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THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Past and present



[GO NEGOSYO PILIPINAS ANGAT LAHAT!](#) - [Joey Concepcion](#) - The Philippine Star

August 12, 2024 | 12:00am

Last week was meaningful in many ways, and it is only upon reflection that I realized how significant it was.

Last Monday, exactly a week ago, we welcomed the newly appointed Secretary Cris Roque to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) during an event we hosted to rally support for women-led MSMEs. Her immediate predecessor, Fred Pascual, graced us with his presence at the event, underscoring continuity in leadership at the DTI. This has been a boon to MSMEs since they both prioritize MSME development.

Much of what we do for MSMEs at Go Negosyo depends on government support. After all, we believe in greater private sector participation and cooperation with government to advance MSME development, something that is also embodied in the Private Sector Advisory Council, which offers guidance to the President in its goals for the country's economic development. The private sector brings efficiencies and on-the-ground insights.

Initiatives such as the programs we have for MSME development at Go Negosyo progress better when the private sector is invested in them. Likewise, the private sector cannot pursue these long-ranging, high-impact programs without supportive policies from the government. It would be nearly impossible to organize at the local level without at least some coordination with community leaders, who understand the dynamics of their constituents and can identify the informal opinion leaders, local customs and on-the-ground concerns.

That is why we are grateful for First Lady Liza Araneta Marcos' LAB for All program. The First Lady has opened the program to us, allowing us to conduct our entrepreneurship mentoring in the barangay halls, gymnasiums and community centers, even in the remotest places. While many people come to the LAB for All caravans primarily for the medical services, they also take advantage of the other offerings, making it a great collaboration that has significantly advanced our mission to reach as many active and aspiring entrepreneurs as possible, especially those in small towns and barangays.

The First Lady was also present at last week's event for MSMEs, as was my mentor, former president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. I am grateful to the First Lady and to the former president; one opened my mind to the potential of the private sector to help the country through MSME development, while the other opened many doors for us to fulfill our mission.

Last week also saw me meeting the new Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary, Sonny Angara. He is no stranger to me, as we have worked together before on the Tatak Pinoy program. Now that we have another chance to collaborate, I am quite excited, as it is apparent that we are on the same page.

We started discussions with DepEd while VP Sara was still its head. During those meetings, we lined up several programs like Youthpreneur to reinforce the entrepreneurship and financial literacy training of senior high school students, and Mentoring the Mentors, a program to enhance the teachers' entrepreneurship knowledge, allowing them to guide their students in their entrepreneurship journey and perhaps build also on their skills to become entrepreneurs themselves.

We also plugged into the DepEd's Pampaaralang Taniman sa Agribida – the school gardens project that aims to involve parents in teaching children about agriculture. With Go Negosyo's input, we hope to enhance the program with a view to entrepreneurship, encouraging the kids to see agriculture as a viable future path. We need future farmers, and we need to teach them how to make farming a way to make a comfortable living.

Last week also marked the culmination of collective efforts at the PSAC Jobs Committee and discussions with Secretary Angara with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between the DepEd and the Private Sector Advisory Council's Jobs Committee to enhance student skills and employability through work immersion programs, teacher training and job matching activities to address the country's jobs and skills mismatch. The President was there to witness the signing as he has always been

supportive of such public-private sector cooperation, especially in initiatives with wide-ranging impact on the future of the country.

Upskilling our labor force is also crucial, especially considering how technologies like AI are reshaping the way we work. Upskilled workers in high-quality jobs means higher wages, which stimulate increased spending, leading to a favorable environment for MSMEs to flourish. As these MSMEs prosper, they will create even more jobs, sustaining a cycle of inclusive economic growth with a strong base of hundreds of thousands of robust, dynamic and profitable enterprises. This will also empower communities, fostering a more equitable and prosperous society. This positive cycle will contribute to a brighter future for the Philippines, where economic growth is shared and enjoyed by all.

This is why we should give education and MSMEs all the help they need – these sectors have a big role to play in the future of our country. I am glad that we have people in government who are willing to collaborate with us to get to where we all want to be.

