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**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# ASF vaccine to be available soon, says DA chief

**BY RAYMUND ANTONIO**

Jul 4, 2024 09:20 AM

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The Department of Agriculture (DA) announced on Thursday, July 4, that the vaccine for African Swine Fever (ASF) would soon be available for commercial distribution.

The DA, through a statement from the Presidential Communications Office (PCO), said that the commercial trial for the vaccines would be approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in two weeks.

“Malapit nang lumabas ‘yung approval sa vaccine for the swine (The approval for the vaccine for the swine will soon come out),” DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said at the sidelines of Presidential Assistance for Farmers, Fisherfolk and Families (PAFFF) event in Calabayog City, Eastern Samar.

The DA expects the availability of the vaccines would stop the spread of ASF in the country.

“FDA and the DA are working very closely on this. Ang ganda ng teamwork namin (We have a very good teamwork),” Laurel added.

Describing the vaccine as effective, the DA chief said that the vaccine from Vietnam “really works” and “that solves our problem.”

ASF affects hog production. In 2020, thousands of pigs in Luzon have been hit by it.

ASF is a highly contagious and deadly swine disease that can affect both farm-raised and feral (wild) pigs.

Meanwhile, Laurel said the DA aims to concentrate on checking imported goods entering the country.

“Kailangan i-check kasi I believe dati naman wala naman tayong ASF, wala naman tayong bird flu (We need to check because I believe we don’t have ASF before, we don’t have bird flu),” he said.

“Dapat doon tayo sa gates nagbabantay (We need to man the gates) and after that internal,” the official added.

Earlier, President Marcos underscored the importance of anti-ASF vaccines, saying that their availability would pave the way for the swine industry’s recovery.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/4/asf-vaccine-to-be-available-soon-says-da-chief>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# **DA eyes stable P29/kilo rice nationwide, to launch trial program in NCR, Bulacan**

**BY AARON RECUENCO**

Jul 4, 2024 05:01 PM

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On Friday, July 5, the Department of Agriculture (DA) will launch a large-scale trial of “Program 29”, which is aimed at providing high-quality rice for an affordable price of P29, in Metro Manila and Bulacan.

Once fully implemented, DA Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. said the “Program 29” will benefit around 6.9 million households, which he said, represents around 35 million Filipinos across the country.

Based on the program, at least 10 Kadiwa stores in the National Capital Region and Bulacan province will be tapped to participate in the trial program where rice will be sold at P29 per kilo every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday initially.

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The identified Kadiwa sites are located in the offices of the Bureau of Animal Industry and National Irrigation Administration in Quezon City; Bureau of Plant Industry in Manila; Food Terminal Inc. in Taguig City; PhilFIDA in Las Pinas; Caloocan City; Valenzuela City; Brgy. Fortune and BF City (BFCT) in Marikina City; and San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan.

“The large-scale trial aims to gather comprehensive data on supply, demand, and logistics, essential for the smooth nationwide rollout of the program,” said Laurel.

“During this period, KADIWA will also prepare booklets to monitor rice purchases of P29 beneficiaries, which include senior citizens, single parents, persons with disabilities and beneficiaries of the government’s 4Ps (Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program),” he added.

More to come

Nationwide, Laurel said there are 265 established Kadiwa centers along with 119 pop-up stores operating on scheduled rotations to cater to consumer needs.

“The DA estimates that full implementation of the P29 program will require approximately 69,000 metric tons of rice. This will provide 10 kilos of rice per month at P29 per kilo to the targeted 6.9 million vulnerable households,” said Laurel.

He said rice supplies will come from various sources, including the National Food Authority, the National Irrigation Administration’s rice contract growing project, and potential imports managed by DA-affiliated entities.

“Looking ahead, the DA plans to expand the program to major urban centers nationwide with the support of local government units. By August, the number of participating KADIWA centers is expected to double, enhancing accessibility for economically disadvantaged groups in Metro Manila,” said Laurel.

Laurel said the DA is also planning to sell in KADIWA centers rice that are priced lower compared to market in a program tentatively called “Rice-for-All.”

The programs like P29 and Rice-for-All aim to enhance food security and affordability, aligning with President Marcos’ vision of accessible and affordable rice for all Filipinos.

Abuse prevention

Laurel emphasized the importance of preventing abuse of the program by beneficiaries reselling subsidized rice.

“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,” said Laurel.

For her part, Genevieve Velicaria-Guevarra, Assistant Secretary for Consumer and Legislative Affairs, urged consumers qualified to participate in the P29 rice program to bring identification cards and reusable containers or bags to minimize plastic usage.

In addition to lower-priced rice at designated centers, Guevarra said consumers can also buy more affordable essential items such as eggs, meat, and vegetables.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/4/da-eyes-stable-p29-kilo-rice-nationwide-to-launch-trial-program-in-ncr-bulacan>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Marcos to Samar farmers, fisherfolk: We understand your plight

**BY RAYMUND ANTONIO**

Jul 4, 2024 04:38 PM

President Marcos assured farmers, fisherfolk, and their families in Calbayog City, Samar that his administration recognizes the challenges they face in the agricultural industry and is ready to help address these problems.



President Ferdinand ‘Bongbong’ Marcos Jr. talks to the farmers and fishermen during his visit in Samar on Thursday, July 4, 2024. (RTVM screenshot)

On Thursday, July 4, Marcos distributed financial assistance to farmers, fisherfolk, and their families in Calbayog City amid the impact of the drought and dry season brought by the El Niño phenomenon.

“Mga kababayan, nauunawaan po namin [ang] hamon na kinakaharap ninyo araw-araw, lalo [na] sa sektor ng agrikultura at sa pangingsda na siyang haligi ng ekonomiya ng Samar (My fellow countrymen, we understand the challenges you face daily, especially in the agriculture and fisheries sector, which is the foundation of the economy in Samar),” he said.

The President shared that he wanted to personally visit the province, so he can extend financial assistance to those affected by El Niño, which he revealed numbered to 3,000 families in three municipalities in Samar and Eastern Samar.

“Dahil po riyan, narito ang inyong pamahalaan upang iparamdam ang aming suporta sa inyo na walang-pagod na nagsisikap upang matiyak na mayroong pagkain sa hapag [ang]bawat pamilyang Pilipino (Because of that, your government is here to give support to you who work tirelessly to ensure that each Filipino family has food on the table),” Marcos added.

“Kayo po na mga magsasaka at mangingisda, kayo po ay ang tunay na bayani ng ating bansa, at nararapat lamang na bigyang-pugay at suportahan namin ang inyong sipag at ang inyong galing (Farmers and fisherfolk, you are the true heroes of our country, and your hard work and excellence rightfully deserve our honor and support).”

3 Samar provinces get P95-M aid

Meanwhile, Marcos announced that his administration—from the Office of the President (OP) to relevant agencies—has provided a total of P95 million worth of aid to three provinces in Samar.

He said that the OP provided P10,000 each to farmers, fisherfolk, and select families in Samar, Eastern Samar, and Northern Samar.

This is on top of the P35 million credit fund given by the Department of Agriculture’s (DA) Agricultural Credit Policy Council to the Northern Samar Multi-Purpose Cooperative and the Rural Bank of Calbayog City, as well as the P5.08 million from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) for 161 beneficiaries under the Integrated Livelihood Program and P650,000 for 85 participants of the Government Internship Program.

DOLE also provided P6 million under its Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) program for more than 1,500 beneficiaries in Almagro, Gandara, and Tagapul-an.

According to the Chief Executive, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) also distributed motorized boats and other equipment to fishermen, as well as the Shallow Water Payao Systems under the Special Area for Agricultural Development.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), on the other hand, will provide entrust the Shared Service Facilities to the Samar Multi-Purpose Cooperative to help dairy farmers in their livelihoods.

Likewise, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) has stepped in to provide starter toolkits to 50 scholars, and more than P300,000 for training support.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/4/marcos-to-samar-farmers-fisherfolk-we-understand-your-plight>



**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Colorado dairy worker tests positive for bird flu, fourth person linked to outbreak

**BY ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Jul 4, 2024 07:47 AM

A fourth farm worker has been infected with bird flu in the growing outbreak linked to dairy cows, health officials reported Wednesday.



FILE - Dairy cattle feed at a farm in New Mexico on March 31, 2017. A fourth dairy worker in the U.S. has been infected with bird flu. On Wednesday, July 3, 2024, U.S. health officials said a fourth dairy worker has been infected with bird flu in the outbreak linked to U.S. dairy cows. The man, who worked on a Colorado farm where dairy cows tested positive for the virus, developed conjunctivitis or pink eye, Colorado health officials said. The worker received antiviral treatment and has recovered. (AP Photo/Rodrigo Abd, File)

The worker had direct contact with infected dairy cows on a northeast Colorado farm, state and federal health officials said. The man developed pink eye, or conjunctivitis, received antiviral treatment and has recovered.

Three previous cases of human infection linked to cows have been reported in dairy workers in Texas and Michigan since March. Two of those workers also developed pink eye, while one had mild respiratory symptoms. In 2022, the first U.S. case of bird flu was detected in a Colorado farm worker exposed to infected poultry.



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the new infection “does not change” the agency's assessment that the risk to the general public remains low. Surveillance systems tracking flu in the U.S. have shown no unusual activity, officials said. However, people with prolonged contact with to infected birds or other animals, including livestock, or to their environments, are at higher risk of infection.

