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THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr: Modernizing agriculture

Jasper Emmanuel Arcalas - The Philippine Star

August 11, 2024 | 12:00am



Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.

STAR / File
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MANILA, Philippines — Everything starts with a phone call. Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. was strolling around Makati – looking for a television set – when his phone rang. He answered.

“The President wants you to be the agriculture secretary,” the person on the other line said.

That person was his common friend with President Marcos.

Francisco, known as Kiko, stood still in the middle of the mall, forgetting about the television.

“So, what is going to be?” the friend asked.

Kiko remained silent.

“I could not answer immediately because a lot of things were going through my mind at the time, and honestly, I was quite scared since the task is monumental,” Tiu Laurel recalled to The STAR.

Weeks after the phone call, that friend followed up.

“Kiko, the President is waiting,” the friend said.

Kiko stuttered. “Ay, ay, ay...” He was cut short. “Hey, I need an answer asap.”

“Okay, sige!” Tiu Laurel accepted.

The call ended. After 20 minutes, his phone rang again.

“Hello.” This time, it was the President on the line, who has been serving as the country’s agriculture chief for a year already.

As they say, the rest was history. But for Kiko, or Frannie to his family, that rainy July afternoon was a bit of a momentous memory: he did not just find a television set but stumbled upon a higher purpose to serve.

No degree, no problem

Tiu Laurel climbed the ranks of his family’s business empire, learning the ropes of fishing – literally and figuratively – one knot at a time.

He began as a trainee in the firm’s engineering division under the wings of its vice president for engineering. From thereon, it was a merry-go-round. Tiu Laurel took up all the possible positions at Frabelle Group of Companies: from sales, logistics, purchasing, finance, accounting, audit to planning.

He was sent every month to Japan for a year to enhance his skills and capabilities.

Tiu Laurel learned engine rebuilding, refrigeration, electronics, electrical, hydraulics, ship building and repair, net manufacturing, and even food processing there.

He may not have a formal bachelor’s degree, but he built an expertise anchored on lifelong learning of the ins and outs of one of the world’s most prominent firms in the repair and shipbuilding industry. A skillset that allows Tiu Laurel to have a more profound appreciation of problems besetting the value chains of every agricultural commodity that his department oversees.

Government insiders and industry players often point to Tiu Laurel's businessman background as one of his strengths as an agriculture chief.

He knows his math. He understands the supply chain. He has first-hand experience of the problems of the industry.

And such an abundance of experience comes in handy when Tiu Laurel transitioned to handle the government's agriculture portfolio, which is considered one of the biggest departments in bureaucracy given its 26 attached agencies, bureaus and corporations.

Simplicity is key

Keep things simple, Tiu Laurel believes. The best way to embrace this motto in running the DA is by appointing competent people who would focus on specific portfolios within the department.

The DA now has the most extensive roster of ranking officials in its history: 13 undersecretaries and 14 assistant secretaries.

"Since I was running a big company with many business units, I have been used to overseeing a huge organization," Tiu Laurel says.

"I learned how to recognize good talent or people to work with. Thus, I can delegate effectively as I have reliable people around me to make things," Tiu Laurel adds.

However, when it comes to stress, Tiu Laurel says that the private sector is more stressful because of the risk of losing money.

"In business, you invest your own money, and there is always a chance that you will lose or even get bankrupt if you are not careful and focused," he says.

"At DA, my investment is my time and a lot of brain power to get things moving. I have to push the right programs and use the government money wisely," he adds.

The DA is focusing on the "basics" to develop the agriculture sector: irrigation, drying facility, silos, cold storages, ports, among others.

Crying onions

Onion is one of the key commodities that has caused headaches for Filipino consumers in recent years.

When Tiu Laurel assumed office, the country was reeling from high prices of onions and sugar.

To temper price spikes and eventually pull down the prices of onions, he made the decisive move: allow imports for a limited time. He also allowed local production to catch up with the demand for the commodity.

The agriculture chief always emphasizes that importation would remain an immediate measure to address short-term problems in the sector.

“I went around the cold storages and found out that there were no supplies at all,” Tiu Laurel shares while recalling the “golden onion” prices back in 2023.