Before I end this column, I would like to pay tribute to the late Henry Lim Bon Liong, the former leader of the FFCCCII and the visionary behind Doña Maria rice at the company he founded, SL Agritech. He was one of the first CEOs to become a Big Brother to our MSMEs and was a generous soul who never doubted the potential of the Filipino. I hope that his life and words will continue to inspire other Filipino businessmen to become active participants in our quest for a prosperous Philippines. May his legacy live on.

<https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2024/08/12/2377264/past-and-present>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA warned against use of expired ASF vaccine

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

August 12, 2024 | 12:00am



Farmers and hograisers expressed their concern on the matter during a meeting last Friday of various stakeholders and the technical working group, which was presided by Agriculture Assistant Secretary for swine and poultry Constante Palabrica.

BusinessWorld / File
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MANILA, Philippines — Farmers' groups have warned the Department of Agriculture (DA) against using the expired 150,000 doses of vaccine against African swine fever to curb ASF outbreaks, particularly in Batangas.

Rosendo So, chairman of the Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura, said farmers and hograisers have raised concern over a plan to use the ASF vaccines that have been in the country and expired in March.

Farmers and hograisers expressed their concern on the matter during a meeting last Friday of various stakeholders and the technical working group, which was presided by Agriculture Assistant Secretary for swine and poultry Constante Palabrica.

“We are using public funds. Why would we risk using expired vaccines? If private commercial farms want to use expired vaccines, that’s their risk, but not for the government’s trial,” So said.

The DA earlier announced that at least P350 million was allocated for the procurement of 600,000 doses of ASF vaccine.

So said the DA should have destroyed the expired ASF vaccines, like what the government did to the COVID shots that were not used during the pandemic and later expired.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/08/12/2377272/da-warned-against-use-expired-asf-vaccine>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Diplomatic moves



[BUSINESS SNIPPETS](#) - [Marianne V. Go](#) - The Philippine Star

August 12, 2024 | 12:00am

Outgoing Swedish Ambassador Annika Thunborg is leaving the Philippines on Wednesday, Aug. 14, for a two-month vacation in New Zealand before returning to Sweden after her all-too-brief three-year stint in the country, where she has tirelessly promoted cultural, environmental, trade, economic, and security ties between Sweden and the Philippines.

According to the ambassador, she and her husband are taking a long two-month leisurely vacation in New Zealand before returning to Sweden, where she will either stay, or be given another foreign assignment.

During her term in the Philippines, Ambassador Thunborg arranged the visit of Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade Johan Forssell to help strengthen trade and economic ties, as well as push for the resumption of free trade talks with the European Union, and also to meet with Philippine defense and security officials.

Likewise, Ambassador Thunborg also quietly arranged the visit of Swedish banker and industrialist Marcus Wallenberg, who heads the Wallenberg Sphere, which comprises (to name just a few) the Swedish bank Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken (SEB), Saab AB, ABB, the AstraZeneca pharmaceutical group, Ericsson, Electrolux and Nasdaq. Wallenberg met with the country's top business families, including the Ayalas, the Sys, the Gokongweis and the Lopez family.

Ambassador Thunborg gave me the opportunity to interview both Minister Forssell and Wallenberg during their separate visits to the Philippines.

Lastly, Ambassador Thunborg also hosted the visit just this June of Swedish Defense Minister Pål Jonson, who took the opportunity to express Sweden's support for the Philippines and its rules-based claim over its extended economic zone, which is now being encroached upon by China.

Jonson's visit to the Philippines was the first ever by a Swedish defense official.

Bellevue Hotel vice president for sales and marketing Elvie Sanchez-Quiazon last week hosted a farewell dinner for the outgoing ambassador at the hotel's penthouse restaurant Johnny's Steakhouse, named after Bellevue Hotel's founder and chairman Johnny Chan.

While Chan did not join us at the dinner, we had the opportunity to briefly meet him as he was enjoying the band playing at the rooftop bar of the hotel. He now has more opportunity to relax and enjoy himself as his three sons have taken over more active management duties of his hotel and resort properties.

The dinner gave Ambassador Thunborg an opportunity to say her farewell to an intimate group of diplomats and Philippine officials, including Sen. Cynthia Villar, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Jesus Domingo and private sector partners, including Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Eunina "Nina" Mangio, "Mother of Philippine Franchising" Bing Sibal Limjoco and AstraZeneca Philippines president Lotis Ramin.