The Colorado man was being monitored when he developed symptoms because of his work with dairy cows, according to the CDC. Tests at the state level were inconclusive, but samples sent to CDC tested positive. Full results of genetic analysis of the sample are pending.

As of Wednesday, more than 135 dairy herds in a dozen states had reported infections with the H5N1 virus that originated in poultry, according to the Agriculture Department.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/4/colorado-dairy-worker-tests-positive-for-bird-flu-fourth-person-linked-to-outbreak>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# El Niño-hit farmers, fisherfolk in Samar get P95-M financial assistance

BY ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS

Jul 4, 2024 04:06 PM

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## AT A GLANCE

- Marcos handed over P50 million to Samar Gov. Sharee Ann Tan, P25.99 million to Northern Samar Gov. Edwin Marino Ongchuan, and P19.30 million to Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone.

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President Marcos has distributed nearly P100 million in financial assistance to farmers and fisherfolk affected by the El Niño phenomenon in Samar, Northern Samar, and Eastern Samar.



*President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. (RTVM screenshot)*

Marcos handed over P50 million to Samar Gov. Sharee Ann Tan, P25.99 million to Northern Samar Gov. Edwin Marino Ongchuan, and P19.30 million to Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone.

In his speech on Thursday, July 4, the President reiterated the administration's whole-of-government approach to address the effects of the El Niño phenomenon in the province that affected over 3,000 families in three municipalities in Samar and Eastern Samar.

He likewise acknowledged the significant contribution of the farmers and fisherfolk to the development of the province and the country.

"Dahil po riyán, narito ang inyong pamahalaan upang iparamdam ang aming suporta sa inyo na

walang-pagod na nagsisikap upang matiyak na mayroong pagkain sa hapag [ang] bawat pamilyang Pilipino (Because of this, your government is here to make you feel our support for you who toil to ensure that we have food on the table),” Marcos said.

President Marcos assured the residents that the government would work double time to improve their lives and ensure that all necessary assistance would be provided to them.

Aside from the financial assistance from the Office of the President, the Chief Executive said the Department of Agriculture (DA), through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), provided fishing gear and other equipment.

The Agricultural Credit Policy Council of the DA will also extend a P35-million credit fund for Northern Samar Multi-Purpose Cooperative and Rural Bank of Calbayog City.

Shallow Water Payao systems were also extended to fisherfolk, under the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Phase II Program. The Department of Trade Industry (DTI) provided Shared Service Facilities to the Samar Multi-Purpose Cooperative.

The Technical Education And Skills Development Authority (TESDA) distributed starter toolkits to 50 scholars. It also allocated P300,000 for training support.

President Marcos said the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) extended over P6 million to over 1,500 beneficiaries of its Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) in Almagro, Gandara and Tagapul-an. It also distributed P5.08 million to 161 beneficiaries under the Integrated Livelihood Program, as well as over P650,000 to 85 beneficiaries under the Government Internship Program.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/7/4/el-nino-hit-farmers-fisherfolk-in-samar-get-p100-m-financial-assistance>

## Discomfort rooms



[SKETCHES](#) - [Ana Marie Pamintuan](#) - The Philippine Star

July 5, 2024 | 12:00am

One thing I remember about Angara – the father, Edgardo, not the son: there was no running water in the restrooms of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) when I started my academic life at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. Until Angara became UP president.

As a freshman, I thought the unhygienic situation must have been the price we had to pay for our dirt-cheap tuition at the time (about P360 per semester, P420 with laboratory) in the state university.

But I also wondered why all the geniuses at UP couldn't find a way of providing something as basic as running water in the CAS restrooms. I called them discomfort rooms.

And then Edong Angara came along. It was as if someone had waved a wand and said, "Let there be water!" And behold, water came out of the taps, and the toilets could be flushed.

Running water in restrooms is no trivial matter, especially for us women who can't simply pee by the wall, lamppost or bush. Health experts will tell you that the availability of clean tap water is also no trivial matter for public schools, where handwashing is advocated as a basic practice for good health. Obviously, learning is impaired when a child is sickly.

Sadly for our country, to this day we still have public schools that lack running water in their restrooms. Many students in such schools are also likely to be living in houses without modern toilets, and are among the seven million Filipinos (as of 2020) who still defecate in the open.

These are the students who are most prone to childhood illnesses, who still get sick from preventable diseases such as cholera, and who don't have enough food and the nutritive elements needed for optimum physical and mental development.

The stunting affects their ability to learn. This impairment can be aggravated by the use of a “mother tongue” that is not used in their household as the medium of instruction (this has happened even in major cities such as Baguio), and sitting in a cramped, mosquito-infested classroom with poor ventilation.

Their problem is worsened if the teacher herself suffers from undernourishment, lacks sufficient training, endures the discomfort of restrooms without running water, and whose fondest dream is to find a job outside the Philippines.

These are among the problems confronting Angara’s son, the incoming secretary of education, Sen. Juan Edgardo “Sonny” Angara.

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President Marcos brushed aside calls for a non-politician to replace Vice President Sara Duterte, and picked Angara, a lawyer, to handle the crisis in Philippine education. Maybe BBM thought the problem in the Department of Education leadership for the past two years was more a matter of competence rather than simply political distractions, so it’s OK to pick another politician.

BBM now acknowledges that there is a state of education emergency nationwide. Perhaps we should be thankful that he didn’t think so at the start of his presidency, or he might have taken on the top DepEd post instead of the agriculture portfolio, and the education crisis could have worsened.

All the crises in the first year of his presidency involved agricultural commodities and food security, when he was the concurrent secretary of agriculture.

“As far as my view of government service is concerned, the most important service that government must provide to its people is a good education,” Marcos said last May.

This was at the National Higher Education Day Summit. DepEd handles basic education, which has even bigger problems that start at the womb when a baby can’t get proper nutrition from an impoverished, malnourished mother.

Sonny Angara has said he would give special attention to early childhood education.

The task is shared by local government units. Some LGUs invest more in public education, but these are typically the wealthier cities and municipalities.

\* \* \*

In my neck of the woods, for example, free public education starts at Kiddie Schools 1 and 2 for residents as young as age three. The local government provides the kiddie



classes – mostly a playschool – in an air-conditioned one-story building with small class size (about 20 students per class).

The kids get one free carton of milk for supplemental feeding during the one-hour class, held twice a week for Kiddie 1, and three times a week for Kiddie 2. The school day starts with a flag ceremony and basic physical exercises, followed by activities such as coloring, connect the dots, singing and dancing. Kids get free dental and basic medical checkups. The medium of instruction is Taglish. Parents must shoulder the cost of uniforms and other personal items such as writing implements.

I'm not sure if such early childhood schools are now the rule rather than the exception across the country.

Sonny Angara has said he wants quality education to be accessible to all. His marching order from BBM is to improve the performance of Filipino high school students in the Program for International Student Assessment or PISA.

This is a tall order, considering the state of public education, but modest goals can be set. A slight improvement can be possible by the time the country participates in another PISA, which could be after two years.

Education is supposed to get the largest slice of the budget pie, as stated in the Constitution. In reality, the lion's share goes to debt payments. But education gets the biggest chunk among the executive sectors.

Obviously, that biggest chunk is still not enough; just ask the teachers. Simply providing piped water for students' regular handwashing is going to be a challenge for Sonny Angara.

<https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2024/07/05/2367797/discomfort-rooms>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# FDA to approve first ASF vaccine

[Jasper Emmanuel Arcalas](#) - The Philippine Star

July 5, 2024 | 12:00am



“The approval of the ASF vaccine will be out soon,” Tiu Laurel told journalists on the sidelines of the Presidential Assistance for Farmers, Fisherfolk and Families event in Calbayog, Samar yesterday.

AFP / File

MANILA, Philippines — The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will approve within two weeks the country’s first vaccine against African swine fever (ASF) for commercial use, according to Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.

“The approval of the ASF vaccine will be out soon,” Tiu Laurel told journalists on the sidelines of the Presidential Assistance for Farmers, Fisherfolk and Families event in Calbayog, Samar yesterday.

“The FDA and the DA (Department of Agriculture) are working very closely on this. We have a good teamwork on this,” Tiu Laurel said.

He said the commercial approval by the FDA would be followed by the distribution of the ASF vaccine.

The commercial availability of the vaccine is expected to curb the spread of the disease, the DA said.

Government officials and swine industry stakeholders have been waiting for the commercial availability of an effective vaccine against ASF.

The disease, which is not harmful to humans, has decimated over three million hogs since the country recorded its first confirmed outbreak in 2019.

In March, Tiu Laurel said the Philippines would obtain its first ASF vaccine by the end of this year.

President Marcos earlier announced that the country would have a commercially available ASF vaccine by the middle of 2024.

In 2023, the FDA created a task force dedicated to evaluate the ASF vaccine.

Local hog production has sustained its recovery rate recorded in 2023.

But the rate is still lower than what producers and government officials had hoped for as ASF threats hampered swine repopulation efforts.

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority showed hog output growing by 3.3 percent, or to 1.79 million tons in 2023, from 1.74 in 2022, which was the highest in three years.

The growth rate increased for two consecutive years since production plunged to 1.69 million tons in 2021, after the disease decimated the country's hog population.

