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**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# **NBI, NFA asked to probe rice shortage rumors in Davao City**

**BY**

Jul 9, 2024 08:22 PM

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DAVAO CITY – A councilor here has asked the National Bureau of Investigation and National Food Authority to investigate reports of a rice shortage in this city.

Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction head Councilor Diosdado Angelo Junior Mahipus said public welfare is at stake if these reports are true.

“It may be a need to act urgently to verify these reports and request relevant offices and agencies to investigate and verify the reports of the rice shortage immediately,” Mahipus said in a privilege speech during the 20th City Council Regular Session on Tuesday, July 9.



Republic of the Philippines  
City of Davao  
Sangguniang Panlungsod  
Office of Atty. Diosdado Angelo Junior R. Mahipus  
Room 207, 5P Bldg., Davao City  
Tel No. 222-0855 loc. 407



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**Privilege Speech : 20th City Council Regular Session**  
July 9, 2024

**Re: Rice Shortage**

This representation received unverified reports of alleged rice shortage in the City.

These reports are dangerous, if untrue, because it may lead to panic buying, but more dangerous, if it is true because rice is a food staple and many families may not have sufficient rice for the coming days as everybody is caught by surprise by these reports. Your honor, a rice shortage would cause its prices to go up and sa kamahal sa kuryente, kamahal sa tubig, unsaon na lang ang atong katauhan nga naglisud.

Your honor, these are unverified reports and I doubt na wala juy bugas pero basin lang nga may naghoarding or naay nagsabotahe sa atong supply. There might be no shortage but there may be people hoarding our supply leading to the shortage of rice “For sale” to the public.

In the interest of public welfare, it may be a need to act urgently to verify these reports and request relevant offices/ agencies to immediately investigate the same, thus please allow me to pass a resolution asking The National bureau of Investigation XI, and National Food Authority XI to immediately investigate for verification the reports of shortage of rice for sale to the public in the City of Davao.

**HON. DIOSDADO ANGELO JUNIOR R. MAHIPUS**  
City Councilor - 2nd Legislative District, Davao City

Mahipus said the reports on rice shortage may lead to panic buying and alarming if it is true since rice is a staple and many families may not have sufficient supply for the coming days.

He added that a rice shortage would cause prices to spike, adding to the burden of the people here due to the high monthly electricity and water bills.

“These are unverified reports. I doubt there’s a rice shortage. But there might be people hoarding our supply, leading to the shortage of rice for sale to the public,” Mahipus said in emphasizing the need to verify the reports.

Prior to the reported rice shortage, the government cut tariffs on imported rice from 35 percent to 15 percent until 2028.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.’s economic advisers expect the move to lower the price to P29 per kilo.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. cautioned that a scarcity of rice could occur if the Supreme Court implements a 60-day Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) against Executive Order 62 which reduced tariffs.

Laurel said if a TRO is issued, rice importers will cease importing and instead use their remaining stocks. He added that the rice buffer stock will be depleted when the TRO is lifted.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/9/nbi-nfa-asked-to-probe-rice-shortage-rumors-in-davao-city>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Philippines seeks tie-up with Vietnamese fertilizer firm

**BY**

Jul 9, 2024 03:13 PM

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The Department of Agriculture (DA) said that Binh Dien Fertilizer Joint Stock Co. is exploring the possibility of supplying or manufacturing fertilizer in the Philippines.

In a statement, Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. said that discussions are underway for a distribution agreement with the Vietnamese fertilizer company following his recent visit to their facility in Hanoi on July 6.

During his visit, Tiu Laurel noted the importance of having the Binh Dien establish a presence in the Philippines to support the growth of local agricultural production.

Established back in 1975, Binh Dien has developed into the main producer of NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium mixture in fertilizers) in Vietnam, and has played a role in the country's agricultural and rural progress.

It operates multiple factories with a combined capacity of one million metric tons, meeting 30 percent of Vietnam's fertilizer needs.

Vietnam is a major exporter of rice and is presently the main supplier of the staple food to the Philippines.

Recently, Vietnam has agreed to a five-year trade agreement to provide up to two million metric tons of white rice annually to Manila through the private sector, ensuring competitive and affordable prices.

