

CLIPPINGS FOR TODAY JUNE 18, 2024

A. MANILA BULELTIN:

Make your own natural fertilizers!

BOI gives nod to investments worth P640 billion

B. THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

After the water crisis, floods again

Stagflation

Last-ditch effort vs lower rice tariffs pushed

C. PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

PH seen ramping up meat imports to 1.09M MT

D. BUSINESS WORLD:

PHL halal exports constrained by certification bottlenecks, says body

Philippine dairy imports to rise by 7.33% — FAO

PHL fruit competitiveness may be key to expanding agri exports

E. MANILA STANDARD:

SM Prime bolsters MSME growth and boom in the Philippines

Top tobacco farmer

F. THE MANILA TIMES:

Milk imports to increase this year, says FAO

G. BUSINESS MIRROR:

PHL'S imported rice arrivals reach 2.17 MMT as of June 6

PSA sees drop in unmilled rice output in second quarter

H. ABANTE TONITE:

Romualdez sa Navy, PCG: Mga mangingisdang Pinoy sa West PH Sea tiyakin kaligtasan

I. PILIPINO STAR NGAYON:

Mga mangingisda sa West Philipline Sea, protektahan - Romualdez

J. REMATE:

Nabiling palay ng NFA sa unang kalahati ng taon lampas sa target

MANILA BULELTIN:

Make your own natural fertilizers!

BY FLOR G. TARRIELA

Jun 18, 2024 05:17 AM

My plants were practically dying due to the extreme heat. Last summer, our son, Ted, tried to revive two of my dying plants by spraying them with a natural concoction made from fish innards. He was pleasantly surprised when the plants started to show signs of life. He was hooked! And wanted to learn more about my concoctions.

Vanilla, the exotic 2nd most expensive spice in the world, thrives in the Philippines. It is an “Emerging” new industry. A group of vanilla enthusiasts led by Dr. Reynaldo Lantin of UPLB, Basil Bolinao etc. formed the Vanilla Industry Devt. Association Inc (VIDA) with former DA Usec Evelyn Lavina of High-Value Crops as adviser. The goal is for the Philippines to be a top quality Vanilla producer. This means starting right with the correct planting material, the vanilla planifolia and to practice the proper planting protocols.

Fortunately, the Department of Agriculture (DA), through its training arm, the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), sponsored Flor’s Garden a workshop on Natural Farming, Jadam, and Vanilla Planting in early June. Jadam means “People resemble nature”. Trainers were Natural Farming/Jadam gurus Andry and Joji Lim from Davao, while the Vanilla portion by Maila Toreja of Viela Farms in Batangas.

Participants were a good cross-section which included former DA Usec Evelyn LaVina, experienced organic farm owners Pabs and Susy Villegas, Rubi Arreza, from academe Vicente Mauricio of UAP, and four participants from Wesleyan University and the Carolina L. Gozon Institute of Lifelong Learning, new farm owners, several farm hands, etc. Learning came from the seasoned trainers, the knowledgeable participants themselves, and the environment.

I found the Natural Farming system by Han Kyu CHO of Korea quite revolutionary. The natural farming concoctions are cheap, already using easy-to-find materials like grasses, leaves that grow fast, bones (from your bulalo, etc.), and eggshells. But because of the need for molasses which may not always be available or expensive, Mr. Cho’s son, Youngsan CHO came up with JADAM which is even more ultra-low cost as it doesn’t use molasses. The ingredients are practically the same except that instead of molasses, substitute with water and leaf mold. Leaf mold is decayed leaves that’s already converted to soil. Look for leaf mold under heaps of dried leaves in your garden God is good indeed.

Do you know that plants, like people, have growth stages? The stage from small seedlings and before flowering or fruiting is the vegetative stage; when the plant matures and small flowers start to show, that’s the cross over, then the flowering, fruiting season. Different nutrients and fertilizers are required at distinct stages.

Do you like to know how to make ultra-low cost Jadam Liquid Fertilizer (JLF) which has no expiry, and as it age, the better? Here it is.

JADAM Liquid Fertilizer (JLF) Ingredients:

- Water. Soft water. Rainwater is the best. Or if chlorinated, let stay for 24 hours before using.
- Natural Sea Salt
- Leaf Mold

I. Vegetative-Food or fertilizer for leaves of Plants.

1. Grass, Leaves that grow fast such as ManeManean, Kamote, Kangkong, banana trunks etc.

Procedure:

- Fill pail with the grass and leaves, add water, natural sea salt and leaf mold.
- Cover the pail
- After 30 days, water turns blackish, very concentrated. Harvest the JLF and put in another container.
- To use, dilute 1:100 before watering the soil around the plants.
- Can reuse by adding water, grasses, leaves, leaf mold and salt. Harvest after 30 days.
- The sludge (left over grasses/leaves at bottom) good compost, organic matter.

1. Fish (Produce amino acid, the building block of protein)

Same procedure. Just fill pail half full of fish, then fill up with water. No need to add salt if fish came from the sea. Can use hasangs, gills, innards that fish vendors throw away and considered wastes in the market.

Instead of 30 days, keep for three months. Dilution is 1:400. Concentrated and so cheap!

II. Cross Over Stage/Flowering Fruiting

To induce flowering and fruiting for matured plants and trees- use any ripe fruits, bones from your bulalo (calcium phosphate), eggshells, oyster shells, clam shells (calcium) and follow same procedure.

Right after the workshop, our son Ted immediately started on his goal to make the mango trees in Ed's farm more productive. He made JLF with mango leaves and is now gathering bones and eggshells to get ready for the fruiting season. Gardening teaches patience and hope. Looking forward to more fruitful farms with our new "disciples" in natural farming and Jadam technology!