Ambassador Thunborg's special relationship with Sen. Villar was based on their common effort to promote environmental issues and concerns, particularly benefiting Sen. Villar's pet wetlands protection project in Las Piñas.

The ambassador has also worked closely with AstraZeneca and its various research projects on a wide range of medical concerns, including cancer research and vaccines, most recently for the COVID-19 vaccines.

She has also worked closely with the private sector, such as the PCCI, to promote two-way trade and cooperation between Sweden and the Philippines.

Economic diplomacy

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for civilian security and consular affairs Jesus Domingo, who closely cooperated with Ambassador Thunborg during her tour of duty

in the country, was the lone thorn at our table with Bellevue host Elvie Sanchez-Quiazon, PCCI president Nina Mangio, “Mother of Philippine Franchising” Bing Limjoco-Sibal and AstraZeneca Philippines president Lotis Ramin, as the Ambassador sat at a separate table with Sen. Villar and other guests.

Domingo is trying to work with Mangio, who is also the honorary consul of Liberia, to expand trade ties through the country’s more than 150 honorary consuls.

According to Domingo, the DFA normally works on furthering trade and economic ties with the additional assistance of the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Agriculture through their own trade and agricultural attachés.

Likewise, the DFA also works with the Department of National Defense and the Department of Migrant Workers through defense and labor attachés.

The Philippine government operating overseas, according to Domingo, follows the One Country Team approach. So, embassies and consulates are run by the DFA and have “almost about 95 foreign service posts.” Unfortunately, the DTI only has “about 30 attachés, and doing very well where they are posted, but leaving about 60 to 65 posts” without attachés.

Likewise, Domingo pointed out, the Philippines has about another 154 to 155 honorary consulates that also handle passports and visas.

The DFA, he explained, has a Multilateral and International Economic Relations and Economic Affairs department, but his section, particularly the Consular Affairs section, “has a key role in promoting economic diplomacy through our visa function. We are working closely with the Private Sector Advisory Council, the Department of Tourism, and the Bureau of Immigration to see how we can make visas easier for new markets, particularly India.”

He revealed that his department is currently working on e-visas. “We are beta testing... we are nearly completing our beta testing for e-visas for the Indian market, which has huge potential.”

Likewise, he said, they are also looking at other countries and working with other stakeholders “to more systematically bring in more investors and tourists.” He also wants “to more comprehensively tap our honorary consuls and how we can make our post with our DTI attachés work more closely with the DTI in promoting economic diplomacy.”

He also expressed his desire to work more closely with honorary consulates in the Philippines, which he feels have “great potential” and are “ripe for expansion.”

He has, in fact, started a diplomatic networking activity... a Diplomatic Consular Club that brings together the diplomatic community, the consular community, the DTI and the private sector to work on a cluster of themes and regions intended to open up new markets that usually require new visas.

Thus, Domingo has been following President Marcos’ marching order to open up new markets, starting with the Indian market and the e-visas.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/08/12/2377123/diplomatic-moves>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Public warned on proliferation of fake government accounts

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

August 12, 2024 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc. (PSE) and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) are alerting the public about schemes that impersonate legitimate entities and personalities to entice the public to invest.

A Department of Agriculture agency also said fake social media accounts are using government names to promote a certain fertilizer claiming to be effective in boosting crop yields.

The Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) said at least two social media pages that surfaced online recently were falsely representing the institution as well as the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Extension Program.

The PSE, meanwhile, said a fraudulent cryptocurrency investing scheme using its logo and name on its website is luring potential investors to register and create an account through the website “<https://pse-philippine.com/User/index>.”

“Based on the information provided, there is an online advertisement about investing in the PSE. When potential investors express interest, they are contacted through messaging applications. The supposed investment is shown to be doing well and investors are asked to increase their investment amount through various e-wallet accounts,” it said.

As part of the scheme, investors will be informed that they entered the wrong order, leading to the loss of the account’s withdrawal password.

To address the issue, the scammers will then offer to consult with PSE’s customer service. The solution provided is to create a new account that requires a new deposit and completion of new tasks.

According to the PSE, the messaging applications present a few other members who appear to be in the same predicament, but who allay doubts or fears about the scheme by showing they have been able to withdraw their investments.

The PSE said it does not own and operate the website “<https://pse-philippine.com/User/index>.”