"We see great potential in partnering with Binh Dien," said Tiu Laurel, adding that "Our country stands to benefit significantly from their advanced technology and expertise in agriculture."

The DA chief said Binh Dien could initially agree to a distribution agreement that could eventually lead to transfer of technology and even potential investment in a manufacturing facility in the Philippines.

"We have high expectations following our visit to Binh Dien's factory," said Tiu Laurel. "Their management and technical team's expertise is impressive and much needed in the Philippines."

Conversely, the Vietnamese company sees the Philippine market as a strategic opportunity to expand internationally.

They aim to contribute their specialized knowledge to enhance agricultural practices in the Philippines while fostering their own growth outside Vietnam.

The discussions concluded with optimism for a fruitful partnership, highlighting mutual benefits and the potential for significant advancements in agricultural technologies between the two countries.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/9/philippines-seeks-tie-up-with-vietnamese-fertilizer-firm>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# 'Ecstatic' Sandro leads P6-M financial aid distribution to Ilocos Norte farmers

**BY**

Jul 9, 2024 11:54 AM

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## AT A GLANCE

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Ilocos Norte 1st district Rep. Sandro Marcos (Facebook)

House Senior Deputy Majority Leader Ilocos Norte 1st district Rep. Sandro Marcos has facilitated the release of nearly P6 million worth of financial assistance or "ayuda" to local farmers.

"I am ecstatic to stand with our hardworking farmers in our district as we distribute financial assistance to them," the presidential son said in a Facebook post on Monday, July 8.

"Together with the Department of Agriculture (DA), we have disbursed over Php 5, 990,000 to 1198 farmer-beneficiaries from the Municipality of Bacarra," Rep. Marcos wrote.

The ranking congressman described the ayuda distribution as "a testament to our commitment in empowering our farmers".

"Together, let us ensure that our agricultural community thrives!" he further said.

Agriculture is the main economic base of almost all towns of Ilocos Norte. It reportedly has over 51,000 hectares of farmland.

Rep. Marcos' father, President Marcos, held the post of DA secretary early in his term.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/9/ecstatic-sandro-leads-p6-m-financial-aid-distribution-to-ilocos-norte-farmers>

OPINION

# Checkpoint equality



CTALK - Cito Beltran - The Philippine Star

July 10, 2024 | 12:00am

Chief PNP Gen. Rommel Francisco Marbil recently ordered ground personnel manning police checkpoints to inspect both two-wheel and four-wheel vehicles and to put a stop to the discriminatory checks against motorcycle riders.

As simple as the directive may seem, it deserves praise because once in place, criminal elements using cars and trucks will surely hesitate to drive around with weapons and contraband. The process or experience of going through a police inspection will surely remind Filipinos that no one is above the law and hopefully revive respect for the police the same way traffic law enforcement made Metro Manila drivers respect and obey MMDA enforcers.

It goes without saying that Gen. Marbil should require regular if not daily briefing of checkpoint personnel regarding how to properly engage drivers and vehicle owners. This would also be a great opportunity to place women police officers as point persons for engaging drivers.

While it is not always the case, the Chief PNP might want to consider deploying K-9 units at those checkpoints to sniff out drugs, weapons or alcohol abuse. I know from my conversations with PPA general manager Jay Sanitago that their agency has invested in the training and development of K-9 dogs for such times.

Knowing the Filipino psyche, the two things that are disarming if not scary for them are a woman (especially one with a side arm) and a trained K-9 dog. The advantage of K-9s is that police officers won't have to risk themselves while conducting searches.

On a totally different topic, I hope the Chief PNP could also be proactive about the questionable practice of PNP traffic investigators or desk officers who automatically charge any and all drivers with “reckless imprudence resulting in injury/homicide,” etc., especially when charging the innocent or those who are actually the victim or injured party.

This automatic accusation of and judgment of vehicle drivers without investigating who is actually at fault has made the PNP look stupid or ignorant of the law and ironically, no one from the PNP has ever tried to explain why their personnel acts as such. I sincerely hope Gen. Marbil will either explain it thoroughly or put an end to it.