Ms. Tarriela was former PNB Chairman and now serves as Board Advisor. A former Undersecretary of Finance, she is lead independent director of Nickel Asia Corp., director of LTG Inc. and FINEX. A gardener and an environmentalist, she founded Flor's Garden in Antipolo, now an events destination. The views and opinions expressed above are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of FINEX.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/18/make-your-own-natural-fertilizers>

MANILA BULELTIN:

BOI gives nod to investments worth P640 billion

January to May 2024

BY KHRISCIELLE YALAO

Jun 18, 2024 00:30 AM

The Board of Investments (BOI) approved P640.22 billion worth of investments for the first five months of this year, led by domestic investments and continuous projects in the renewable energy (RE) sector.

This year's end-May investment figure was 14 percent higher than the P562.90 billion recorded in the same period last year.

Domestic investments comprised the bulk of the figures from January to May 2024, with P525.85 billion.

The majority of the investments were made for projects in the CALABARZON area worth P538.52 billion, followed by the Ilocos Region with P28.49 billion; Central Luzon with P24.42 billion; the Bicol Region with P13.28 billion; and Western Visayas with P8.54 billion.

Meanwhile, foreign investments totaled P114.37 billion, with Switzerland contributing the largest share with P62.89 billion. Investments from the Netherlands followed with P39.33 billion; Singapore with P6.07 billion; China with P1.53 billion; Taiwan with P1.28 billion; and the United States with P953 million.

Overall, foreign and local investments are forecast to open 13,871 new jobs for Filipinos.

Investment approvals in the RE and power sector continue to see gains, increasing by 21 percent to P607.47 billion from January to May compared to P503.18 billion a year ago.

This is followed by the agriculture, forestry, and fishing sectors with approved investments of P9.56 billion, the real estate sector with P8.17 billion, the transportation and storage sector with P4.61 billion, the manufacturing sector with P4.36 billion, and the financial and insurance activities sector with P227.95 million.

In a statement, the BOI said the growth in investment approvals is aligned with the 40.7 percent year-on-year rise of net foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows in the first quarter of 2024, amounting to \$2.97 billion, as reported by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

The majority of these investments were in the Netherlands, Japan, Singapore, and the US.

The agency also cited the presidential visits and other working visits of the current administration, along with other further efforts of investment promotion agencies (IPAs), as significant factors that are influencing the growth of FDIs.

"We aspire to transform the Philippine economy and become the regional hub for smart and sustainable manufacturing and services, and these data show that we are on the right track. The upward trajectory in FDI net inflows and approved investments follows the pattern of commitments from various trade missions initiated by IPAs, including the goodwill fostered through the President's business trips abroad. These efforts have been followed through by registration approvals, and what we are seeing now are tangible results of these concerted government efforts," said DTI Secretary and BOI Chairman Alfredo E. Pascual.

"We are indeed 'Making it Happen in the Philippines'. The BOI, together with other IPAs, remains committed to generating more investments and maintaining the FDI growth momentum through ongoing economic reforms and proactive investment promotion," he added.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/6/18/boi-gives-nod-to-investments-worth-p640-billion>

After the water crisis, floods again



PERCEPTIONS - [Ariel Nepomuceno](#) - The Philippine Star

June 18, 2024 | 12:00am

The solution to the water crisis in many parts of the country is the same solution for the devastating floods that perennially wreak havoc on our communities.

Meaning, the engineering infrastructure and other scientific steps that will address the dilemma on scarce water supply, especially during the El Niño phenomenon, are the same for the nightmares and sufferings during inundations caused by the monsoon and typhoon season. Therefore, trying to solve one massive problem almost automatically solve another. Truly, one stone hitting two birds.

Lack of water again

The recent climatological phenomenon referred to as El Niño, where the usual volume of rainwater is 60 percent less in provinces that were affected, visits the Philippines regularly at least every three to five years. More than 50 provinces in fact suffered from drought and prolonged dry spell these past few months, starting from late 2023 until the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration officially declared that it was over recently. But this was only after more than P9.8 billion in agricultural damage deprived our farmers of their supposed income and in the process, worsened the inflation that further penalized buyers of agricultural products.

Farmers and their families are the usual direct victims here. Remember, there are at least 10 million Filipinos in the agricultural sector. To begin with, they are already at the lower end of the chain and almost always at the end of their wits too on how to survive or dream of a brighter future for their children. El Niño is just another blow to their vicious cycle of impoverishment and deprivation. Yet, they have the noble mission of feeding a nation of more than 110 million consumers. In the

Philippines, being a farmer is almost synonymous to being financially poor, no access to decent housing and sanitation and difficult chance for higher education. Being a farmer in the rural areas also means being vulnerable to the harsh onslaught of nature during extreme weather conditions. With the El Niño, almost 200,000 farmers in the more than 170,000 hectares of farmland gravely suffered. Livestock that's worth more than P68 million was also reportedly damaged.

Around 1.2 million families or 4.8 million individuals were affected by El Niño. There were power interruptions in several areas, especially the one that was experienced in the entire Bacolod City. The inconvenience caused by these power interruptions would be difficult to measure. Surely, they made the blood pressure of many so high that curses and invectives worsened the ultra-high temperatures in the air. More than 433 cities, municipalities and provinces declared a state of calamity.

The country's weather is now in the transition stage. We are now moving towards the La Niña phenomenon where an unusual volume of water will cause the usual floodings, landslides and agricultural damage.