Despite the improvement, hog production last year was nowhere near the 2.25-million-ton average output recorded from 2016 to 2019, before ASF devastated the industry.

Experts said the absence of an authorized commercially available ASF vaccine is one of the reasons behind the slow repopulation of hogs in the country.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/07/05/2367865/fda-approve-first-asf-vaccine>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Tomato retail price expected to go down soon – DA

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

July 5, 2024 | 12:00am



DA spokesman Arnel de Mesa attributed the spike in the retail price of tomatoes to rains spawned by Typhoon Aghon.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — The retail price of tomatoes is expected to go down within one to two weeks after it increased to P180 per kilo in the past few days, according to an official of the Department of Agriculture.

DA spokesman Arnel de Mesa attributed the spike in the retail price of tomatoes to rains spawned by Typhoon Aghon.

“Based on our communication with tomato farmers, particularly in Southern Tagalog, their produce were affected by rains brought by Typhoon Aghon. We know that too much water affects the growth of tomatoes and other vegetables such as eggplant and chili,” De Mesa said.

Based on the DA’s monitoring, the retail price of tomatoes ranges between P110 and P180 per kilo compared to last week’s P70 and P140.

Gilbert Cumila, general manager of the Nueva Vizcaya Agricultural Terminal, said the wholesale price of tomatoes at the NVAT also increased between P70 and P110 per kilo.

Cumila said supply is sufficient, but competition among wholesale buyers pushed prices up.

De Mesa reiterated that there was no supply shortage, especially in Central and Northern Luzon as well as Metro Manila.

The NVAT is the primary trading center for vegetables coming from the provinces of Quirino and Nueva Vizcaya as well as parts of the Cordilleras, and Central and Northern Luzon.

“These (vegetables from NVAT) are distributed in Central Luzon, Metro Manila and Southern Tagalog,” De Mesa said.

He said prices of farm produce in trading centers are lower than in retail markets.

Aside from the NVAT, other major vegetable trading centers are located in La Trinidad in Benguet, Sariaya in Quezon and Tanauan in Batangas.

In 2023, farmers were compelled to dump their tomatoes due to oversupply and low wholesale price at P8 per kilo.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/07/05/2367872/tomato-retail-price-expected-go-down-soon-da>



**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Agriculture chief vows bigger budget for BFAR fishing boats

[Delon Porcalla](#), [Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

July 5, 2024 | 12:00am



This photo taken on September 20, 2023 shows fishermen aboard their wooden boats passing on a bag of food supplied by the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources ship Datu Bankaw, near the Chinese-controlled Scarborough Shoal in disputed waters of the South China Sea.

AFP / Ted Aljibe

MANILA, Philippines — Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has promised as bigger budget for the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to fund the construction of 75-footer fishing boats as part of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and BFAR’s capacitating municipal fisherfolk program.

“It will surely increase fisheries production and the fishermen have a better chance to earn more,” Tiu Laurel said in an interview after the distribution of 15 units of 62-footer fishing boats to fishers’ associations in Carmen, Cebu.

He added that he has yet to compute the additional income for fishers but gave assurance that it will be significant once the P600 million 62-footer fishing boats totaling 66 units are completed and distributed to the beneficiaries.

According to Tiu Laurel, he already directed BFAR officer-in-charge Isidro Velayo Jr. to build two initial 75-footer fishing boats which means a bigger budget for the BFAR to fund the distribution of 75-footer fishing boats.

“What is important is they can earn with these bigger boats. They can have enough income to support the family to live comfortably and send their children to school. This is more important. As far as return of investment, this is a gift from the government. At least they can recover the cost of gasoline and fishing gear and will be able to maintain (the operation of the boats),” he added.

Tiu Laurel noted that the program of DA and BFAR is sustainable, as it will not deplete the oceans.

“It will only catch basically surface water up to a certain depth and will not reach the corals. It’s sustainable,” he noted.

## **PhilHealth excess funds**

Rep. Joey Salceda sees no problem with the Department of Finance (DOF)’s plan to utilize “excess funds” from the state-run Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) for purposes of funding unprogrammed appropriations of the national government.

“We can’t have excess money sleeping around our GOCCs (government-owned and controlled corporations) while withholding that same money from public investment. Low government spending reduces growth. Reduced growth creates poverty. Poverty creates hunger. Hunger creates disease,” Salceda explained.

“Anyway, PhilHealth will get a subsidy for 2025 – and budget season is about to start. If it can spend all that money next year, then there is nothing for the DOF to withdraw. No issue,” he said.

“The GAAs (General Appropriations Acts) under President Marcos have already given PhilHealth P162 billion in taxpayer-funded subsidies. If there’s still excess money, then that means we have too much subsidies,” Salceda theorized.

## **DSWD budget**

Nearly half of the P229.3 billion budget proposed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for 2025 will go to its flagship program Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), Assistant Secretary for external assistance and development Juan Carlo Marquez said.

This is borne out of the prioritization of the “social protection” projects under the Marcos administration, which gave instructions to increase the benefits and if possible expand beneficiaries.

“We are studying on the amendments of the law to increase benefits and expand the list of the 4.4 million beneficiaries who have already been given the 4Ps grants, all for the purpose of addressing stunting and malnutrition,” he said.

Speaker Martin Romualdez said the administration's proposed P6.352-trillion national budget for 2025 will be the top priority of the House of Representatives when Congress resumes session on July 22.

Rep. Zaldy Co, chairman of the House appropriations committee, said the House is fully prepared to receive the approved 2025 National Expenditure Program prepared by the economic managers of the Chief Executive, which the Department of Budget and Management will submit to Congress.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/07/05/2367904/agriculture-chief-vows-bigger-budget-bfar-fishing-boats>

# Farmers seek TRO vs rice tariff cut

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

July 5, 2024 | 12:00am



People line up at the Kadiwa center in the Department of Agriculture office in Quezon City yesterday to buy rice at P29 per kilo.

Michael Varcas.

MANILA, Philippines — Farmers’ groups yesterday asked the Supreme Court to issue a temporary restraining order (TRO) against Executive Order No. 62 allowing a reduced tariff of 15 percent on imported rice, as they asked that the order be declared null and void and unconstitutional.

The 26-page petition was filed by the Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura, Federation of Free Farmers, United Broiler Raisers Association, Sorosoro Ibaba Development Cooperative and Magsasaka party-list president Argel Joseph Cabatbat.

Named respondents were President Marcos, Executive Lucas Bersamin, National Economic and Development Secretary (NEDA) Secretary Arsenio Balisacan and Tariff Commission Chairperson Marilou Mendoza.

The petitioners noted that farmers were “shocked” Bersamin signed EO 62, also known as “Modifying the Nomenclature and rates of Import Duty on Various Products” on June 20.

The petitioners said that they were never informed nor were they ever called for investigation about the reduction of rice tariff.

According to the petitioners, EO 62 was hastily issued sans the consultation, investigation, hearings and reports, which are required by the Flexible Clause of Customs Modernization and Tariff Act or Republic Act 10863 to be complied with before the President can validly make issuance of an executive order involving tariff reduction.

“It is well to emphasize that included in the reduced tariff is rice – the most staple food of the Filipino people. Also reduced are the tariff of corn, pork and chicken meat. Prior to issuance of EO 62, tariffs for corn imports was already lowered to five percent; 15 percent tariffs for pork; and 35 percent tariffs for rice imports under EO 10,” the petition added.

They added that lowering tariffs on products, specifically staple foods like rice and corn, poses significant challenges for local farmers. Lower tariffs can lead to an influx of cheaper imported goods, undermining domestic producers’ and farmers’ sales and products.

In a statement, Balisacan said NEDA respects the legal process and will respond to the petition filed by farmers’ groups in due course.

Meanwhile, the Department of Agriculture (DA) and NEDA will form a technical working group (TWG) that would focus on reviewing rice tariffs and determine the need to modify the rates.

The TWG would also involve rice industry stakeholders including groups like FFF and SINAG, Agriculture Undersecretary Christopher Morales said.

NEDA Undersecretary Rosemarie Edillon said the first order of business of the TWG is to form a review framework that would involve the establishment of “triggers” that would determine whether to raise the 15 percent rice tariffs or not.

In effect, Edillon said the government is implementing a flexible or variable tariff scheme because of the possibility of adjusting rice tariffs after each mandated review.

Tariff Commission commissioner Marissa Paderon said the tariff rates stipulated under EO 62 can be modified through Section 1608 or the Flexible Clause of the Customs Tariff and Modernization Act.

Earlier, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the rice tariffs should be raised once prevailing retail rice prices fall between P42 and P45 per kilogram.

The mandatory review is set in November, coinciding with the peaking of the country’s main palay harvest season.



## **P29/K rice sold today at Kadiwa**

The Department of Agriculture (DA) would start selling rice at P29 per kilogram today in 10 Kadiwa sites in Metro Manila, benefitting about 60,000 households in the vulnerable sectors during the first month of its large-scale trial.

The program, now known as Program 29 or P29, marks the large-scale trial of the government's sale of subsidized rice to Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program beneficiaries, persons with disabilities, solo parents and senior citizens.

