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**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Villafuerte renews call to give free ASF vaccines to backyard hog raisers

**BY DEXTER BARRO II**

Jul 18, 2024 04:43 PM

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## AT A GLANCE

- Camarines Sur 2nd district Rep. LRay Villafuerte has reiterated his proposal to the Department of Agriculture (DA) to distribute the vaccines against the African Swine Fever (ASF) to backyard hog raisers for free.



(Unsplash)

Camarines Sur 2nd district Rep. LRay Villafuerte has reiterated his proposal to the Department of Agriculture (DA) to distribute the vaccines against the African Swine Fever (ASF) to backyard hog raisers for free.

This, after DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. announced that the agency intends to start its ASF vaccination program by September.

In a statement on Thursday, June 18, Villafuerte said it was better to give the vaccine shots at no cost to backyard raisers given that most are still financially distressed due to the impact of ASF outbreaks and Covid-19 on their respective businesses.

He said small raisers, who account for a majority of local producers, are “in no position to shoulder the extra cost of inoculation”.

Villafuerte says that he remains optimistic that an inoculation program would finally stop the large-scale deaths of pigs and reinvigorate the ASF-plagued local hog industry.

“The anti-ASF vaccine rollout, as announced by President Marcos in May and by Secretary [Laurel] just recently, is expected to put an end to ASF-related deaths of locally grown pigs, thereby stabilizing the hog population, stanching the multibillion-peso annual losses in this livestock subsector, and eventually pulling down the retail prices of pork products that have unduly spiralled ever since this deadly virus struck the country in 2019,” he said.

According to Laurel, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has already approved the Vietnam-produced Avac vaccine against ASF.

The agriculture secretary said it would initially limit the roll-out of the vaccines to government’s use in September. It would be available for commercial use six months after that. Meanwhile, DA Undersecretary Deogracias Victor Savellano was quoted as saying that the agency was open to the possibility of providing the vaccines for free.

Savellano emphasized that the DA’s priority was to help backyard raisers who make up around 70 to 80 percent of the country’s hog producers.

An animal disease with an almost 100 percent fatality rate for infected pigs and boars, the ASF first appeared in the Philippines in 2019. It led to a 50 percent drop in the domestic swine population from 13 million pre-ASF to 6.6 million in 2021.

According to the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), the ASF outbreak has reached 5,324 barangays, 73 provinces, and 17 regions over the last five years.

As of mid-May, there are active ASF cases in 78 barangays, 18 municipalities 11 provinces, and seven regions of the country.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/18/villafuerte-renews-call-to-give-free-asf-vaccines-to-backyard-hog-raisers>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Revilla expects inflation, food security tackled in PBBM's 3rd SONA

**BY DHEL NAZARIO**

Jul 18, 2024 04:07 PM

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Senator Ramon "Bong" Revilla, Jr. expects President Marcos to discuss ways to address inflation as well as his plans on food security and national security in his third State of the Nation Address on July 22.

In a statement, Revilla said that he is positive that the President's third SONA will adequately and comprehensively report the administration's progress in addressing the country's most pressing concerns.

“Umaasa akong magiging kalakip din nito ang mga hakbangin na gagawin pa ng ating pangulo para sa pagpapatuloy ang kanyang mga magagandang naabot sa loob ng unang dalawang taon ng kanyang panunungkulan (I am hoping that this would include steps that the President would do to continue the administration's achievements in the past two years),” the senator said.

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In terms of inflation, he cited a Pulse Asia survey this month, which states controlling inflation remains the top national concern. According to the survey, 72 percent of Filipino adults believe that soaring prices of basic commodities should be addressed immediately.

Revilla said that he is looking forward to hearing during SONA the President's next steps in slowing inflation in the country.

“Gusto ko rin mapakinggan ang mga susunod na hakbang ng Pangulo kung paano pa mapapabagal ang inflation sa ating bansa (I want to hear the President's plans in slowing down inflation). But I would like to echo his words that the current inflation rate is still within the government's target of 2-4 percent. While it is a genuine concern, under control pa naman ito (it's still under control),” the lawmaker said.

“The inflation rates since the start of the year are all within the target set by the government. Kaya sigurado tayo na may ginagawa ang administrasyon (For sure, the administration is doing something),” the senator added.

Revilla is also confident that PBBM will discuss where the nation is already on its roadmap to ensure food security.

“Aantabayan rin natin ang magiging ulat ng Pangulo patungkol sa food security. Sa loob ng nagdaang taon, nakita natin ang mga sinikap ng administrasyon para mapayabong ang agrikultura katulad ng pagtatalaga ng bagong kalihim sa Department of Agriculture na tututok sa sektor, pagpasa ng batas na muling bubuhay at magpapalakas sa industriya ng pagaasin, pagaabot ng tulong-pinansyal sa mga magsasaka at mangingisda, at marami pang iba. Pakikinggan natin kung ano pa ang gagawin at mga ipagpapatuloy para masiguro na may sapat na pagkain sa hapag ng bawat Pilipino (We will also wait on the President's report regarding food security. In the past two years, we saw that the administration made efforts in improving

the agriculture sector such as installing a new Department of Agriculture that will focus on the sector, and passing laws that will revive and strengthen the salt industry, providing financial aid to farmers and fishermen, and a lot more. Let's see what else they would do to ensure that there's enough food on the Filipino people's tables),” he remarked.

Meanwhile, Revilla also expects that PBBM will tackle ways that the government has taken to ensure that national security is strengthened.

“Sa huli, ito ang isa sa mga pinaka-inaasahan ko – ang pagtalakay ng Pangulo sa pagpapaligay ng ating pambansang seguridad. (This is where I expect from the most - is tackling national security). I am confident that he will share to the Filipino people what his administration is doing to bolster national security. Eager na akong pakikinig ang sasabihin ng Pangulo sa Lunes, at ang mga susunod na hakbang natin tungo sa Bagong Pilipinas (I am eager to hear what the President will report on Monday, and the next steps towards 'Bagong Pilipinas'), he said.

Concerning the promotion of social justice, Revilla once again thanked the President for approving the legislation he championed in Congress that would greatly benefit what he called as “the least, the lost, and the last.”

Revilla’s Expanded Centenarians Act (RA 11982) approved by PBBM last February 2024 shall grant P10,000 cash gift to senior citizens who will reach the age of 80, 85, 90, and 95, apart from the P100,000 they will receive upon reaching 100 years old. On the other hand, the senator’s “Kabalikat sa Pagtuturo Act” (RA 11997) institutionalized public school teacher’s teaching allowance and increased it from P5,000 to P10,000.

The President also approved Revilla’s “No Permit, No Exam Prohibition Act” (RA 11984) banning the “no permit, no exam” policy in schools and mandating them to accommodate and allow disadvantaged students unable to pay tuition and other fees to take examinations. Apart from these Revilla-authored laws, his “Free College Entrance Examinations Act” (RA 12006) has recently become law.

Under the law, all private HEIs are mandated to waive the entrance examination fees imposed on students applying for college admission provided that they meet the requirements.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/18/revilla-expects-inflation-food-security-tackled-in-pbbm-s-3rd-sona>



**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Gov't working on more medical experts in Romblon—Marcos

**BY BETHEENA UNITE**

Jul 18, 2024 02:43 PM

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More medical professionals will be deployed to Romblon in a bid to address the healthcare situation in the province, President Marcos said.



The Department of Health (DOH), Marcos said, is working with the local government of Romblon to improve and modernize its healthcare system.

"Ukol naman sa suliranin sa serbisyong pangkalusugan sa inyong lalawigan, ang Department of Health ay aktibong nakikipagtulungan sa inyong mga lokal na pamahalaan upang mapaayos at maging moderno ang inyong mga healthcare facilities at madagdagan ang mga medical professionals, specialists, at healthcare workers sa inyong lugar (On the problems of healthcare services in your province, the DOH is actively working with your local government to improve and modernize your healthcare facilities and to increase medical professionals, specialists, and healthcare workers in your place)," Marcos said in his speech read by Interior and Local Government Secretary Benhur Abalos Jr. on Thursday, July 18, during the distribution of assistance.

He cited the new Super Health Center in Magdiwang, Sibuyan Island, which was opened in April this year.

In his speech, the President also assured the people of Romblon of the government's effort to bring public service to all Filipinos.

Meanwhile, a total of P952.660 million in financial assistance, services, loan assistance, and subsidies from the government was distributed by Marcos to farmers and fisherfolk affected by the El Niño crisis in Palawan and Marinduque.

Of the figure, a total of P99.13 million in financial aids were distributed by the President to Palawan (P50 million), Puerto Princesa (P10 million) and Marinduque (P39.13 million).

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) also extended P10,000 each to 6,043 beneficiaries of the Ayuda sa Kapos ang Kita (AKAP) program, or a total of P60.43 million.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) gave P8.4 million for operations and maintenance subsidy of the irrigator's association and P533.66 million worth of certificates of condonation and exemption for landowners.

The NIA also provided irrigation projects worth P201 million for farmers in Papualan, Sumbiling, Timburan, Bagong Bayan, and Apurawan.