Floods again

The country is prone to tropical cyclones. Every year, at least 20 typhoons visit the country. Some of these are disastrous such as Yolanda in 2013 and Ondoy in 2009. Thousands of lives and billions worth of properties were lost during these two catastrophes. In 2023 alone, a minimum of P28 billion in damages was reported to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and the Office of Civil Defense. I personally know the tireless government workers in this organizations, and I could only say thank you to all of them for their sacrifices at their difficult work and mission in saving lives and properties.

But no amount of heroism can end the annual havoc of floods and the destruction that this causes. Expected, in fact, is an even worse impact compared to El Niño. Floods and landslides, especially during La Niña, are more devastating to lives, properties, agriculture and infrastructure.

Engineering solutions are urgent

Unless we roll out the necessary engineering infrastructure that will contain the floods during rainy season and provide water during droughts, we will read the same reports on massive damage and hear the same complaints from people who are adversely affected.

Comprehensive plans that are based on and inspired by science must cover the 18 major river basins of the archipelago and the communities surrounding them. Big dams for flood control, weirs, levy systems, irrigation canals, catch basins, relocation of vulnerable communities, respect for no-build zones, landslide

preventions, alarm systems and safety protocols, reforestation and no nonsense management of all these must be in place soon. We are talking of at least a ten-year uninterrupted, corruption-free and apolitical implementation of long-term solutions to finally end or mitigate our problem on floods and drought.

I'm confident that under the leadership of engineer Ed Guillen of the National Irrigation Authority and Undersecretary Dr. Carlos Primo David of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, we can expect good strategic results towards these ends.

There's no shortcut to the needed solutions. These must be comprehensive and long-term. Again, the antidote against drought is the same for floods.

<https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2024/06/18/2363664/after-water-crisis-floods-again>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

OPINION

Stagflation



FIRST PERSON - **Alex Magno** - The Philippine Star

June 18, 2024 | 12:00am

Presidential candidate and convicted felon Donald Trump promised to raise tariffs to pave the way for the elimination of all income taxes. The proposal was universally condemned by America's most respected economists.

To be sure, eliminating income taxes will resonate with Trump's populist base. But it will be a formula to lock the US economy in the grip of stagflation.

Trump could hardly be called economically literate. Nor could his first term in office be described as a fiscal success.

In his four years at the White House, Trump cut taxes for the rich. As a result, America's debt rose by a staggering \$8.4 trillion. The Trump presidency accounts for a quarter of total American debt.

Replacing income taxes with tariffs makes no sense at all. It will raise the prices of all goods with imported content for American consumers. It will force Americans to pay for costlier but inferior products produced at home.

The Trump plan will precipitate a trade war with all the other nations, causing the fragile supply and value chains to collapse. The spike in prices will exhaust domestic purchasing power. Because of this, it will not lead to the reinvigoration of American manufacturing.

Those who make the most income pay more taxes under the present scheme. If Trump replaces income taxes with tariffs, the richest Americans will benefit most. Middle class consumers will be harmed severely.

There is nothing that will convince us that revenue from tariffs will be enough to offset revenue from income taxes. A trade war, coming as a reaction to US protectionism, will definitely curtail the volume of trade. This means there will progressively be lesser imported goods on which higher tariffs could be imposed. The final result is lesser trade and lesser tariff revenue.

US manufacturers will not likely benefit from a tariff war. They will lose access to foreign markets retaliating against high US tariffs. Domestic consumers, burdened by higher tariff-driven prices at home, will not likely increase their consumption. The result is crippling stagflation – a condition where prices continue to rise while production remains stagnant.

Stagflation will increase poverty rates in the US. It will articulate in all sorts of social tensions such as blaming immigrants for everyone's rising misery. If the MAGA base craves for a civil war, this policy will guarantee it.

Trump is not the statesman America needs at this time. He is a populist politician pandering to the reflex reactions of voters.

His proposal to replace income taxes with higher tariff rates might win him the elections. But it will lead the US down the road to ruin.

Rice tariffs

By contrast, our NEDA has proposed a schedule for lowering tariffs on rice and pork imports from about 30 percent to only 15 percent by 2028. The proposal, as expected, provoked intense economic debate.

The thinking behind this tariff-reduction proposal is easy to appreciate. Rice and pork posted the highest price spikes over the past months. They are the main drivers for inflation which ravages the lives of the poor.

A reduction in tariffs will moderate the prices of these two commodities. That will soften the inflation we all endure. A lower inflation rate will allow us to eventually reduce interest rates. That reduction will spur investments in our economy. With the faster expansion of the domestic economy, we will be better able to address poverty and unemployment.

If we ever want to make rice affordable, we will have to cut tariffs on our imports. Government might lose some revenue opportunities, but that will go to seeding domestic economic growth and poverty reduction.

There will be some pain, no doubt. Our rice imports tend to be cheaper than our domestically produced rice. This will be even more so with the looming tariff reductions.

The high tariff wall was meant to protect our inefficient rice sector. If tariffs are lowered, there will be pressure to lower farmgate prices for local rice. Farmers will suffer from lower rice incomes. Consumers, on the other hand, will be spared a rice price spiral.

There is no way we could make our rice farms more efficient and productive if they continue to be protected by high tariff barriers. In the present situation, however, many farmers will abandon the crop if it becomes a losing proposition.

We are already the world's biggest rice importer. Lowering tariffs will make us even more so. There is, unfortunately, no win-win solution to our rice nightmare.

The original sin happened when we decided to break up our land into small, unsustainable "family-sized" plots. We did that in the name of social justice. But this is terrible economics.

Agrarian reform condemned our entire agriculture to subsistence-level farming. That cannot be the way to feed a growing population.

Our largely subsistence agriculture repels investment in industrializing our food production. It has made food comparatively more expensive. Much of our poverty derives from unproductive farms and high food prices.