Today, nobody is crying because of onions. Retail prices have remained relatively stable throughout the year within the vicinity of P80 to P90 per kilogram with comfortable margins for the farmers.

The country is now swimming in onion stocks, all locally produced and estimated to last until the next harvest in early next year, allowing the government to hold off any import plans.

“I do not think we will see prices of onions increase to P600 again. And sugar prices have become quite stable and affordable,” he says.

Preserving a family name

The older Francisco had only one piece of advice for him when he accepted the government position: to maintain the family name’s integrity at all costs.

“(My father told me) not to shame the family’s name. That is their biggest fear,” Tiu Laurel says.

If maintaining the integrity of their family name means shyness, then shyness Kiko did. Tiu Laurel would be seldom seen on television during the first few months of his leadership.

He did a press conference a few days after he assumed office. He outlined some of his goals and ambitions for the agriculture sector: make farmers productive and profitable.

Days after that, he won’t be engaging with the media. Some say it is the honeymoon period. But the man himself says otherwise.

“I had fears. I did not want to make a mistake in saying something that might affect my family, friends and the President,” Tiu Laurel says, adding that “ I am a shy person.”

Eventually, Tiu Laurel would get the hang of the media engagement from being a government official – from quick chance interviews to lengthy ones.

Adventure of a lifetime

Tiu Laurel describes himself as a man with multiple hobbies. He loves riding utility task vehicles or UTVs. He does shooting, diving and even flying.

He photographs portraits and wildlife. He plays the guitar on Sundays.

In the 80s, he was part of a group called Audio Venture, which popularized mobile discos.

He likes rock music too. Today, he finds himself listening to Taylor Swift and Post Malone.

But all the fun things he had as a businessman had to be set aside after taking up the mantle of being the country's agriculture chief, which he says is worth the sacrifice.

In his speeches and engagements, Tiu Laurel emphasizes the agriculture sector has been under-invested. He points out that there has been no major state investment in the industry in the past three decades.

For one, the government must spend P1.3 trillion to irrigate an additional 1.2 million hectares of farms to attain rice self-sufficiency.

The DA crafted a four-year plan that revolves around four key components aimed at modernizing agriculture through new technologies and digitalization: mechanization of farm operations, expanding irrigation coverage, enhancing logistics network and building more post-harvest facilities.

“What I want is for the lives of farmers to become better, and hopefully, they will earn enough to put their kids to school and be proud farmers and fishermen,” Tiu Laurel says.

The agriculture chief is aware that time is of the essence in achieving his goals for the sector. He says it would take 10 years, noting that finishing at least 50 percent of what he intends to do at the end of his term will be significant progress already.

From time to time, Sec. Kiko gets reminded of the phone call he got a little over a year ago. “There are moments that I get shocked that I am in this position now. I never expected this in my life. For me, this is an adventure of a lifetime,” he says.

“I just want to be known as someone who made a difference and made the situation of our farmers and fishermen better,” he concludes.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/08/11/2376898/francisco-tiu-laurel-jr-modernizing-agriculture>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Philippines to import 240K MT of sugar

[Brix Lelis](#) - The Philippine Star

August 11, 2024 | 12:00am



Under Sugar Order 5 dated Aug. 8 but only made available on Friday, this will be the country's first sugar import program for crop year 2023–2024 and production crop year 2023–2024.

Pixabay

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines is looking to import up to 240,000 metric tons (MT) of refined sugar by September to ensure stable supply and reasonable prices in the market.

Under Sugar Order 5 dated Aug. 8 but only made available on Friday, this will be the country's first sugar import program for crop year 2023–2024 and production crop year 2023–2024.

The program aims to secure ample domestic supply and buffer stock and keep the country well-prepared for the “projected ill-effects of El Niño for CY 2024-2025,” the order states.

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA)'s regulation department in Quezon City and Bacolod will accept import applications and requirements within five working days from the effectivity of the order.

Import allocations, meanwhile, will be issued within five working days following the application deadline.

The regulator said each allocation of imported refined sugar is subject to a bond of P250 per 50-kilogram bag, the total amount of which is payable in the form of a manager's check.

“The bond shall be made to answer for violations or non-compliance by the eligible importers to the orders, resolutions, or circulars of SRA,” the agency said.