On the other hand, the Agriculture Credit Policy Council (ACPC) of the Department of Agriculture (DA) allotted P20 million for the Survival and Recovery Program and P30 million for the Agri-Negosyo Loan Program.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/18/gov-t-working-on-increasing-medical-experts-in-romblon-marcos>



**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Marcos events canceled, postponed due to bad weather

BY ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS

Jul 18, 2024 12:49 PM

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## AT A GLANCE

- However, he was able to push through with his visit to Puerto Princesa, Palawan to turn over P100 million in government aid to the provincial governments of Palawan and Marinduque and the local government of Puerto Princesa City.

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President Marcos had to skip the distribution of government assistance to El Niño-affected farmers and fisherfolk in Tablas, Romblon, while the inauguration and turnover of the Rice Processing System II in Piddig Ilocos Norte had to be postponed due to the bad weather on Thursday, July 18.



*President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. (Ryan Baldemor/PPA Pool)*

Presidential Security Command (PSC) chief Brig. Gen. Nelson Morales said they tried to fly from Laoag to Piddig but the rain and the zero visibility did not make their journey possible.

"We attempted to fly, but the weather condition did not permit us to take off," he said.

However, Marcos was able to push through with his visit to Puerto Princesa, Palawan to turn over P100 million in government aid to the provincial governments of Palawan and Marinduque and the local government of Puerto Princesa City.

During the event, Marcos distributed cash assistance worth P10,000 each to 20 select beneficiaries from the region.

In response to the challenges brought by the El Niño phenomenon, the President handed out agri-fishery assistance packages consisting of farm machinery, fishing equipment, seedlings, fertilizers, and financial support as part of the Department of Agriculture's (DA) continued commitment to strengthen the country's agriculture sector.

In addition, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and the Office of House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez extended various forms of assistance to identified beneficiaries and attendees of the event.

In his speech, the President assured the people of Mimaropa that the government is undertaking measures to address the effects of La Niña.

"Nag-imbak na po tayo ng mahigit P140 milyong halaga ng food at non-food items kung kinakailangan (We have stored over P140 million worth of food and non-food items should we need it)," he said.

"Kasama na rin po rito ang P5 milyong standby funds para magamit sa inyong rehiyon (This included P5 million in standby funds for your region)," he added.

Marcos said Filipinos can overcome the challenges caused by the two weather events if they continue working together.

"Sa ating pagkakaisa, sigurado ako na malalampasan natin ang anumang hamon at makakamit natin ang ating [mga] mithiin (With unity, I am sure we can hurdle any obstacle and we can fulfill our dreams)," he said.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/18/marcos-skips-distribution-of-aid-to-romblon-beneficiaries-due-to-bad-weather>

MANILA BULLETIN:

# Jose Rizal's farming dreams

BY [YVETTE TAN](#)

Jul 19, 2024 06:33 AM

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AVANT GARDENER



I've always said that farm life is the lost Filipino dream, and there is no bigger example of this than out national hero Jose Rizal. Aside from his numerous mentions of food and agricultural products in his novels *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*, his personal letters are filled with references of food and agriculture.

In the book *One Hundred Letters of Jose Rizal to His Parents, Brother, Sisters, Relatives* published by the Philippine Historical Society in Manila on June 19, 1959, we see that he mentions it to his letters to his mother, Teodora Alonso, to whom he was particularly attached, while in exile in Dapitan.

In a letter dated Nov. 21, 1895, he says: "Many thanks to Sr. Gino for the seeds..." though there is no mention of what the seeds are. Further down, he writes, "I congratulate my brother for his new purchase. What a pity that I could not help him in his farm." His older brother Paciano was a prolific farmer who, among other things, closely monitored sugar prices.

In a letter dated Dec. 18, 1895, he writes, "If I do not go away, I am thinking of buying a coconut grove of more than 400 trees for \$1,500, all from four to three years. I hope my brother will give me the money after the sale of sugar. I believe it to be good business."

The Philippines may have been different in the 1800s, but even back then, Rizal thought that coconut farming might be a good source of income. Given his intellect, one can surmise that he did the math before coming to this decision. Even back then, a key to running a successful agribusiness is to treat it like a business.

In a letter dated Jan. 15, 1896, he says, "Here I bought a piece of land beside a river... My land has 6,000 abaca plants..." He adds, "...there is a portion for planting two cavans of corn. Little by little we can buy the

lands adjoining mine. There are many dalag, ferns, and small rounded stones... Hydraulic engines can be installed.”

If those lines aren't enough to tell us that Jose Rizal, a man from a wealthy family who had traveled the world, also longed for life on a farm, he continues: “If they permit me to establish myself there on my land, I am thinking of planting coconuts.” All of this, in between exhortations for his family members, particularly his mother, to settle in Dapitan with him.

In the June 19 letter, he states, “If you wish to come, you know that you will be received as an affectionate mother deserves to be.” And after talking about abaca in the Jan. 15 letter, he says, “...and if you like to come here, I will build a house so that we could all live together until we die.”

From the letters, we can tell that Rizal missed his family terribly, and though this may be a product of the time, for him, establishing a farm equated to starting life anew.

I'm not a Rizal expert, nor do I claim to be. I'm just going by what he wrote in his letters. But just based on the direct translated quotes, and the abundance of mentions in both *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*, we can see that our national hero had food and farming on his mind, and when thrown into exile, one of his preoccupations was securing his and his family's future through tilling the land.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/19/jose-rizal-s-farming-dreams>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# DA allots P350 million for ASF vaccine procurement

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

July 19, 2024 | 12:00am



The Food and Drug and Administration (FDA) has approved the controlled vaccination of hogs.

AFP / File

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture has earmarked P350 million for the procurement of vaccines against African swine fever (ASF), a DA official reported yesterday.

The Food and Drug and Administration (FDA) has approved the controlled vaccination of hogs.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa said under the FDA order, the procurement would be undertaken by the DA.

“The next process will be the procurement by the Bureau of Animal Industry, which is ongoing,” De Mesa said in an interview.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has said the FDA would approve this month the country’s first vaccine against ASF.

The vaccines may be available by September, De Mesa said, adding that the “procurement process will take two months.”

De Mesa said the ASF vaccine would not be distributed commercially.

“What the FDA allowed is controlled vaccination. There is no commercial approval yet from the agency,” he said.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/07/19/2371241/da-allots-p350-million-asf-vaccine-procurement>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# ‘Flood of chicken imports led to local raisers’ losses’

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

July 19, 2024 | 12:00am



In a message to The STAR, UBRA chairman emeritus Gregorio San Diego said that many poultry raisers were forced to limit their operation or decided to stop the production of chicken to prevent further losses.

AFP, file

MANILA, Philippines — The United Broiler Raisers Association (UBRA) yesterday blamed the flooding of imported frozen chicken on the losses suffered by local raisers amid spikes in the farmgate and retail prices of the farm commodity.

In a message to The STAR, UBRA chairman emeritus Gregorio San Diego said that many poultry raisers were forced to limit their operation or decided to stop the production of chicken to prevent further losses.

**“Many suffered losses... from October 2023 up to April 2024 because of the flooding of imported chicken,” San Diego said.**

“The decision of many broilers to limit their production and the closure of many poultry farms resulted in the decrease in the supply of local chicken,” he added.

**Based on monitoring of the Department of Agriculture (DA) in Metro Manila markets, the retail price of chicken reached as high as P250 per kilo.**

San Diego maintained that the P250 per kilo of whole chicken was too much and not reasonable compared to the farmgate price of the product.

**He reported that the farmgate price of chicken in Tarlac, Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija and Bulacan was only at P140 per kilo.**

The DA has warned traders involved in overpricing will be held liable for profiteering under the Price Act as the P250 per kilo price of chicken is “too much.”

The agency maintained that the prevailing price of chicken should range only between P200 and P210 per kilo.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/07/19/2371303/flood-chicken-imports-led-local-raisers-losses>

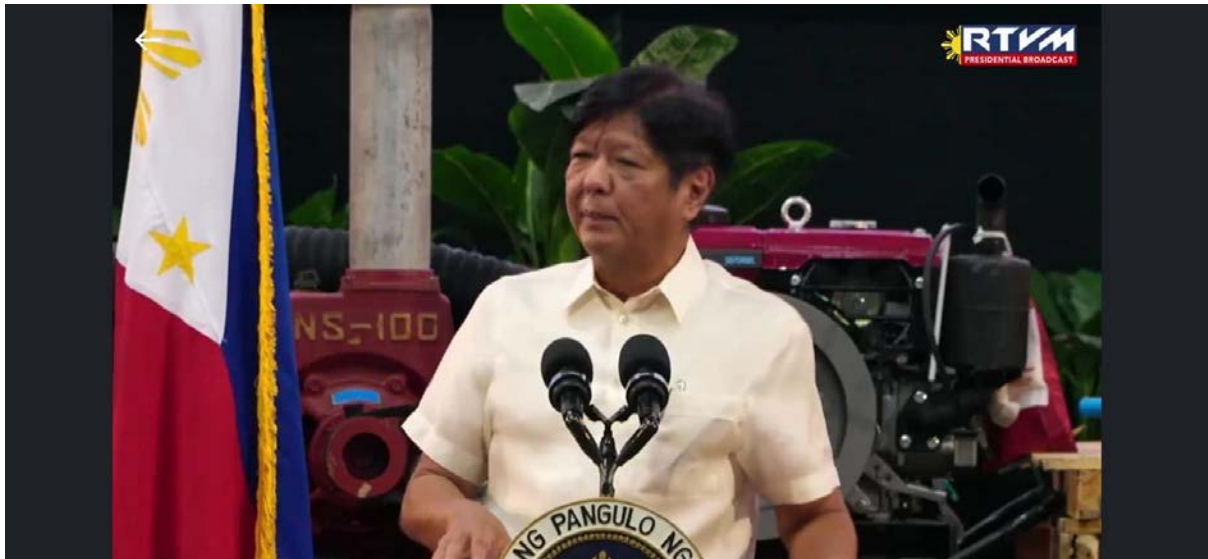


**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Gov't addressing Palawan power supply issues – Marcos

By: [Zacarian Sarao](#) - Reporter / [@zacariansINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 12:24 PM July 18, 2024



President Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos Jr. in Palawan on Thursday, July 18, 2024. (RTVM screengrab)

MANILA, Philippines — The government is already working to address [power supply issues in the province of Palawan](#),” President Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos Jr. said on Thursday. Marcos made the pronouncement during the distribution of assistance packages in the province, where he stated that the Maharlika Investment Corp., National Electrification Corp., and Palawan Electric Cooperative had started working together to address the matter.