The way our agriculture is configured is a curse on the nation. It condemns all of us to a high food price regime, poor rural productivity and immense rural poverty. For as long as our agriculture is trapped in subsistence level farm production, we are doomed to high rates of malnutrition.

Our backward farm system is aggravated by a pathetic logistics system that magnifies the high costs of food, especially in an archipelagic setting.

<https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2024/06/18/2363671/stagflation>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Last-ditch effort vs lower rice tariffs pushed

[Jasper Arcalas](#) - The Philippine Star

June 18, 2024 | 12:00am



Photos show workers unloading sacks of rice from a truck along Dagupan St. in Manila on February 7, 2024.

STAR / Ernie Penaredondo

MANILA, Philippines — Industry groups are racing against time to convince President Marcos to reverse his decision to slash rice tariffs to 15 percent, the lowest rate in the country's history.

Leonardo Montemayor, a former agriculture secretary, said farmers groups are trying their best to secure a face-to-face audience with Marcos to air their concerns regarding the tariff reduction.

They hope to convince him against lowering the tariffs before he issues an executive order (EO) to implement the country's new comprehensive tariff program.

Montemayor and other leaders of agricultural groups have been meeting with Cabinet secretaries to discuss the decision of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board, chaired by Marcos, to lower rice tariffs to 15 percent from 35 percent at present.

The latest dialogue that they had was with Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel in a meeting last week.

Sources told The STAR that the stakeholders sought Tiu Laurel's help in seeking an audience with Marcos.

They also also met with Finance Secretary Ralph Recto to discuss the issue earlier this month.

"We will do our best to appeal to the President [and have a] face-to-face meeting [with him]," Montemayor said.

"We feel the president was shortchanged. He was not given the entire picture. We owe it to him also before he makes the final decision," he added.

The former agriculture secretary is cognizant that the clock is ticking for them to convince Marcos not to lower the rice tariffs through an EO.

"We have roughly about a month and one week," Montemayor said, referring to the remaining time that Marcos can issue an EO to modify tariff rates while the Congress is not in session.

Congress is in recess until July 21 and would resume session on July 22.

Today, another industry group, the Philippine Rice Industry Stakeholders Movement (PRISM) would hold a three-hour forum in Nueva Ecija to form a "balanced" proposal regarding the approved comprehensive tariff program.

PRISM is a group composed of various players of the rice value chain from farmers to millers and importers formed at the height of the deliberation of the government on the rice tariffication law in 2019.

The reduction in rice tariffs is part of the country's new comprehensive tariff program for 2024 to 2028.

It was meant to lower the price of rice in the country but farmers groups said reduced rice tariffs only led to more imports and higher prices.

Last week, a NEDA official said there is still no EO yet that has been signed or issued by Marcos to formalize the new tariff program.

Seeking a reversal of the possible EO through a Congressional resolution is also one of the options that stakeholders are considering, Montemayor said.

But Montemayor understands that having it reversed through legislative intervention could be an uphill battle given the influence of the executive branch on lawmakers.

The power to modify the country's tariffs is given to the House of Representatives under the constitution. That is why the President can only exercise his power to adjust tariff rates when Congress is in recess.

Once it resumes session, Congress can withdraw or terminate through a joint resolution the tariff adjustments made by the Chief Executive through his EO, according to the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act.

At present, rice imports are levied with a 35 percent tariff by virtue of Marcos' earlier EO 50 which extended reduced rates on key agricultural commodities to arrest rising food prices in the country.

Without the EO, rice imports have a tariff level of 40 percent for shipments inside the minimum access volume while shipments outside it are levied with 50 percent tariff.

However, all rice imports from the Asean trade-partners are slapped with a 35 percent tariff as part of the Asean Trade in Goods Agreement.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/06/18/2363548/last-ditch-effort-vs-lower-rice-tariffs-pushed>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

PH seen ramping up meat imports to 1.09M MT

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 02:01 AM June 18, 2024

MANILA — The Philippines may source more meat products from abroad this year as the government moved to reduce the tariff rate on imported meat, in line with the global forecast, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said.

In its latest food outlook, the FAO said the country's meat imports may reach 1.09 million metric tons (MT) (carcass weight equivalent) in 2024, up by about 4 percent from 1.045 million MT a year ago.

Bovine meat shipment is estimated to increase by 205,000 MT from 192,000 MT previously.

The FAO attributed the upward forecast on the country's imports to the extension of reduced tariffs on pig meat until the end of 2024 and increased demand for poultry and bovine meats.

The latest readings coincide with the FAO's expectation that the global trade in meat and meat products will rebound in 2024 after two straight years of contraction.

Global meat exports are expected to rise by 1.8 percent to 41.2 million MT this year, as all regions are seen to bring in more imported meat, especially in Northern America, which the agency said highlighted the tight local supply of bovine meat.

“However, this positive outlook assumes that there will not be a further escalation of some critical influences, such as the spread of animal diseases, trade restrictions, geopolitical tensions, and currency fluctuations,” the FAO added.

Constrained purchasing power

“While constrained consumer purchasing power could lower demand for more expensive meat types, it could also induce poultry meat production and trade expansion, given its affordability,” it said.

Meanwhile, the global trade of poultry meat is projected to inch up by 1.5 percent to 16.3 million MT, with the majority of the demand coming from the United States, Malaysia, Iraq, the Philippines, the European Union, and South Africa.

The National Economic and Development Authority board earlier announced that the tariff rate for rice, pork, and other vital goods will remain lowered until 2028.

President Marcos has yet to issue an order on the new tariff structure, which also covers other agricultural commodities.

