/news/314456775/nfa-to-surpass-palay-procurement.html>

MANILA STANDARD

DA, DMW vow to help OFWs find livelihood in agriculture



Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu-Laurel Jr.

By Othel V. Campos

June 7, 2024, 9:25 pm

The Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) Wednesday to help millions of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) find livelihood opportunities in the Philippines, specifically in the agriculture and agribusiness sectors.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel said the DA and its attached bureaus and agencies are fully committed to promoting programs, projects and activities that cultivate prospective agri-preneurs.

“We pledge to offer technical assistance, agri-loan and credit services, agribusiness trainings, market linkage, and information materials. Our efforts will be harmonized with those of the DMW to ensure the successful implementation of this initiative,” he said at the signing of the MOU.

Nearly 10 percent of the Philippine population works abroad, sending billions in remittances that contribute to domestic spending and economic growth.

The DA said many OFWs face the challenge of separation from their loved ones. The program aspires to provide OFWs with better-paying job opportunities to invest in Philippine businesses, allowing them to reunite with their families while securing a good future.

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

The DA hopes to see OFWs thrive in Philippine agriculture and agribusiness, noting that the department’s four-year plan for agricultural modernization may fit as a helpful opportunity for returning OFWs.

The plan offers attractive returns for those willing to invest in farming ventures and agribusinesses.

The trade deficit in agricultural products last year hit more than \$11 billion, or over P660 billion. The DA sees an enormous market for prospective agripreneurs and investors in agriculture due to growing demand brought about by a growing population and increasing tourist arrivals.

<https://manilastandard.net/?s=DA%2C+DMW+vow+to+help+OFWs+find+livelihood+i+n+agriculture>

'Aghon' destroys P202M in crops, infrastructure

By Aric John Sy Cua

June 8, 2024

THE damage that Tropical Storm Aghon has inflicted on the country's crops and infrastructure has reached P202.02 million, said the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) on Friday.

NIA said 6,569 farmers in the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) region were affected by the storm.

It added that irrigation systems in Calabarzon have sustained heavy damage amounting to P200.3 million and affecting 6,015 hectares of agricultural lands.

NIA said emergency works and comprehensive repairs amounting to P55.3 million and P145 million, respectively, were implemented in the region.

Meanwhile, the damage on irrigation in the Mimaropa (Mindoro Occidental, Mindoro Oriental, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan) region was recorded at P1.72 million.

NIA said it was coordinating with local government units to ensure that affected farmers receive the necessary aid.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/search?query=%27Aghon%27%20destroys%20P202M%20in%20crops,%20infrastructure>

RICE CARTEL

June 8, 2024



<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/06/08/opinion/editorial-cartoon/rice-cartel/1950411>

Thousands of bangus die in Pangasinan town

By Gabriel L. Cardinoza

June 8, 2024

ANDA, Pangasinan — Thousands of milkfish have been bellying up in this bangus-producing island town since June 4, incurring huge losses to fish farmers here.

The town government, however, refused to call it a fish kill, saying the dying of bangus here was "not massive" and was not caused by poor water quality.

"We call it isolated fish mortality because we had an agreement before that if its a fish kill, there should be low oxygen level, very high or very low salinity, or high ammonia level in the water," said Elizabeth Tomas, this town's municipal agriculturist in an online news conference on June 7.

Tomas said that the fish mortality took place in an aquaculture strip at the mouth of Santa Rita tributary, a water inlet between the villages of Awag and Dolaoan.

"So, last Tuesday, we were surprised to see bangus gasping in that strip of the aquaculture area," said Tomas.

She said that for two days before the bangus deaths, neap tides took place on Sunday and Monday.

During a neap tide, which occurs when the moon is between its fourth and first quarter, the tide level is at its lowest and the water does not flow.

"Then on Monday morning there was a major downpour in the island followed by intermittent rains in the days that followed," Tomas said.

This was not the first time that cultured bangus were found dead in this town.

Since the time aquaculture areas were set up here in 1998, several major fish kills have taken place. The last isolated fish mortality happened in 2019, Tomas said.