“A study is being conducted to improve the electricity supply in your province,” said Marcos in Filipino in his speech.

“We are hoping for positive results of these agreements,” he added.

In preparation for the effects of the rainy season, Marcos also told Palawan residents that the government has already reserved P140 million worth of food and non-food items, as well as P5 million stand-by fund for the Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan) region.

## **Other Palawan projects nearing completion**

Meanwhile, Marcos also announced the status and progress of several other projects in the province.

According to Marcos, the dam component of the Ibato-Iraan small reservoir irrigation project in the municipality of Aborlan is already 95 percent complete, while the Balabac Military Runway is already at its final stage of construction.

Marcos also stressed the government's plans to boost tourism and transportation, as he mentioned the Puerto Princesa Airport Development Project and the Pagasa Island Airport Development Project.

“There are different challenges or problems facing us, but we can overcome them if we continue to work together. If we unite, I'm sure we will overcome any challenges and achieve our goals,” he said.

## **Aid for farmers, fishermen**

During the aid distribution to help farmers and fisherfolk recover from the El Niño dry spell, P100 million in financial aid was given to the Puerto Princesa City government and the provincial governments of Palawan and Marinduque.

Cash assistance worth P10,000 was also provided to each of the 20 selected beneficiaries.

The Department of Agriculture also distributed agri-fishery assistance packages, including farm machinery, fishing equipment, seedlings, fertilizers, and financial support.

Marcos was first supposed to lead the distribution of assistance in Romblon, but he canceled it and instead proceeded to Palawan due to inclement weather.

He is also scheduled to visit Ilocos Norte to inaugurate an irrigation project in the province.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1962166/govt-already-working-on-palawan-power-supply>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Year 2 review: President Marcos' hits and misses

By: [Gary B. Teves](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:07 AM July 19, 2024

Our preliminary assessment will be based largely on how the administration has tried to address Filipinos' top three most important and urgent national concerns: controlling inflation (70 percent), increasing workers' pay (36 percent), and fighting graft and corruption (26 percent), (Pulse Asia, March 2024).

**Wins. Lower inflation rate.** At 3.7 percent, the June 2024 inflation rate has decreased from the 5.4 percent recorded a year ago, now falling within the government's target range of 2-4 percent.

**Reducing the tariff on imported rice** from 35 percent to 15 percent to make rice more affordable to consumers. Farmers have been reassured of substantial support through subsidies, alleviating their concerns over the reduced tariffs.

**New appointees**, Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. in the Department of Agriculture (DA) and Sen. Sonny Angara in the Department of Education, both have proven track records in their respective fields. Laurel previously led agricultural and fishery organizations while Angara championed the creation of the Second Congressional Commission on Education, serving as one of its commissioners.

**Passage of the Ease of Paying Taxes Law**, helping small and large businesses pay their taxes more conveniently, a significant step in curbing corruption and further ease of doing business in the country.

**Misses. Failure to amend the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law.** Farm fragmentations due to the agrarian reform program have resulted in low farm productivity. Increasing the five-hectare limit to 24 hectares will facilitate land consolidation and contribute to more competitive farming.

**Achieving dependable and affordable power.** The Philippines continues to have the highest power prices in Asean, next to Singapore. As of 2022, electricity here costs P9.86 per kilowatt-hour, higher than Malaysia's P1.42/kWh, Vietnam's P4.42/kWh, and Thailand's P7.88/kWh.

**The apprenticeship bill** seeks to extend training periods from the current six months to a maximum of two years, mandating businesses to provide better training which will enable more Filipinos to qualify for and secure better jobs, as a skilled labor force attracts more foreign investors.

**The e-governance bill** could help curb red tape and improve the ease of doing business by digitizing standard processes like obtaining business permits, licenses, and clearances. This will also help reduce government corruption.

**Areas for improvement.** The government, with the support of the private sector, should **relentlessly tackle inflation on the supply side by:** Spending DA's P167.5 billion budget more effectively to enhance productivity through sustained farmer financing and more farm-to-market roads, warehouses, and processing and packaging facilities. Private companies can work with the government on these initiatives to help lower food prices.

- **Encouraging more power projects, including coal, which is still considered the cheapest form of power. While clean energy development should remain a priority, coal provides immediate and affordable baseload capacity.**

**Amendments to the warehouse receipts law should be pursued** to help decrease post-harvest losses, enable farmers to sell produce at optimum time, and give banks and financial institutions more confidence to lend to the farmers.

**Ramping up investment promotion and diplomatic initiatives.** Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas data shows that direct investment flows since the start of the Marcos administration to April 2024 amounted to only \$3.3 billion compared to \$19 billion of investment pledges announced by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). Philippine ambassadors and DTI attachés must continuously follow up on these pledges, including assisting potential investors in exploring joint ventures with Philippine conglomerates.

**The President should convene and preside over the Legislative Executive Development Advisory Council at least once a month,** to ensure that priority measures, especially those related to the top 3 most important and urgent national concerns of our countrymen are rigorously monitored and passed swiftly and can also be used to monitor the utilization of the national budget.

**Conclusion. Our assessment on the second year of President Marcos' performance is satisfactory.** Achievements were made in terms of attempts to manage inflation, ease tax payments, and appointing key Cabinet leaders. However, more reforms, as stated in the above areas for improvement, need to be done to address Filipinos' top three most important concerns, especially in managing the supply side of inflation. These will enable the Philippines to achieve upper middle-income status with a per capita GNI of \$4,466 to \$13,845. Presently, the Philippines is classified as a lower middle-income country with a GNI per capita of \$3,950.

Despite some progress being made, the administration still has a long way to go in steering the country toward a more sustainable and inclusive growth. Our recommendations are just a few low-hanging fruits for the Marcos administration's consideration.

**Gary B. Teves served as finance secretary under the Arroyo administration.**

<https://opinion.inquirer.net/175287/year-2-review-pbbms-hits-and-misses>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# NIA's solar irrigation project a game-changer for farmers, food security

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lalu](#) - Reporter / [@GabrielLaluINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 11:48 PM July 18, 2024



June 10, 2024  
BIGGEST SOLAR IRRIGATION PROJECT: President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., with NIA (National Irrigation Administration) Acting Administrator Eng. Eduardo Guillen and other government officials, leads the inauguration of the solar-powered pump irrigation project in Quirino, Isabela in June 2024. INQUIRER file photo / MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

MANILA, Philippines — The solar irrigation project of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) would be a game-changer for farmers because it would provide farmlands with much-needed water and increase yield, Ako Bicol Party-list Rep. Zaldy Co said.

Co in a statement on Thursday said that he supports the NIA's Solar Irrigation project which includes 71 sites across Bicol Region, covering an area of 1,810 hectares — which will benefit 4,560 farmers in the region.

According to Co, chairperson of the House of Representatives' committee on appropriations, the project has a total cost of P1.5 billion.

“This initiative by the National Irrigation Administration is a game-changer for our farmers,” Co said. “Tutugunan nito ang napakahalagang pangangailangan ng mga magsasaka sa patubig. Palalakasin nito ang ani at ang kakayahan ng mga magsasaka na pakinabangan ang kanilang mga lupain at mapataas ang kanilang kita.”

(It will address the crucial needs for irrigation of our farmers. This will boost yield and the farmers’ ability to utilize their land and increase their income.)

“With the availability of water during the dry season, we can expect an estimated additional income of P140 million every year for our farmers,” he added.

Co explained that most of the priority areas in the NIA’s project only rely on rain for irrigation, which limits planting season to a few times in a year. With the solar project, farmers can plant more — which will help in the government’s goal of self-sufficiency and food security.

“Our farmers are the backbone of our economy. Mahalagang bigyan natin sila ng kagamitan at resources na kailangan upang umunlad at mapalakas ang kanilang produksyon ng pagkain. This project not only boosts agricultural productivity but also uplifts the socio-economic status of our farmers,” he said.

(Our farmers are the backbone of our economy. It is important that we provide them with the equipment and resources needed to progress and boost food production.)