Last but not least, it might be a good idea for the Chief PNP to check on PNP motorcycle units that serve as escorts to PNP official vehicles and VIPs. As a regular traveler to Southern Luzon, I get to catch marked PNP vans that are escorted by PNP motorcycle units in full use of sirens as well as their red and blue blinkers, cutting through traffic, etc.

To be fair, I no longer see abusive behavior or show off riding among motorcycle escorts, but if the convoy is part of a one-lane traffic or approaching toll gates, etc., all efforts to push things faster only give a bad impression about the escorts as well as the VIPs in those fully tinted blackout vans and patrol cars. The fact that police cars are tinted simply sets the wrong example for motorists. That’s all, SIR!

\* \* \*

For a bit of good news, the Philippine government led by the Department of Health and the Department of Agriculture are being proactive in terms of building up logistics in their respective campaigns against disease.

Friends in the health sector have informed me that the DOH has committed to the bulk purchase of flu vaccines and is scheduling arrival some time August or a little later. Such an immunization program will certainly be an added protection, especially for senior citizens who often suffer the most during flu season.

My family and I already had our flu shots last June when they were made available at a Watsons outlet in the Estancia Mall. We opted to do it first chance we got because prior to that, many friends had already shared their week-long or 10-day torment and bouts with the flu. Why risk so much suffering or being bed-ridden when a flu shot could reduce the chances of infection?

Unlike getting the flu shot in a private clinic or pharmacy, the DOH flu vaccination will surely be more affordable for ordinary Filipinos, and we should all help spread the word once the vaccines arrive in a government hospital or clinic near you. This is the least we can all do to fight the disinformation about vaccines.



For its part, the Department of Agriculture has closely been working on the registration and upcoming field testing of a vaccine designed to protect hogs from the African swine fever, otherwise known as ASF. The FDA or Food and Drug Administration has committed to speed up their process in order to quickly prove and approve the efficacy of the Vietnamese-developed vaccines.

If you are an active hog raiser or had to stop due to the ASF virus, this development is something we should all support as well as pray for good outcomes. Many former backyard hog raisers like myself were hit so hard and wiped out by the ASF virus that we decided to drop out of the business. But if the ASF vaccine really delivers, then I am confident that many backyard and commercial hog raisers will be willing to give the business a second try.

During my time as a volunteer speaker for BMEG, I witnessed how many ordinary Filipinos relied on this livelihood, built their homes as well as sent their children through school. I am hopeful that with the vaccine as well as cooperation between the DA and feed companies such as BMEG, we can once again see the revival of a major sector of the agriculture industry.

<https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2024/07/10/2369058/checkpoint-equality>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Budget utilization rate at 92% as of H1

[Louise Maureen Simeon](#) - The Philippine Star

July 10, 2024 | 12:00am



Latest data from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) showed that it has issued P5.3 trillion of the 2024 budget as of end-June.

Businessworld / File

MANILA, Philippines — The government has released P5.3 trillion or about 92 percent of the record P5.768-trillion allocation as of the first semester of the year as state agencies move to implement their priority programs.

Latest data from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) showed that it has issued P5.3 trillion of the 2024 budget as of end-June.

This represents 91.8 percent of the national budget allocated for the year. This is also higher than the 89.9 percent recorded in end-June 2023.

Based on data, the DBM released a total of P3.73 trillion under the 2024 General Appropriations Act (GAA). This is 93.1 percent of the total P4.01 trillion financing.

Under the 2024 GAA, the DBM said it has distributed 97.7 percent or P3.42 trillion of the P3.5 trillion for departments.

In terms of special purpose funds, releases rose to 61.2 percent which means that P310.67 billion has been handed out from the P507.48 billion allocation.

On the other hand, automatic appropriations are already at 78.9 percent or about P1.39 trillion of the P1.76 trillion aggregate funding.

The government released more funds for interest payments, which is now at P321.59 billion or 48 percent of the P670.47 billion total funding for 2024.

The DBM also freed up the entire P65.79 billion in retirement and life insurance premiums (RLIP) of state workers as early as January and added some P792.36 million in extra funds as of end-June.

Earlier this year, the DBM has fully released allocation for the national tax allotment (P871.38 billion), block grants (P70.51 billion), tax expenditures (P14.5 billion) and pensions of former presidents or their widows (P480,000).