Further, it stressed that it does not sell cryptocurrencies and that its employees or agents do not advertise or promote cryptocurrency.

“The PSE reiterates that all legitimate stock transactions are done through PSE-accredited trading participants or stock brokerage firms. PSE and any of its officers, employees and agents do not undertake stock transactions on behalf of clients,” it said.

In a separate advisory, the SEC urged the public not to engage with Bagong Bansang Maharlika (BBM) International Inc., a group using President Marcos’ name and whose corporate registration has been revoked due to its illegal solicitation of investments.

Despite the issuance of a revocation order as early as November 2023, the SEC said BBM International maintained its operations in certain parts of Visayas and Mindanao.

The SEC said BBM International’s corporate registration was revoked due to its collection of membership fees from residents of various local communities, promising to provide food security, free education, free hospitalization, cash assistance and livelihood to all Filipinos aged one year and above worldwide.

To create a false impression that its programs are legitimate and sanctioned by the current administration, it also made use of Marcos’ image as part of its marketing materials.

As early as Aug, 28, 2023, the SEC has issued an advisory to the investing public to exercise caution when dealing with the group.

The SEC warned that those who act as salesmen, brokers, dealers or agents, representatives and promoters of unauthorized investment activities may be held criminally liable under the Financial Products and Services Consumer Protection Act as well as the Securities Regulation Code, which are both penalized separately up to P5 million or imprisonment of up to 21 years, or both.

The PSE, for its part, encourages the public to exercise extreme caution and vigilance in dealing with companies or individuals soliciting stock investments, especially those which promise guaranteed returns or income.

“Investment scams usually involve promises of big payouts, quick money or guaranteed returns and do not contain disclosures on the risks of investing,” it said.

Meanwhile, the fake PhilRice accounts were misleading the public in promoting a certain product called Super Seed Organic Fertilizer.

The agency noted that the fake accounts were also claiming that Emil Javier, a national scientist, was reportedly endorsing the fertilizer as a “groundbreaking” product that can “revolutionize” the country’s agriculture sector.

The fake social media accounts are also using the name of Rodel Maghirang, the former director of the Institute of Plant Breeding of the University of the Philippines Los Baños, in promoting the product.

“It is disheartening to see the misuse of our institution’s name and credibility in a marketing scheme,” John de Leon, PhilRice executive director, said.

“We urge the public to exercise caution and verify information before trusting online sources. Our official channels are the only reliable sources for updates and advisories related to our programs and services,” De Leon added.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/08/12/2377131/public-warned-proliferation-fake-government-accounts>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Agri production down



[DEMAND AND SUPPLY](#) - [Boo Chanco](#) - The Philippine Star

August 12, 2024 | 12:00am

The good news is, GDP expanded by 6.3 percent year-over-year in the second quarter versus a revised 5.8 percent in the first quarter, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority. The not-so-good news is that agricultural production contracted by 3.3 percent year-over-year, contributing to higher food prices and a higher inflation rate.

The headline inflation or overall inflation increased to 4.4 percent in July from 3.7 percent in June. The heavily-weighted food and non-alcoholic beverages index increased to 6.4 percent in July from 6.1 percent in June, contributing to the faster annual overall inflation growth rate. Food inflation at the national level rose to 6.7 percent in July from 6.5 percent in June. Rice inflation has slowed but remains high and is still the number one contributor to overall food inflation at 20 percent, according to PSA data.

The country's poorest are the hardest hit by inflation. According to the PSA, inflation for low-income households, or the bottom 30 percent of households, increased to 5.8 percent in July from June's 5.5 percent.

"Food is big for the bottom 30 percent of income households. Their food expenditure, as a percentage of their income, is more substantial. In our basket, the weight of food for the bottom 30 percent is around 51.38 percent," according to National Statistician Dennis Mapa. The weight of rice in the inflation felt by the bottom 30 percent of income households is about 70 percent. That's why the price of rice is a political issue.

Despite the lower tariff on imported rice, Mapa noted that the reduction in rice prices seen in July was not significant. The PSA chief said the average price per kilo of regular-milled rice in July stood at P50.90, down 0.3 percent from P51.10 per kilo in June. Well-milled rice also saw a slight reduction by 0.2 percent to P55.85 per kilo from P55.96 per kilo month-on-month. The price of special rice eased by 0.2 percent to P64.42 per kilo from P64.56 per kilo in the prior month.