The import program is open to all eligible participants of Sugar Orders 2 and 3, provided they are licensed SRA international sugar traders in good standing.

The SRA expects the sugar imports to arrive in the country by Sept. 15, noting that any imported volume of refined sugar will be classified as “C,” or reserve sugar.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., who chairs the SRA board, earlier said the import program would address the anticipated shortfall in sugar stocks to sustain the country's supply until the next milling season in October.

As of June 9, total refined sugar stocks in the country stood at 492,985 MT, about 14 percent higher than the 432,215 MT recorded inventory in the same period last year, based on SRA data.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/08/11/2376904/philippines-import-240k-mt-sugar>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

ASF checkpoints set up across Luzon

[Romina Cabrera](#) - The Philippine Star

August 11, 2024 | 12:00am



Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel said the checkpoints would be a temporary measure as the government waits for the arrival of the ASF vaccines it has procured.

Cesar Ramirez

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) has set up livestock checkpoints across Luzon in a bid to stop the rapid spread of African swine fever (ASF) in Batangas.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel said the checkpoints would be a temporary measure as the government waits for the arrival of the ASF vaccines it has procured.

He noted that, as an added measure, more checkpoints would be installed until the end of the year.

Tiu Laurel said that the DA has the resources to immediately respond to the sudden outbreak of ASF cases in the country.

“We have the funds to procure the vaccines and the emergency funds to indemnify hog raisers adversely affected by the resurgence of the ASF virus,” Tiu Laurel said.

He lamented, though, the delay in securing the vaccine, which is essential to controlling the outbreak.

Several towns have declared a state of calamity following the latest ASF outbreak as the DA blames unscrupulous hog traders selling diseased pigs as contributing to the problem.

Constante Palabrica, DA assistant secretary for swine and poultry, said setting up additional border controls across Luzon could help halt the movement of diseased hogs – a significant factor in the rapid spread of ASF.

The local police, Bureau of Animal Industry and other DA personnel will man the checkpoints, which is also aimed at preventing the transport of other diseased animals, including birds.

The DA said it has identified central burial sites for hogs infected with ASF or those that have died from the virus.

At least 64 municipalities in 22 provinces have reported active ASF cases.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/08/11/2376941/asf-checkpoints-set-across-luzon>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DA to set up Luzon checkpoints to combat spread of ASF

By: [Dianne Sampang](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

INQUIRER.net / 09:44 PM August 10, 2024



Agence France-Presse file photo

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Saturday announced that livestock checkpoints will be set up in Luzon to contain the spread of African swine fever (ASF).

“The checkpoints are a temporary measure while the government awaits the arrival of ASF vaccines, a process that could take a few weeks,” said the DA in a statement.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary for Swine and Poultry Dr. Constante Palabrica stressed that the checkpoints will be set up to assure that no diseased hogs or other animals will be transferred from one place to another.

“We have set up additional livestock quarantines and will keep it there at least until December,” Palabrica said.

Lobo town in Batangas was placed under a state of calamity due to the spread of ASF, with at least 16 out of 26 barangays reporting cases of ASF.

The town logged 8,818 animal deaths as of July 31, while the impact of the swine fever on hog raisers while markets losses amounted to P103,338,000.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. noted that the DA has the resources to respond to the ASF outbreak, including procurement of vaccines and emergency funds for hog raisers.

“We have the funds to procure the vaccines and the emergency funds to indemnify hog raisers adversely affected by the resurgence of the AS virus,” said Tiu Laurel.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1971504/da-to-set-up-livestock-checkpoints-in-luzon-to-contain-asf-spread>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Sugar imports intended to offset cane crop losses caused by El Niño

August 11, 2024 | 7:59 pm



BUREAU OF CUSTOMS FACEBOOK PAGE

THE government's decision to import sugar during the milling offseason is intended to keep supply stable after El Niño damaged the sugarcane crop, sugar producers said.

United Sugar Producers Federation of the Philippines President Manuel R. Lamata said dry conditions during El Niño inflicted significant damage to the cane.

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) said the most affected producing areas were Batangas, Southern Negros, and Mindanao.

During the second quarter sugar cane production dropped 42.3% year on year to 1.63 million metric tons (MMT), according to the Philippine Statistics Authority, making sugar the most affected single crop during the period.