“As a representative of the Bicolanos, I am committed to ensuring that we continuously support and invest in our agricultural sector. Patuloy tayong makikipagtulungan sa mga ahensya ng gobyerno tulad ng NIA to ensure that projects such as these are successfully implemented and yield long-term benefits for our community,” he added.

(We will continue to help with different government agencies like NIA to ensure that projects such as these are successfully implemented and yield long-term benefits for our community.)

Co has been supportive of efforts to use solar power in agriculture. As early as March 2023, the lawmaker said that harnessing the power of sun will be key in boosting Philippine agricultural



production, as combining the benefits of renewable energy, fertilizers and irrigation, which he called “fertigation,” would help increase farm yields.

Fertigation or the use of fertilizers and irrigation in raising crops, Co explained, is increasingly becoming popular among farmers as it feeds crops with precise amounts of nutrients while conserving water.

Adopting new farming technologies may be a game changer for farmers, he said, as it would boost production while reducing the use of resources.

Then in the deliberations for the 2024 national budget, Co’s committee approved a P40 billion increase for NIA’s allocation, to help it implement projects including solar-powered pump irrigation systems — which Administrator Eduardo Guillen said will revolutionize the country’s irrigation coverage.

Irrigation will be crucial for the Philippines’ agricultural industry, especially since the country faces different calamities and phenomena — like the recent El Niño season which led to farm losses of P9.89 billion as of May 2024.

According to the Department of Agriculture (DA), the dry spell caused by the El Niño phenomenon affected the livelihood of 183,455 farmers and fisherfolk in the following regions:

- **Cordillera**
- **Ilocos**
- **Cagayan Valley**
- **Central Luzon**
- **Calabarzon**
- **Mimaropa**
- **Bicol**
- **Western Visayas**
- **Eastern Visayas**

- **Zamboanga Peninsula**
- **Central Mindanao**
- **Davao**
- **Soccsksargen**

According to President Ferdinand Marcos, over 152 solar-powered pump irrigation projects are being built across the country to combat the detrimental effects of El Niño, with 118 projects to be put up by the government.

Marcos also visited several areas recently, to provide aid and farm machinery for farmers and fisherfolk affected by the El Niño phenomenon. *With reports from Felice Nafarrete, trainee*

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1962418/nias-solar-irrigation-project-a-game-changer-for-farmers-food-security>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Decaying farm equipment

By: [Ernesto M. Ordoñez](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 02:10 AM July 19, 2024

Private sector participation in Department of Agriculture (DA) programs and implementation is absolutely necessary for good governance. I saw this when I traveled with the elected regional and provincial chairs of the public-private Philippine Council of Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) in Leyte.

The purpose was to monitor DA-funded projects in order to make useful recommendations on implementation. We went to the municipalities of Babatngon, Barugo, Carigara and Merida. PCAF Region 8 (Eastern Visayas) chair Mike Pedroso led the team. An engineering executive who has had extensive work experience in Thailand and Chile, he is now more inclined to do farm and PCAF volunteer work today.

PCAF provincial chair Bebito Matunginas, development officer Polonio Dualos (from the PCAF head office) and Dinma Catindoy from the Leyte provincial office were also there.

## Previous experience

A few administrations back, I was the private sector-appointed manager of the Japan-funded Agro Industrial Technology Transfer Program. It was assessed as the best out of 57 economic development programs. Its performance was made possible because of the significant participation of the private sector in decision-making. But because of political considerations that led to the private sector being removed, the program's performance precipitously declined.

In the last few days, we saw a very similar situation, which, we should admit is the main cause of agriculture's disappointing performance today.

## Grants

The projects we checked up on were projects backed by grants (agricultural machinery worth P500,000 to P2 million) given to farmer associations.

Sadly, some equipment were never used because they were given pro forma, sans the necessary consultation or assessment. Others were defective because the suppliers were paid in full even before they were tested properly.

There was often a lack of equipment training, or the absence of “after sales service” to address subsequent problems.

Evident, too, was the lack of concern and accountability. The recipients thought these were just grants that did not require any payback. There was not enough effort to fulfill the project commitments made.

Some government officials may just have been interested in showing their distribution numbers, but did not care about how the equipment would actually help farmers.

Here are key private sector recommendations that emerged during the Leyte trip. Before the grant is given, there should be a thorough feasibility study on production, market and financial analysis.

Even more important is the track record of the beneficiary organization.

The government municipal action officer and the private sector representative of the municipal agriculture and fisheries council should meet with the equipment supplier and the beneficiary association before project implementation. They should agree and commit to an implementation plan with targets and monitoring schedules. This way, progress is tracked and corrective actions are taken. If the beneficiary association does not use the equipment effectively, it should be taken back for another association with a good track record to use. Furthermore, the nonperforming association should be blacklisted and banned from receiving future grants.

At the PCAF midyear planning conference from July 17 to July 19, the most supported recommendation was to increase the budgetary support for PCAF private sector monitoring. During the previous administration, private sector participation was discouraged. Committees like that for international trade were abolished. The PCAF operations budget was cut in half, and has not been restored to date.

This lack of private sector oversight is partly the reason behind the unexplained and unliquidated expenses in the DA budgets for 2020, 2021 and 2022. This indicates very significant waste and corruption.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. is now taking concrete steps to address this. But private sector participation at the provincial and municipal levels through PCAF is also badly needed. Monitoring should be on a wider and more frequent basis (not just the current once a year system). Congress should provide the budget for this.

It is only with private sector participation in governance that our agriculture development can achieve its needed transformation.

*The author is Agriwatch chair, former secretary of presidential flagship programs and projects, and former undersecretary of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Trade and Industry. Contact is agriwatch\_phil@yahoo.com*

<https://business.inquirer.net/469321/decaying-farm-equipment>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Marcos hands over P99-M aid to Palawan, Marinduque folk

By: [Geraldford Ticke](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:04 AM July 19, 2024



CHECK President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. hands over the symbolic check worth P50 million intended as aid to farmers and fishermen who were affected by the recent El Niño to Palawan Gov. Victorino Dennis Socrates, during his visit to Puerto Princesa City on Thursday. On his left is House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez who also joined the trip. —PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY-PALAWAN PHOTO

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. visited this city on Thursday to distribute about P99 million in financial assistance to the agriculture sector in Palawan and Marinduque provinces, particularly to the farmers and fisherfolk severely affected by the dry spell spawned by the El Niño phenomenon that affected the country early this year.

Mr. Marcos, who was on his third visit here since becoming president, distributed a total of P10 million to around 10,000 residents of this city and another P50 million in cash assistance to the

different municipalities of Palawan, taken from the Presidential Assistance to Farmers, Fisherfolk and their Families (PAFFF) fund of the Office of the President.

He also handed out P39 million in PAFFF assistance for Marinduque, which was received by Gov. Presbitero Velasco Jr.

Palawan and Marinduque both belong to Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan) region.

The President was initially set to fly to Romblon first for the same activity but the schedule was cut short because of unfavorable weather conditions.

Secretaries Benjamin Abalos of the Department of Interior and Local Government, Francisco Tiu Laurel of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and Rexlon Gatchalian of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) who were already in Romblon conducted the distribution of the financial aid on behalf of the President.

House Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, who also serves as caretaker of Palawan's first and third legislative districts, joined Mr. Marcos on the trip and also distributed sacks of rice to the beneficiaries.

The President said the assistance hoped to partly ease the losses suffered by the agriculture sector in Mimaropa, which has reached P3 billion, caused by the drought.

### **Fishing gear, irrigation**

The recent El Niño, which started affecting the country in December last year, ended with the onset of the rainy season in June.

Aside from the presidential aid, the DSWD also distributed P10,000 to each of the more than 6,000 beneficiaries under the Ayuda para sa Kapos ang Kita Program.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources also distributed P29,850,000 worth of fishing boats and other equipment and fish cages, while the DA distributed more than P900 million worth



of farm implements that include hand tractors, rice combine harvesters, walk-behind transplanters, pump engine sets, hammermills, corn shellers and fertilizers.

According to the President, the National Irrigation Administration would also distribute P8 million worth of assistance for operation and maintenance subsidies to different irrigation associations and P500 million worth of certificates that either condone or exempt landowners from paying their dues under the National and Communal Irrigation System.

Irrigation projects valued at around P200 million will also be set up in four areas in Palawan while P20 million will be allotted for survival and recovery program and another P30 million for the agri-business loan program in the province, he added.

Mr. Marcos said the government will also provide training to farmers to teach them ways to improve production.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1962369/marcos-hands-p99-m-aid-to-palawan-marinduque-folk>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# DA eyes one-year test run of P29 rice program

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:38 AM July 19, 2024



Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. PHOTO FROM DA FB PAGE

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is considering extending its “Program 29,” which sells a kilo of rice at only P29, to a period of one year to assess the long-term viability, Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said on Thursday.

“It’s a large-scale trial to determine if we can sell rice at these low levels for an extended period with government subsidy,” Tiu Laurel said.

The agriculture secretary explained that the one-year trial period would allow the DA to gather and evaluate the data “comprehensively” from farm to retail and “determine what needs to be done” to ensure the program’s sustainability.

“This will be [a] one-year program so we can review the entire chain—from buying seeds, planting them, utilizing fertilizer, sourcing fertilizer, harvesting, warehousing, up to the retailing stage—and determine where we could save on costs to lower prices to consumers,” he added.