To date, the country imported 396.38 million kilograms of meat as of the end of April, 11.3 percent higher than 356.01 million kg in the same period a year ago.

Most of these are pork and chicken, accounting for more than half of the total.

The inflow of meat imports has been on an uptrend since February this year with the highest volume of 122.74 million kg recorded in April. —**JORDEENE B. LAGARE INQ**

<https://business.inquirer.net/464212/ph-seen-ramping-up-meat-imports-to-1-09m-mt>

BUSINESS WORLD:

PHL halal exports constrained by certification bottlenecks, says body

June 17, 2024 | 7:09 pm



DOT PHOTO

THE PHILIPPINES will need more accredited certifying organizations to support the growth of halal exports, according to a United Arab Emirates-headquartered halal certification body.

In a chance interview last week, Prime Group Chief Executive Officer Mary Jane Alvero-Al Mahdi said that their company is the lone certification body for Philippine halal exports.

“There is a need to push for more certification bodies. Right now, we only have 10 or 11 for local, and then for international. It is only us,” Ms. Alvero-Al Mahdi told *BusinessWorld*.

“We need to have more certification bodies, and these must have the capacity to put up branches in the countries where they have a market,” she added.

She added that the certification bodies must also be accredited by the Gulf Cooperation Council Standardization Organization or by any other countries that have their own standards.

She said international accreditation has helped increase Philippine halal exports; however, she said exporters face higher costs when exporting to some markets.

“Now, in Qatar, aside from being halal-certified, (exporters) need to ... provide a certificate of compliance (CoC) requirement,” she said.

“How you get this certificate is through a loading inspection. So, even though they already have a loading inspection in halal-conformity, there is still a requirement for a product-specific inspection,” she added.

She said the additional requirement has been costly to Philippine exporters, especially since there only two accredited certification bodies can issue a CoC.

The Philippines usually exports processed meat, which some exporters see as a challenge as some markets have specific requirements that are not required under Philippine standards, she added.

Early this year, the Department of Trade and Industry launched the Philippine Halal Development Strategic Plan 2024-2028 which aims to double the number of halal-certified products to 6,000.

The plan also hopes to attract P230 billion in foreign investment and generate 120,000 new jobs.

On Friday, the Department of Tourism opened the first Salaam Halal Travel and Trade Expo in Cubao, to highlight halal-certified and Muslim-friendly products, services, and tourism establishments.

Tourism Secretary Ma. Esperanza Christina G. Frasco said that the event helps bring forward President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.'s ambition of building a reputation for the Philippines as a halal and Muslim-friendly destination.

“We are partnering with our halal certifiers, and we are continuing our efforts to expand the halal tourism portfolio of the Philippines,” she said.

“We saw that if we expand our halal and Muslim friendly tourism offerings, livelihood and employment opportunities will increase even more,” she added.

Malaysian Ambassador to the Philippines Dato’ Abdul Malik Melvin Castelino said that the expo will help put the Philippines on the map for Muslim tourism.

“Malaysia is ready to support the Philippines in this endeavor to, of course, ensure that we continue to grow this very lucrative and, of course, sustainable market,” he said.

“One last thing I’d like to say is that halal is for all. It’s not only for Muslims, but it’s also for every brother and every sector of the Philippines. So even those of the Catholic faith or the other faiths can also enjoy the food and the various products offered by the halal industry,” he added. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/06/17/602350/phl-halal-exports-constrained-by-certification-bottlenecks-says-body/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Philippine dairy imports to rise by 7.33% —

FAO

June 17, 2024 | 7:06 pm



REUTERS

PHILIPPINE dairy imports are projected at 2.49 million metric tons (MT), milk equivalent, this year due to higher demand from the food industry, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The FAO said that this year's estimates are 7.33% higher than its 2023 projections.

“Food services sales are expected to improve in several leading dairy-importing countries, notably Mexico, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and Japan,” the FAO added.

It said imports of skim milk powder (SMP) are projected to increase mainly due to higher demand from food processors and lower prices.

“More positive demand prospects are expected in the Philippines and Indonesia, especially after last year's drops, induced by higher demand from the food processing and services sectors and relatively lower international SMP prices,” it added.

SMP exports from countries like the US, India, Argentina and the UK, are expected to increase due to the higher import demand.

Global trade in SMP is estimated at 2.7 million MT, up 0.7% from a year earlier.

The FAO added that Philippines is expected to import less butter this year.

The Philippines can meet less than 1% of its milk demand from domestic production, with the rest needing to be imported.

The government is aiming to increase dairy production to 80 million liters of milk per year by 2028.

Domestic production is projected at 30 thousand MT in 2024, unchanged from the estimates posted a year earlier. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/06/17/602349/philippine-dairy-imports-to-rise-by-7-33-fao/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

PHL fruit competitiveness may be key to expanding agri exports

June 17, 2024 | 7:09 pm



FRUTAS DELIVERY FB PAGE

THE GOVERNMENT should focus on expanding production of crops where it enjoys a competitive advantage, such as fruit, to boost agricultural exports, analysts said.

“There is evidence that we are competitive in certain products, particularly fruit,” Ateneo de Manila economics professor Leonardo A. Lanzona said in a Messenger chat.

He added that the government’s role is to facilitate these growers’ expansion to achieve adequate scale to service export markets.

Agricultural exports rose 10.7% to \$1.72 billion during the first quarter, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority.

Fermin D. Adriano, former Agriculture Undersecretary for Policy, Planning, and Research, said despite the expansion during the previous quarter, production for exportable farm goods is still facing funding constraints.

“The agri budget provides inadequate support as 60% of (the Department of Agriculture’s) funding goes to supporting rice,” Mr. Adriano said via Viber.