The identified sites are Bureau of Plant Industry compound in Manila, Bureau of Animal Industry and National Irrigation Administration in Quezon City, Food Terminal Inc. in Taguig, Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority in Las Piñas, Barangay 167 in Caloocan, Brgy. Fortune and BFCT in Marikina, Disiplina Village in Valenzuela and Brgy. Minuyan proper in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

For the start of the large-scale trials, the DA would be selling 15,000 kilograms of rice per week at each site, benefitting around 1,500 households.

On a monthly basis, each site would have 60,000 kilograms of rice stocks good for 6,000 households.

The initial stocks to be sold under the 29 Program would be the aging supplies of the National Food Authority (NFA), which are three months and older, but remain fit for human consumption.

At present, the DA has around 10,000 metric tons (MT) of rice stocks from the NFA, guaranteeing the sustainability of the program in the coming months.

The P29 program would also be rolled out soon in Visayas and Mindanao. The department targets to double the total number of Kadiwa sites selling P29 per kilogram rice by August.

Agriculture officials maintained that the P29 program is not a band-aid solution but would be a "long-term" and "sustainable" program of the government that would last until the end of the Marcos administration.

"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," Tiu Laurel said.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa assured the public that the stocks of the NFA intended for calamity relief will not be affected by the P29 program.

The DA earlier estimated that it would need 69,000 MT of rice every month to cover the 6.9 million target households of P29 program nationwide.

## **Rice import**

The Philippines' rice imports could reach at least five million MT by 2033 as it is expected to continue relying on foreign supplies to meet its growing demand of the staple, according to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The OECD-FAO estimated that the Philippines would be the largest rice importer by 2033, accounting for eight percent of the 65.682 million MT projected total global rice imports that year.

By that time, the country would overtake China as the biggest buyer of rice in the world market, according to the international bodies.

“Currently, the Philippines is the second largest importer of rice. The largest importer is China where demand for rice is stabilizing due to declining population,” OECD senior agricultural policy analyst Hubertus Gay told The STAR.

The Philippines imported an average of 3.897 million MT of rice from 2021-2023 while China's average imports stood at 5.043 million MT, based on OECD-FAO data.

China's rice imports by 2033 would fall to 4.129 million MT, the OECD-FAO projected. – **Jasper Emmanuel Arcalas, Daphne Galvez, Louise Maureen Simeon**

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/07/05/2367929/farmers-seek-tro-vs-rice-tariff-cut>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# 'P29' rice program trial set to begin on July 5 in Metro Manila, Bulacan

[Gabriell Christel Galang](#) - Philstar.com

July 4, 2024 | 4:53pm



Individuals flock to a Kadiwa Market at the Department of Agriculture office in Quezon City on July 1, 2024 to purchase rice at P29 per kilo.

The STAR / Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) will offer rice at P29 per kilo in Metro Manila and Bulacan's at-risk areas starting July 5.

Known as “Program 29”, the sale of high-quality rice will become available in 10 KADIWA centers in Metro Manila and Bulacan for its initial run, specifically targeting 6.9 million vulnerable families or 35 million individuals.

The large-scale trial will assess supply, demand and logistics in order to determine the next course of action.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said that the rice sale will be held every Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Designated KADIWA sites include Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in Quezon City, BAI in Manila, Food Terminal Inc. in Taguig, and PhilFIDA in Las Piñas.

P29 rice will be available in cities such as Caloocan, Valenzuela, Barangay Fortune and BF City in Marikina, and San Jose del Monte in Bulacan.

To ensure that the subsidized rice will prioritize the marginalized communities, KADIWA will monitor purchases with booklets for eligible beneficiaries like senior citizens, single parents, persons with disability (PWDs) and Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) recipients.

"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," Tiu Laurel stressed.

The public is also urged to present their valid identification cards in order to qualify for the rice program.

Assistant Secretary for consumer and legislative affairs Genevieve Velicaria-Guevarra said that consumers are encouraged to bring reusable containers or bags to lessen plastic waste.

Aside from rice, buyers may also purchase affordable grocery items like eggs, meat and vegetables in leading KADIWA centers and pop-up stores.

The DA anticipates approximately 69,000 metric tons of rice from the National Food Authority (NFA) and NIA, including imports once the program is fully operational.

This would allow 10 kilos of rice per month at P29 per kilo to vulnerable families.

## **Other upcoming plans**

The DA hopes to expand its major centers by August. This would be in partnership with local government units to further reach the economically disadvantaged areas in Metro Manila.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s Executive Order 62 aims to lower rice prices by reducing rice tariffs from 35% to 15%.

Other initiatives include expanding KADIWA centers and implementing "Rice-for-All" to further reduce market prices.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/07/04/2367722/p29-rice-program-trial-set-begin-july-5-metro-manila-bulacan>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

## **Project 29: Agri department to sell P29/kilo rice in ten Kadiwa sites**

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 03:13 PM July 04, 2024



STOCK IMAGE

The Department of Agriculture (DA) will launch tomorrow, July 5, the large-scale trial of a program aimed at selling rice for P29 a kilo to vulnerable households in select Kadiwa centers.

In a briefing on Thursday, Agriculture Assistant Secretary Genevieve Velicaria-Guevarra said the program dubbed Program 29 or P29 will be unveiled in 10 Kadiwa centers in Metro Manila and Bulacan province.

Identified Kadiwa sites are located in the following: Bureau of Animal Industry and National Irrigation Administration in Quezon City; Bureau of Plant Industry in Manila; Food Terminal Inc. in Taguig City; Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority in Las Piñas; Caloocan City; Valenzuela City; Brgy. Fortune and BF City (BFCT) in Marikina City and San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan.

Discounted rice will be sold to about 6.9 million vulnerable households, representing around 35 million Filipinos. These include senior citizens, single parents, persons with disabilities and beneficiaries of the government's Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).

"The large-scale trial aims to gather comprehensive data on supply, demand, and logistics, essential for the smooth nationwide rollout of the program," Velicaria-Guevarra said.

Eligible beneficiaries will be allowed to buy 10 kilograms of rice per household per month. They will be required to present identification cards as well as bring reusable containers or bags to minimize plastic usage.

During the implementation period, booklets will be provided to monitor purchases.

The DA estimated that full implementation of this initiative will require approximately 69,000 metric tons of rice.

This will come from various sources including the National Food Authority, the National Irrigation Administration's rice contract growing project, and potential imports managed by DA-affiliated entities.

The DA expects the number of participating Kadiwa centers to double by August and intends to expand the program to urban centers nationwide with the support of local government units.

<https://business.inquirer.net/467128/project-29-agri-department-to-sell-p29-kilo-rice-in-ten-kadiwa-sites>



**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Groups ask SC to stop Marcos rice tariff order

By: [Jane Bautista](#) - Reporter / [@janebautistaINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:36 AM July 05, 2024



**ENOUGH STOCKS** The National Food Authority said it had sufficient rice stock against any shortage. —CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Leonard Abella, 53, has been farming rice for decades, but his toiling has yet to pay off as he remains buried in debt.

He barely earns any profit from tilling the land; whatever he earns is spent immediately to pay off his loans and buy necessities for his small-scale farm in Rosales, Pangasinan, such as water, seeds, and pesticides.

“The income is small, not even enough for food... We are farmers [and yet] we have almost nothing to eat,” he said in an interview.

With the new comprehensive tariff program reducing the impost on rice and other products from 35 percent to 15 percent, farmers such as Abella are concerned that consumers will opt for cheaper imported rice over local produce.

In a bid to stop the government from implementing Executive Order (EO) No. 62 issued by President Marcos on June 20, Abella joined various agricultural and farmers' groups on Thursday in filing a petition for certiorari and prohibition before the Supreme Court.

The petitioners are Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura Inc., Federation of Free Farmers Inc., United Broiler Raisers Association Inc., Sorosoro Ibaba Development Cooperative, and lawyer Argel Cabatbat of Magsasaka party list.

While the high tribunal deliberates the petition, the groups appealed for an urgent status quo ante order or a temporary restraining order (TRO) on the policy.

Named respondents in the case are President Marcos, Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin, Secretary Arsenio Balisacan of the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), and Tariff Commission Chair Marilou Mendoza.

The Department of Agriculture (DA), however, warned that deferring the implementation of reduced import duties on various products such as rice would delay the expected reduction in retail prices of these goods.

Government and private economists earlier noted that the persistently high prices of food such as rice and meat have been contributing to the elevated inflation rate nationwide.

“In general, if the Supreme Court grants the temporary restraining order, it is not good for our rice stocks because it will delay importation efforts of our private importers,” Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said in a briefing on Thursday.

De Mesa, the DA's spokesperson, explained that rice traders might hesitate to bring in imported rice due to the confusion over tariff rates.

“And of course, if the request for a TRO is granted, the potential decrease in rice prices in the markets will also be delayed,” he added.

De Mesa said rice demand in the international market was declining and global prices were expected to further ease once India lifts its export ban on the commodity.

### **No public hearings**

In their 27-page petition, the groups asked the high tribunal to declare EO 62 as null, void, and unconstitutional, saying that it was “hastily issued” and violated the requirement of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA) to conduct an investigation and public hearings on the matter.

Under the “flexible clause” of the CMTA, or Republic Act No. 10863, the Tariff Commission is required to investigate and hold public hearings to afford interested parties a “reasonable opportunity” to be heard before any recommendation is submitted to the President by Neda.