The DA unveiled the program last month in selected areas in Metro Manila and Bulacan province to sell discounted rice to the vulnerable sector of the population on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

### **Program beneficiaries**

The vulnerable sector is pegged at 6.9 million households, or around 34 million Filipinos. These include 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.

Under the program, they can purchase up to 10 kilos a month of good quality rice for P29 per kilogram, much lower than prevailing market prices, from Kadiwa centers.

The DA earlier announced that the initiative's coverage would be expanded to include areas outside the metropolis by August or September and eventually, to all 1,500 municipalities nationwide.

The rice sold at Kadiwa centers is purchased by the Food Terminal Inc. (FTI), a government corporation under the DA, from the inventory of aging stocks of the National Food Authority (NFA).

Other sources eyed

But aside from NFA stocks, the DA is also looking at sourcing rice from the contract-growing arrangement between the National Irrigation Administration and farmers and, if needed, through importation by FTI and other DA-controlled corporations to support the P29 program.

The DA said it intends to lower the selling price under this initiative if the cost of the staple food softens further as indicated by current global trends.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1962405/da-eyes-one-year-test-run-of-p29-rice-program>

**BUSINESS WORLD:**

# Farmers want more say on coco trust fund use

July 18, 2024 | 8:45 pm



By **Adrian H. Halili**, Reporter

COCONUT farmers say they are underrepresented on the body that determines the use of an industry trust fund sourced from assets acquired using the coconut levy.

“Farmers are nowhere on the Coconut Trust Fund Committee. So that has to be amended,” Charles R. Avila, executive director for the Confederation of Coconut Farmers’ Organizations of the Philippines, told *BusinessWorld*.

Republic Act No. 11521, or the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act, puts coconut levy assets into a trust fund that will finance the rehabilitation and modernization of the coconut industry.

The law tasks the Bureau of the Treasury with transferring P10 billion immediately to the trust fund, P10 billion in the second year; P15 billion in the third year; P15 billion in the fourth year; and P25 billion in the fifth year.

The use of the fund is guided by the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan.

The coconut levy from the first Marcos Presidency was improperly used to acquire assets for private gain. The assets were seized and later transferred to the trust fund after lengthy legal proceedings.

Mr. Avila added that the government needs to amend the law.

“The law has infirmities. The coconut trust fund committee right now is consists of officials led by the Department of Finance (DoF),” he said.

The trust fund committee is headed by representatives from the DoF as well as the departments of Budget and Management and Justice.

He added that pending any changes to the law, the trust fund committee should have an advisory committee which includes the Department of Agriculture, the Philippine Coconut Authority, and coconut farmers.

On the other hand, Mr. Avila said that production continues to be hindered by the age of the Philippines’ coconut trees.

“We may be one of the top three producers in the world, we are supplying about 80% of global demand... but we may not be able to do that (further) if we do not plant more trees,” he added.

He said that the government should also involve coconut farmer organizations in the replanting effort.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. ordered the PCA to draft a plan to rehabilitate the coconut industry, including the planting of 100 million coconut trees by 2028.

The rehabilitation plan aims to address the advanced age of the nut-bearing trees. The PCA is seeking to replant about 8.5 million trees this year.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/07/18/609071/farmers-want-more-say-on-coco-trust-fund-use/>

**REMATE:**

## Coastal waters sa ilang lugar sa Bataan sapul ng red tide

July 18, 2024 15:49



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga- Nagpalabas ng babala ang Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Central Luzon office sa lungsod na ito nitong Miyerkules, Hulyo 17, ukol sa presensya ng *gymnodinium catenatum*, ang microorganism na nagdudulot ng red tide at paralytic shellfish poison, sa coastal waters ng Bataan.

Nagpositibo ang laboratory examination ng seawater samples na nakolekta mula sa coastal waters ng Balanga City at mga bayan ng Orani, Hermosa, Limay, Mariveles, Orion, Pilar, Samal, at Abucay sa *gymnodinium catenatum*, base sa BFAR Central Luzon.

“To safeguard human lives, we are issuing this warning as a precautionary advice to the public to refrain from gathering, selling, and eating all types of shellfish and *Acetes spp.x* locally known as alamang from (the identified localities of) Bataan to avoid possible shellfish poisoning,” anito.

Sinabi ng regional agency na ligtas pa ring kainin ang isda, pusit, alimasag, at hipon sa kondisyong sariwa ang mga ito at hinugasang mabuti at tinanggalan ng lamang-loob bago iluto. **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/coastal-waters-sa-ilang-lugar-sa-bataan-sapul-ng-red-tide/>



**REMATE:**

## **P20.7-B dam project sa Capiz target ng NIA**

July 18, 2024 10:47



MANILA, Philippines – Sinabi ng National Irrigation Administration (NIA) na umaasa ito na masisimulan na ang pagtatayo ng P20.7-bilyong Panay River Basin Integrated Development Project (PRBIDP) sa Capiz sa 2026, o mas maaga pa, kung makakapagtipid sila sa 2025.

Sa isang panayam, sinabi ni NIA Administrator Eduardo Guillen na sisimulan na nila ang pagkuha ng right of way at mga kinakailangang permit sa susunod na taon.

“Rest assured, sisimulan na natin ang project. Mayroon na tayong kumpletong datos,” sabi ni Guillen sa sidelines ng inagurasyon ng Jalaur River Multipurpose Project II sa Calinog, Iloilo.

Sinabi niya na maaari nilang i-bid ang proyekto sa pamamagitan ng disenyo at pagbuo, na mas mabilis sa average na tatlong taon sa mga tuntunin ng pagpapatupad.

Kaugnay nito sinabi pa ni Guillen na kung makakakuha sila ng isang contractor na may Quadruple A accreditation na kayang ipatupad ang proyekto, ito ay matatapos bago matapos ang termino ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. sa 2028.



Kapag nakumpleto na, inaasahang tutugon sa proyekto ng Panay River ang pagbaha sa humigit-kumulang 26,800 ektarya sa Capiz, bubuo ng hydroelectric power na 18.42 megawatts, at maglalabas ng tatlong cubic meters ng tubig kada segundo sa mga kalapit na munisipalidad.

Samantala ang proyekto ay magkakaroon ng reservoir dam sa Barangay Acuña at isang afterbay dam sa Barangay Garcia, lahat sa bayan ng Tapaz, na lilikha ng 13,950 ektarya ng mga potensyal na bagong irrigable na lugar.

Kaugnay nito inaasahang mapapakinabangan nito ang 25,046 magsasaka at 9,378 katutubo na kabahayan.

Saklaw nito ang lungsod ng Roxas, at ang mga munisipalidad ng Maayon, Panay, Panitan, Pontevedra, Cuartero, Dao, Dumalag, Jamindan, Mambusao, Sigma, at Tapaz, lahat sa Capiz, at ang mga karatig na bayan ng Bingawan, San Rafael, at Lemery sa Iloilo.

Sinabi ni Guillen na napakalaki ng catchbasin ng Panay River Basin, humigit-kumulang 10 beses kaysa sa JRMP II dam kaya pinag-aaralan nila kung ang tubig mula sa river basin ay maaaring magpalaki ng tubig sa JRMP II sa pamamagitan ng transbasin tunnel. *Santi Celario*

<https://remate.ph/p20-7-b-dam-project-sa-capiz-target-ng-nia/>

**REMATE:**

## **8 baybayin sa Samar positibo sa red tide**

July 18, 2024 10:35



SINABI ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) na hindi bababa sa walong (8) bay sa Samar Island ang positibo sa toxic red tide batay sa pinakahuling seawater sampling, kung saan ang ilang bahagi ng dagat ay nagpapakita ng red discoloration.

Sa advisory na inilabas, sinabi ng BFAR na may nakitang red tides sa tubig-dagat ng Daram Island; Isla ng Zumarraga; Maqueda Bay sa mga bayan ng Jiabong, Motiong, Paranas, San Sebastian, Calbiga, Pinabacdao, at Hinabangan; Cambatutay Bay sa Tarangnan; at Irongirong Bay sa Catbalogan City.

Nabatid pa sa ulat na ang iba pang mga baybayin na apektado ng red tide ay ang baybayin ng Guiuan sa Eastern Samar; Matarinao Bay sa mga bayan ng General MacArthur, Quinapondan, Hernani, at Salcedo, sa Eastern Samar; at ang baybaying tubig ng Calbayog City sa Samar.

“Sa kasalukuyan, may nakitang red discoloration sa Samar Sea. Ayon sa pagsusuri ng tubig-dagat na kinuha sa lugar na ito, mayroong Pyrodinium Bahamense, isang nakakalason na microorganism na nagdudulot ng paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP),” dagdag pa ng BFAR.

Samantala mahigpit na pinapayuhan ang lahat na huwag mangolekta, magbenta, o kumain ng anumang uri ng shellfish, kabilang ang maliliit na hipon mula sa Samar Sea, sinabi ng advisory.

Regular na naglalabas ng advisory ang fisheries bureau kasunod ng mga ulat na may ilang indibidwal ang nagkasakit matapos kumain ng sardinas mula sa Samar Sea. *Santi Celario*

<https://remate.ph/8-baybayin-sa-samar-positibo-sa-red-tide/>

**REMATE:**

## Presyo ng itlog sisingit ng ‘gang 20%

July 18, 2024 07:50



MANILA – Sinabi ng Department of Agriculture (DA) na maaaring tumaas ng 10 hanggang 20 porsiyento ang presyo ng mga itlog habang papalapit ang pagbubukas ng paaralan.