The BBM administration's response to the rice price crisis is the Rice-for-All program launched on Aug. 1. The program will supposedly enable the general public to buy rice at P45 per kilo at select Kadiwa outlets, if you are lucky enough to find one in your area. There was an earlier program that supposedly enabled vulnerable sectors to buy heavily subsidized rice at P29 a kilo at some Kadiwa outlets.

The response is more political theatrics and not sustainable. The government buys palay at up to P30 a kilo and then sells milled rice for P29. An agricultural economist in one of my Viber groups estimated that P9 billion earmarked for the program buys less than two percent of the demanded rice. He thinks that if the government wants to help the poor, targeted rice vouchers handled by the DSWD would be better.

The DA has a good excuse for the food supply problems: El Niño. The agricultural sector's production in the April to June period amounted to P413.91 billion, about P14 billion lower than the P427.948 billion recorded in the same period last year, according to the PSA. The contractions are across the value of 20 crops, with sugarcane posting the steepest decline at 42.3 percent. Palay fell by 9.5 percent year-over-year, while corn output declined by 20.3 percent.

Lowering the tariff on imported rice was theoretically supposed to bring down retail prices. But that's not how the real market works, apparently. Rice import arrivals slowed down as importers wanted to sell their previous imported stocks bought at the higher tariff rate.

Traders remain cautious in bringing in new shipments pending the Supreme Court resolution of a petition against Executive Order (EO) 62, which lowered rice tariffs. Bureau of Plant Industry data as of July 20 showed only 56,073 metric tons of rice were imported and levied with a lower 15 percent tariff rate. That's nowhere near the average monthly import arrival of about 400,000 metric tons from January to June.

DA officials are expecting the import arrivals to pick up in the coming weeks, with a substantial volume entering this month that would have a "significant" effect on pulling

down retail rice prices in the market. The PSA chief is now saying that maybe the effect of lower tariffs will be felt this month.

In the end, the thought that a lower tariff would result in lower rice prices proved theoretical. Or maybe it needs time, but the government doesn't have the luxury of time. As a result, some are disappointed that the lower tariff and lower rice prices in the world market didn't do anything for rice consumers. Farmers and millers may have been unnecessarily hurt. To recall, the government earlier said tariff reduction for imported rice could reduce the retail price per kilo of rice by P6 to P7.

As expected, the DA spokesman said, "The Philippine agriculture sector has demonstrated resilience..." Hopefully, as the DA Secretary gets to know his assignment better, the DA will do better than just showing resilience. It is time to show an honest-to-goodness agricultural program that supports farmers through better seeds, improved financial support, a more effective farm mechanization program, better irrigation and a more extensive logistics system to include storage now controlled by traders. And don't forget that rice millers are part of the marketing chain and some are also hurting.

Much hope has been pinned on Secretary Francis Tiu Laurel to bring private sector entrepreneurial spirit into our lagging agricultural sector. He had to do some firefighting with El Niño, but he can't be doing ad hoc measures and firefighting for the rest of BBM's term. That's a waste of his talent and experience.

Boo Chanco's email address is bchanco@gmail.com. Follow him on X [@boochanco](https://twitter.com/boochanco).

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/08/12/2377128/agri-production-down>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Agri-tech, wellness entrepreneurs triumph at She Loves Tech Philippine finals

August 12, 2024 | 12:10 am



She Loves Tech 2024 Philippines winners Unprude and Farmtri will represent the country in the competition's Regional Finals in Singapore, competing against other women-founded startups from Southeast Asia.

Singapore-based startup accelerator She Loves Tech, together with QBO Innovation Hub, Ideaspace Ventures, Inc., and with SM Supermalls, empowered 10 Filipina-led tech startups to showcase their innovative and impactful business models in the Philippine finals of She Loves Tech 2024, held last Aug. 2 at SM Aura's Samsung Hall.

This year's finalists come from varying industries, including agri-tech, health and wellness, communications for differently-abled people, and more. From this selection of outstanding businesses, Unprude and Farmtri were chosen to represent the Philippines in the Regional Finals, which will be held in Singapore later this year.