She said she could not quantify yet the amount of losses but she quickly added that the affected fish cages were about 125, which, she said is 14 percent of the total number of bangus cages in the island.

However, a resident here who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that bangus growers may have lost "millions" of pesos from the incident.

Anda said that the towns of Bolinao and Sual produces 80 percent of Pangasinan's total bangus production.

Photos and videos posted in the social media showed dead bangus floating inside the cages and fishermen catching those that were still alive.

Tomas said that up to now, operators are still harvesting in that strip of the town's aquaculture area before transporting them to major markets like Dagupan City in Pangasinan and Malabon in Metro Manila.

She also said that she was informed that fish mortality was also reported in aquaculture areas outside Pangasinan, but this could not be immediately independently verified.

Meanwhile, the Bolinao Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (BDRRMO) clarified that no fish mortality have been reported in Bolinao.

In a statement posted on social media, BDRRMO said that it has verified with local authorities and fishery experts that Bolinao has not

been affected by the fish kill incidents. The town shares a body of water with Anda.

"As of today (Friday), [there is] no verified reports of fish kill in Bolinao, Pangasinan. Our bangus supply remains healthy and unaffected. The water quality and fishery conditions in our area continue to meet all safety and health standards.," the statement said.

"We urge everyone to rely on verified information and refrain from spreading unconfirmed reports. Misinformation can cause unnecessary panic and harm to our local economy and the livelihood of our fish farmers," the statement added.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/06/08/regions/thousands-of-bangus-die-in-pangasinan-town/1950488>

REMATE:

Winasak ng Kanlaon sa sektor ng agrikultura umabot sa P1.5M

June 7, 2024 11:55



MANILA, Philippines – Umabot sa halos P1.5 milyon ang pinsala sa agrikultura dahil sa pagsabog ng Bulkang Kanlaon, iniulat ng National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) ngayong Biyernes.

Sa pinakahuling bulletin nito, sinabi ng NDRRMC na P1,491,206 halaga ng pinsala sa agrikultura ang naiulat sa Kanlurang Visayas.

Ang aktibidad ng Bulkang Kanlaon ay nakaapekto sa 2,479 katao o 682 pamilya sa Western at Central Visayas, ayon sa NDRRMC.

Sa apektadong populasyon, 1,400 indibidwal o 361 pamilya ang nananatili sa walong evacuation centers habang 364 katao o 62 pamilya ang nakasilong sa ibang lugar.

May kabuuang 1,501 pasahero ang na-stranded sa mga daungan sa Western Visayas.

Idineklara ang state of calamity sa La Castellana, Negros Occidental, at Canlaon, Negros Oriental.

Sa ngayon, nasa P2,740,970 ang tulong na naibigay sa mga biktima, ayon sa NDRRMC.

Noong Hunyo 3, ang Bulkang Kanlaon sa Isla ng Negros ay nagkaroon ng phreatic eruption na naglalabas ng mga balahibo na umabot sa 5,000 metro. Ang Alert Level 2 ay itinaas sa ibabaw ng bulkan, na nangangahulugang “tumaas na kaguluhan.”

Ang gray cohesive na putik, mga debris ng halaman at graba ay idineposito ng lahar sa apat na daluyan ng tubig sa La Castellana at Canlaon. *RNT*

<https://remate.ph/winasak-ng-kanlaon-sa-sektor-ng-agrikultura-umabot-sa-p1-5m/>

REMATE:

Unang human case ng H5N2 bird flu namatay sa iba pang dahilan – WHO

June 8, 2024 08:39



MANILA, Philippines – Namatay mula sa iba pang dahilan ang lalaking tinamaan ng H5N2 bird flu, o ang kauna-unahang kumpirmadong kaso sa tao ng

naturang strain.

Nitong Miyerkules, Hunyo 6, inanunsyo ng World Health Organization na iniulat ang kauna-unahang laboratory confirmed human case ng infection sa H5N2 avian influenza virus mula Mexico.

Ayon sa health ministry ng Mexico, ang 59-anyos na lalaki ay may “history of chronic kidney disease, type 2 diabetes (and) long-standing systemic arterial hypertension.”

