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MANILA BULLETIN:

House, Senate close to agreement on Rice Tariffication Law amendments-- Romualdez

BY ELLSON QUISMORIO

Jun 16, 2024 01:28 PM

AT A GLANCE

- The House of Representatives and the Senate are close to reaching an agreement on the proposed amendments to the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL), House Speaker Martin Romualdez said.



House Speaker Martin Romualdez (left), Senate President Francis "Chiz" Escudero (Facebook)

The House of Representatives and the Senate are close to reaching an agreement on the proposed amendments to the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL).

Thus, said House Speaker Martin Romualdez a few days removed from his first formal meeting with Senate President Francis "Chiz" Escudero.

"Ongoing po at mukhang nagkakasunduan na ang House at ang Senate at mukhang malapit na. Matatapos din at magkakaroon tayo ng magandang resolusyon," Romualdez said on late Friday afternoon, June 14 in a chance interview on the sidelines of the Agriculture Convergence Event in Tiaong town, Quezon province.

(Talks are ongoing and it looks like the House and the Senate are close to an agreement. This will conclude eventually and we will have a good resolution.)

The event marked the district launch of the Farmers Assistance for Recovery and Modernization (FARM) program and the payout of assistance under the Tulong Panghanapbuhay Para sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) program of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

As guest of honor and keynote speaker during the event organized by Deputy Speaker and Quezon 2nd district Rep. David “Jay-jay” Suarez, Romualdez cited the ongoing efforts to amend the RTL to provide further support to farmers and relief to consumers grappling with high rice prices.

Romualdez underscored that these efforts, including the proposed amendments to the RTL, reflect the unwavering commitment to support President Marcos' vision of revitalizing the agricultural sector and uplifting the lives of Filipino farmers.

The discussion on RTL amendments was a focal point in Romualdez’s first official meeting with Senate President Escudero at the Aguado Residence in Malacañang last Thursday.

The amendments aim to ensure food security and economic stability for farmers by providing affordable quality rice to Filipinos and increasing farmers’ incomes.

“Amending the Rice Tariffication Law is a crucial step towards ensuring food security and economic stability for our farmers,” Romualdez said, after emerging from the meeting with Escudero.

“We are committed to making quality rice affordable for all Filipinos while boosting the livelihoods of our local farmers,” added the Leyte 1st district congressman.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/16/house-senate-close-to-agreement-on-rice-tariffication-law-amendments-romualdez>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Cyberattack hits MARINA, hacker leaks sensitive data

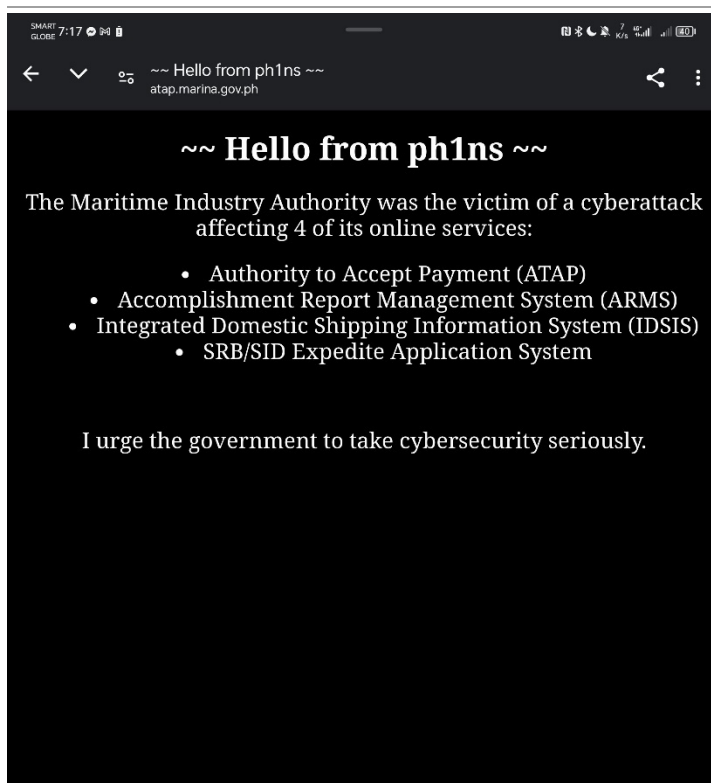
Breached data includes personal information, urging swift action from authorities to strengthen security