The grand winner, Unprude, is an app that encourages self-reflection to help users navigate sexual and life challenges, fostering deeper self-understanding, better relationships, and greater compassion for others.

In second place, Farmtri is a business-to-business digital platform that is innovating the food value chain. It utilizes artificial intelligence to predict market trends that help food businesses and farmers minimize losses and food waste.



She

Loves Tech, led and founded by three women, has made supporting and launching women-led businesses their main focus since 2015. This advocacy brought along the establishment of the world’s largest startup competition for women and tech with the same name.

SM Supermalls shares in She Loves Tech’s vision, as one of the largest supporters of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and projects that empower women.

SM Cyberzone is also celebrating Cyber Month this August, which means a larger focus on all things tech and how it can help level up anyone’s lifestyle, including through tech-powered job creation and tech-integrated business practices that address sustainability and community-building.

The partnership is also a continuation of SM’s year-round support for women-led businesses and startups, which can be seen through initiatives like SM’s Weekend Marketplace and the SM4SMEs Community Bazaar.

“SM is deeply honored to be partnering with She Loves Tech to host the Philippine leg of this competition. We are excited to see what these brilliant, hardworking, and business-minded women have in store for the betterment of our society,” said Steven Tan, president of SM Supermalls.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/sparkup/2024/08/12/613187/agri-tech-wellness-entrepreneurs-triumph-at-she-loves-tech-philippine-finals/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Davao durian fest highlight of city's Kadayawan season

August 12, 2024 | 12:04 am



BW FILE PHOTO/MAYA M. PADILLO
By **Maya M. Padillo**, *Correspondent*

DAVAO CITY — Durian, touted as “the king of fruit,” is in the spotlight this month with multiple varieties on exhibit during the Kadayawan sa Davao Festival.

The 10th Durian Festival, organized by the Department of Agriculture (DA) in Region 11, SM Lanang Premier, and the Durian Industry Association of Davao City, opened on Friday at the north wing of SM Lanang. The varieties on display include D101, puyat, native, arancillo, Montong Obosa, D24, Duyaya, Cob, and Durio Graveolens (Brunei).

Also sharing in the billing are fruits of the region like mangosteen, marang, and rambutan.

Lawyer Genevieve E. Velicaria-Guevarra, assistant secretary for Legislative Affairs at the DA, said durian is the symbol of Davao City's character and strength.

"We celebrate not only our bountiful harvests but also our shared spirit, heritage, and resilience, as one community," Ms. Guevarra said.

The Durian Festival runs until Sept. 15.

John Tan, CEO of Eng Seng Food Products (ESFP), a durian exporter, said the industry needs to enhance the crop's quality to be competitive in the export market.

"We need quality durian before quantity. *Lalo na ngayon napansin ko maraming lingshod* (unripe)... We need to educate the farmers *para maka harvest sa tama na panahon. Sayang kasi hundred million ang mawawala dahil lingshod, sayang natapon lang. Kasi pag lingshod itatapon 'yan* (I have noticed that many of the fruit are unripe. The farmers need to be educated when to harvest. Unripe fruit means hundreds of millions of pesos wasted)," Mr. Tan told *BusinessWorld*.

Mr. Tan said the DA and the Department of Trade and Industry in Region 11 have been conducting training for the farmers.

"We need to improve the quality of our durian. We need quality production of durian for export," he said.

ESFP was one of the four exporters involved in the inaugural shipment of Davao durian to China in April 2024.

Mr. Tan said the exporters are hoping to start China deliveries next week at a volume of 300 to 400 containers.

Aside from China, he said exporters are targeting Canada and the US, with the Canada target set at about 10 tons of fresh fruit via air freight.

"We need to push for good variety and good quality *para maging successful tayo sa* (in order to succeed in the) export market," Mr. Tan said.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/agribusiness/2024/08/12/613354/davao-durian-fest-highlight-of-citys-kadayawan-season/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Vaccine alone not seen sufficient to contain Batangas ASF outbreak

August 12, 2024 | 12:03 am



REUTERS

HOG FARMERS said animal movement restrictions will be key to containing the African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak in Batangas.