Prior to the issuance of EO 62, the petitioners said EO 10 already lowered the tariff for corn imports to 5 percent, while pork shipments were charged 15 percent and rice, 35 percent.

Similar executive orders that temporarily reduced the tariff on rice, corn, and meat products underwent the mandated consultations, investigation, and hearing, the petitioners said.

“As a matter of fact, the herein petitioners were duly notified and have actively attended and participated in the investigations held prior to the issuance of the said EOs,” it said.

However, the groups said no such consultation or hearing was ever held specifically on the reduction in the tariff on rice and other agricultural produce under EO 62.

They argued that the mandated process was a limitation set by the law before the President could validly issue an executive order.

Aside from allegedly skipping the procedural requirement, legal counsel Virginia Suarez said the petition was also filed because it violated the state policy under Article

12, Section 1, of the 1987 Constitution to develop a self-reliant and independent national economy.

### **Undue competition**

“Lowering tariffs on products, specifically staple foods like rice and corn, poses significant challenges for local farmers. Lower tariffs can lead to an influx of cheaper imported goods, undermining domestic producers’ and farmers’ sales and products,” the petitioners said in their filing.

“This is clearly detrimental to the farmers, who may struggle to compete with the lower prices of imported products,” they added.

Suarez added that the policy violated the constitutional mandate to protect farmers from unfair competition and trade practices, as stated under Article XIII, Section 5, of the Constitution.

“This is a total sellout to our farmers. It’s like you depend on imported products for all our food. That’s wrong,” she said.

In a statement released hours after the filing of the petition, Neda’s Balisacan acknowledged the decision of the farmers’ groups to pursue legal action against the implementation of EO 62.

“We are currently awaiting the receipt of the petition and wish to express our utmost respect for the legal process,” he said, adding that Neda would respond to the petition in due time. *WITH A REPORT FROM JORDEENE B. LAGARE*

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1958055/groups-ask-sc-to-stop-marcos-rice-tariff-order>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Farming high schools in all regions pushed

By: [Jeannette I. Andrade](#) - Reporter / [@jiandradeINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:50 AM July 05, 2024

To boost productivity and technology dissemination in the country's neglected agricultural sector, a lawmaker wants to create a Philippine Agriculture High School (PAHS) system with secondary schools on farming in each of the country's regions.

“One way to increase the capacity of the country for agriculture is to promote agricultural education as early as in secondary school,” said Cavite Rep. Aniela Bianca Tolentino, a niece of Sen. Francis Tolentino, who has made a similar proposal in the Senate.

In House Bill No. 10324, or the proposed “Philippine Agricultural High School System Act of 2024,” the 28-year-old lawmaker sought initial funding of P500 million to integrate the new system with already existing farming high schools.

Tolentino said that Republic Act No. 10618, or the “Rural Farm Schools Act,” already tasks the Department of Education (DepEd) to encourage the creation of at least one public rural farm school in every province.

According to her, a new agricultural high school system could add focus to the farming sector by integrating already-existing farming schools and hasten technology transfer, especially in areas with little state university assistance.

She pointed out that the draft measure would “promote the establishment of a complete, adequate and integrated national system of education for the agriculture sector.”

## **DA, DepEd to supervise**

In her bill, Tolentino cited World Bank data which showed that the Philippine agricultural sector employs 23 percent of the Filipino workforce, but national food security is now threatened due to years of neglect.

The PAHS system would be placed under the joint supervision of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and DepEd which would prescribe the guidelines and policies on the operation and management of agricultural schools as well as basic curricula content to ensure their credibility and academic integrity.

Under the draft measure, a board of regents would primarily determine the site of the PAHS main campus and the agricultural high schools to be established in the towns, cities, and provinces.

The board would also set the criteria for the selection and admission of students and approve the grant of scholarships.

The sought funding of P500 million would be used in establishing and organizing the school system and subsequent funding would be included as a separate item in the DA budget.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1958058/farming-high-schools-in-all-regions-pushed>



**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Gov't rolls out 'P29 per kilo' rice program for low-income folk

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

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:44 AM July 05, 2024

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is rolling out on Friday a program that offers rice at only P29 per kilo in select Kadiwa stores in Metro Manila and neighboring Bulacan province.

But the rice will be sold not to the general public but to “vulnerable” segments of the population: senior citizens, single parents, persons with disabilities, and beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), the government’s conditional cash transfer scheme for the poor.

For its trial run, “Program 29” will be conducted every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday for the next six months, the DA said.

It will be simultaneously launched today at the Bureau of Animal Industry and National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in Quezon City; Bureau of Plant Industry in Manila; Food Terminal Inc. in Taguig City; Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority in Las Piñas; Kadiwa centers in Caloocan City and Valenzuela City; Barangay Fortune and BF City in Marikina City; and San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan.

## **Limit per household**

The goal is to make discounted rice available to about 6.9 million low-income households, which account for about 35 million Filipinos, according to the DA.

Each beneficiary may buy only up to 10 kilos of rice per household per month, Agriculture Assistant Secretary Genevieve Velicaria-Guevarra said at a press briefing on Thursday.

A booklet will later be provided to the beneficiaries in August to monitor their purchases, she added. They are required to present their IDs and encouraged to bring reusable containers or bags for the rice.

### **‘Aging stocks’**

Based on DA estimates, Program 29 will require about 69,000 metric tons of rice during the trial period.

The supply will be sourced from the “aging stocks” of the National Food Authority (NFA), the contract growing project of the NIA, and import shipments managed by DA-affiliated entities.

Aging NFA stocks refer to rice that had been in storage for three months, or palay (unhusked rice) stockpiles that had been kept for six months.

The DA hopes to use the trial period to gather comprehensive data on the supply and logistics needed for a nationwide implementation of Program 29, Velicaria-Guevarra added.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1958053/govt-rolls-out-p29-per-kilo-rice-program-for-low-income-folk>

## BUSINESS WORLD:

# SC asked to issue TRO against rice tariff cuts

July 4, 2024 | 9:09 pm



WIKIMEDIA/PATRICKROQUE01

FARMERS on Thursday asked the Supreme Court (SC) to issue a temporary restraining order (TRO) freezing an executive order (EO) issued by President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. that had reduced the tariff on rice imports to 15% from 35%.

The signatories to the TRO petition, Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura, Federation of Free Farmers (FFF), United Broiler Raisers Association, Sorosoro Ibaba Development Cooperative, and Magsasaka Party-list, argued that their right to be consulted was violated and that the lowering of tariffs would threaten their livelihoods.

They also asserted that the EO failed to comply with the customs modernization law's specified procedure for lowering tariffs.

Executive Order No. 62 was issued on the recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and later effected by the Tariff Commission.

"This Executive Order was hastily issued sans the consultation, investigation, hearings, reports — which are required by... the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (RA 10863), to be complied with before the President can validly (issue) an Executive Order involving tariff reduction," according to the 27-page petition.

The petition also asserted that farmers have constitutional protections against unfair competition and trade practices.

President Marcos issued order to mitigate the impact of inflation and make the staple grain more affordable.

In a statement, NEDA Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan said: “We are currently awaiting the receipt of the petition and wish to express our utmost respect for the legal process. Please be assured that NEDA, through the Office of the Solicitor General, will respond appropriately in due course.”

The Tariff Commission had not replied to an e-mail requesting comment at the deadline.

“Before the EO was issued, the projection was (that the Philippines) would be importing about 4.1 to 4.2 million metric tons (MMT) of rice. With this new EO, (we’re looking) at 4.6 MMT. Our imports of rice last year were 3.6 MMT, former Agriculture Secretary and FFF National President Leonardo Q. Montemayor told reporters during the filing.

The Department of Agriculture’s (DA) own projection is 3.9 MMT of imported rice this year. The high-end estimate of 4.6 MMT was issued by the US Department of Agriculture, which specifically cited the lower tariffs as well as increased consumption in upgrading its previous forecast.

The petition before the tribunal said lowering tariffs on staple foods like rice and corn undermines farmers, who will need to contend with imported competition, weakening their earnings.

“As a result, their livelihoods and the agricultural sector in general may suffer, which can exacerbate rural poverty and (widen) economic disparities,” the petitioners added.

Mr. Montemayor added that overreliance on imported rice threatens to deter farmers from pursuing their trade.

“We expect many farmers to no longer plant rice, especially this coming season. We estimate around 500,000 farmers... will no longer plant. Or, if they do plant, they will reduce their production significantly. So, food security will be very much at risk,” he said.

In a separate briefing on Thursday, DA Assistant Secretary Arnel V. de Mesa said that a successful TRO petition would negatively affect efforts to build up rice reserves.

“It will delay our private importers... (and) our national rice stock would be affected... There would also be a delay in lowering rice prices if the TRO was granted,” Mr. De Mesa said.

Well-milled rice sold in markets in the capital region for between P52 to P55 per kilo, while regular-milled rice fetched P47 to P51 per kilo, DA price monitors reported on July 3.

Rice imports in the first six months of 2024 totaled 2.28 MMT, the Bureau of Plant Industry reported last month.

Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto last month said the government will forego up to P22 billion in revenue due to the tariff cut.

He described the move as “short-term,” citing the need not to be too reliant on imported rice.

Leonardo R. Abella, a 53-year-old farmer from Rosales, Pangasinan, joined during the filing of the petition.

