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MANILA BULLETIN:

Marcos tells NIA: Fast-track construction of P14-B Tumauni Dam

BY

Jul 14, 2024 07:02 AM

AT A GLANCE

President Marcos has directed the National Irrigation Authority (NIA) to finish the P14-billion Tumauni dam in Isabela as soon as possible as the country gears toward boosting agricultural production to ensure food security.



President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. (Noel Pabalate)

"Ito po iyong mga future na target niya (This is one of his targets)," NIA Administrator Eduardo Guillen told a news forum in Quezon City on Saturday, July 13.

"Iyong bagong project marching order niya sa atin tapusin na iyan (His new project marching order is to finish that already)," he said.

Guillen mentioned that some dam projects were nearing completion or have already been completed, like the Jalaur Dam in Panay province, which will be turned over on July 16.

This is in addition to a dam project in Ilocos Norte, which will be turned over on July 19. There is also a similar project in Bohol.

"May mga pinapatapos din sa akin na projects, pina-fast track niya, fast track naman po natin (There are projects he wants expedited so we're doing that)," Gullen said.

"So, iyon mga target naming matapos during his term for bidding na po natin (Those we want to finish during his term are up for bidding)," he added.

According to the NIA official, possible projects could be implemented in Mindanao, such as in Bukidnon, which has great potential for dam construction.

Aside from building high dams in the country's major river basins, the NIA is carrying out short-term, medium-term, and long-term projects, including irrigation restoration projects, solar-powered irrigation systems, and construction of small river impounding projects.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/14/marcos-tells-nia-fast-track-construction-of-p14-b-tumauini-dam>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Marcos wants rainwater to be made into clean, potable water

BY

Jul 14, 2024 06:36 AM

AT A GLANCE

President Marcos has ordered the proper use and disposal of rainwater by making it a clean and potable water source, National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Administrator Eddie Guillen said.



President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. (Yummie Dingding/PPA Pool)

In a news forum in Quezon City, Guillen said the President met with the NIA, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Malacañan where he made NIA's water rights multipurpose.

He explained that Marcos wanted NIA's water rights to be multipurpose because more than 70 percent of the water rights are only used for irrigation.

"Alam naman natin na kapag sa irigasyon kapag tag-ulan ay hindi na nga namin nagagamit iyon, eh (We know that in irrigation we can't use the water during rainy season)," Guillen said on Saturday, July 13.

"So, ang gusto ng ating Pangulo iyong water rights ng NIA, puwedeng gawin na magamit sa bulk water sa inumin (So the President wants NIA's water rights to be able to use the water for drinking)," he added.

According to Guillen, the DENR has identified NIA's irrigation facilities. He said these facilities needed investors so the agency could treat and purify the water which could later be distributed by the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA).

In addition, Guillen said President Marcos urged NIA and DPWH to work together in ensuring that rainwater will not divert to the sea as waste but rather be used effectively.

He added the President is also pushing to build better, purposeful irrigation projects.

Following the meeting in Malacañan, NIA and DPWH officials met with Speaker Martin Romualdez concerning conserving rainwater and getting support in flood control and irrigation facilities. Guillen said they have garnered P77 billion.

"Malaking bagay po ito kasi alam natin kung gaano ka-efficient ang DPWH sa pag-construct ng project (This is a big deal for us since we know how efficient the DPWH is in constructing this project)," Guillen said.

"Hindi ho ito kakayanin ng NIA lang, kasi limited nga po ang aming engineers, but DPWH napakarami nilang resources (The NIA cannot do this alone since we have limited engineers, unlike the DPWH that has many resources)," he added.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/14/marcos-wants-rainwater-to-be-made-clean-potable-water>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DTI, DA launch nationwide monitoring of rice prices

[Louella Desiderio](#) - The Philippine Star

July 14, 2024 | 12:00am



Tons of imported rice are hauled at a port in Manila.

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Agriculture (DA) are conducting a nationwide price monitoring to assess the impact of the tariff reduction on rice imports on the supply chain.