Nakarabay na ito sa kama sa loob ng tatlong linggo bago pa ang pagkakaroon ng acute symptoms, pagkakaroon ng lagnat, hirap sa paghinga, diarrhea, nausea at general malaise noong Abril 17.

Dinala sa ospital sa Mexico City ang lalaki noong Abril 24 at namatay nang araw ding iyon.

“The death is a multi-factorial death, not a death attributable to H5N2,” pagbabahagi ni WHO spokesman Christian Lindmeier sa mga mamamahayag nitong Biyernes.

“The patient came to the hospital after weeks of multi-factorial background of multi other diseases,” dagdag ni Lindmeier.

Samantala, tukoy na ang 17 contacts ng biktima na lahat ay nagnegatibo sa influenza.

“Investigations are ongoing. Serology is ongoing. That means the blood testing of contacts to see if there was any possible earlier infection,” ani Lindmeier.

“The infection of H5N2 is being investigated to see whether he was infected by somebody visiting or by any contact with any animals before.”

Sa ngayon ay hindi pa tukoy ang pinagmulan ng exposure ng lalaki sa virus, bagama't naitala ang mga kaso ng H5N2 virus sa mga poultry sa Mexico.

Batay sa datos, sinabi ng United Nations' health agency na mababa ang kasalukuyang risk ng naturang virus sa publiko. *RNT/JGC*

<https://remate.ph/unang-human-case-ng-h5n2-bird-flu-namatay-sa-iba-pang-dahilan-who/>

REMATE:

NFA patuloy na bibili ng palay sa pagpapataas ng buffer stock

June 8, 2024 09:44



MANILA, Philippines – Patuloy na bibili ng palay ang National Food Authority (NFA) upang punan ang buffer stock ng bansa.

“Hindi naman tayo sinasalanta ng bagyo na buong buong Pilipinas. Umani naman tayo ng maganda. Si NFA talagang buffer lang,” ani NFA acting administrator Larry Lacson.

Sa warehouse sa San Ildefonso, Bulacan, ang NFA umano ay mayroong 136,000 metriko tonelada ng palay na kayang suplayan ang bansa sa loob ng apat na araw.

Ang overall target ng palay purchase ngayong taon ay nasa 495,000 MT na sapat naman sa siyam na araw na suplaty ng bigas ng bansa.

Ani Lacson, regular na bumibili ang NFA ng 60% ng stocks nito tuwing tag-ulan sa disenteng presyo na ibinibenta ng mga magsasaka.

Ang nakikita na lamang na pagsubok ng ahensya ngayong tag-ulan ay ang kakulangan ng mga pasilidad para patuyuin ang mga palay.

“Ang instruction ko sa lahat ng regional offices ng NFA, look for drying facilities that we can contract para meron kaming pagdadalhan ng mga basang palay,” sinabi pa ni Lacson sa panayam ng GMA News. *RNT/JGC*

<https://remate.ph/nfa-patuloy-na-bibili-ng-palay-sa-pagpapataas-ng-buffer-stock/>

ABANTE:

Dagdag subsidiya sa magsasaka hinirit

- [Abante News](#)
- [June 8, 2024](#)



Nanawagan si Deputy Minority Leader at Basilan Rep. Mujiv Hataman sa pamahalaan na bigyan ng sapat na proteksiyon ang mga magsasaka sa pamamagitan ng dagdag subsidiya kasunod sa planong tapyas-taripa sa imported rice.

“Sa inaasahang pagbaba ng presyo ng imported na bigas dahil sa pagbaba ng taripa, sana ay bigyang proteksiyon ng pamahalaan ang ating mga maliliit na magsasaka, dahil ang maliit nilang kinikita ay baka mabawasan pa at ‘di kayanin ang kompetisyon sa merkado,” saad ni Hataman.

Kapag bumaba umano ang presyo ng bigas sa merkado maaaring hindi umano makasabay ang mga magsasaka partikular ang planong pabababain ang presyo ng bigas sa P29 per kilo.