“Nothing will be left for us. We’re already in debt, then the prices will drop again.... We’re becoming even poorer. Everything we buy for use in the fields is expensive. That’s why there’s nothing left for us,” he told *BusinessWorld* in Filipino.

He added that if policies unfriendly to farmers continue to pass, farmers might eventually disappear.  
— **Chloe Mari A. Hufana**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/07/04/606330/sc-asked-to-issue-tro-against-rice-tariff-cuts/>

**BUSINESS WORLD:**

# PHL rice imports seen at 3.8 MMT in 2025 —

## FAO

July 4, 2024 | 9:09 pm



PHILSTAR FILE PHOTO

PHILIPPINE rice imports are expected to hit 3.8 million metric tons (MMT) amid increasing consumption, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

In a report, the FAO said that next year's projection is 8.5% higher than the 3.5 MMT estimate for 2024.

The United Nations agency projects Philippine consumption at 17.5 MMT, up 1.4%.

The Department of Agriculture's own projection is 3.9 MMT this year.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. signed Executive Order No. 62, which reduced rice tariffs to 15% until 2028, in order to bring down prices. The new tariff regime is subject to review every four months.

As of June 20, the Philippines had imported 2.28 MMT, according to the Bureau of Plant Industry.

Domestic production next year was estimated at 13.7 MMT in milled rice equivalent, up from the FAO's prior projection of 13.3 MMT.

The Philippines produced 20.06 MMT of unmilled rice last year, equivalent to about 13 MMT in milled rice.

The FAO is also projecting rice imports of 5.1 MMT by 2033, citing the steady increase in consumption.

It said that the Philippines is expected to account for 8% of global rice imports by 2033.



Philippine rice consumption in 2033 is projected at 19.9 million MT, according to the FAO, equivalent to about 3% of global consumption.

“Total world rice consumption is expected to increase 0.9% per annum, at a same pace as during the last decade, with Asian countries accounting for 66% of the projected increase, largely due to population rather than per capita consumption growth,” the FAO said.

The FAO estimated Philippine domestic production at 14.8 million MT in milled equivalent.

It added that the top five rice exporters — the European Union, Australia, Russia, Canada and Argentina — are projected to account for 80% of global trade by 2033. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/07/04/606329/phl-rice-imports-seen-at-3-8-mmt-in-2025-fao/>

## **BUSINESS WORLD:**

# **Sale of subsidized P29 rice expanded to more stores**

July 4, 2024 | 9:04 pm



OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY PHOTO

THE Department of Agriculture said on Thursday that it plans to expand its subsidized rice program to 10 stores beginning Friday July 5.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary for Consumer and Legislative Affairs Genevieve E. Velicaria-Guevarra said that the department is aiming to attract about 60,000 households per month to KADIWA stores selling rice at P29 per kilo to vulnerable members of society.

“We have around 10,000 metric tons for this trial. This can last for the next six months,” Ms. Guevarra added.

For the large-scale trial, the DA said it will sell the below-market-price grain on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

She said that the trial will gather data for use in wider implementation of the scheme. It will also work out a system for monitoring beneficiary usage via booklets.

The DA has said that it is targeting 34 million vulnerable individuals, including persons with disabilities, solo parents, and senior citizens, as well as those below the poverty line.

Each beneficiary is entitled to purchase 10 kilograms per month.

“We are expecting that in the coming months, we will be able to double the sites where the P29 per kilo rice will be sold,” she added.

“In the coming weeks or next month, we can go to Visayas and Mindanao and expand the area,” Agriculture Assistant Secretary and Spokesperson Arnel V. de Mesa said.

Rice for the subsidy program will be taken from ageing rice stocks of the National Food Authority.

Mr. De Mesa added that the DA is also preparing a subsidized rice program for the public, which would also sold at KADIWA centers.

“We will have a separate program later called ‘rice for all’ where rice prices would be sold relatively cheaper than (retail),” he said.

Nationwide, there are 265 established KADIWA centers along with 119 pop-up stores operating on scheduled rotations.

Well-milled rice prices in Metro Manila markets were seen between P48 and P55 per kilo, while regular-milled rice was seen at P48 and P52 per kilo, according to the DA’s price monitoring as of July 3. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/07/04/606262/sale-of-subsidized-p29-rice-expanded-to-more-stores/>

**REMATE:**

## **Bakuna laban sa ASF, malapit nang maging available – DA**

July 4, 2024 18:25



MANILA, Philippines – SA MADALING panahon ay magiging available na rin ang bakuna laban sa African Swine Fever (ASF) para sa commercial use sa Pilipinas.

Ayon sa Department of Agriculture (DA), ang commercial trial para sa bakuna ay nakatakdang aprubahan ng Food and Drug Administration (FDA), dalawang linggo mula ngayon.

“After that, commercial distribution will follow,” ayon sa DA.

Inaasahan naman ng DA na ang availability ng bakuna ang mapapatigil sa paglaganap ng ASF sa bansa.

“Malapit nang lumabas ‘yung approval sa vaccine for the swine,” ayon kay DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. sa sidelines ng Presidential Assistance for Farmers, Fisherfolk and Families (PAFFF) event sa Calabayog City, Eastern Samar, araw ng Huwebes.

“FDA and the DA are working very closely on this. Ang ganda ng teamwork namin,” dagdag na wika ni Laurel.

Inilarawan naman ng Kalihim na epektibo ang bakuna.

“The vaccine from Vietnam really works. So, that solves our problem,” diing pahayag nito.

Samantala, sinabi naman ni Tiu Laurel na layon ng DA na tutukan ang pagtse-check sa imported goods na pumasok sa bansa.

“Kailangan i-check kasi I believe dati naman wala naman tayong ASF, wala naman tayong bird flu,” aniya pa rin.

“Dapat doon tayo sa gates nagbabantay and after that internal,” ang sinabi nito.

Nauna rito, sinabi ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. na ang availability ng anti-ASF vaccines ang magbibigay-daan para sa recovery ng swine industry.

Nagdusa ang industriya nang tamaan ito ng ASF, isang lubhang nakakahawa at nakamamatay na swine disease na makaaapekto kapuwa sa ‘farm-raised at feral (wild) pigs.’ *Kris Jose*

<https://remate.ph/bakuna-laban-sa-asf-malapit-nang-maging-available-da/>



**ABANTE:**

# Mga magsasaka pinapaawat tapyas taripa sa bigas

- Abante News
- July

4,

2024



Hiniling ng grupo ng mga magsasaka sa Supreme Court (SC) na pigilin ang Executive Order No. 62 ni Pangulong Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. hinggil sa pagtapyas ng taripa sa imported na bigas, mula 35 percent ay naging 15 percent.

Inihain ng grupo ng magsasaka ang petition for certiorari with a prayer for the issuance of a Temporary Restraining Order la-ban kay Pangulong Marcos, Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin, National Economic and Development Authority Secretary Arsenio Balisacan at Tariff Commission Chairperson Marilou Mendoza.



“This Executive Order was hastily issued sans the consultation, investigation, hearings, reports — which are required by the Flexible Clause of Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (RA 10863) to be complied with before the President can validly make issuance of an Executive Order involving tariff reduction,” ayon sa petisyon ng grupo.

Kabilang sa mga naghain ng petisyon ay ang Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura (SINAG), Federation of Free Farmers, Unit-ed Broiler Raisers Association, Sorosoro Ibaba Development Cooperative at Magsasaka party-list

Babala ng grupo, maraming magsasaka ang hindi na magtatanim ng palay dahil babaha ng imported na bigas sa bansa na mas mura kaysa sa produkto ng mga lokal na magsasaka.

“Before the EO was issued, the projection was about 4.2 million metric tons of rice, with this new EO, 4.6 million, hindi ba baha iyon?” babala naman ni dating Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor.

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/07/04/mga-magsasaka-pinapaawat-tapyas-taripa-sa-bigas/>

**MANILA STANDARD**

## **DA to sell rice at P29 per kilo under ‘Program 29 in Metro Manila, Bulacan**



By Othel V. Campos

**July 5, 2024, 12:40 am**

The Department of Agriculture (DA) kicks off today, July 5, a large-scale trial of “Program 29” to deliver high-quality rice at P29 per kilogram (kg) to as many as 6.9 million vulnerable households, or around 35 million Filipinos.

Initially, 10 KADIWA centers in Metro Manila and Bulacan will participate in the program wherein to sell quality rice at P29 per kilo every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

The large-scale trial aims to collect comprehensive data on supply, demand, and logistics, crucial for a smooth nationwide rollout of the program.

DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel asked consumers to practice prudence in buying affordable rice and refrain from taking any abusive steps to undermine the program.

“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,” he said.

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

The identified KADIWA sites are situated in various locations across Metro Manila and Bulacan, ensuring accessibility for beneficiaries.

Consumers who qualify for the P29 rice program are encouraged to bring identification cards and reusable containers to minimize plastic waste.

KADIWA centers offer additional benefits beyond discounted rice. Consumers can also purchase essential items like eggs, meat, and vegetables at lower prices.

There are currently 265 established KADIWA centers operating alongside 119 pop-up stores nationwide. The DA plans to expand the program to major urban centers with local government support.

The President’s initiative aims to reduce retail rice prices, address inflation, and enhance food security for Filipinos.