BY ART SAMANIEGO

Jun 16, 2024 08:00 PM

AT A GLANCE

- The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) of the Philippines was targeted in a cyberattack by the hacker "ph1ns."
- Sensitive data belonging to ship owners and Filipino seafarers was reportedly exposed during the breach.
- The breach was announced on Breach Forums, where samples of the compromised data were presented.
- Despite MARINA's assurance that no stakeholder data was compromised, the hacker claims that personal information, including names, addresses, contact details, and financial records, was taken.



The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) of the Philippines has become the latest victim of a cyberattack, exposing sensitive data belonging to ship owners and Filipino seafarers. This breach follows a string of high-profile attacks attributed to the hacker known as "ph1ns."

The breach was announced by ph1ns on Breach Forums, an online platform often used to publicize and sell stolen data. The hacker presented samples of the compromised data, raising serious concerns about the privacy and security of affected individuals. The hacker presented samples of the compromised data and left a message on the defaced servers.

In an email interview, the hacker provided additional details about a recent data breach. The breach reportedly affects primarily employees, with the number of individuals impacted estimated to be between a few dozen and a few hundred. Approximately 20 gigabytes of data were exfiltrated using an Unrestricted File Upload vulnerability. Ph1ns noted that this hack was as easy to execute as previous hacks on the Philippine National Police (PNP) but easier than the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) breach, which was more challenging due to better network separation and the need to sift through files to find credentials in backups.

Despite the attack, ph1ns has a good impression of what the DICT is doing. "I really want the government to take cybersecurity more seriously. The DICT is doing good work, but there should be a global awareness about the importance of good security practices, especially amid growing tensions with China", the hacker said. He, however, observes that following the PNP breaches, authorities had promised to collaborate with white hat hackers to secure their systems. However, weeks later, there has been no progress. "There's still no direct way to contact the government agencies if you're expecting an answer and/or want updates regarding what you submitted," he added.

ph1ns, believed to be based in the Philippines, has gained notoriety for targeting various government agencies and organizations within the country. The hacker has been linked to previous breaches of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Philippine National Police (PNP), the Agricultural Credit Policy (ACP), the regional offices of the Department of Agriculture (DA), and numerous other government and private entities.

MARINA, which is tasked with integrating the development, promotion, and regulation of the maritime industry in the Philippines, confirmed the cyber attack on four of its web-based systems on Saturday, June 16, 2024.

In a statement, MARINA said that officials and employees were immediately mobilized to the Central Office to implement swift measures to secure the integrity of the affected systems. The agency aims to have the systems operational again by Tuesday, June 18, to resume accepting applications.

The MARINA assures the public that the agency is committed to maintaining the security of its systems and protecting the information of its stakeholders.

Further updates regarding the incident will be provided by MARINA as they become available.

The hacker claims that data taken from the MARINA system includes personal information such as names, addresses, contact details, and potentially even financial records. This

information could be exploited for various malicious purposes, including identity theft, phishing scams, and extortion.

The MARINA breach like other breaches shows the growing threat of cyberattacks against government agencies and critical infrastructure. It highlights the need for robust cybersecurity measures to protect sensitive data and prevent unauthorized access.

As the maritime industry plays a vital role in the Philippine economy, the breach could have far-reaching implications. The exposure of seafarer data could undermine trust in the industry and jeopardize the safety and security of maritime operations.

The incident has prompted calls for a thorough investigation and swift action to mitigate the damage caused by the breach. Stakeholders are urging MARINA to provide transparency and communicate effectively with affected individuals, offering support and guidance on how to protect themselves from potential harm.