Ayon sa DA-Bantay Presyo (price watch), ang price range ng medium egg sa Metro Manila ay nakatakda mula PHP5.50 hanggang PHP9.

“Pagdating ng ‘ber’ months (September to December), normally nagti-trigger na ng panahon ng paglakas ng demand sa itlog at gaya ng nabanggit ko before, kapag ‘ber’ months at panahon ng pasukan,” sabi ni DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa sa isang panayam.

Para sa school year 2024-2025, itinakda ng Department of Education (DepEd) ang pagbubukas ng klase sa Hulyo 29.

Gayunman, sinabi ni Philippine Egg Board Association president Francis Uyehara na nagsimula na ang pagtaas ng presyo sa ilang lugar, kung isasaalang-alang ang mga epekto ng “third quarter syndrome” — o ang outbreak period ng sakit — kung saan ang mga layer ay apektado ng mga namamatay at bumaba ang produksyon.

Noong Hulyo, ang umiiral na farm gate price ng medium egg ay nakatakda sa P6.46 bawat piraso, mas mataas kaysa noong nakaraang buwan na P6.07/pc, at P5.80/pc para sa parehong buwan noong nakaraang taon.

Ang kasalukuyang farm gate price para sa mga medium na itlog ay malapit na sa holiday season (Setyembre 2023 hanggang Enero ngayong taon) na P6.31/pc hanggang P7.12/pc. *Santi Celario*

<https://remate.ph/presyo-ng-itlog-sisirit-ng-gang-20/>

# 10k agri workers get aid — Speaker



**PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANCE.** President Marcos is assisted by Speaker Martin Romualdez in distributing aid to residents of Palawan and Marinduque whose livelihoods were adversely affected by the El Nino phenomenon Thursday morning in Puerto Princesa City.

By Maricel Cruz

**July 19, 2024, 12:20 am**

Some 10,000 agriculture sector workers from the provinces of Palawan and Marinduque on Thursday received direct financial assistance courtesy of the Presidential Assistance to Farmers and Fisherfolk (PAFF) program.

President Marcos and House Speaker Martin Romualdez led the distribution of cash aid to the intended beneficiaries during ceremonies at the Edward S. Hagedorn Coliseum in Puerto Princesa City.

During the event, Romuladez told the recipients that the financial assistance is the administration's way of giving back for all their contributions to ensuring food security in the country.



“You – our farmers and fishermen – feed and sustain the entire country. It is our government’s obligation to ensure that your families are always fed and that there is a bright future for your children,” the Speaker said in Filipino.

“By giving you support, we will be able to boost food production and ensure that their prices are affordable for our people,” he added.

Palawan Gov. Victorino Dennis Socrates, Vice Gov. Leoncio Ola, Second District Rep. Jose Alvarez, and Puerto Princesa City Mayor Lucilo Bayron were present at the event. Marinduque Gov. Presbitero Velasco Jr. also witnessed the PAFF distribution.

In his speech, Romualdez vowed to support Marcos administration initiatives aimed at providing support to financially-struggling families, such as the PAFF.

“We are very, very proud to be working under your leadership. I assure you, in the upcoming budget, these programs and projects of yours will be fully supported by the House of Representatives,” he told the President.

Romualdez is the concurrent caretaker of the first and third Districts of Palawan following the recent deaths of Reps. Edgardo Salvame and Edward Hegedorn.

Meanwhile, Romualdez thanked Filipinos for their continued increase in his trust ratings as indicated by the latest Pulse Asia survey for the month of June this year.

“We are happy to know that the confidence of the Filipino people in our ability as the leader of the Congress continues to grow. These results are a clear affirmation of the diligent work and dedication demonstrated by my colleagues here at the House of Representatives,” Romualdez said in a statement.

“Leading this esteemed institution has been an honor, and your continued trust inspires us to strive for excellence in all our endeavors. The welfare of the Filipino people remains our top priority,” he said.

<https://manilastandard.net/news/national/314473516/10k-agri-workers-get-aid-speaker.html>

**MANILA STANDARD**

# **DOTr prioritizes accessible ports for smooth supply chains**

By Manila Standard

**July 18, 2024, 6:10 pm**

The Department of Transportation said keeping the supply chains flowing through accessible ports across the archipelago will support various industries and ensure inclusive growth for Filipinos.

Transportation Secretary Jaime J. Bautista said seaports must keep the supply chains flowing as part of the thrust to enhance mobility and connectivity.

“Our seaports should be able to fully support the shipping, fishing, trade, agriculture, and tourism industries,” Bautista said in a statement.

He stressed that modernizing ports should not only entail improving facilities but also ensuring the efficient and faster turnaround of vessels.

“This efficiency eventually leads to lower logistics costs, opportunities for tourism, economic sustainability, and inclusive growth,” Bautista said.

Recognized as one of the top performing government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCCs), the PPA remitted P5.06 billion to the government as cash dividends or over 50 percent increase of the agency’s 2022 remittance.

“There’s more that needs to be done over the next 50 years. You need to raise your standards – exceed the expectations of travelers; do better than before; go global,” he said.

<https://manilastandard.net/transport/314473232/dotr-prioritizes-accessible-ports-for-smooth-supply-chains.html>



# Fishermen press govt for food, jobs

By Franco Jose C. Baroña

July 19, 2024

AN alliance of small-scale and subsistence fishermen on Thursday held a rally at the Department of Agriculture (DA) in Quezon City to call on the government to focus on providing the people with food and jobs, instead of allotting a huge budget for military spending.

The members of Pangisda Pilipinas said the Marcos administration needs to address challenges in the agriculture and fishing sector to ensure the country attains food security.

This can not be achieved if it continues to allot a huge chunk of the national budget to procuring military assets and prioritize its goal of solving the ongoing territorial disputes with China over parts of West Philippine Sea, they said.

"We are not belittling the West Philippine Sea issue, but this does not mean that our government should prioritize this over the continuing hunger that many Filipinos are suffering from," said Pablo Rosales, national president of Pangisda Pilipinas.

Rosales said various indicators showed that the country has yet to attain food security.

He said many households are unable to consume nutrient-adequate foods because they are too expensive.

"Our protest is about the increasing hunger, lack of jobs and the destruction of nature," Rosales said.

He said the government should formulate national policies and programs to fast-track the modernization of agriculture and fishing.

Rosales said the Marcos administration still has not addressed the root causes of the fishers' struggles and offers no real solutions to the country's problems.

"We need concrete steps to address the food crises and the lack of jobs, and even environmental destruction. Filipinos need those, not war or bombs," he said.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/07/19/news/national/fishermen-press-govt-for-food-jobs/1958383>

# 1-year trial of P29 rice program sought

By Philippine News Agency

July 19, 2024

AGRICULTURE Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. on Thursday pushed for a year-round large-scale trial of the P29 program, or the sale of aging but good-quality rice stocks at P29 per kilogram to the vulnerable sector.

The vulnerable groups include members of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and solo parents, which account for around 6.9 million households nationwide.

"This large-scale trial will gather data from farm to retail; that's why this cannot be done in a month or two months," Laurel said in a statement, citing plans to expand the P29 program to 1,500 municipalities across the country.



Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. Photo from Department of Agriculture

"This will be (a) one-year program so we can review the entire chain, from buying seeds, planting them, utilizing fertilizer, sourcing fertilizer, harvesting, warehousing, up to the retailing stage, and

determine where we could save on costs to lower prices to consumers," he added.

Laurel said the large-scale trial shall also help DA assess if the government can sustain the low price of subsidized rice for a long period.



The Department of Agriculture (DA) starts selling rice for P29 per kilo at the Kadiwa center at the Bureau of Plant Industry on July 12, 2024 under the government's Program 29. Each beneficiary is allowed to buy 10 kilos of rice per month. Buyers only need to bring their ID and reusable containers or bags to put the purchased rice. PHOTO BY RENE H. DILAN

"We will assess the data comprehensively, backtrack to the farm level, and determine what needs to be done to make this program sustainable," he said.

On July 5, the DA launched the P29 large-scale trial in 10 Kadiwa centers in Metro Manila and Bulacan, including sites in the Bureau of Animal Industry dome and National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in Quezon City; Bureau of Plant Industry in Malate, Manila; Food Terminal Inc. in Taguig City; Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority in Las Piñas; Bayani Fernando Central Terminal or BFCT and Barangay Fortune in Marikina; sites in Caloocan and Valenzuela; and City of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

The DA needs to expand the program in Visayas and Mindanao by August or September.

Besides the P29 program, the DA also plans to launch the Rice for All program or the sale of mixed imported and local well-milled rice at P45/kg to P48/kg to benefit the general public.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/07/19/news/national/1-year-trial-of-p29-rice-program-sought/1958356>

# New ASF cases reported in Cebu

By Kaiser Jan Fuentes

July 19, 2024

CEBU CITY — New cases of African swine fever (ASF) have been reported in Cebu City, raising concerns among local authorities and livestock farmers.