Last month, the DBM did not issue additional releases to the special account in the general fund, which remained at 97.9 percent or P35.72 billion of the P36.48 billion allocation.

Similarly, the DBM did not disburse extra funds for net lending as it is still at P7.18 billion, which is 25 percent of the P28.7 billion earmarked for the year.

Meanwhile, the DBM recorded P175.02 billion in other releases as of June, 79 percent of which at P138.55 billion went to unprogrammed appropriations.

Unprogrammed appropriations provide standby authority to incur additional agency obligations for priority programs or projects when revenue collection exceeds targets or when additional grants or foreign funds are generated.

Of the unprogrammed funds, P105.66 billion was earmarked to support the foreign-assisted projects of the Departments of Agriculture, Finance, Health, Public Works and Highways, Social Welfare and Development, Labor and Employment and Transportation.

Another P10.77 billion served as the government counterpart of foreign-assisted projects of the DPWH. There was also a P10.16 billion that served as budgetary support to state-run firms, particularly the National Food Authority and the Light Rail Transit Authority.

Some P6 billion was released to the DPWH for the maintenance, repair and rehabilitation of infrastructure facilities of national roads, P2.84 billion for its Panay-Guimaras-Negros Island Bridges project and P1.68 billion for its right-of-way payments.

The remaining P1.44 billion was for the National Economic and Development Authority's infrastructure assistance.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/07/10/2368958/budget-utilization-rate-92-h1>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Armyworms destroy 923.5 hectares of Negros farms

[Gilbert Bayoran](#) - The Philippine Star

July 10, 2024 | 12:00am



A fall armyworm feasts on a rice crop.

Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rice Research Institute

**BACOLOD CITY, Philippines** — Up to 923.5 hectares of sugarcane plantations and cornfields in Negros Occidental have been destroyed by armyworms as of July 5.

These fields are located in 75 barangays in the province's 15 municipalities and cities, according to the office of the provincial agriculturist (OPA).

Among those affected by the infestations were the cities of Bago, Escalante, Kabankalan, Himamaylan, Sagay and Silay as well as the towns of Binalbagan, Candoni, Cauayan, Hinobaan, Isabela, Ilog, La Castellana, Moises Padilla and Murcia.

The calamity displaced 1,429 farmers tilling 843 and 80 hectares of cornfields and sugarcane plantations, respectively, according to OPA officer-in-charge Dina Genzola.

Gov. Eugenio Jose Lacson on Monday said the provincial government has received 50 liters of insecticide from the Department of Agriculture.

The 50 liters of insecticide is good only for 100 hectares of crops devoured by the worms, Lacson said.

The provincial government allocated an additional budget of P3 million for the procurement of more insecticide.

Five of six local government units in the fifth district of the province alone have been affected by armyworms.

Experts from the National Crop Protection Center of the University of the Philippines-Los Baños arrived in Negros Occidental last week to help farmers contain the infestation.

The UPLB team recommended the use of chemicals and biocontrol methods in containing the pests.

The team will submit their official report and recommendations to the OPA.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/07/10/2369005/armyworms-destroy-9235-hectares-negros-farms>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

## **DA: 3 more Kadiwa stores with P29 per kilo rice added in NCR**

By: [Adrian Parungao](#), [Dianne Sampang](#) - [@inquireidotnet](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 06:41 PM July 09, 2024

MANILA, Philippines — Three more Kadiwa stores were added in Metro Manila where vulnerable sectors can buy rice for P29 per kilo, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Tuesday.

After the rollout of the P29 rice program to 10 Kadiwa centers in Metro Manila and Bulacan last Friday, DA Assistant Secretary for Consumer and Legislative Affairs Genevieve Velicaria-Guevarra said that the three additional sites will be in Malabon, Navotas, and Nangka, Marikina.

“We continue to learn from this large-scale trial, particularly on the demand for low-priced rice, amount and source of supply, and logistics needed to sustain this program and expand it across the country. We are also looking at areas outside Metro Manila where there are plenty of vulnerable households,” Guevarra was quoted as saying in a statement.

The DA official said the agency plans to open three additional sites in two neighboring provinces of Metro Manila before the end of July.