The MARINA breach reminds us of the ever-present cyber threats facing individuals and organizations alike. It emphasizes the importance of vigilance, proactive security measures, and timely response to mitigate the risks posed by cybercriminals.

Below is the statement from MARINA:

MARINA

PRESS

STATEMENT

June 16, 2024

ON THE CYBER ATTACK OF ITS WEB-BASED SYSTEMS

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) confirms that four (4) of its web-based systems were attacked and compromised this morning, June 16, 2024.

Concerned MARINA officials and employees were immediately deployed today at its Central Office to implement expeditious measure to ensure the protection of the integrity of the systems and to have them operational to receive applications on Tuesday, June 18 2024.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/16/cyberattack-hits-marina-hacker-leaks-sensitive-data>

MANILA BULLETIN:

NFA surpasses palay procurement target for 2024's 1st half

BY JEL SANTOS

Jun 16, 2024 03:36 PM



The National Food Authority (NFA) has surpassed its target procurement for palay (unmilled rice) for the first half of this year, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Sunday, June 16.

In a statement, the agency said NFA's palay procurement totaled nearly 3.37 million 50-kilo bags as of June 13.

It noted that this surpasses the target of 3.36 million bags.

“This translates to approximately 168,262 metric tons of palay, the total inventory is now sufficient to cover four days of national consumption in case of emergencies or disasters,” the DA said.

The agriculture department attributed the surpassed palay procurement target to the hiked buying prices of the NFA. Such helped to boost the national buffer stock and increase farmers' income.

In mid-April, the NFA Council increased the maximum buying price to P30 from the previous cap of P23 per kilo and raised the base price to P17 per kilo from P16.

NFA Administrator Larry Lacson said they will “continue to scour the countryside for additional palay that we could buy to bolster the national buffer stock,” he said.

According to the DA, even after significant high-price purchases in recent weeks, the NFA still has around P12 billion left for palay procurement in the second half of the year, from the total P17 billion rice procurement budget, including funds carried over from last year.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. stated that they are very pleased with the NFA Council's decision to raise the palay procurement price.

“We will persist with this program to ensure our rice farmers benefit from their hard work,” he added.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/16/nfa-surpasses-palay-procurement-target-for-2024-s-1st-half>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Bohol prov'l board member wants to stop cloud seeding: It's rainy season

By: [Leo Udtohan](#) - Correspondent / [@leoudtohanINO](#)

[Inquirer Visayas](#) / 09:45 AM June 16, 2024



An airport employee in UAE signals to a twin-propeller Beechcraft plane that is fixed with salt flares which are fired into a promising cloud to increase condensation and hopefully trigger rainfall, as it prepares to take off on a cloud-seeding mission at al-Ain airport on April 23, 2015. (File photo from AFP / MARWAN NAAMANI)

TAGBILARAN CITY – A provincial board member in Bohol has requested her colleagues to immediately stop the cloud seeding operations in the province.

Board member Vierna Mae Boniel criticized the decision to initiate cloud seeding starting June 11, saying it is both redundant and unnecessary.

She said the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) already announced the start of the rainy season.

“It has come to our attention that despite the onset of the rainy season, as confirmed by PAGASA’s recent pronouncements, funds have been allocated for cloud seeding operations — a measure that seems redundant and unnecessary at this juncture,” said Boniel in her privilege speech on June 11.

“Continuing with these operations in light of the abundant rainfall would not only be an imprudent use of funds but also a disregard for the natural water resources that have been bestowed upon us,” she added.

Boniel asked for the conduct of an investigation into the delay and non-materialization of critical interventions during the drought.

She said the provincial board passed Supplemental Budget No. 4, allocating a P30 million premium for the Philippine Crop Insurance to indemnify approximately 30,000 farmers affected by the El Niño phenomenon.

Boniel said the board also authorized Bohol Gov. Erico Aristotle Aumentado to sign an agreement with people’s organizations for the distribution of 402 sets of irrigation materials, including water pumps, barrels, and hoses, valued at P 23.4 million.