Dr. Alice Utlang, head of the Department of Veterinary Medicine and Fisheries (DVMF), confirmed that seven blood samples from pigs in Barangay Bonbon, Cebu City, have tested positive for ASF.

The results came from the Department of Agriculture Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory Central Visayas, following the recent death of seven pigs on July 14.

To curb the spread, Utlang has urged the government to implement strict biosecurity measures.

"We are asking swine farmers not to allow anybody to enter their farms, especially outsiders, and to disinfect and follow biosecurity protocols," Utlang said.

She added that since last Wednesday, personnel from the DVMF and the Cebu City Agriculture Department have been distributing disinfectants to affected areas.

"Please do not allow pigs from Bonbon (including piglets) to enter, be accepted, or bought from the area. Protect your own barangay and pig farm," Utlang said.

While no culling of pigs has been mandated, random testing has been intensified to control the disease even as officials have encouraged to implement strict border controls to prevent the movement of hogs from Barangay Bonbon.

ASF is a highly contagious viral disease affecting domestic and wild pigs, characterized by high fever, loss of appetite, and hemorrhages in the skin and internal organs.

While not a threat to human health, ASF has severe economic impacts due to livestock loss and trade restrictions. The virus spreads through direct contact with infected pigs, contaminated feed, or objects such as clothing and vehicles.

In March last year, the ASF virus was first detected in Carcar City, southern Cebu. However, Utlang made headlines when she revealed that the virus was actually initially detected in Minglanilla town in November 2022, not in Carcar.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/07/19/regions/new-asf-cases-reported-in-cebu/1958386>

# DTI-6 starts rice price monitoring

By Rjay Zuriaga Castor

July 19, 2024

ILOILO CITY — The Department of Trade and Industry – Western Visayas (DTI-6) said it has started collecting data on the baseline prices of rice in the region in compliance with the lowered rice tariff requirement of Executive Order (EO) 62.

"Before we implement the EO, we are still getting the baseline data on current rice prices," said Grace Benedicto, Consumer Protection Division chief of the DTI-6, noting that they started their monitoring procedures on July 8.

Benedicto said they have so far monitored 29 establishments selling rice that are either regular milled, well-milled, or special premium across the region.

"The DTI and Department of Agriculture (DA) will be in the piggy bank to monitor the prices of rice in supermarkets, hypermarkets and grocery stores," she added.

The price monitoring of DTI will cover supermarkets, hypermarkets and grocery stores, while wet markets will be under the DA's purview.

The EO issued by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on June 29 ordered the modification of nomenclature and tariff rates on various imported agricultural products, including rice, for the period 2024-2028.

"An updated comprehensive tariff schedule aims to augment supply, manage prices, and temper inflationary pressure of various commodities," read a dispositive part of the EO.

Specifically, the EO has lowered the tariff on imported rice from 35 percent to 15 percent effective July 5.

Benedicto said their monitoring in markets will also indicate whether the rice product is local or imported and their sources.

"We are not limiting our monitoring per kilogram. We are also monitoring those that are 5, 10, or 25 kilograms," she added.

"Hopefully it will reduce the prices, especially for our imported rice. We will check that after the EO takes effect."



DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa previously said that prices of rice are expected to drop by P6 to P7 after the EO has taken effect.

Meanwhile, National Economic and Development Authority Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said the move to lower the tariff is seen to bring down the price of rice to P29 per kilo.

Benedicto further appealed to rice retailers to be aware of the new EO and know who their suppliers are.

The DTI-6 said it is closely coordinating with the DA in monitoring those who will not comply with the EO and the Price Act or Republic Act 7581.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/07/19/regions/dti-6-starts-rice-price-monitoring/1958125>

# Bataan beset by red tide

By Ernie Esconde

July 19, 2024

SAMAL, Bataan — The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources in Central Luzon (BFAR-3) on Wednesday night issued an advisory telling people to refrain from gathering, selling, and eating all types of shellfishes and "alamang" (shrimp paste) caught along the coastal waters of Bataan.

Based on the laboratory examination conducted by the BFAR-3, sea water samples collected from the coastal waters in the towns of Orani, Hermosa, Mariveles, Limay, Orion, Pilar, Samal, Abucay and Balanga City are positive of *gymnodinium catenatum*, a toxic microorganism that causes paralytic shellfish poison.

The BFAR-3 issued the warning to avoid possible shellfish poisoning. Fish, squid, crab, and shrimp are safe to eat provided fresh and all entrails are removed and washed thoroughly with running water before cooking.

Precila Banal of Samal town, who has been in the shellfish business for 30 years, said she and her family were greatly affected by the shellfish ban.

She and her children are maintaining shellfish stalls along the MacArthur Highway in Samal. They began to remove the green mussels and oysters in their stores.

"Kung kailan magpapasukan doon walang hanapbuhay. Isinasako na, iaalis na dito dahil tiyak na ipatatanggal din ito. Napakalaking epekto, malaking gutom ayun lahat ng anak ko siyang nagtitinda riyan lahat na iyan walang hanapbuhay (Just when school is about to start, we have no livelihood. I am now ready to dispatch all these shellfish. What a big loss to us, I have children who are now without income)," the old woman lamented.

Banal is requesting the government to speed up whatever assistance will be given to them.

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"Gustuhin man namin humanap ng ibang hanapbuhay, wala kaming pagkukunan ng puhunan ngayon (Though we want to find a way to earn income, but where do we get the needed capital)," said Criselda Banal, daughter-in-law of Precila.

Precila added she doesn't know where to get the means for her three children's school requirements because of the red tide.

Erichelle Mico Perez, agricultural technologist under the municipal agriculture office of Samal, confirmed the BFAR advisory on the red tide.

"Shellfishes such as tahong, talaba, capiz are not to be eaten because of the red tide," he said.

Perez said before reporting to his office Thursday morning, he already advised fishermen and those in the shellfish business in Samal about the red tide. He said that Samal Mayor Alex Acuzar was also informed of the BFAR advisory.

"Red tide is a phenomenon and therefore we have no control on it. Every week, we get samples and BFAR is the one authorized to get sampling of water and meat from shellfishes. We check all of them," said Perez.

Perez said the samples are tested in the BFAR laboratory.

"The sample levels are checked and once the levels rise above 60 micrograms per 100 grams, it's the condition that we call red tide," explained Perez.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/07/19/regions/bataan-beset-by-red-tide/1958376>

# State of calamity declared over ASF

By Nikki Delos Reyes

July 18, 2024

THE Sangguniang Bayan of San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, has placed the town under a state of calamity as recommended by the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council following an African swine fever (ASF) outbreak that has left P31 million in losses to the local hog industry.

Municipal agriculturist Romel Calingasan said on Wednesday that the town is currently categorized as a "red zone" with an estimated loss amounting to P31,382,000.

Total natural deaths have already reached 969 heads, with an estimated value of P11,794,000, while 1,768 heads valued at P19,588,000 were depopulated.

Authorities have reported that 12 barangay (villages), namely Mapaya, Mangarin, Mabini, Labangan Poblacion, Bayotbot, Magbay, La Curva, Bagong Sikat, San Roque, Bubog, San Isidro and San Agustin, have growing ASF cases. Additionally, two barangay — Camburay and Central — have suspected cases with reported deaths and symptoms.

Meanwhile, Calingasan said that ASF-hit hog raisers would receive an indemnification from the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. with an amount of P5,000 per pig culled.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/07/18/regions/state-of-calamity-declared-over-asf/1958145>

# DA chief eyes extension of cheaper rice scheme

[Ada Pelonia](#)  
[July 19, 2024](#)



AGRICULTURE Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. wants to extend the trial period of the government's cheaper rice program to one year.

The agriculture chief said this is to gather sufficient data to create a strategy that would keep the cost of the staple down for a larger number of Filipinos while sustaining farmers' income.

“This program is a targeted intervention. It’s a large-scale trial to determine if we can sell rice at these low levels for an extended period with government subsidy. We will assess the data comprehensively, backtrack to the farm level, and determine what needs to be done to make this program sustainable,” Laurel said in a statement.

“This large-scale trial will gather data from farm to retail, that’s why this cannot be done in a month or two months. This will be a one-year program so we can review the entire chain—from buying seeds, planting them, utilizing fertilizer, sourcing fertilizer, harvesting, warehousing, up to the retailing stage—and determine where we could save on costs to lower prices to consumers,” he added.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) recently launched its P29 program in 10 Kadiwa centers in Metro Manila and Bulacan wherein P29 per kilo of rice would be sold to vulnerable sectors, such as indigents, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, solo parents and Indigenous Peoples (IPs) every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

It added that these vulnerable sectors are estimated to total 6.9 million households or around 34 million Filipinos. Each beneficiary could buy 10 kilos of rice per month from Kadiwa centers at a subsidized price.

“The program sells rice purchased by the Food Terminal, Inc., a government corporation under the DA, from the inventory of aging stocks of the National Food Authority [NFA] and made available to disadvantaged sectors through the Kadiwa centers relaunched by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.,” the department said.

Aside from NFA stocks, the DA said it is also looking at rice supply from the contract-growing arrangement entered into by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) with farmers and, if needed, through importation by FTI and other DA-controlled corporations to support the P29 program.

The DA chief said he plans to lower the selling price if the cost of the grain softens further as indicated by world market trends, with the expected lifting by India of its export ban on non-basmati rice and production in exporting countries such as Vietnam and Thailand improves with the end of El Niño.