On the other hand, Guevarra announced last Saturday that ‘Rice-for-All’ which aims to sell rice ranging from P45 to P48 for all Filipinos will be available in the coming weeks. Furthermore, DA Spokesperson and Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa on Monday said that the agency is looking into the possibility of implementing a limit for the said program to avoid bulk purchases and reselling at higher prices.

Under the P29 per kilo rice program, sectors such as senior citizens, persons with disabilities, single parents, or beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program will be able to purchase rice at P29 per kilo.

In the trial program, the P29 rice will be available from Friday to Sunday, while beneficiaries may buy up to 10 kilograms of rice monthly.

When buying, beneficiaries will also be required to present their identification card and a reusable container or bag, while booklets will be given to monitor their purchases.

The DA is also planning to extend the P29 rice and 'Rice-for-All' programs in Visayas and Mindanao by August.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1959451/da-3-more-kadiwa-stores-with-p29-per-kilo-rice-added-in-ncr>



**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Vietnamese fertilizer producer urged to invest in PH

By: [Lisbet K. Esmael](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 09:19 AM July 09, 2024



INQUIRER FILE PHOTO

The Department of Agriculture (DA) said it was courting a Vietnam company to either supply or manufacture fertilizer in the Philippines. During a visit to Vietnam last week, Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. met with top officials of Binh Dien Fertilizer Joint Stock Co. as the agency wanted to seal a deal with the firm as part of the administration's efforts to boost farm production. READ: [BOI seeks boost to locally made biofertilizers](#) "We see great potential in partnering with Binh Dien. Our country stands to benefit significantly from their advanced technology and expertise in agriculture," Tiu said in a statement Monday.

Binh Dien has decades of experience in producing fertilizer in its home soil. It has several factories with a combined capacity of 1 million metric tons, supplying 30 percent of Vietnam's fertilizer requirements.

Tiu Laurel said Binh Dien can explore business growth in the Philippine market by initially supplying fertilizers, possibly expanding into manufacturing later on. “We have high expectations following our visit to Binh Dien’s factory. Their management and technical team’s expertise is impressive and much needed in the Philippines,” he added.

According to the DA, Binh Dien sees the Philippines as “a strategic opportunity to expand internationally.” “They aim to contribute their specialized knowledge to enhance agricultural practices in the Philippines while fostering their own growth outside Vietnam,” it added.

Vietnam is considered a crucial agricultural partner of the Philippines as it serves as the latter’s major exporter of rice.

<https://business.inquirer.net/467773/vietnamese-fertilizer-producer-urged-to-invest-in-ph>

## BUSINESS WORLD:

# La Niña boost to agri output seen producing 'aggressive' rate cuts

July 9, 2024 | 8:18 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR/WALTER BOLLOZOS

LA NIÑA is expected to lead to improved agricultural production, thereby bringing down food prices and strengthening the hand of central bankers seeking “aggressive” rate cuts, Capital Economics said.

“A La Niña could bring with it favorable growing conditions for crops in Southeast Asia, and help to put downward pressure on food prices across the region,” Capital Economics Assistant Economist Ankita Amajuri said in a report.

“It adds to the reasons to think the upcoming rate-cutting cycle in the region will be more aggressive than what is currently priced in by financial markets.”

The government weather service estimates a 55% probability of La Niña emerging in the Philippines in the October to December period, lingering until the first quarter of next year.

“Our view is that central banks in the region will begin cutting interest rates later this year. La Niña increases the odds that easing cycles will be even more aggressive than our forecasts, which are already more dovish than the consensus,” Capital Economics said.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Eli M. Remolona, Jr. has signaled potential rate cuts by August.

He said the central bank can cut by up to 50 basis points (bps) for the full year, with a 25-bps cut each in the third and fourth quarters.

“The latest inflation data from across the region paint an encouraging picture, with the headline rate falling back in almost every country that has so far published figures for June,” Ms. Amajuri said.

Philippine inflation eased to 3.7% in June from 3.9% in May, the seventh straight month that inflation has kept within the BSP's 2-4% target range.

"We expect inflation to fall a little further in most places. Our forecast is that global oil prices will fall back again over the coming months, which should result in a decline in fuel price inflation," Ms. Amajuri said.