On Tuesday, June 11, the provincial government of Bohol, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture’s Bureau of Soil and Water Management (DA-BSWM), initiated the cloud seeding operations with a combined funding of P7.5 million.

Pegasus Air Services successfully carried out its first cloud seeding operation at around 11 a.m.

During the flight, 250 kilos of salt were dispersed into the clouds to induce rainfall.

Their efforts bore fruit around 3 p.m. when rainfall occurred in Sagbayan and Antequera towns following the flight path of Pegasus Air Services.

The local government said “cloud seeding aims to replenish dam water, recharge soil and groundwater, and assist farmers in early land preparation and planting.”

On May 21, the provincial government declared a state of calamity due to the ill effects of the El Niño.

Acting provincial agriculturist Larry Pamugas said the damage to agriculture and fisheries has already reached over P420,000,000 in 36 of 48 towns.

It has affected at least 100,000 families of farmers.

The state of calamity has not been lifted yet.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1952059/bohol-provl-board-member-wants-to-stop-cloud-seeding-its-rainy-season>

‘House, Senate close to deal on amending RTL’

Jovee Marie N. de la Cruz

June 16, 2024

Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez has announced that the House of Representatives and the Senate are nearing an agreement on the amendments to the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL).

This development follows Romualdez’s first official meeting with Senate President Francis Escudero last week.

“Ongoing, and it seems that the House and Senate are nearing an agreement. It will be completed soon, and we will have a good resolution,” said Romualdez at the sidelines of the recent Agriculture Convergence Event in Tiaong, Quezon.

The event marked the district launch of the Farmers Assistance for Recovery and Modernization (FARM) program and the payout of assistance under the Tulong Panghanapbuhay Para sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) program of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

As guest of honor and keynote speaker during the event organized by Deputy Speaker David Suarez, Romualdez cited the ongoing efforts to amend the RTL to provide further support to farmers and relief to consumers grappling with high rice prices.

He reiterated the chamber’s support for the National Food Authority (NFA) and its initiative to sell rice purchased directly from farmers to the public.

“We have many allies in our goal to develop our agricultural sector. The NFA is there, and we in the House of Representatives are helping to sell rice they bought from you directly to our fellow citizens,” the Speaker said.

He said these efforts, including the proposed amendments to the RTL, reflect the “unwavering commitment” to support President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.’s vision of revitalizing the agricultural sector and uplifting the lives of Filipino farmers.

The discussion on RTL amendments was a focal point in Romualdez’s first official meeting with Senate President Escudero at the Aguado Residence in Malacañang last Thursday.

The amendments aim to ensure food security and economic stability for farmers by providing affordable, quality rice to Filipinos and increasing farmers’ incomes.

“Amending the Rice Tariffication Law is a crucial step towards ensuring food security and economic stability for our farmers,” Romualdez said.

“We are committed to making quality rice affordable for all Filipinos while boosting the livelihoods of our local farmers.”

On May 21, the House approved, on the third and final reading, the amendments to the RTL under House Bill (HB) 10381.

The bill seeks to enhance the government’s buffer stocking capabilities and authorize market interventions to stabilize rice prices during emergency situations, ultimately easing the burden on consumers.

Under the bill, the NFA is tasked with registering and monitoring all grain warehouses, ensuring compliance with rice quality and supply standards, and maintaining a national database.

The NFA is mandated to maintain sufficient buffer stock requirements sourced from local farmers or farmer organizations.

If necessary, the NFA can purchase local milled rice or import rice with explicit authorization from the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

The DA Secretary can declare a food security emergency due to factors, such as a shortage in rice supply or a sustained increase in rice prices.

The bill also strengthens the regulatory powers of the Bureau of Plant Industry, allowing inspection of warehouses to ensure compliance with sanitary, phytosanitary, and food safety standards.

The validity of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) will be extended for six years, with an increased annual allocation at P15 billion from the current P10 billion. This boost supports a range of initiatives, including farm mechanization, seed development, credit assistance, extension services, and soil health improvement.