In a statement, the DTI said the price monitoring effort seeks to look into the potential impact of the reduced tariff under Executive Order (EO) 62 on the entire supply chain from importers to retailers.

Under EO 62, tariffs on imported rice and other agricultural products were brought down to 15 percent from 35 percent effective July 5.

“Recognizing rice as a staple in the Filipino diet, the DTI is steadfast in the rigorous monitoring and analysis of rice price fluctuations. These data-driven reports will

inform policymakers' decisions to ensure stable rice supply, distribution and pricing," Trade Secretary Alfredo Pascual said.

The price monitoring initiative will cover supermarkets, hypermarkets and grocery stores under the DTI's jurisdiction.

Wet markets under the DA's purview will also be part of the monitoring.

Last year, similar efforts were undertaken following the issuance of EO 42, which directed the DTI to continue to assist the DA in monitoring prices following the lifting of the rice price ceiling imposed under EO 39.

Price caps were imposed on regular-milled rice and well-milled rice last year amid increasing prices.

The DTI chief also commended members of Congress for their support in maintaining price stability and food security.

"We at the DTI deeply appreciate the tireless work of these legislators in holding price manipulators and violators accountable. Their actions align perfectly with our mission to empower and care for consumers while fostering fair competition for legitimate businesses," Pascual said.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/07/14/2369957/dti-da-launch-nationwide-monitoring-rice-prices>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Ex-DA chief warns against hasty approval of ASF vaccine

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

July 14, 2024 | 12:00am



The trials, he added, should be done under the supervision of the DA and the Bureau of Animal Industry.

BusinessWorld / File

MANILA, Philippines — Former Agriculture secretary Leonardo Montemayor yesterday urged the Department of Agriculture (DA) to go slow in the approval of the vaccine against African swine fever after the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) warned countries against using substandard vaccines to contain ASF.

“There should be no shortcut in the process. The vaccine should first pass FDA (Food and Drug Administration) testing, followed by field trials... Hence, the earliest use of an approved vaccine will be one year from now,” Montemayor told The STAR.

The trials, he added, should be done under the supervision of the DA and the Bureau of Animal Industry.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. earlier said the FDA was set to approve the country's first vaccine against ASF for commercial distribution. He also said the DA would conduct mass trial of an ASF vaccine this month.

“WOAH warns veterinary authorities and the hog industry of risks from the use of substandard vaccines. The continuing spread of ASF is a global concern for the industry as no region is left unaffected. For many years, the lack of vaccine or effective treatment has made it very difficult to control the disease,” the WOAHA said.

It added that the research community has been working to develop an effective vaccine.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/07/14/2370010/ex-da-chief-warns-against-hasty-approval-asf-vaccine>

To infinity and beyond!

[Korean Serenade](#) - [Lee Sang-Hwa](#) - The Philippine Star

July 14, 2024 | 12:00am

When I heard the announcement of the annual Philippine Space Week, scheduled for Aug. 8-14, it reminded me of the UN flag that the first Korean astronaut, Yi So-yeon, took to the International Space Station in 2008. Upon returning, she presented the flag to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon during Mr. Ban's first homecoming visit to Korea. Carrying the UN flag to her space mission embodied the prevailing spirit contained in the Moon Agreement (formally referred to as "1979 Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies"), which states that "the moon and its natural resources are the common heritage of mankind." At the flag presentation ceremony, she said, "Looking at our planet from above, you realize how small we are. The experience is so humbling." Mr. Ban often referred to this sentiment, saying, "Remember, we're all earthlings, after all." In late May, the Korea AeroSpace Administration (KASA), Korea's version of NASA, was launched. This space agency of Korea aims to unify space policy and projects, transforming Korea into a global space powerhouse. It was Korea's proverbial small step in its giant leap toward becoming a leading space economy. Though Korea's journey actually began over 30 years ago, its space-bound efforts have gained steam in recent years. In May 2021, Korea became the tenth country to sign the Artemis Accords, a practical set of principles to guide cooperation among nations participating in NASA's 21st-century lunar exploration plans. In May 2023, Korea launched a commercial-grade satellite with its domestically produced KSLV-II Nuri rocket. At the opening ceremony of KASA, President Yoon announced plans to send a space exploration vehicle to the moon by 2032 and plant a national flag on Mars by 2045, Korea's centennial year of independence.