Last week, the SRA approved imports of 240,000 metric tons (MT) of refined sugar via Sugar Order (SO) No. 5.

“Despite the relatively stable supply and prices of sugar as of end of June, the finite supply of sugar and the effect of El Niño on sugar farming necessitates pre-emptive and decisive action on the part of the government in order to ensure a reasonable and stable supply and price,” the regulator said.

As of July 21, the refined sugar inventory was 396,339 MT, down 18% from a year earlier, according to the SRA.

The volume of the proposed imports “seems right to tide us over coming harvest season this Sept. 15,” Mr. Lamata said via Viber.

SO 5 is open to importers who participated in SOs 2 and 3 who are Licensed SRA International Sugar Traders in good standing.

Mr. Lamata has said that the sugarcane harvest during the upcoming crop year will likely be delayed due to El Niño.

The government weather service, known as PAGASA (Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration), declared the start of El Niño weather event in June 2023, bringing below-normal rainfall conditions, dry spells and droughts.

El Niño ended in early June 2024, according to PAGASA, but dry conditions are expected to continue.

The US Department of Agriculture projected that Philippine raw sugar production will be flat this year at 1.85 million MT due to the effects of El Niño. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/08/11/613402/sugar-imports-intended-to-offset-cane-crop-losses-caused-by-el-nino/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

Cocoa jumps most since May on West Africa dry weather fears

- [Bloomberg News](#)
- [August 11, 2024](#)

Cocoa futures soared as much as 12 percent in New York, the biggest intraday jump in three months, as dry weather in the world's top producers fuels concerns about output in the upcoming season.

The most-active contract reached \$7,525 a ton Friday, on course for a weekly gain of more than 10 percent. Top growers Ivory Coast and Ghana have seen a "significant decrease in shower activity" over the past month, leading to below-normal soil moisture and limited crop growth, said Brandon Fox, an operational meteorologist at Maxar Technologies Inc.

"If more rain doesn't fall during the last week of August, then it would not be a great end to this growing season," Fox said, noting that models continue to indicate below-normal rain for the next two weeks.

Still, analysts expect a recovery in West Africa's cocoa production in the season starting in October, helping to flip the market into a surplus. Wetter conditions if a neutral La Niña pattern takes hold later this month could allay weather concerns, said Cade Groman, a forecaster at Commodity Weather Group. Showers are expected to be closer to normal next month, but October is "currently leaning drier," Groman added.

Interpretations of the weather's impact have also been mixed. Some have seen "above-average rainfall raising the risk of disease," so weather's effect is difficult to gauge, said John Goodwin, a senior commodity analyst at ArrowStream Inc.

Markets could be overreacting to the weather forecast, said Michael McDougall, managing director at Paragon Global Markets. "A problem could be building," but the price move could also "show how sensitive the market is to any supply issue now," he said.

Futures may gain more upward momentum if they rise above \$7,557 a ton, breaking a downward trend over the last few months. Otherwise, prices could “easily fall back down,” McDougall said.

Meanwhile, arabica coffee fell in New York as traders continued assessing the risk of frost in top producer Brazil that pushed markets higher earlier this week.

“Should frost risk prove to be minimal as the charts indicate, the coffee markets may seek a correction on the downside,” said Thiago Cazarini, president of Cazarini Trading Co. “But if a Brazil frost strikes this market, we could see coffee prices climbing to rival all-time highs.”

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/11/cocoa-jumps-most-since-may-on-west-africa-dry-weather-fears/>

THE MANILA TIMES:

Crop output down; dairy, poultry gain

[By Janine Alexis Miguel](#)

August 12, 2024

THE country's crop output in the second quarter decreased, while that of poultry increased, the Philippine Statistics Authority said in its latest report.

Total crop harvest from April to June 2024 was 15.56 million metric tons (MT), down by 13 percent from 17.88 million MT in the same period last year, according to the report, due to an annual decline in the production of sugarcane, which went down by 42.3 percent to 1.6 million MT from 2.8 million MT in 2022.

The production of palay (unmilled rice), supposedly the biggest in the total crop output, dropped to 2.4 million MT, a 9.5-percent decline from 3.8 million MT. Corn yield also fell by 20.3 percent to 1.17 million MT, and onion by 37.4 percent to 53,180 MT.