A Rice Industry Development Program Management Office will be established to oversee the effective implementation of rice programs.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/06/16/house-senate-close-to-deal-on-amending-rtl/>

Rice stockpile of government good for 4 days, says NFA

BusinessMirror

June 16, 2024

The rice inventory of the government can feed the nation for four days, according to the National Food Authority (NFA).

The NFA said its palay procurement reached nearly 3.37 million 50-kilo bags as of June 13, exceeding its target of 3.36 million bags. This translates to about 168,262 metric tons (MT) of palay.

“The total inventory is now sufficient to cover four days of national consumption in case of emergencies or disasters,” the state-run food agency said in a statement.

The National Food Authority (NFA) said it exceeded its palay procurement target for the first half due to the increase in its buying prices.

Despite the increase in buying prices, the agency said it still has around P12 billion for the procurement of unmilled rice in the second half. The NFA has a budget of P17 billion for its procurement this year, including rollover funds from the previous year.

The NFA Council earlier approved raising the buying price per kilo of palay to as much as P30 per kilo for clean and dry palay and as much as P23 per kilo for wet and fresh palay.

“We continue to scour the countryside for additional palay that we could buy to bolster the national buffer stock,” NFA Acting Administrator Larry Lacson said.

He also affirmed the agency’s commitment to continue procuring palay at higher than traders’ prices, responding to farmers’ calls for sustained support.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said farmers are reaping the benefits of the NFA Council's decision to hike buying prices.

“We are very pleased with the outcome of the NFA Council's decision to raise palay procurement price. We will continue with this program to ensure our rice farmers enjoy the fruits of their hardwork,” Laurel said in a statement.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) also offers various assistance programs to enhance rice production, including support from the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) under the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL).

“The concerted efforts of the government aim to uplift the livelihoods of rice farmers, ensuring they receive fair compensation for their hard work and dedication to agricultural production,” the NFA said.

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed that the country's unmilled rice production in January to March slid by 1.96 percent to 4.69 million metric tons (MMT) from the 4.78 MMT recorded in the same period in 2023.

The production of irrigated farms fell by 2.34 percent to 3.6 MMT from last year's 3.69 MMT. Rainfed farms, which depend solely on rainfall, produced 1.086 MMT, slightly lower than the 1.094 MMT recorded in 2023.

Meanwhile, the palay output of Central Luzon, the country's rice granary, declined by 10.55 percent to 775,644 MT from last year's 867,084 MT. Central Luzon remained as the country's top rice-producing region during the period.

Cagayan Valley, another top rice producer, had 754,833 MT or nearly 15 percent higher than last year's 657,636 MT.

Based on the PSA's data, palay or unmilled rice production in 2023 reached a record 20.06 MMT. The figure is 1.56 percent higher than the 19.76 MMT recorded in 2022.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/06/16/rice-stockpile-of-government-good-for-4-days-says-nfa/>

The UK's muddy fields are latest climate threat to food security

Bloomberg News

June 16, 2024

From tractors stuck in muddy paddocks to raw sewage washing up from clogged waterways, extreme rain and flooding have wreaked havoc on British farmers this year. The soggy and turbulent weather—exacerbated by climate change—has stunted their ability to provide homegrown crops for bread, beer and nearly every grocery aisle.

Britain has seen its sixth wettest spring since records began in 1836, according to the Met Office. The outcome has devastated fields for growing grains like wheat and barley, which the UK usually produces to levels that can mostly meet domestic needs. The unseasonable conditions have also delayed supplies of British strawberries and even led to the death of livestock.

As a result, the United Kingdom will become 8 percent less self-sufficient for food this year—meaning it will need to ramp up imports, according to the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit think tank. The potential for this adding to food price inflation is a reminder of the growing threat climate change poses to the UK economy.