"Meanwhile, subdued economic growth will help to keep a lid on underlying price pressures. We also expect food price inflation to drop back further, helped by better growing conditions now that the recent El Niño has come to an end."

The report cited the World Meteorological Organization, which forecasts a 70% chance of La Niña emerging between August and November.

"La Niña typically brings wetter weather to Southeast Asia and is likely to provide a boost to producers of rice, coffee and sugar, who have been adversely affected by dry conditions over the past year. An increase in production would help bring down agricultural prices, which remain elevated," it said.

Capital Economics said moderate-to-severe La Niña events in the past have been tied to falling rice prices.

"Rice is a staple food across much of the region, accounting for around 5-10% of the CPI basket in many countries."

In June, Philippine rice inflation eased to 22.5% from 23% a month earlier. Rice accounted for 45.2% of overall inflation, equivalent to 1.7 percentage points of the headline rate.

"It is possible that the positive impact of La Niña will be less pronounced than the negative effects of the preceding El Niño because of climate change. While global warming amplified the heat and droughts caused by El Niño, it is likely to counter the cool weather brought by La Niña," it said.

"However, it won't be until the final quarter of the year that we will know for sure how severe this La Niña will be, and our commodities team are not making any changes to their agricultural price forecasts at this stage." — **Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/07/09/607072/la-nina-boost-to-agri-output-seen-producing-aggressive-rate-cuts/>

**BUSINESS WORLD:**

# Tech working group formed to study salt industry dev't

July 9, 2024 | 8:17 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR/EDD GUMBAN

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said it formed a technical working group (TWG) to evaluate projects to modernize the salt industry via the adoption of new technology.

In a special order, the DA said the TWG will develop, validate and verify the latest available technology used in salt production, particularly methods that allow “year-round production of salt even under erratic weather patterns.”

The TWG has also been tasked to study ways for the industry to mechanize the entire process of salt-making from pre- to post-harvest.

It has also been assigned to find “cost-effective techniques” for production.

In March, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. signed Republic Act No. 11985, or the Philippine Salt Industry Development Act, which seeks to revive the neglected salt industry. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/07/09/607070/tech-working-group-formed-to-study-salt-industry-devt/>

# Imports unlikely to cut rice prices

July 9, 2024 | 8:10 pm



REUTERS

PRESIDENT Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.'s promise to lower rice prices through imports is unlikely to materialize, with private traders controlling retail prices, according to a former congressman.

“Private importers have control over the retail price, so even if they bought imported rice at a lower price, they will sell imported rice at a higher price,” former Party-list Rep. Argel Joseph T. Cabatbat, who represented the farm sector when he was still a congressman, told *BusinessWorld* in a text message.

“Due to the absence of government control over the prices of imported rice, we need to beg for mercy from importers,” he said. “Add to that, Vietnam and other countries have already raised the prices of rice in the world market after hearing about Executive Order No. 62,” he added.

Mr. Marcos has issued an order cutting rice tariffs to 15% from 35% amid spiraling prices.

Last week, Mr. Cabatbat and other farmer’s groups asked the Supreme Court to stop the executive order, which they said would bleed local farmers.

IBON Foundation Executive Director Jose Enrique “Sonny” A. Africa said the extended rice tariff cuts remove the protection enjoyed by farmers.

“Removing the protection will make market conditions more difficult for marginal rice producers,” he said in a Viber message. “If they opt out, then domestic *palay* output will be compromised.” — **Chloe Mari A. Hufana**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/the-nation/2024/07/09/607056/imports-unlikely-to-cut-rice-prices/>

**REMATE:**

# Tapyas-P5 kada kilo ng bigas posible sa tapyas-taripa – Recto

July 9, 2024 11:18



MANILA, Philippines – IGINIIT ni Finance Secretary Ralph Recto na ang bagong polisiya ng gobyerno sa pagbabawas sa taripa sa imported rice ay maaaring makapagpababa sa retail price ng bigas ng P5 kada kilo.

“This, in turn, could ease inflation further,” ayon kay Recto.

Sa pagsasalita sa Economic Forum na inorganisa ng Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines at San Miguel Corp, sinabi ni Recto na layon ng Executive Order sa pagbabawas sa taripa imported rice ay tugunan ang kasalukuyang rice-driven inflation dahil sa tumataas na presyo sa global market.