In the same quarter, livestock production remained flat at 539,930 MT, compared to the previous year's 540,460 MT.

With a 78.3-percent share of the total volume of poultry production, hog output was at 422,060 MT, down marginally from last year's 422,720 MT. Likewise, goat output decreased by 2.7 percent to 15,880 MT, and that of carabao by 2.4 percent to 32,900 MT.

Dairy production, on the other hand, rose by 9.7 percent to 7,419 MT from 6,760 MT in the previous year.

Likewise, poultry production was up by 8.7 percent at 739,720 MT from last year's 680,500 MT. The top contributor was chicken production, which grew by 8.9 percent annually to 520,480 MT.

Chicken egg yield also climbed to 198,040 MT from 181,740 MT in the same period in 2023.

The Department of Agriculture earlier said that the latest production value indicates resilience amid challenges the industry faced, particularly El Niño and the recent typhoons.

"The department's proactive approach aims to mitigate the impact of adverse weather conditions and strengthen the sector's capacity to rebound," Agriculture Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa said, explaining that the support measures are designed to enhance productivity and support farmers to sustain agricultural growth and stability despite external challenges.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/08/12/business/top-business/crop-output-down-dairy-poultry-gain/1963342>

THE MANILA TIMES:

Hog raisers told to be alert vs ASF



By Eugene Y. Adiong

August 11, 2024

BACOLOD CITY — The Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO) has urged local hog raisers in Negros Occidental to remain vigilant against the African swine fever (ASF), citing the usual spike of ASF cases during the rainy season.

PVO chief Dr. Placida Lemana said the rainy season and the flooding make it easier for the virus to spread.

"Flooding brings infection, especially in areas which are yet declared as cleared," said Lemana. "Hog raisers should be vigilant and not allow floodwaters to reach their pig pens."

The PVO warning comes after the reported rise of ASF cases in areas in Luzon that were submerged in floodwater caused by the southwest monsoon enhanced by Typhoon Carina.

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority early this year showed that ASF and hog cholera caused the decline of hog production in Negros Occidental by 4.79 percent.

The hog industry in the province lost P199.5 million last year due to swine diseases.

The hog industry in the province is starting to recover and has already started the sentinel phase, Lemana said.

Data, however, showed that swine diseases have affected 3,536 hog raisers in 153 barangay in 20 towns and cities in the province as of May 31 this year

Lemana said only Hinigaran, Victorias City and Pulupandan are the localities that have been declared as "pink zones" or no cases of ASF reported.

She said that the PVO is still waiting for the declaration of Kabankalan City and San Carlos City, as well as La Castellana, as pink zones.

"We are still guarding our ports against the entry of hogs and hog products from ASF-infected areas. The provincial ordinance banning them from entry to Negros Occidental has not yet been lifted," Lemana added.

In Negros Oriental, Dr. Alfonso Tundag, quarantine officer of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), has confirmed the ASF cases in Barangay West Balabag, Valencia town.

Tundag said authorities were still investigating the possible sources of the ASF resurgence in Valencia.

Last week, the Department of Agriculture–Provincial Agriculture Technology Coordinating Office (DA-Patco) reports showed that 160 heads were infected and scheduled for culling.

Alejandro Rafal Jr., DA-Patco head, said the depopulation of pigs in the barangay has started.

Disinfection also commenced in farms and residences where deceased hogs were reported.

Initial investigation revealed that ASF cases were already detected last month, but no one reported these to authorities.

Tundag said that they learned during the meeting with local government unit officials that "some 50 pigs had died as early as the first week of July," and their owners did not report this to authorities.

"They did not report the cases, perhaps out of fear that their live hogs will be culled as well," the BAI official said.

The municipal police have put up checkpoints to make sure that live hogs from Barangay West Balabag will not find their way to Dumaguete City and nearby towns like Sibulan and Bacong.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/08/11/regions/hog-raisers-told-to-be-alert-vs-asf/1963201>

MANILA STANDARD:

DA sets up checkpoints in Luzon amid ASF spread

News



TEMPORARY BORDER CONTROL. The local government of Calatagan in Batangas sets up a checkpoint amid the ASF spread in the province. Facebook page of Brgy. Encarnacion, Calatagan



By Othel V. Campos

August 11, 2024, 12:55 am

Border control temporary while waiting for vax arrival

The Department of Agriculture is setting up multiple livestock checkpoints across Luzon in a bid to curb the spread of African Swine Fever (ASF) in Batangas.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel said the checkpoints are a temporary measure while the government awaits the arrival of ASF vaccines, which could take several weeks.