Sa ngayon, ang farmgate prices ng palay ay naglalaro sa P25.21 at dahil dito maaaring hindi umano makakayanan ng mga magsasaka na sumabay sa presyo ng imported rice sa merkado oras na maibaba ang taripa nito.

“With this, I call on the government to increase financial subsidies to our rice farmers. Isama rin sana sila sa mga ayuda ng pamahalaan at iba pang programa para sa mahirap. We are an agricultural country with a slowly dwindling farmer population. Hindi naman puwedeng umasa tayo sa rice imports na lang,” giit ni Hataman. (Eralyn Prado)

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/06/08/dagdag-subsidiya-sa-magsasaka-hinirit/>

ABANTE:

Romualdez sa DTI: Presyo ng bigas bantayan

- [Abante News](#)
- [June 8, 2024](#)



Pinatitiyak ni Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez sa Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) ang mahigpit nitong pagbabantay sa presyo ng mga pangunahing bilihin partikular ang presyo ng bigas.

Binigyan diin ni Romualdez ang mahalagang papel ng DTI sa pagsiguro na makatwiran ang presyo ng mga bilihin lalo na ang presyo ng bigas kasabay ng planong tapyas-taripa sa imported na bigas.

Mahalaga aniyang matiyak na ang benepisyo ng rice tariff reduction ay makakarating at matitikman ng mga konsumer sa pamamagitan ng mahigpit na pagbabantay sa presyo ng bigas.

“They (DTI) have been the traditional price watch, watchdog kumbaga eh ‘di ba, sila ang parang pulis, to make sure that everyone is following the program and to making sure the suggested retail prices are based on the savings that are passed on to those in the supply chain—from the importers and traders, retailers, sa mga palengke, hanggang umabot sa ating mga consumers,” ayon kay Romualdez.

Una nang nakipagpulong si Romualdez sa mga opisyal ng DTI, Department of Agriculture (DA), Bureau of Customs (BOC), at iba pang stakeholders kabilang ang pribadong sektor na kung saan tinalakay ang pagbalangkas ng mga estratehiya upang maibaba ang presyo ng bigas bago pa man ang executive order na ilalabas ng Pangulo para sa tapyas-taripa. (Eralyn Prado)

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/06/08/romualdez-sa-dti-presyo-ng-bigas-bantayan/>

ABANTE:

Pag-angkat ng mga ibon, manok mula Australia, inawat

- [Abante News](#)
- [June 8, 2024](#)



Ipinagbawal ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang pag-aangkat ng mga domestic at wild birds mula sa Australia matapos isumite ng kanilang Chief Veterinary Officer sa World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) ang paglaganap ng H7N3 at H7N9, mga subtype ng highly pathogenic avian influenza virus doon noong Mayo.

Ang impeksyon ay kinumpirma ng Australian Center for Disease Preparedness.

Sa isang memorandum order No. 21, sinabi ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr., na ang pag-angkat mula sa Australia ng wild at domestic

birds, kabilang ang poultry meat, day-old chicks at eggs ay agad na pinahinto habang suspendido naman ang pag-isyu ng Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearances (SPSIC) ng Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI).

“All shipments coming from Australia that are in transit/load/accepted unto port before the official communication of this order to the Australian authorities shall be allowed provided that the products were slaughtered/produced on or before May 9, 2024,” nakasaad sa memo ni Tiu Laurel nitong June 6.

Noong Abril 2024, ang Australia ay nasa ika-4 na pinakamalaking pinagmumulan ng imported na karne ng manok, na may kabuuang 5,365 metriko tonelada.

Bilang karagdagan, ang Australia ang pangatlo sa pinakamalaking pinagmumulan ng mechanically deboned meat (MDM), na may 4,162 metric tons, o 6.1 porsiyento ng kabuuang dami ng MDM imports.

Sa parehong panahon, umangkat ang Pilipinas ng 46,987 ulo ng day-old chicks at 30,780 piraso ng hatching egg.

(Dolly Cabreza)

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/06/08/pag-angkat-ng-mga-ibon-manok-mula-australia-inawat/>