The DA plans on launching an additional program called “Rice-for-All” to offer rice at even lower prices than market value within KADIWA centers.

<https://manilastandard.net/news/314467554/da-to-pilot-p29-kilo-rice-under-program-29-in-metro-manila-bulacan-this-friday.html>

# Agriculture support



By Manila Standard Business

July 4, 2024, 10:09 pm

**Land Bank of the Philippines extends P1 billion in loans to Nagkakaisang Magsasaka Agricultural Primary Multi-Purpose Cooperative in Talavera, Nueva Ecija led by Ricardo Buenaventura to expand its operations, which now include relending to finance the production of its members, rice and agri-inputs trading, diesel retailing, rice milling, onion cold storage rental and trading and importation of milled rice and fertilizers produced by the co-op.**

<https://manilastandard.net/gallery/314467685/agriculture-support-2.html>

**MANILA STANDARD**

# Modernizing PH agriculture is still a pipe dream—but it's not too late

By Ray S. Eñano

July 3, 2024, 8:50 pm

“Not all the solutions involve rocket science. Some relate to simple water management systems and irrigation techniques.”

Agriculture is one sector that has plenty of promises in the Philippines. Yet, it has failed to live up to expectations decades after decades and even with changes in leadership.

Those who had been at the helm of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the current one knew what ails the sector and the practical solutions to it. But the farm sector remains a conundrum to this day.

There is nothing earthshaking in the recent policy statement of Agriculture Secretary **Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.**, who considers technology as the key to revitalizing Philippine agriculture to unlock its full potential.

Modernizing agriculture is critical to increased productivity and empowerment of the rural sector. It employs a significant portion of the workforce, but contributes less than 10 percent to the gross domestic product.

“The big challenge we face is making farming profitable. The solution lies in embracing technology-based farming methods,” says Tiu Laurel in a recent forum with business owners.

Not all the solutions involve rocket science. Some relate to simple water management systems and irrigation techniques. Others require technology, like South Korea's extensive use of greenhouses

Mr. Tiu Laurel nailed it when he bared a long-term plan about a shift in agricultural education. The goal seeks to move from traditional methods to comprehensive training in modern techniques, empowering landowners and tenants for success.

President **Ferdinand Marcos Jr.**'s vision of a modern farm sector and better lives for farmers and fishermen is actually doable and not an impossible task.



We can look at the Vietnam model and learn from it. The Philippines and Vietnam basically share the same topography and tropical climate. Both countries are also one of the most vulnerable to climate change.

### **Vietnam model**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) in a recent report noted the strides of Vietnam's farm sector.

The value of its agriculture, forestry, and fishery exports has increased in recent years from \$22.8 billion in 2012 to \$33.8 billion in 2019.

Rice, according to the ADB report, dominates Vietnam's agricultural exports with over 6.3 million tons shipped out in 2019. It is among the largest exporters of rice in the world, in addition to coffee, pepper, cashew nuts and green tea.

“Marine captured species together with fish and shrimp produced in manufactured ponds are an important domestic food source as well as generator of foreign exchange on export markets. Viet Nam has a diverse array of agro-ecosystems ranging from upland plateaus and mountainous areas to a relatively narrow coastal strip where the majority of rice is grown,” says the ADB report.

Vietnam, however, is paying the price for its agricultural success—an experience that the Philippines can learn from.

Considerable environmental damage, notes the ADB, has resulted from the removal of protective coastal mangrove forests to make way for shrimp farming ponds and salt production. In the upland areas, the poorer soils, uphill land, and widespread erosion resulting from extensive deforestation add additional development challenges.

The Philippines shares the same development problems of Vietnam. Excessive use of groundwater in Vietnam, especially for coffee and fruit tree crops, has resulted in unsustainable extraction rates and a lowering of the water table.

The ADB report says competition for water resources from downstream users, including urban areas and industry, has compounded the challenge in the agriculture and the natural resources sector. The constraints to the sector growth include climate change impacts, low productivity, underdeveloped rural infrastructure, low rates of agriculture land consolidation, weak market linkages, low access to credit and increased competition for water resource.

The Philippines may copy the agriculture model of Vietnam but must improve on it by making the farm sector sustainable to address the needs of the current and future



generations. Agriculture sustainability is a practice that preserves soil fertility, prevents water pollution and protects biodiversity.

The ADB is aware of the uneven development in Vietnam's agricultural sector. Similar to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, the bank is now seeking to maintain a sustainable and inclusive growth of Vietnam's farm sector by improving efficiency and competitiveness, and enhancing rural living standards and resilience to climate change and disasters.

The Philippines has a long way to go in modernizing its agriculture sector and achieving food security. But it must do so with sustainability at the core of the development goal.

E-mail: rayenano@yahoo.com or extrastory2000@gmail.com

<https://manilastandard.net/business/314467314/modernizing-ph-agriculture-is-still-a-pipe-dream-but-its-not-too-late.html>

# DA wants greater market access for high-value crops

By Janine Alexis Miguel

July 5, 2024

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) is pushing to increase the export market for high-value crops with P10 billion in funding for next year.

Agriculture Undersecretary Cheryl Natividad-Caballero said during an interview with The Manila Times that they would maximize the current trade agreements with other countries.

"We have several market access and trade agreements with various countries and in the context of high-value crops, we'd like to optimize our ability to meet and supply the needed requirements," Caballero said.



Undersecretary Cheryl Natividad-Caballero PHOTO BY MIKE ALQUINTO

**The DA has trade cooperation deals for agricultural commodities with Vietnam, South Korea, Australia, Japan, China, and New Zealand, among others.**

**The official also noted that the ability of the country to produce and supply sustainably would depend on the volume of production, which is dependent on the quality of planting materials.**

**The high-value crops program of the DA focuses on managing the productivity of around 30 commodities and the export market access for these.**

**Caballero also identified crops that are nontraditional but have good market potential, such as purple yam or ube.**

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**She said that they are in talks with a private sector group in France that expressed interest in the Philippine ube.**

**"[Ube] has the most potential because of its quality, its color, which is a natural colorant and it is also a natural binding agent for other ingredients."**

**Aside from the crop's potential for export, the official also noted the need to address the requirements for planting material such as the technology, farm practices, and postharvest that would support its development.**

**The Philippines currently exports high-value commodities such as coconut, bananas, pineapple, mangoes and durian.**

**To increase the number of crops available for export and meet the required demand, Caballero urged the government to increase funding for the High Value Crops Development Program to around P16 billion in 2025.**



Agriculture (DA) Undersecretary Marie Natividad Caballero answers questions from The Manila Times editor Conrad Cariño and reporter Janine Alexis Miguel during a TMT Newsroom interview on July 4, 2024. PHOTOS BY MIKE DE JUAN

"Our wish list was around P10 billion but realistically, what we have now is around P2.4 billion for 2025. But to collaborate with other projects, that can be up to around P3.5 billion," said Caballero.

Agriculture chief Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has allotted P7 billion for crop diversification from the P20 billion in excess rice tariffs collected. The measure would enable farmers to venture into the production of high-value crops besides rice.

Under the fund, Caballero said they are looking to promote and cultivate mung beans, peanuts, and the integration of lowland vegetables such as string beans and eggplant.

The expansion for onion, garlic and ginger will also be integrated in some areas where the soil is most conducive.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/07/05/news/national/da-wants-greater-market-access-for-high-value-crops/1955220>

**BUSINESS MIRROR**

# Marcos vows long-term aid for El Niño-hit Region 8 agri workers

Samuel P. Medenilla  
July 5, 2024

PRESIDENT Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has committed long-term aid for agricultural workers who were affected by El Niño in Eastern Visayas, with the completion of key infrastructure projects.

On Thursday, the chief executive visited Calbayog City in Samar and Palo in Leyte to lead in the distribution of over P136.30 million worth of government aid to the El Niño-affected farmers and fisherfolks.

The droughts and dry spell caused by El Niño affected 504 farmers in Samar, Biliran and Leyte and caused agricultural losses of P23 million.

Marcos said the new infrastructures are expected to help improve transportation and living conditions in the region providing better opportunities for agriculture.

In Samar, he said the ongoing infrastructure projects are the repairs on the Maharlika Highway, which is set to be completed next year, as well as the construction of the Basey-Marabut-Pinamitan Road, Wright-Taft Borongan Road, and the Catbalogan Drainage System.

As for Leyte, he cited the construction of the Tacloban Airport, which is expected to be finished in 2025, and the Tacloban City Causeway.

Aside from helping in the economic growth in the region, Marcos said the projects will also help end insurgent activities in Eastern Visayas.