He also raised concerns over unscrupulous hog traders selling diseased pigs, which he said worsened the outbreak.

“We have the funds to procure the vaccines and the emergency funds to indemnify hog raisers adversely affected by the resurgence of the ASF virus,” Tiu Laurel said.

Agriculture assistant secretary for Swine and Poultry Constante Palabrica said the additional border controls aim to prevent the movement of diseased hogs, a major contributing factor to the rapid spread of ASF in Batangas.

“We have set up additional livestock quarantines and will keep them in place at least until December 31. Policemen, along with the Bureau of Animal Industry and other DA personnel, will staff the checkpoints,” Palabrica said.

Palabrica, a veterinary medicine expert, also noted that the border controls will help prevent the transport of other diseased animals, including birds.

The DA earlier announced that eight towns in Batangas are now affected by ASF, namely Lobo and Calatagan, which are under a state of calamity, as well as Lian, Rosario, Talisay, Lipa, Tui, and San Juan.

According to the Bureau of Animal Industry, ASF has spread across all 17 regions of the Philippines and affected 74 provinces.

As of August 8, at least 64 municipalities in 22 provinces have reported active ASF cases.

The ASF outbreak had a devastating effect on the national hog population, which significantly dropped from 12.7 million when the viral disease started in 2019 to an estimated 9.9 million by the end of 2023.

DA spokesperson Arnel de Mesa said the agency allocated 10,000 vaccines for emergency procurement and is distributing test kits to identify potential ASF cases.

Additionally, industrial lime will be used in depopulation efforts to manage ASF-affected pig populations and prevent further spread of the virus.

The Pork Producers Federation of the Philippines reported that pigs in areas near Batangas are being sold at lower prices due to concerns over infection.

The federation warned that if the outbreak is not contained swiftly, pork prices could significantly increase come the Christmas season.

“One month ago, the farmgate price was at P220 per kilo. But in areas where there is an outbreak, the going price is P2,000 per head – or about P10 per kilo for a 20-kilo sow,” ProPork chairperson Nicanor Briones said

https://www.manilastandard.net/news/314482666/da-sets-up-checkpoints-in-luzon-amid-asf-spread.html#google_vignette

REMATE:

12 barangay sa Zamboanga Sibugay, apektado ng red tide

August 11, 2024 14:44



MANILA, Philippines – Ipinagbabawal pa rin ang pagkuha ng mga lamang dagat para sa mga residente ng 12 barangay sa bayan ng Tungawan, Zamboanga Sibugay dahil sa red tide.

Ipinaliwanag ni Salem Pitong, fishery technician ng Tungawan, na “even if the seawater is somewhat clear, we don’t have yet the official findings from the laboratory that the seawater is clear of red tide.”

“They wanted to glean because the sea is quite clear now (and) there was no report of villagers eating shellfish who got poisoned or paralyzed, but we just wanted to make sure they are safe,” dagdag na paliwanag ni Pitong.

“Days before it turned red, we experienced heavy rainfall, we thought it was just flood water that seeped and mixed with the seawater, but the color stayed until July 19.”

Aniya, kumuha sila ng shellfish samples sa Tigbucay Bay para sa laboratory examination at napag-alaman na nagpositibo ito sa red tide.

Sa abiso ni Christopher Ignacio, executive assistant ng Office of the Director, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, noong Agosto 3, kinumpirma na dalawang lugar sa Zamboanga Peninsula ang positibo sa paralytic shellfish poison.

Ito ay ang Dumanguilas Bay sa Zamboanga del Sur at coastal waters ng Tungawan, Zamboanga Sibugay.