For crops like potatoes, “we are seeing shrinkflation in the supermarkets as they try and keep pricing the same,” says Harry Campbell, a fruit and vegetable analyst at commodity data firm Mintec. Campbell says procurement companies are looking elsewhere to shore up supplies of impacted crops and using contracts to mitigate risk, but their goal is to “make a profit and so it will eventually be passed down to the consumer if the situation is not improved with the weather.”

After volatile commodity prices in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine fueled a cost-of-living crisis across the world, countries have begun to assess how to limit their exposure to global supply chains. The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs last month introduced the UK's first ever food security index, finding food supply was “broadly stable” but wet weather had “potentially significant impacts” on the domestic production of some crops. Around 60 percent of the food

eaten by Britons is grown domestically, a number that the government is desperately seeking to boost.

The UK's ruling Conservative party, which is polling dismally ahead of a general election in July, has been looking to avoid more bad news and gain support among voters—including those in agricultural communities. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak launched a £50 million (\$64 million) flood support scheme for farmers in April, but for many of them the relief won't help with this year's crops.

Flooded farms

Farmer Henry Ward was only able to begin work on his farm in Lincoln, England on June 4—after its fields were destroyed by floods that hit twice in six months.

Ward's Short Ferry Farm usually supplies wheat for breadmaker Warburtons and spring barley to brewers Coors and Budweiser. Ward missed out on planting in March because the fields didn't dry in time. "We are then losing out on over a £100,000 worth of revenue from crops that we should be harvesting," he says from inside the grain store whose supplies are slowly running out.

Across the 200 acres of Short Ferry Farm, only one survived the floodwater: a green patch in a field with a cracked surface that looks as though it experienced a drought. Ironically, however, the thick crust was created by water pressure. It smells rotten, and Ward compares its appearance to a *crème brûlée*. Underneath there is a goeey, oxygen-starved mess that will struggle to grow crops without cultivation.

It's not just grains being hit by unseasonable weather. British-grown strawberries appeared in supermarkets two weeks later than usual due to dull and cool weather and Scottish-grown broccoli may materialize later than expected too.

Livestock has also struggled with the weather. Around 15 percent of Ward's lambs were stillborn after Short Ferry Farm had to evacuate heavily pregnant ewes.

This year's heavy rains are the latest climate twist for British agriculture. In 2022, the UK experienced its worst period of drought in almost 50 years. Reservoirs ran dry, while crops shriveled.

Globally, extreme weather events—from floods to droughts—are becoming more frequent and intense as the planet warms and greenhouse gas emissions rise. Last

month was Earth's 12th consecutive month of record-breaking temperatures. When air heats up, the amount of water vapor it can contain also increases. This means more precipitation in many places.

Helen Hooker, a research scientist in the Department of Meteorology at the University of Reading, says the UK will be hit particularly hard by these trends. "Our winters are likely to continue to become wetter," she says. "And in the summer we'll see more of these very heavy showers."

Problems compounded

Britain will have imported 60 percent more wheat this season than the year before to shore up supplies, according to forecasts from the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board.

Still, it is a challenge to find a supplier in Europe that isn't being impacted by extreme conditions. Soggy fields are limiting crop planting in France. Unseasonable cold snaps and droughts have hit Black Sea grain growth. Germany flooded earlier this month.

It may leave the country having to look further afield to Canada for quality wheat, says Tom Molnar the CEO of London-based bakery Gail's, which has primarily sourced from British producers in the past six years. UK prices for wheat have continued to climb even as the costs of the crops elsewhere have been rolling back from this year's peak.

Molnar says companies that produce bread on a large scale may be hit harder by rising grain costs than more upscale shops like Gail's.

Other risks faced by the UK supply chain may lie in the hands of private companies controlling the nation's creaking water infrastructure. Storm overflows designed to help cope with intense periods of rain are old and increasingly flooded by water companies with sewage, resulting in public health warnings to avoid swimming in streams and even boil water before use in one area.

"The sewage companies are getting away with murder," says Ben Cooper, a farmer in Wiltshire who saw human waste flowing into his front yard. Cooper also planted crops later than usual, and in rushing to do work trapped a tractor in a muddy field.