Space technologies can tackle many of the world's most pressing business and societal challenges. In April, a World Economic Forum and McKinsey & Company report showed that lower costs and improved access to space-enabled technologies such as communications; positioning, navigation and timing and Earth observation services could take the global space economy to \$1.8 trillion by 2035, up from \$630 billion in 2023. At the recent publication of his book, "The Space Economy," translated into Korean, Chad Anderson, founder and managing partner at Space Capital, emphasized the critical role of space technology for national and economic security, noting that "the space economy will be the next multi-trillion-dollar industry."

Space industry around the world has shifted to a private sector-led model and is advancing at an impressive pace. In this regard, it is apropos to this trend that KASA

will prioritize efforts to empower the private sector in leading commercial space development in the country. Perigee Aerospace, a Korean startup developing small launch vehicles, and the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA), since signing an MOU in 2022, have been fostering cooperation in various areas, including launch collaboration and space education. Exploring economic and scientific cooperation projects with emerging space countries is one of KASA's goals. To this end, Korea and the Philippines are well-poised to reap the benefits from collaborating in space technology.

My visit to PhilSA in May, which coincided with the launch of KASA, enabled me to find substantial areas for future partnership in space technology and the space economy between our two nations. The Philippines, through PhilSA, focuses on improving internet connectivity, disaster response, agricultural productivity and maritime domain awareness using satellite technology. Korea, with its advanced space technology and established satellite programs, can provide the expertise to support these efforts.

For example, at a recent meeting with the experts and professionals at the IRRI (International Rice Research Institute) based in UP Los Baños, I had a glimpse of satellite technology's transformative impact on agriculture. AI-powered satellite imagery can aid precision agriculture, enabling informed decisions amidst climate change. Cloud storage and mobile apps democratize data access, optimizing yields and sustainably securing food supplies. These innovations and ingenuity, akin to what was depicted in the 2015 film *The Martian* – where astronaut Mark Watney (played by Matt Damon) demonstrated survival on Mars – hint at the future of agriculture via space technology.

It is reassuring that the major spacefaring partners have also identified the Philippines as a promising destination for collaboration. In April 2023, the EU selected the Philippines as the first ASEAN nation to partner with its Copernicus Earth observation program, providing free environmental and climate data from Sentinel satellites to enhance the resilience of the Filipino economy and society. On May 2, 2024, the Philippines and the United States held their inaugural Space Dialogue in Washington, DC, focusing on civil space cooperation, including maritime domain awareness and space situational awareness. This dialogue expands Philippines-US collaboration in utilizing space-based Earth observation data for socio-economic applications like weather forecasting, agricultural planning, climate monitoring, disaster response, resource management and telecommunications.

Earlier this year, I witnessed a significant collaboration in space technology involving Korea, the Philippines and the US. Invited by the DENR and PhilSA, I attended the Philippine segment of NASA's air quality mission. NASA deployed two aircraft to sample air quality, and PhilSA verified data from them with readings from Korea-provided technology – the Geostationary Environment Monitoring Spectrometer (GEMS) and Pandora instruments. Designed for technology transfer,

data-sharing and capacity-building initiative on air pollution, employing GEMS data aboard Korea's GEO-KOMPSAT-2B satellite, complemented by ground-based remote sensing instruments called Pandora, the collaboration is a milestone project between Korea and the Philippines. Launched by Korea in 2020, GEMS is the first geostationary satellite system that monitors air pollution levels in Asia, including the Philippines. It is encouraging that Dr. Joel Joseph Marciano Jr., director general of PhilSA, and I will attend the Pandora set handover ceremony on Aug. 12, during Space Week.