Leading farm exports during the period were edible fruit and nuts, as well as peel of citrus fruit and melons, valued at \$517.96 million or 30.1% of the total.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. Chief Economist Michael L. Ricafort said improved foreign ties may have contributed to the increase in exports.

“Diversifying further to more export markets, as well as more free trade agreements (FTAs) with more countries on top of the (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) and the South Korea-Philippines FTA will help boost (exports),” Mr. Ricafort said via Viber.

RCEP involves the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, China, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, and Australia. It took effect in June last year.

It allows minimal to zero restrictions in terms of quantities and seeks to minimize import taxes.

Mr. Lanzona said the Philippines continues to show a deficit in agricultural trade due to its reliance on imports.

The deficit in agricultural trade narrowed to 6.5% during the first quarter, with an increase in exports offsetting a 0.3% decline in imports.

“This suggests we continue to struggle because the economy continues to be import dependent in food products,” he added.

The DA had said that it is seeking to improve agricultural exports, especially tropical fruit like banana, mango, and pineapple.

In January, the DA said it is preparing a Philippine Agricultural Export Development Plan. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/06/17/602352/phl-fruit-competitiveness-may-be-key-to-expanding-agri-exports/>

MANILA STANDARD

SM Prime bolsters MSME growth and boom in the Philippines



By Manila Standard

June 17, 2024, 8:10 pm

SM Supermalls continues its commitment to empower and enrich the growth of local Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) by building a thriving ecosystem of entrepreneurship and innovation

“MSMEs are our local partners in generating value across all the communities we operate in,” said Steven Tan, President of SM Supermalls. “With 99.59% of the local economy composed of MSMEs, the persistence and vibrancy of local trade as well as the generation of jobs on the micro, small, and medium scale hinges on their success.”

In line with this, SM Supermalls continues to implement various programs and plan opportunities for MSMEs to grow their customer base through the vast network of SM malls in the country. With 67% of its tenants being MSMEs, these programs empower entrepreneurs by providing them with accessible and affordable prime retail spaces in SM’s high-foot traffic malls, as well as helpful packages to support their growth.

Marketplace for Success

“Because SM has been an established brand for over three decades, perhaps people have forgotten that we started out as a small enterprise ourselves,” said Tan. “Our own experience emphasizes the value in supporting our MSMEs and has given us valuable

insight we can use to further support this crucial sector in line with the government's efforts.”

Last May, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) introduced the fourth iteration of the national MSME Development Plan geared to reduce operational costs and eliminate barriers for new entrepreneurs. Through the plan's implementation, the DTI hopes to grow the number of registered MSMEs, improve their contribution to the larger local economy, and support continual job creation.

The “SM for MSMEs” program supports budding entrepreneurs in overcoming three key challenges they usually face—access to a diverse group of customers, the high cost of traditional operational requirements like rent, and competition with established brands for attention and patronage. Serving as a marketplace for entrepreneurs facing difficulties finding the right venue and market, SM aims to be the incubator of the country's next big brands.

“SM for MSMEs offer scalable packages to businesses in the communities around SM malls—for as low as 500 pesos per day, small scale businesses can rent a booth in SM's high-foot traffic venues during regular exhibits and special events. The program currently has 633 purveyors nationwide, providing an affordable and strategic platform for entrepreneurs to sell their products and reach the right market.

Other Programs of SM for MSMEs

SM initiated its “StartUp Package” in 2021 to assist MSMEs in opening their first brick-and-mortar stores. The package provides start-up-friendly rental rates within SM malls along with the free usage of kiosks and carts. Marketing assistance is also provided through free exposure in SM online assets and ad spaces within the malls with valuable mentorship from its experts on operations and marketing. SM also offers financial assistance with BDO network bank. This program is currently running across five malls with 30 purveyors as of writing. Earlier this year, 44 StartUp Market purveyors successfully transitioned to SM tenants.



The SM Sunday Market currently runs in 23 SM malls

Supporting Farmers in our Rural Communities

On top of these, SM helps support rural communities through opportunities for fair trade that also preserve its cultural heritage. The SM Sunday Market bazaar has been running since last year across 23 active and participating SM malls. Among its 135 purveyors are graduates of SM Foundation's Kabalikat sa Kabuhayan program farmers who are local food and produce suppliers.

“Throughout SM’s decades of growth, we are familiar with the work and effort it takes to build a business from the ground up. Thus, with these programs SM aims to be a catalyst for the success of local MSMEs through support and tailored offers that further foster economic vitality and social wellbeing across all communities we operate in,” said Tan. “Because of the success we’ve been met with, not just on our own operations but with the programs and efforts we have initiated, we continue to pay it forward by supporting this crucial, underserved sector in the local economy.”

<https://manilastandard.net/business/314460754/sm-prime-bolsters-msme-growth-and-boom-in-the-philippines-2.html>

MANILA STANDARD

Top tobacco farmer



By Revoli Cortez

June 17, 2024, 10:05 pm

Tobacco Grower of the Year 2024 grand prize winner Mrs. Leonila Riambon of Barangay Nagsupotan, San Juan, Ilocos Sur shows off her cured tobacco leaves. She is set to receive her award on on July 24, 2024 in Vigan City, Ilocos Sur.

<https://manilastandard.net/gallery/314460587/top-tobacco-farmer.html>

Milk imports to increase this year, says FAO

By Janine Alexis Miguel

June 18, 2024

THE Philippines is seen increasing its total milk and dairy imports as international dairy prices decrease compared to the previous two years, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said.

Around 2.5 million metric tons (MT) of milk and other milk products could enter the Philippines this year, up from 2.3 million MT a year earlier, according to FAO.