The flooding at Short Ferry Farm was exacerbated by clogged natural waterways, which need debris dredged from the riverbed. While the Environment Agency paid £3 million to repair the riverbank on the border of the property after a 2019 flood, it unfortunately did not prevent the latest round of destruction.

The future of food

Henry Ward expects it will take up to four years for the land on his farm to recover enough to produce the yields they did before flooding. The sole acre of wheat, underdeveloped and filled with weeds after they couldn't be treated with herbicides, will be removed and replaced with a mix of kale, sunflower and triticale for winter bird feed. Ward says he won't be able to begin producing food until at least March 2025.

British arable farmers have begun a campaign to highlight the plight of this year's harvest, asking the next government to introduce new policies aimed at domestic production and environmental protection. Some farming communities, meanwhile, are considering their own climate hacks to handle extreme weather.

After surviving two major floods since he took over the land in 2019, Ward and his neighbors have now proposed to the environment agency and ministers that they use their land to help manage the water system in Lincoln, rather than battling the unpredictable elements each year.

“We could sacrifice this land to store flood water on it and turn it into a nature reserve,” Ward says. “By sacrificing, I don't know, 500 acres here, we could hopefully protect a lot of people's houses and maybe protect thousands of acres further downstream to produce food.”

These reserves of water may prove useful next time drought hits—but less land for growing could ultimately hurt the UK's efforts to increase domestic food supplies. It's all part of the messy future the UK faces as it tries to adapt to a fast changing climate.

“It's gonna break my heart,” Ward says while watching the cultivator prepare the land for the bird feed. “That [land] should be growing food. I just feel like we're sort of admitting defeat.”

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/06/16/the-uks-muddy-fields-are-latest-climate-threat-to-food-security>

IFAD urges nations to invest in rural development

BusinessMirror

June 16, 2024

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) appealed to member-states to invest in rural development to address global hunger, poverty, and climate change.

Ifad made the pronouncement after Canada committed to contribute CA\$100 million to its 13th replenishment to support its program of work for the rural poor in 2025 to 2027.

The UN agency also confirmed a CA\$100-million contribution to its private sector financing program (PFSP).

“I am extremely grateful for Canada’s generous contribution, which enables vital investments in rural development to address global hunger, poverty, and climate change. I urge other countries to follow suit. We know the solutions but we cannot implement them without more support like Canada’s,” IFAD President Alvaro Lario said in a statement.

“I extend my deepest gratitude to Canada for its vital investment in millions of courageous rural women men and youth who tirelessly produce food and nourish their communities, often in the face of challenging conditions. I urge all IFAD Member States that have not yet pledged to join Canada to invest in rural people, as they are invaluable assets for the future of our world,” said Sabrina Dhowre Elba, Ifad Goodwill Ambassador.

Canada’s contribution to Ifad core resources will support millions of rural women, men and youth, small-scale farmers and indigenous people in developing countries grow and diversify their food production, better adapt to climate change, and earn a better income by accessing food value chains and markets.

The contribution to the Ifad PFSP will support micro, small and medium-size enterprises (MSMEs) and local intermediaries servicing small scale farmers by providing financial services, inputs, fertilizers, agricultural advice and knowledge.

Ifad said these small agrifood businesses and entrepreneurs are the backbone of rural economies and drive economic growth and job creation. Its investments in MSMEs attract additional private sector investors, a crucial source to complement existing donor resources, are currently not enough to achieve the Sustainable Development and climate goals.

So far, 80 member states have pledged \$1.37 billion to replenish Ifad core resources for the period 2025-2027, making the Ifad 13th replenishment. Its ambition is to mobilize \$2 billion in new funding to support a \$10-billion program of work and impact over 100 million rural people.

About 80 percent of the world's poorest people live in the rural areas of developing countries. Despite being on the frontlines of climate change and hunger, rural populations and small-scale farmers produce one third of the world's food.