"...I ended up in a future you wouldn't recognize....filled with technology you can't imagine...This is a new now that's never been lived." This is my favorite quote from the 2022 Disney movie Lightyear, which illustrates the uncharted path new space technology can take us. In closing this piece, I echo the eternal words of Robert Frost from his poem The Road Not Taken:

"I shall be telling this with a sigh

Somewhere ages and ages hence:

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I –

I took the one less traveled by,

And that has made all the difference."

* * *

Lee Sang-hwa is the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Philippines.

<https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2024/07/14/2370018/infinity-and-beyond>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DA expands ‘Program 29’ beyond original targets

By: [Jordeene B. Lagare](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:46 AM July 14, 2024



Agriculture Sec. Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. —Niño Jesus Orbeta

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) is expanding the coverage of its program to offer rice at only P29 a kilo to include areas outside the metropolis as the retail price of this staple food is expected to decrease.

“By Aug. 1, hopefully we will have 23 stores plus three provincial areas. We will have one in Cebu, maybe Maguindanao,” Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said during the distribution of financial assistance to farmers in Aurora province.

“Then as we go along, we will widen the coverage and may even try to lessen [the price] of the P29-per-kilo rice in Kadiwa stores nationwide, hopefully by the first quarter of next year,” he added.

Early this month, the DA rolled out Program 29 in 10 Kadiwa stores in Metro Manila and the neighboring Bulacan province to sell subsidized rice to “vulnerable” segments of the population.

These are senior citizens, single parents, persons with disabilities and beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, the government’s conditional cash transfer scheme for the poor.

From aging stocks

This initiative aims to make discounted rice available to about 6.9 million low-income households, which account for about 35 million Filipinos, according to the DA.

At present, 13 Kadiwa centers sell rice for P29 per kilogram.

The program’s large-scale trial was initially scheduled to run for a month in 10 Kadiwa centers before it was expanded to other areas due to supply and logistics considerations.

Eligible beneficiaries are allowed to purchase up to 10 kilos of rice per household monthly.

The supply is sourced from the aging stocks of the National Food Authority (NFA), the contract growing project of the National Irrigation Administration and import shipments managed by DA-affiliated entities.

Aging NFA stocks refer to rice that has been in storage for three months and palay (unhusked rice) stockpiles that have been kept for six months.

“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,” Agriculture Assistant Secretary Genevieve Velicaria-Guevarra said last week.

The DA is working on another program called Rice-for-All to provide the general public access to well-milled and fancy rice at prices lower than prevailing market prices of the same quality grain.

Tiu Laurel said global prices of rice should decline with the end of the El Niño phenomenon that could ease demand from importing countries and eventually increase global production.

He also cited the expected lifting of India’s ban on the export of nonbasmati rice as a factor that could ease supply pressures.

On Friday, local regular milled rice retailed from P45 to P50 per kg, higher than P36 to P42 per kg last year, based on the DA’s price monitoring.

Local well-milled rice was priced from P48 to P55 per kg, also higher than P40 to P46 per kg previously.

Imported regular milled rice was sold from P46 to P51 per kg while imported well-milled rice ranged from P51 to P55 per kg.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1960870/da-expands-program-29-beyond-original-targets>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Palay production likely dropped in Q2 —

PSA

July 14, 2024 | 8:31 pm



A farmer threshes newly harvested palay grains at a ricefield in Mogpog, Marinduque in central Philippines, March 22, 2016. — REUTERS

PALAY (unmilled rice) production is estimated to have declined 8.6% during the second quarter, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said.

In a report, the PSA said that the palay harvest is estimated at 3.88 million metric tons (MMT), which if realized, would fall short of the 4.25 MMT in actual output a year earlier.

The PSA's outlook is based on the standing rice crop as of June 1.

The Department of Agriculture is projecting palay output to rise to 20.44 MMT this year, against 20.06 MMT in actual production in 2023.

The PSA said that total harvest area likely decreased 7.2% year on year to 891,770 hectares.

It added that about 86.6% of the crops as of June 1 has been harvested, equivalent to about 3.16 MMT.