Global imports of milk, meanwhile, are expected to hit 85.2 million MT this year, higher from 84.5 million MT delivered in 2023.

Increases are expected to be notable in Mexico, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, the United States, Algeria and Japan, according to FAO. The agency added that this would be underpinned by demand recoveries due to lower international dairy prices and increased demand from the food services sector.

Food services sales, meanwhile, are expected to improve in several leading dairy-importing countries, notably Mexico, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, the US, Algeria and Japan.

Following significant drops over the past two years, China is expected to see another decrease in dairy imports in 2024, reaching 15.3 million MT. Despite this decline, China remains the world's largest importer of milk.

In terms of production, the UN agency said Philippine output was likely to remain flat at 3.0 million MT this year.

World milk production is forecast to reach nearly 979 million MT, up 1.4 percent from 965.2 million MT logged in 2023.

The relatively positive outlook is mainly driven by anticipated demand recovery induced by relatively lower international dairy prices, according to the UN agency.

Much of the expansion is expected to come from Asia, led by India, China and Pakistan. FAO added that the output growth could be driven principally by rising dairy cow numbers and growing contributions of more efficient large-scale dairy farms with higher milk yields.

Moreover, international dairy prices increased by 6.2 percent from January to May this year, pushing the index value 3.5 percent above its value a year ago.

During the five months, butter and cheese prices increased significantly, reflecting steady global import demand coupled with improved retail and food services sales. By contrast, world prices of skim milk powder fell due to slow global import demand.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/06/18/business/top-business/milk-imports-to-increase-this-year-says-fao/1951972>

PHL'S imported rice arrivals reach 2.17 MMT as of June 6

Ada Pelonia

June 18, 2024

THE country's imported rice arrivals have reached over 2.17 million metric tons (MMT) as of June 6, according to the latest data from the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI).

Over 1.59 MMT of rice imports during the period came from Vietnam, which remains the country's top source of imported rice. This was followed by Thailand at 339,670.74 MT.

Data from the attached agency of the Department of Agriculture (DA) also showed that the Philippines imported 148,618.86 MT of rice from Pakistan from January to June, higher than the 99,280.71 MT Pakistan exported to the country for the entire 2023.

The country has also bought 21,345.10 MT of rice from India, also higher than the 13,924.63 MT it supplied to the Philippines for the entire 2023.

BLY Agri Venture Trading led the 154 rice importers with a total volume of 145,628.99 MT. This was followed by Orison Free Enterprise Inc. and Macman Rice and Corn Trading at 132,509.35 MT and 115,410.80 MT, respectively.

The data also showed that BPI approved and issued 4,198 sanitary and phytosanitary import clearances (SPSICs) which covered the importation of 4.9 MMT of rice.

Under the existing rules and regulations, rice importers should secure an SPSIC from the BPI before bringing in foreign rice stocks in the country.

An SPSIC would certify that an inbound shipment is safe for human and animal health and would not bring in any pests that could be detrimental to the local agriculture sector.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently raised its rice import forecast for the Philippines to 4.7 MMT in 2025 on the back of rising consumption and a reduction in tariffs.

“Imports and global consumption are forecast higher primarily on increases for the Philippines and Kenya,” the latest monthly report on global grains trade read.

“Global stocks are forecast up driven by India and the Philippines more than offsetting decreases for Pakistan and Vietnam,” it added.

The National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) Board earlier approved the tariff reduction for rice to 15 percent from 35 percent until 2028 in its bid to lower the price of the staple.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/06/18/phls-imported-rice-arrivals-reach-2-17-mmt-as-of-june-6/>

PSA sees drop in unmilled rice output in second quarter

BusinessMirror and Ada Pelonia

June 18, 2024

THE country's unmilled rice output in the second quarter may fall by 8.4 percent to 3.89 million metric tons (MMT), the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said.

In its latest production forecast report, the PSA said palay output based on standing crop for the April to June period may hit 3.89 MMT, lower than the actual output of 4.25 MMT in the same period last year.

The PSA also revised downward its palay output estimate for the period by 0.4 percent from its earlier projection of 3.91 MMT.

The PSA said as of May 1, the total palay harvest area during the reference period could dip by 7.1 percent to 892,400 hectares (ha) from the 960,870 ha recorded in the same period last year.

The national statistics agency also said that the yield per ha of palay may decline by 1.4 percent year-on-year to 4.39 MT from 4.42 MT.

“As of 01 May 2024, about 568,030 hectares or 63.7 percent of the 892,400 hectares updated harvest area of standing crop have been harvested. This translates to palay output of 2.54 million metric tons,” the PSA said in the report published recently.

“Of the total area of 324,370 hectares of standing palay yet to be harvested as of 01 May 2024, 38.6 percent were at the reproductive stage and 61.4 percent were at the maturing stage,” it added.

Meanwhile, the PSA's production outlook for corn based on standing crops for the second quarter went down by 19.1 percent year-on-year to 1.19 MMT from 1.47 MMT. This indicated a 0.6 percent decrease from its earlier projection of 1.20 MMT.

The harvest area during the period could decrease by 15 percent to 347,700 ha while the yield per ha of corn may decline by 4.7 percent to 3.43 MT.

The PSA said about 52.7 percent of the updated standing crop of 347,700 ha of corn during the quarter has been harvested, translating to 664,340 MT of corn output.

“Of the total area of 164,610 hectares of standing corn yet to be harvested as of 01 May 2024, about 2.9 percent were at the vegetative stage, 34.1 percent were at the reproductive stage, and 63.0 percent were at the maturing stage,” the PSA said.