Laurel said the program will be expanded to cover areas outside Luzon by August or September, and ideally to all the 1,500 municipalities of the country.

The DA noted that it is also pushing the “Rice-for-All” initiative where private traders are invited to sell their stocks of well-milled and fancy rice in Kadiwa centers at prices lower than those prevailing in the market.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/19/da-chief-eyes-extension-of-cheaper-rice-scheme/>

# **Congressman presses DA to provide free anti-ASF shots to small raisers**

Jovee Marie N. de la Cruz  
July 18, 2024

AS he welcomed the scheduled local rollout of the Vietnamese vaccine found effective against African swine fever (ASF) in two months, a senior lawmaker on Thursday reiterated his proposal for the Department of Agriculture (DA) to provide the anti-ASF shots free of charge to small or backyard hog raisers.

Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Raymund Villafuerte, National Unity Party (NUP) president, urged the DA to provide the shots at no cost to backyard hog raisers, given their financial struggles due to the ongoing ASF outbreaks and the lingering effects of COVID-19.

“With an effective anti-ASF vaccine in the offing, the DA can best boost its swine repopulation program and provide succor to livestock raisers reeling from ASF outbreaks and the lingering impact of Covid-19 on their enterprises, by rolling out a free immunization drive for the hogs of backyard growers, who account for a majority of our local producers,” Villafuerte said.

Villafuerte, who has been advocating for free DA shots for backyard growers since last year, reiterated his proposal following Agriculture Secretary Francis Tiu Laurel Jr.’s recent announcement about the vaccine’s rollout, initially for government use, by September.

Laurel said that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the local use of the vaccine, and the DA plans to limit its rollout for government use starting in September, with commercial use expected six months later.

Agriculture Undersecretary Deogracias Victor Savellano was quoted separately as saying that the livestock sector has proposed an P8.9 billion outlay under the DA’s proposed budget in 2025 and that the DA is planning to help backyard raisers, once the anti-ASF vaccine is approved, by possibly providing the shots for free.

Savellano said that the DA prioritizes helping backyard raisers, who account for around 70 percent to 80 percent of the country's hog producers. country's hog producers.

Moreover, Villafuerte expressed optimism that a free inoculation program would finally halt large-scale pig deaths and rejuvenate the ASF-affected local hog industry.

The CamSur legislator introduced twin House resolutions urging the larger chamber to: (1) investigate the extent of ASF damage to the hog industry and assist the government in developing proactive measures and effective responses to help this livestock subsector; and (2) ensure that the DA and Department of Budget and Management (DBM) prioritize acquiring the imported vaccines against ASF.

For Villafuerte, the vaccine rollout is expected to “reinvigorate” the local hog industry, which “continues to reel from a pork supply shortfall and the consequent market price spike despite the numerous policy measures that the DA and its BAI [Bureau of Animal Industry] have initiated in recent years to repopulate the domestic pig population in the face of recurring ASF outbreaks nationwide.

ASF, a disease with an almost 100 percent fatality rate for infected pigs and boars, surfaced in Asia in 2018 and then hit the Philippines in 2019, leading to a 50 percent drop in the domestic swine population from 13 million head pre-ASF to 6.6 million head in 2021.

The BAI confirmed ASF outbreaks in 5,324 barangays across 73 provinces in 17 regions over the last five years.

As of mid-May, there were active ASF cases in 78 barangays in 18 towns in 11 provinces in seven regions.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/18/congressman-presses-da-to-provide-free-anti-asf-shots-to-small-raisers/>



# **DA: Program to shield PHL from salmonella**

Ada Pelonia  
July 18, 2024



Various government agencies, the academe and the private sector are currently crafting a program that aims to prevent outbreaks of salmonella linked to poultry.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) issued Special Order (SO) 1023 which mandated the creation of a technical working group (TWG) that will come up with a national poultry salmonella prevention and control program.

The DA took its cue from Republic Act (RA) 10611 or the “Food Safety Act of 2013” and RA 8485 or the “Animal Welfare Act of 1998” as amended by RA 10631.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. signed SO 1023 which indicated that the TWG will be composed of DA agencies, professional organizations, state university and colleges (SUCs), poultry stakeholders, local government units (LGUs) and development partners.

“The TWG shall discuss relevant issues and concerns on the SPCP [salmonella prevention and control program] and Salmonella in the poultry sector as it relates to

food safety and animal health and recommend measures to address this,” SO 1023 read.

The TWG would be headed by Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) Director Arlene Asteria Vytiaco, with respective chiefs from BAI Animal Health and Welfare Division and BAI National Veterinary Quarantine Services Division as vice-chairs.

Among the tasks of the TWG are drafting and designing a poultry salmonella control program, reviewing the current issuances concerning salmonella, and conducting lectures and seminars on salmonella. SO 1023 said members should meet on a monthly basis.

“The NPSPCP-TWG is responsible for the development, implementation and sustainability of the program.”

The DA said expenses relative to the performance of duties and responsibilities of the TWG members should be charged against available funds of BAI, subject to usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

The Philippine News Agency reported in March that salmonella cases in the country rose to 13,000 in 2023, from 9,000 in 2022. The figures were provided by a scientist from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

Homer Pantua said in a televised briefing that officials need to quickly address the public health concern.

“There are 83 million cases globally. In the Philippines, salmonella cases were 9,000 in 2022 and increased to 42 percent from January to August 2023.”

The salmonella bacteria are passed from feces of people or animals. “The foodborne salmonellosis causes gastro intestinal disorders, fever and abdominal cramps in people. In animals, the livestock salmonella result in decreased productivity.”

Pantua said the bacteria could come from raw and undercooked foods such as eggs and meat.

Meats that are not properly processed or have been contaminated could also produce the bacteria.

In May, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) started an investigation into a salmonella outbreak that is linked to backyard poultry.

“Backyard poultry, such as chickens and ducks, can carry salmonella germs even if they look healthy and clean. These germs can easily spread to anything in the areas where the poultry live and roam,” CDC said.

As of June 27, CDC said salmonella from backyard poultry have sickened 195 people, including 50 who were hospitalized, in 38 states.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/18/da-program-to-shield-phl-from-salmonella/>

# Presyo ng itlog, tataas pa - DA

[Angie dela Cruz](#)

July 19, 2024 | 12:00am



Store workers arrange trays of eggs at Blumentritt Market in Manila on September 29, 2023.

Ernie Penaredondo/The Philippine STAR

**MANILA, Philippines** — Tataas pa sa kasalukuyang presyo nito ang halaga ng bawat piraso ng itlog sa mga pamilihan.

Ito ang tinaya ni Agriculture Asst Secretary at Spokesman Arnel de Mesa dulot nang nalalapit na pagbubukas a pasok sa mga paaralan sa Hulyo 29.

Anya, tuwing panahon ng pasukan ay malakas ang demand sa itlog gaya ng panahon ng “ber months“ na malakas ang demand ng naturang produkto.

Batay sa DA-Bantay Presyo, naglalaro sa P5.50 hanggang P9 ang halaga ng medium size na itlog sa mga pamilihan at palengke sa Metro Manila at maaaring tumaas pa ito sa pagsisimula sa pasukan.

“Pagdating ng ‘ber’ months (September to December), normally nagti-trigger na ng panahon ng paglakas ng demand sa itlog at gaya ng nabanggit ko before, kapag ‘ber’ months at panahon ng pasukan,” sabi ni de Mesa.

Binigyang diin naman ni Francis Uyehara, pangulo ng Philippine Egg Board Association na nagsimula nang tumaas ang presyo ng itlog sa ibang lugar sa bansa.

Nitong Hulyo, ang farm gate price ng medium egg ay nasa P6.46 bawat piraso, mas mataas ito sa P6.07 kada piraso noong Hunyo.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2024/07/19/2371314/presyo-ng-itlog-tataas-pa-da>

# 8 baybayin sa Samar positibo sa red tide - BFAR

[Angie dela Cruz](#)

July 19, 2024 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Inihayag kahapon ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) na hindi bababa sa walong baybayin sa Samar Island ang positibo sa toxic red tide batay sa pinakahuling seawater sampling, kung saan ang ilang bahagi ng dagat ay nagpapakita ng red discoloration.

Sa advisory na inilabas, sinabi ng BFAR na may nakitang red tides sa tubig-dagat ng Daram Island; Isla ng Zumarraga; Maqueda Bay sa mga bayan ng Jiabong, Motiong, Paranas, San Sebastian, Calbiga, Pinabacdao, at Hinabangan; Cambatutay Bay sa Tarangnan; at Irongirong Bay sa Catbalogan City.

Nabatid pa sa ulat na ang iba pang mga baybayin na apektado ng red tide ay ang baybayin ng Guiuan sa Eastern Samar; Matarinao Bay sa mga bayan ng General MacArthur, Quinapondan, Hernani, at Salcedo, sa Eastern Samar; at ang baybaying tubig ng Calbayog City sa Samar.

Mahigpit na pinapayuhan ang lahat na huwag mangolekta, magbenta, o kumain ng anumang uri ng shellfish, kabilang ang maliliit na hipon mula sa Samar Sea.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2024/07/19/2371209/8-baybayin-sa-samar-positibo-sa-red-tide-bfar>