It said that yield per hectare may have declined by 1.4% to 4.36 MT.

“Of the 119.870 hectares of standing palay yet to be harvested, 1.4% were in the reproductive stage and 98.6% were in the maturing stage,” it added.

Separately, the PSA said the national rice inventory was 2.16 MMT as of June 1.

It reported that rice stocks rose 19% from a year earlier.

The PSA said that rice inventories from the National Food Authority (NFA) rose 62.5% followed by stocks held by commercial traders, which were 56.7%.

On the other hand, it noted a decline in rice held by households of 21.3%.

“Of this month’s total rice stocks, 61.4% were held by the commercial sector, 32.2% by households, and 6.4% NFA depositories,” it added.

Meanwhile, the PSA said that corn production likely dropped 19.3% to 1.19 MMT during the second quarter.

Corn stocks as of June 1 was estimated at 750,760 MT, declining 15.3% from a year earlier.

Corn stocks held by commercial traders rose 7.5%, while household stocks fell 15.6%.

About 93.6% of this month’s corn stocks were held by commercial traders, with the remaining 6.4% held by households. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/07/14/607984/palay-production-likely-dropped-in-q2-psa/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Philippine rice import forecast raised to 4.7 MMT for 2023-2024 — USDA

July 14, 2024 | 8:30 pm



BW FILE PHOTO

THE US Department of Agriculture (USDA) said it raised its Philippine rice import forecast for marketing year 2023-2024 to 4.7 million metric tons (MMT) from 4.6 MMT estimated a month earlier.

In its Grain: World Markets and Trade report, the USDA said the updated estimate is now in line with its rice import projection for the 2024-2025 marketing year.

“The Philippines is a major consumer of rice and, in recent years, has become the largest rice importer with recent policy changes spurring additional imports,” the USDA said.

In June, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. signed Executive Order (EO) No. 62 which lowered the tariff on imported rice to 15% from 35% until 2028. The new tariff regime is subject to review every four months.

The EO is expected to reduce the retail price of rice by P6 to P7 per kilogram, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

“Lower tariffs are expected to decrease landed prices, easing inflationary pressures while spurring additional Filipino rice consumption,” the DA added.

The USDA said the new estimate was spurred by stronger than expected import volumes during the first six months of 2024.

Rice imports amounted to 2.32 MMT during the six months to June, according to the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), citing totals as of July 4.

In the year earlier period, rice imports were 1.86 MMT.

The Agriculture department is projecting rice imports of 3.9 MMT this year.

The USDA added that importers have shifted some purchases to other countries due to rising global rice prices and tighter supply from Vietnam.

In January, the Philippine and Vietnamese governments signed an agreement giving the Philippines a quota of 1.5 MMT to 2 MMT of rice annually for five years.

Shipments from Vietnam have totaled 1.72 MMT, followed by Thailand with 352,331 MT.

The USDA said that the increased import volumes have resulted “in closer connectivity between international and Philippine rice prices.”

A kilogram of imported well milled rice sold for between P51-P55 in Metro Manila markets, while regular-milled rice fetched P46-51 per kilo, according to DA price monitors as of July 11.

Asked to comment, Ateneo de Manila economist Leonardo A. Lanzona said that lifting of the Indian government’s ban on rice exports may drive the Philippines to import more.

“With the lifting of India’s ban, the probability of even higher imports seems more certain,” Mr. Lanzona said via Messenger chat.

“As the agricultural sector continues to face hurdles due to weather conditions, the government has instituted a tariff policy designed in favor of consumers,” he added.

Last year, India banned the exports of non-basmati white rice due to domestic supply concerns. Imports from India was estimated at 21,701 MT, the BPI said.

In October, the Indian government gave the Philippines an export quota of 295,000 MT for non-basmati white rice.

The USDA said that due to the ban on Indian rice exports, the Philippines leaned more heavily on suppliers Vietnam and Thailand, pushing up their export prices.

“Buyers in the Philippines chose to pay these elevated prices from Southeast Asian suppliers, which resulted in higher retail prices in the Philippines,” it added.