“By slashing the tariff on imported rice from 35 percent to 15 percent, we anticipate an average of 10 percent reduction in retail prices for the rest of the year. This could lower the price of rice by at least P5 per kilo from an average of P54.40 per kilo last June, prices could go down to below P50 as early as August,” ang sinabi ni Recto.

Iniulat din nito na nito lamang nakaraang buwan ng Hunyo, “the rice accounted for 53.5 percent of the overall inflation for average consumers, while it is 79.6 percent for those in the bottom 30 percent of households.”

Gumaan naman ang Inflation noong Hunyo sa 3.7% sa loob ng 2 hanggang 4 na porsyentong target ng gobyerno.

Samantala, sinabi naman ni Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Eli Remolona na ang presyo ng bigas ang dahilan ng inflation simula pa noong Agosto 2023.

Sinabi ni Remolona na noong 2022, ang pinakamalaking dahilan ng inflation ay enerhiya kabilang na ang ‘utilities and transport’ at matapos ang ilang buwan, ito naman ay dahil sa ‘food and non-alcoholic beverages hindi pa kasama ang bigas. Nang tumuntong na aniya ang buwan ng Agosto ng nakaraang taon, ang bigas na ang nag-take over’ sa dahilan ng inflation at sa kasalukuyan ay nananatiling nangunguna na dahilan ng inflation.

“The roles of the different components changed over time. That’s the nature of supply-driven inflation. This is why we think the non-monetary measures that the government has put in place are so helpful,” ayon kay Remolona.

Sa kabilang dako, Idinagdag naman ni Recto na ang bagong polisiya ay tugon ng pamahalaan sa tumataas na presyo ng bigas, naniniwala siya na walang TRO o temporary restraining order laban sa EO gaya ng nais ng ilang grupo.

“The EO will lead to revenue losses for the government amounting to P9.2 billion pesos for the rest of the year, but that the welfare of households is important,” ayon kay Recto.

“They have more to spend on other things. It’s like a wage increase, but not inflationary,” dagdag na wika ang Kalihim sa posibleng pagbabawas sa presyo ng bigas. *Kris Jose*

<https://remate.ph/tapyas-p5-kada-kilo-ng-bigas-posible-sa-tapyas-taripa-recto/>



**MANILA STANDARD**

## **DA expands KADIWA program, sets up more centers in Manila**



By Othel V. Campos

**July 9, 2024, 11:35 pm**

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is expanding its P29 rice program, adding three KADIWA centers in Metro Manila to the large-scale trial to reach more vulnerable households with affordable, good-quality rice.

Following a successful weekend kickoff in 10 KADIWA sites across Metro Manila and Bulacan, the program is now extending to Malabon, Navotas, and Nangka, Marikina.

DA assistant secretary Genevieve Velicaria-Guevarra said the DA is also exploring additional sites in neighboring provinces before the end of July.

“We are learning valuable lessons from this trial, especially about demand, supply, and logistics. President Marcos’ vision is to maximize the benefits of this program for as many Filipinos as possible,” she added.

In addition to P29 rice, select KADIWA centers will also offer well-milled rice under the “Rice-for-All” program at prices below market rates.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. has urged local government units to identify suitable sites for new KADIWA centers, further expanding the program’s reach.

KADIWA centers serve as rent-free marketplaces for farmers and producers to sell their goods directly to consumers at lower prices.

<https://manilastandard.net/lgu/314469631/da-expands-kadiwa-program-sets-up-more-centers-in-manila.html>

# H1 PHL rice imports breach 2.3 MMT, 24% higher than 2023

Ada Pelonia

July 9, 2024



A worker at a rice warehouse on Dagupan Street in Manila carries sacks of rice to be loaded onto a truck.

THE country's rice imports breached 2.3 million metric tons (MMT) in the first semester, 24 percent higher than last year's import volume in the same period, latest government data showed.

Figures from the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) indicated that total rice imports from January 1 to June 27 was higher than the 1.86 MMT recorded during the reference period.