Rice, corn stocks inventory

MEANWHILE, the national statistics agency reported that as of May 1, the country’s total rice stock inventory registered a 10.3 percent increase year-on-year to 2.08 MMT from 1.88 MMT. On a monthly basis, the volume of rice stocks inventory increased by 11.8 percent from the 1.86 MMT recorded in April.

“This month’s rice stocks inventories registered an annual increase from the commercial sector by 45.0 percent,” the PSA said.

“On the other hand, annual decreases were noted from the National Food Authority [NFA] depositories by 30.7 percent and from the households by 13.1 percent.”

For this month’s total rice stock, the PSA said the majority, or 55 percent were held by the commercial sector, 41.6 percent were from the households, and 3.3 percent were from the NFA depositories.

PSA said corn stocks inventory increased by 6.3 percent year-on-year to 710,720 MT from 668,700 MT. It also registered a month-on-month increase of 18 percent from the 602,140 MT in April.

“From the same month of the previous year’s level, corn stocks inventory in the commercial sector recorded an annual increase of 11.7 percent. On the other hand, corn stocks inventory in the households declined by 31.8 percent,” the PSA said.

It added that the bulk of this month’s corn stocks inventory was held by the commercial sector at 92 percent while the remaining 8 percent was in the households.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/06/18/psa-sees-drop-in-unmilled-rice-output-in-second-quarter/>

ABANTE TONITE

Romualdez sa Navy, PCG: Mga mangingisdang Pinoy sa West PH Sea tiyakin kaligtasan

June 17, 2024

Pinatitiyak ni House Speaker Martin Romualdez sa Philippine Navy at Philippine Coast Guard ang seguridad at kalayaang mangisda sa West Philippine Sea ng mga mangingisdang Pinoy.

Ginawa ng lider ng Kongreso ang panawagan sa Navy at Coast Guard noong Sabado kung saan sinabi ng China na huhulihin na nila ang sinumang papasok sa kanilang teritoryo simula sa Hunyo 15.

Ayon kay Speaker Romualdez, “gawin sana ng ating Navy at Coast Guard natin ang lahat to make sure na walang mangingisda natin ang mahuhuli nila sa mismong teritoryo natin.”

Matatandaang inaangkin ng China ang WPS dahil ito raw ay bahagi rin ng South China Sea.

“Hindi tayo papayag na basta na lang huhulihin nila ang mga kababayan natin na naghahanap-buhay lang sa karagatan ng ating bansa,” dagdag pa ni Romualdez.

Sanib-puwersa ngayon ang Navy at Coast Guard sa pagbabantay ng WPS mula Zambales hanggang may Palawan.

“We cannot afford to lose even just one fisherman to them who is simply making a living in our own waters,” ani Romualdez.

“Definitely, hindi tayo sang-ayon sa kautusan na yan ng China lalo na yung pagbabawal sa lahat ng mangingisda dahil sa pinaiiral nila na fishing ban daw diyan sa WPS,” pahabol pa ni Romualdez.

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/06/17/romualdez-sa-navy-pcg-mga-mangingisdang-pinoy-sa-west-ph-sea-tiyakin-kaligtasan/>

Mga mangingisda sa West Philipline Sea, protektahan - Romualdez

Joy Cantos

June 18, 2024 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Muling nanawagan si House Speaker Martin Romualdez sa Philippine Navy at Philippine Coast Guard na siguruhin ang seguridad at kalayaang mangisda sa West Philipline Sea ng mga Filipino fishermen.

Ginawa ng lider ng Kongreso ang panawagan sa Navy at Coast Guard noong Sabado kung saan sinabi ng China na huhulihin na nila ang sinumang papasok sa kanilang teritoryo simula sa Hunyo 15.

Ayon kay Speaker Romualdez, “gawin sana ng ating Navy at Coast Guard natin ang lahat to make sure na walang mangingisda natin ang mahuhuli nila sa mismong teritoryo natin.”

Matatandaang inaangkin ng China ang WPS dahil ito raw ay bahagi rin ng South China Sea.

“Hindi tayo papayag na basta na lang huhulihin nila ang mga kababayan natin na naghahanap-buhay lang sa karagatan ng ating bansa,” dagdag pa ni Romualdez.

Sanib-pwersa ngayon ang Navy at Coast Guard sa pagbabantay ng WPS mula Zambales hanggang may Palawan.

“We cannot afford to lose even just one fisherman to them who is simply making a living in our own waters,” ani Romualdez.

“Definitely, hindi tayo sang-ayon sa kautusan na ‘yan ng China lalo na ‘yung pagbabawal sa lahat ng mangingisda dahil sa pinaiiral nila na fishing ban daw diyan sa WPS,” pahabol pa ni Romualdez.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2024/06/18/2363606/mga-mangingisda-sa-west-philipline-sea-protektahan-romualdez>

REMATE:

Nabiling palay ng NFA sa unang kalahati ng taon lampas sa target

June 17, 2024 11:48



MANILA, Philippines- Nalampasan ng National Food Authority (NFA) ang target procurement nito para sa palay (unmilled rice) para sa unang kalahati ng taon, ayon sa Department of Agriculture (DA) nitong Linggo.

Sinabi ng ahensya na pumalo ang palay procurement ng NFA sa halos 3.37 milyong 50-kilo bags hanggang Hunyo 13.

Binanggit nito na lampas ito sa target na 3.36 milyong sako.

“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,” anang DA.

Iniugnay ito ng agriculture department sa mas mataas na buying prices ng NFA. nakatulong umano itong palakasin ang national buffer stock at dagdagan ang kita ng mga magsasaka. **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/nabiling-palay-ng-nfa-sa-unang-kalahati-ng-taon-lampas-sa-target/>