Former Agriculture Undersecretary Fermin D. Adriano said that with the lowering of tariffs, imported rice will become cheaper than its domestic equivalent.

However, he added that traders may delay their imports until the Supreme Court (SC) decides on a farmer petition for a temporary restraining order (TRO) against EO 62.

“Importers will hedge over importing rice for as long as TRO issue is not settled because they will lose money,” Mr. Adriano said in a Viber message. — **Adrian H. Halili**

[https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/07/14/608023/philippine-rice-import-forecast-raised-to-4-](https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/07/14/608023/philippine-rice-import-forecast-raised-to-4-7-mmt-for-2023-2024-usda/)

[7-mmt-for-2023-2024-usda/](https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/07/14/608023/philippine-rice-import-forecast-raised-to-4-7-mmt-for-2023-2024-usda/)

REMATE:

P200B taunang budget gagarantiya sa food security – NIA

July 14, 2024 09:28



MANILA, Philippines- Inihayag ng National Irrigation Administration (NIA) nitong Sabado na kakailanganin nito ang halos P200 bilyong budget kada taon para sa irrigation projects nito upang matiyak ang food security sa bansa.

“My estimate for us to be food secure... we need P200 billion [budget] yearly for the next 10 years,” pahayag ni NIA Administrator Eddie Guillen sa Saturday News Forum sa Quezon City. Ani Guillen, popondohan ng P200 bilyong budget ang short to long term projects ng ahensya tulad ng konstruksyon ng high dams, restoration projects, solar pump irrigation initiatives, at water impounding projects.

Sinabi ng NIA chief na ipinanukalana ng ahensya ang P200 bilyon sa Department of Budget and Management (DBM) para sa budget sa susunod na taon.

Subalit, inilahad ni Guillen na ang inaprubahan lamang ng DBM ay P42 bilyon dahil sa limitadong fiscal space.

Gayunman, kumpiyansa siya na tutulungan ng Kamara at Senado ang ahensya na makakuha ng mas malaking alokasyon kapag nag-umpisa na ang budget deliberations para sa P6.352 trilyong proposed national expenditure plan.

Target ng DBM na maisumite sa Kamara ang proposed budget sa susunod na taon isang linggo pagkatapos ng ikatlong state of the Nation Address (SONA) ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. sa Hulyo 22.

Para sa 2024, nakatanggap ang NIA ng P70.22 bilyong alokasyon sa ilalim ng General Appropriations Act ngayong taon.

Samantala, sinabi ni Guillen na apat na high dams —na mas mataas sa 75 metro o mayroong reservoir storage capacity na lampas 60 million cubic meters— ang kasalukuyang ibini-bid.

Narito ang apat na high dams projects ng NAIA:

- P8.6 bilyong Tumauni River Multipurpose Project (TRMP) sa Isabela

- P19 bilyong Panay River Basin Integrated Development Project (PRBIDP) sa Iloilo na binubuo ng dalawang Panay High Dam, ang Panay Afterbay Dam; isang high line canal; at isang floodway component
- P22.7 bilyong Ilocos Norte-Ilocos Sur-Abra Irrigation Project II (INISAIP II) at
- P9 bilyong Ilocos Sur Transbasin Project

Inihayag ni Marcos na nais niyang matapos ang high dams sa pagtatapos ng kanyang termino sa 2028. **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/p200b-taunang-budget-gagarantiya-sa-food-security-nia/>

MANILA STANDARD

DTI, DA start monitoring rice prices amid lowered tariff



By Othel V. Campos

July 14, 2024, 12:00 am

The government has launched its nationwide rice price monitoring to assess the impact of the rice tariff reduction across the entire supply chain, from importers to retailers.

The Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Agriculture teamed up for the extensive price monitoring initiative, which covers a wide range of retail markets, including supermarkets, hypermarkets, and grocery stores under the DTI's jurisdiction, as well as wet markets under the DA.

“These data-driven reports will inform policymakers’ decisions to ensure stable rice supply, distribution, and pricing,” said Trade Secretary Alfredo Pascual, who also chairs the National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC).