More than 1.71 MMT of rice imports from this period came from Vietnam, which remains the country's top source of imported rice. This was followed by Thailand at 349,731.74 MT.

BPI data showed that the country imported 151,318.86 MT of rice from Pakistan, higher than the 99,280.71 MT full-year import volume recorded last year.

The Philippines has also bought rice from Myanmar (66,120 MT) and India (21,678.14 MT).

BLY Agri Venture Trading led the 157 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 140,509.35 MT and 115,410.80 MT, respectively. These were the only companies whose rice imports reached over 100,000 MT.

The data from the attached agency of the Department of Agriculture (DA) also showed that BPI approved and issued 4,408 sanitary and phytosanitary import clearances (SPSICs) which covered the importation of 5 MMT of rice.

Under the existing rules, 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 consumption and would not bring in any pests that could be detrimental to the local agriculture sector.

Roehlano Briones, a senior research fellow at the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), recently said that rice importers may go slow on importing rice while waiting for the ruling on the legality of Executive Order (EO) 62, which reduced tariffs on key agricultural commodities.

This, after agricultural groups asked the Supreme Court to immediately issue a temporary restraining order (TRO) or a status quo ante order as provisional relief against the implementation of the order. “[The impact if a TRO is issued against EO 62] depends on [how] quickly SC will rule to stay the EO. If quickly, then status quo,” Briones told the BusinessMirror via SMS.

“Bigger question is legality. Importers may slow down importing while waiting for ruling on legality of the EO,” he added.

Meanwhile, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) 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.

It also increased its 2024 rice import projection for the country to 4.6 MMT, up by 500,000 MT following the reduction of import tariffs to 15 percent until 2028.

Image credits: [Nonie Reyes](#)

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/09/h1-phl-rice-imports-breach-2-3-mmt-24-higher-than-2023/>

# Protecting our farmers: A call for stronger action against food smuggling

BusinessMirror Editorial

July 10, 2024



Expensive agricultural goods are a cause for concern not only for consumers, but also for local producers. Increases in the price of food items sold in the domestic market would usually mean more income for our farmers. In the case of the Philippines, however, costly farm goods tend to encourage unscrupulous traders to bring in products from other countries through illicit means.

In December 2022, the Bureau of Customs reported that it seized two containers of smuggled red onions concealed in bread and pastry products in Misamis Oriental. The two containers weighing 50,000 kilograms or 5,000 metric tons have an estimated market value of P20 million. In January 2023, state-run Philippine News Agency reported that the BOC intercepted smuggled white onions worth P17 million in Manila.

The items were seized while consumers grappled with sky-high onion prices. Onions, considered a key ingredient in making Filipino dishes, were sold for as much as P700 per kilogram in December 2022.

While consumer and food items are usually expensive during the holidays, the price of onion in 2022 was unprecedented.

Lawmakers blamed the onion cartel for the surge in prices in 2022, but it may have been just one of the factors that caused the crisis. Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority indicated that the Philippines remains reliant on imports to beef up the domestic supply not only of onions but also of other food items. And our dependence on imported food items caused us to pay more for agricultural products as a result of Russia's attack on Ukraine in February 2022.

Data from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations showed that international quotations for agricultural foods have eased from levels seen in 2022. However, prices remain elevated and staple food items, such as rice, have become more expensive in recent months.

FAO said its All Rice Price Index averaged 137.3 points in May 2024, up 1.3 percent from April and 7.5 percent above its year-earlier level.

Other developments, such as higher shipping cost, could put upward pressure on commodity prices in the coming months. Based on current prices, there appears to be enough incentive for criminals to engage in illicit trade. Unfortunately for local planters, warnings and threats will not deter smugglers from conducting their activities.

Amid the continued increase in commodity prices, it would do well for the government to increase its vigilance in monitoring the country's borders while the nation awaits the opening of a facility that will allow first border inspection of all farm imports.

Merely apprehending contraband items will not stop smugglers on their tracks; they will just find other means of regaining their losses. The state must prosecute and put these criminals behind bars to show that it is serious in its efforts to protect local planters, industries and consumers from the harm posed by smuggled goods.

Image credits: [Jimbo Albano](#)

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/10/protecting-our-farmers-a-call-for-stronger-action-against-food-smuggling/>