“Yet, they receive less than 1 percent of global climate finance. Official Development Assistance [ODA] to agriculture has been stagnating at about 5-6 percent of ODA for years. The \$10 billion reached in 2021 are falling short of global needs.”

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/06/16/ifad-urges-nations-to-invest-in-rural-development>

BUSINESS MIRROR

Laguna de Bay fishermen, aquaculture operators express alarm over floating solar power project

BusinessMirror

June 16, 2024

A NATIONAL group of fishermen on Sunday expressed concern on the adverse impact on their livelihood by the planned 2,000-hectare solar power project on Laguna de Bay.

Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said more than 800 small fishermen in the town of Bay, Laguna, alone stand to be affected by the planned construction of the floating solar project. In other areas, the project could potentially affect 10,000 fishermen and fish trap or “baklad” and aquaculture operators.

Pamalakaya’s local chapter in Bay held on Sunday a community consultation during which the fishermen raised fears that the solar project would effectively deny them access to their fishing ground and block their boats.

They also fear that their makeshift docks will be demolished once the project begins construction.

“We learned from the local government that the solar panels would not only block our routes; the project would also affect our docks. There’s no alternative or option for affected fisherfolk on Laguna de Bay,” Alejandro Alcones, Pamalakaya-Bay president said in a statement.

“We are dismayed that we were not even consulted before they planned the project that will be constructed in our fishing ground,” he added.

The floating solar project, which has already been auctioned off by the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), will cover around 2, 000 hectares of the

country's largest inland brackish lake in its southern and eastern areas, namely, the cities of Calamba, Cabuyao, and Santa Rosa, and the towns of Bay, and Victoria, in Laguna province.

Pamalakaya said that the project will adversely affect the livelihood of at least 8,500 registered fishermen and more than 2,000 individuals involved in aquaculture in the province of Laguna.

“While we recognize the need for energy transition from usual unsustainable sources to a renewable one, it should not trample on the socioeconomic rights of the fishermen and coastal communities,” Ronnel Arambulo, Pamalakaya vice chairman said in a statement.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/06/16/laguna-de-bay-fishermen-aquaculture-operators-express-alarm-over-floating-solar-power-project>

ABANTE:

Senado bibigay na sa RTL

- [Abante News](#)
- [June 16, 2024](#)



Kumpiyansa si Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez na magkakasundo ang Kamara de Representantes at ang Senado sa panukala na amiyendahan ang Rice Tariffication Law (RTL) upang magpatuloy ang suportang ibinibigay ng gobyerno sa mga lokal na magsasaka at maproteksyunan ang publiko laban sa mataas na presyo ng bigas.

Ginawa ni Romualdez ang pahayag matapos ang unang opisyal na pakikipagpulong nito kay Senate President Francis “Chiz” Escudero noong Huwebes sa Malacañang kung saan natalakay ang legislative agenda para sa huling bahagi ng 19th Congress.

“Ongoing po at mukhang nagkakasunduan na ang House at ang Senate at mukhang malapit na. Matatapos din at magkakaroon tayo ng magandang resolusyon,” sabi ni Romualdez sa pana-yam sa Agriculture Convergence Event sa Tiaong, Quezon noong Biyernes.

Kasama sa napag-usapan ang panukalang amiyenda sa RTL.

“Amending the Rice Tariffication Law is a crucial step towards ensuring food security and economic stability for our farm-ers,” dagdag pa ni Romualdez. “We are committed to making quality rice affordable for all Filipinos while boosting the livelihoods of our local farmers.”

Noong Mayo 21 ay inaprubahan na ng Kamara ang panukalang amiyenda sa RTL (House Bill 10381) sa ikatlo at huling pagbasa.

Sa ilalim ng panukala ay pararamihin ang buffer stock ng bigas sa bansa at bibigyan ng kapangyarihan ang National Food Authority na i-monitor ang mga imbakan ng bigas at magbenta ng bigas sa publiko sa panahon ng emergency upang hindi tumaas ang presyo nito. (Billy Begas)

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/06/16/senado-bibigay-na-sa-rtl/>