Pascual said the DTI would remain steadfast in the rigorous monitoring and analysis of rice price fluctuations.

President Marcos last month issued Executive Order No. 62 that reduced the tariff on rice from 35 percent to 15 percent as well as tariffs on other agricultural products.

Earlier, the DA kicked off a large-scale trial of “Program 29” to deliver high-quality rice at P29 per kilogram to as many as 6.9 million vulnerable households, or around 35 million Filipinos.

Initially, 10 Kadiwa centers in Metro Manila and Bulacan participated in the program that would run every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

“We appeal to beneficiaries not to take advantage of this program by reselling the P29 rice from Kadiwa centers. We want to ensure that the largest number of those in the vulnerable sectors will benefit from this program of President Bongbong Marcos,” DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel said.

During the trial, Kadiwa will prepare booklets to track rice purchases of P29 per kilo of rice beneficiaries that include senior citizens, single parents, persons with disabilities, and recipients of the government’s 4Ps program.

Consumers can also purchase essential items like eggs, meat, and vegetables at lower prices at Kadiwa centers.

There are currently 265 established Kadiwa centers operating alongside 119 pop-up stores nationwide.

<https://www.manilastandard.net/news/top-stories/314471308/dti-da-start-monitoring-rice-prices-amid-lowered-tariff.html>

Govt launches rice price monitoring

By Philippine News Agency

July 14, 2024

THE government has launched its nationwide rice price monitoring to assess the impact of the rice tariff reduction across the entire supply chain, from importers to retailers.

According to a news release on Saturday, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture (DA), launched the extensive price monitoring initiative, which covers a wide range of retail markets, including supermarkets, hypermarkets and grocery stores under the DTI's jurisdiction, as well as wet markets under the DA's purview.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s Executive Order 62, issued in June, reduced the tariff on rice from 35 percent to 15 percent and tariffs on other agricultural products.

Trade Secretary Alfredo Pascual, who also chairs the National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC), said his department would remain steadfast in the rigorous monitoring and analysis of rice price fluctuations.

"These data-driven reports will inform policymakers' decisions to ensure stable rice supply, distribution, and pricing," Pascual said.

Composed of the secretaries of the departments of trade and agriculture, as well as representatives of the consumer, agricultural, trading and manufacturing sectors, the NPCC plays a crucial role in coordinating national efforts to stabilize and control the prices of essential goods and prime commodities.

Pascual, meanwhile, commended members of Congress for ensuring price stability and protecting consumer interests by combatting hoarding, profiteering, and smuggling.

"We at the DTI deeply appreciate the tireless work of these legislators in holding price manipulators and violators accountable. Their actions align perfectly with our mission to empower and care for consumers while fostering fair competition for legitimate businesses," he said.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/07/14/news/national/govt-launches-rice-price-monitoring/1957157>

Gobyerno handa sa La Niña – MMDA

[Gemma Garcia](#)

July 14, 2024 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Tiniyak ng Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) na handa ang gobyerno sa pagpasok ng La Niña sa bansa.

Ayon kay MMDA head of Special Events Emmanuel Miro, bilang paghahanda sa La Niña ay patuloy na naglilinis ng mga kanal, estero at iba pang mga daluyan ng tubig ang kanilang flood control office.

Nauna nang nag-isyu ng La Niña alert ang Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) nitong Biyernes, kaya inaasahan na 70 porsiyento na mabubuo ang La Niña ng Agosto hanggang Oktubre na tatagal hanggang unang quarter ng 2025.

Siniguro na rin ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos na handa ang gobyerno sa paparating na La Niña.

Naghahanda na rin ang mga ahensiya ng gobyerno tulad ng Department of Energy (DOE) sakaling magkaroon ng damage ang transmission lines.

Gayundin ang Department of Agriculture (DA) na siyang mangangasiwa sa tubig at distribusyon ng flood tolerant rice varieties.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2024/07/14/2370014/gobyerno-handa-sa-la-nia-mmda>