Ang 12 apektadong barangay sa Tungawan ay ang Baluran, Masao, Libertad, Tigbanuang, Taglibas, Looc Labuan, Linguisan, Tigbucay, San Vicente, Santo Niño, Tigpalay, at San Pedro. **RNT/JGC**

<https://remate.ph/12-barangay-sa-zamboanga-sibugay-apektado-ng-red-tide/>

REMATE:

DA maglalagay ng livestock checkpoints vs ASF

August 11, 2024 08:26



MANILA, Philippines – Sinabi ng Department of Agriculture (DA) nitong Sabado, Agosto 10 na maglalagay ito ng mga livestock checkpoint sa buong Luzon kasunod ng mabilis na pagkalat ng African Swine Fever (ASF) sa Batangas.

Sa news release, sinabi ng DA na ang paglalagay ng mga checkpoint ay isang pansamantalang hakbang habang hinihintay pa ng pamahalaan ang pagdating ng mga bakuna kontra ASF, na ang proseso umano ay posibleng abutin ng ilang linggo.

“We have the funds to procure the vaccines and the emergency funds to indemnify hog raisers adversely affected by the resurgence of the ASF virus,” pahayag ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. sabay sabing mahalaga ang pagbili ng bakuna sa pagkontrol ng outbreak.

Batid naman ng Kalihim na nagkaroon ng delay sa pagkuha ng mga ito.

Para naman kay DA Assistant Secretary for Swine and Poultry Constance Palabrica, idinisenyo ang karagdagang border controls para pabagalin ang galaw ng mga may sakit na baboy, na isa sa pangunahing dahilan ng mabilis na pagkalat ng ASF sa Batangas.

“We have set up additional livestock quarantines and will keep it there at least until December 31,” ani Palabrica.

“Policemen along with Bureau of Animal Industry and other DA personnel will man the checkpoints,” dagdag ng DA official.

Makatutulong rin ani Palabrica, ang border controls para maiwasan na maibyahe ang ibang mga may sakit na hayop gaya ng mga ibon.

Sa ulat, 22 sa 26 na barangay na ang apektado ng ASF sa Lobo, Batangas, dahilan para ideklara na ang state of calamity sa naturang bayan.

Matatandaan na nagkaroon ng matinding epekto ang outbreak sa ASF sa national hog population, kung saan bumaba ito mula 12.7 milyon noong 2019 sa 9.9 milyon sa pagtatapos ng 2023.

Sa monitoring ng Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), kumalat na sa lahat ng 17 rehiyon ng bansa ang ASF at apektado rito ang 74 na probinsya.

Hanggang nitong Agosto 8, 64 na munisipalidad sa 22 probinsya ang may aktibong kaso ng ASF. *RNT/JGC*

<https://remate.ph/da-maglalagay-ng-livestock-checkpoints-vs-asf/>

ABANTE:

ASF gumapang sa 8 barangay ng Calatagan, Batangas

- [Abante News](#)
- [August 10, 2024](#)



Isinailalim na rin sa state of calamity ang bayan ng Calatagan sa Batangas dahil sa pagkalat ng African Swine Fever o ASF.

Ayon kay Emilyn Custodio, Municipal Agriculturist ng Calatagan, idineklara ng Sangguniang Bayan noong August 7 na isailalim sa state of calamity ang buong bayan matapos magpositibo ang walong barangay sa ASF.

Kabilang sa mga barangay na positibo sa ASF ay ang Balibago, Talisay, Carretunan, Quilitisan, Gulod, Balitoc, Lucsuhin at Sambungan.

Hanggang nitong August 9, umaabot na sa 557 na baboy ang nailibing na matapos magsagawa ng depopulation ang Municipal Agriculture Office, Provincial Veterinary Office at ang Department of Agriculture 4A.

Nagbuo narin ng Task Force ASF ang Calatagan LGU para magsagawa ng checkpoint sa entrance ng munisipalidad upang mapigilan ang pagkalat ng sakit sa mga baboy.

Inatasan din ng Task Force ang mga barangay na positibo sa ASF na bawal magkatay at maglabas ng baboy, buhay man o karne na, upang maiwasan ang pagkalat ng sakit.

Bukod sa Calatagan, positibo narin sa ASF ang ilang barangay sa Lian, Talisay, Rosario Lipa at sa bayan ng Lobo na una ng nagdeklara ng state of Calamity. (Ronilo Dagos)

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/08/10/asf-gumapang-sa-8-barangay-ng-calatagan-batangas/>