“We are making these efforts to encourage other rebels to convert and become a productive members of our society,” Marcos said in his speech in Calbayog City.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/05/marcos-vows-long-term-aid-for-el-nino-hit-region-8-agri-workers/>

**BUSINESS MIRROR**

# **DA to pilot ₱29 rice sale in Kadiwa today**

Ada Pelonia  
July 4, 2024

**THE Department of Agriculture (DA) will launch the large-scale trial of its cheaper rice program in 10 Kadiwa centers today.**

**Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said that rice will be sold in these 10 Kadiwa centers in Metro Manila and Bulacan at P29 per kilo every Friday, Saturday and Sunday initially from 8 am to 5 pm.**

**However, Genevieve Velicaria-Guevarra, Assistant Secretary for Consumer and Legislative Affairs, said this could extend to five days in a week except Monday and Tuesday, since their market survey showed that Filipino consumers tend to buy near the weekend.**

**The DA estimated that full implementation of the P29 program will require approximately 69,000 metric tons (MT) of rice. This will provide 10 kilos of rice per month at P29 per kilo to the targeted 6.9 million vulnerable households.**

**During this period, the DA said Kadiwa centers will prepare booklets to monitor rice purchases of P29 beneficiaries, which include senior citizens, single parents, persons with disabilities, and beneficiaries of the government's 4Ps program.**

**Guevarra also urged consumers qualified to participate in the P29 rice program to bring identification cards and reusable containers or bags to minimize plastic usage.**

**The DA said it plans to expand the program to major urban centers nationwide with the support of local government units. It added that by August, the number of participating Kadiwa centers is expected to double, enhancing accessibility for economically disadvantaged groups in Metro Manila.**

**It also said that rice supplies will come from various sources, including the National Food Authority (NFA), the National Irrigation Administration's (NIA) rice contract growing project, and potential imports managed by DA-affiliated entities.**



**The identified Kadiwa sites are located in the offices of the Bureau of Animal Industry and NIA in Quezon City; the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) in Manila; Food Terminal Inc. in Taguig City; PhilFIDA in Las Piñas; Caloocan City; Valenzuela City; Brgy. Fortune and BF City (BFCT) in Marikina City; and San Jose del Monte City in Bulacan.**

**Laurel emphasized the importance of preventing abuse of the program by beneficiaries reselling subsidized rice.**

**“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,” Laurel said in a statement.**

**Meanwhile, Laurel said the DA also plans to sell in Kadiwa centers rice that is priced lower compared to the market, in a program tentatively called “Rice-for-All.” The DA said programs like P29 and “Rice-for-All” aim to enhance food security and affordability.**

**<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/04/da-to-pilot-p29-rice-sale-in-kadiwa-today/>**

# **Agri groups ask SC to declare cuts in rice, other agricultural products import tariff unconstitutional**

BusinessMirror  
July 4, 2024

**MAJOR agricultural groups on Thursday filed a petition before the Supreme Court seeking to declare unconstitutional President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr.’s Executive Order No. 62, issued on June 29, 2024, reducing tariffs on rice and farm products.**

**Executive Order No. 62 also known as “Modifying the Nomenclature and Rates of Import Duty on Various Products,” lowered the tariff on rice from 35 percent to 15 percent; and tariffs on other agricultural products.**

**The order, according to the Palace, could bring down the price of rice to P6 to P7. However, certain economists had said the impact of the lower tariffs on prices in the local market will not be felt right away.**

**The petitioners—Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura (Sinag) Inc., Federation of Free Farmers Inc. (FFFI), United Broiler Raisers Assn. 1 Inc., Sorosoro Ibaba Development Cooperative (SIDC), and Magsasaka Party-list Rep. Argel Cabatbat, also asked the Court to immediately issue a temporary restraining order (TRO) or a status quo ante order as provisional relief against the implementation of the order, pending the Court’s decision on the merits of the petitioner.**

**Sinag chair Rosendo So said the assailed Palace order was hastily issued without proper consultation with the affected stakeholders.**

**The groups named Marcos Jr., Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin, National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) Secretary Arsenio Balisacan and Tariff Commission chairperson Marilou Mendoza as respondents.**

**The petitioners, through their counsel Atty. Virgie Lacsa Suarez, raised two substantive grounds in support of its petition, namely: EO No. 62 violates the limitation/conditions set forth in the Flexible Clause of Republic Act 10863 which makes its issuance invalid and the exercise tantamount to undue delegation of legislative powers; and the order violates the state policy to develop a self-reliant and independent national economy effectively controlled by Filipinos and violates the constitutional mandate to protect the farmers from unfair competition and trade practices.**

**The Palace order, according to the petitioners, violates the provisions of RA 10863 or the Flexible Clause of Customs Modernization and Tariff Act which require proper consultation, investigation, hearings and reports prior to the issuance of an order by the President involving tariff reduction.**

**The petitioners noted that prior to issuance of EO No. 62, tariffs for corn imports were already lowered to 5 percent; pork, to 15 percent; and 35 percent tariffs for rice imports under EO No. 10 to 15 percent.**

**Then EO No. 12 was also issued lowering the tariffs for electric vehicles from between 5 percent and 3 percent to zero-percent tariff.**

**The petitioners said these EOs and other Palace orders on tariff had gone through the mandated consultations, investigation, and hearing where they were notified and participated in the proceedings.**

**“Despite the clear procedure that ensures the exercise of the petitioners of their constitutional right to due process, the issuance of EO 62 was issued in clear violation of the due process. This is tantamount to undue delegation of the delegated rule-making power of the President,” the petition read.**

**The petitioners also explained that lowering tariffs on products, specifically staple foods like rice and corn, poses significant challenges for local farmers as this could lead to an influx of cheaper imported goods, undermining domestic producers’ and farmers’ sales and products.**

**“This is clearly detrimental to the farmers, who may struggle to compete with the lower prices of imported products. As a result, their livelihoods and the agricultural sector in general may suffer, which can exacerbate rural poverty and further drag economic disparity,” they stressed.**

**“While addressing inflation is imperative, it should not come at the expense of our local farmers and producers, our food supply’s long-term stability, and the Philippine economy’s long-term stability. The violation of the Flexible Clause in implementing Executive Order No. 62 renders it unconstitutional and invalid,” they added.**

**Likewise, the petitioners argued that the EO would practically make the country’s economy dependent on importation, which is contrary to the state policy of self-reliant and independent economy as mandated under Article 12, Section (National Economy and Patrimony) and Article XIII, Section (Social Justice and Human Rights) of the 1987 Constitution.**

**“The issuance of EO 62 does not make our farmers more competitive; rather, it is a threat to our farmers and fishers and to the entire economy. Instead of protecting and supporting our farmers, EO62 exposes our very own food producers to unfair foreign competition,” the petitioners said.**

**“The danger of reduced tariffs for the next four years does not in any way make our country self- reliant; rather it makes us dependent on foreign produce,” they added.**

**<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/04/agri-groups-ask-sc-to-declare-cuts-in-rice-other-agricultural-products-import-tariff-unconstitutional/>**

# **Kamatis sumirit presyo sa P170 per kilo**

July 4, 2024

**Napasugod sa Kadiwa center ng Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) Huwebes ng umaga, Hulyo 4, ang ilang konsyumer sa pag-asang makakabili ng mas murang kamatis dahil sa pagsirit ng presyo nito sa P135 hanggang P170 per kilo sa malalaking pamilihan sa Metro Manila.**

**Dismayado ang iba sa mga mamimili dahil mataas pa rin umano ang presyo ng kamatis sa Kadiwa center na nasa P155 per kilo ngayon.**

**Isang magsasaka na mula pa sa Pangasinan ang nakausap ng Abante Radyo (DWAR) at sinabi nito na mataas umano ang presyo ng kanilang benta ng kamatis dahil marami sa mga gulay na naibaba nila ngayon ay mga tanim pa nila noong kasagsagan ng El Niño.**

**Sinabi pa nito na baka dalawang buwan pa ang itatagal bago muling makabawi ang presyo ng mga mga gulay dahil sa kakapusan ng tubig sa mga sakahan. Kahapon (Huwebes) lang din umano sila nakapagtanim muli.**

**Samantala, batay sa pinakahuling datos na nakasaad sa Bantay Presyo ng Department of Agriculture (DA) na may petsang Hulyo 3 (Miyerkoles), naglalaro sa P135 hanggang P170 per kilo ang presyo ng kamatis sa mga pamilihan. (Andrea Salve)**

**<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/07/04/kamatis-sumirit-presyo-sa-p170-per-kilo/>**

**ABANTE TONITE**

## **BBM namudmod ng P136M ayuda sa Eastern Visayas**

**Umabot sa kabuuang P136 milyon ang tulong na naipamahagi ng gobyerno sa Eastern Visayas nitong Huwebes (Hulyo 4) kaugnay ng pagbisita ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. sa Palo, Leyte at Calbayog City, Samar partikular sa mga magsasaka, mangingisda at kanilang mga pamilya na naapektuhan ng El Niño.**

**Ibinigay ng Pangulo ang pondo sa mga gobernador ng mga lalawigan ng Samar (P50 milyon; Northern Samar (P25.99 milyon); Eastern Samar (P19.30 milyon); at Leyte (P17.02 milyon).**

**Nakatanggap din ng P10.31 milyon ang Southern Leyte habang P13.68 milyon naman ang ibinigay na tulong ng Pangulo sa Biliran.**

**Ang iba pang tulong na ipinamigay ay tig-P10,000 cash sa mahigit 8,000 na mga benepisyaryo sa Samar sa ilalim ng Ayuda sa Kapos na Kita Program (AKAP) ng Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).**

**Namahagi rin si Pangulong Marcos ng tig-P10,000 cash sa 1,500 na mga benepisyaryo sa Leyte, Southern Leyte at Biliran sa ilalim ng Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) ng DSWD. (Aileen Taliping)**

**<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/07/04/bbm-namudmod-ng-p136m-ayuda-sa-eastern-visayas/>**