“Stopping the spread of the virus to other parts of Batangas may not (solved by) vaccine alone; we must have the resolve to strictly monitor the movement of animals,” National Federation of Hog Farmers, Inc. Vice-Chairman Alfred Ng told *BusinessWorld*.

Last week, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said that it was preparing to conduct emergency procurement of 10,000 doses of the ASF vaccine to curb the spread of the disease.

The DA added that the new ASF outbreak has led several towns in Batangas to declare a state of calamity to facilitate access to emergency funds.

Mr. Ng added that the current outbreak in the area may have been caused by non-compliance with biosecurity protocols.

He added that rains could have infected water sources and eased the spread of the disease.

The DA has said that it is planning a limited rollout of the AVAC ASF Live Vaccine from Vietnam by the third quarter.

As of Aug. 8, 62 municipalities across 22 provinces had active ASF cases, according to the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI).

The first cases of ASF in the Philippines was detected in 2019.

The DA said that it will set up livestock checkpoints across Luzon in response to the rapid spread of ASF cases in Batangas.

It suspected the practice of selling diseased pigs to have worsened the spread of ASF.

“We have set up additional livestock quarantines and will keep it there at least until Dec. 31... Policemen along with BAI and other DA personnel will man the checkpoints,” Constance J. Palabrica, assistant secretary for Poultry and Swine, said in a statement over the weekend.

“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,” Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. said.

The DA has allocated P350 million for the trial, sufficient to fund about 600,000 vials. Vaccination will initially be concentrated in red zones or those areas with active ASF cases and pink zones, or areas adjacent to zones with infections.

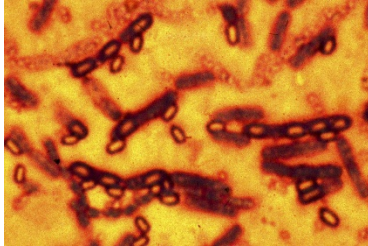
Hog production slipped 0.2% to 422,060 metric tons during the second quarter, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/agribusiness/2024/08/12/613353/vaccine-alone-not-seen-sufficient-to-contain-batangas-asf-outbreak/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

China shuts cattle farm after anthrax outbreak

August 12, 2024 | 12:02 am



REUTERS

BEIJING — China’s eastern province of Shandong reported that five people were infected with anthrax and a beef cattle farm was shut after an outbreak in the province.

All of the livestock on the farm were culled, the disease control and prevention center of Yanggu county in Shandong said in a statement on WeChat.

Five farm workers with direct contact with the infected animals were diagnosed with cutaneous anthrax and are undergoing treatment in isolation, it said.

“Cutaneous anthrax is a zoonotic infectious disease that is preventable, controllable and treatable, and transmission between humans is rare,” the center wrote.

Anthrax is a bacteria found naturally in soil and commonly affects animals that come in contact with spores in contaminated soil, plants, or water.

It mostly infects susceptible herbivores, such as cattle, mules, sheep, horses, and donkeys.

Anthrax is not contagious, and humans can only get infected by ingesting the bacteria. — **Reuters**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/agribusiness/2024/08/12/613352/china-shuts-cattle-farm-after-anthrax-outbreak/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

France extends bluetongue vaccination for ruminants

August 12, 2024 | 12:01 am



REUTERS

PARIS — France detected two new outbreaks of a new variant of bluetongue virus circulating in ruminants in northern Europe, prompting it to speed up and extend a vaccination campaign in the region, the farm ministry said.

France reported a first outbreak of the BTV3 bluetongue disease on a sheep farm near the Belgian border earlier this week. The virus, spread by insects and which can be deadly for sheep, cattle and goats, has been circulating in the Netherlands, northern Belgium and western Germany since late last year.

France increased the number of vaccines that will be given for free to farmers to 6.4 million doses, including 1.1 million for sheep and 5.3 million doses for cattle, from a total of 4.6 million doses previously.

The ministry had initially mentioned Wednesday as the start of the campaign, which has since been brought forward to Monday. — **Reuters**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/agribusiness/2024/08/12/613351/france-extends-bluetongue-vaccination-for-ruminants/>

Timely action on ASF

By
Malaya Business Insight

August 12, 2024

SCIENCE has been effective in controlling bacteria, viruses and other microscopic organisms that attack humans and animals. The process of fighting these pesky living things that sometimes spell the difference between death and survival of mankind is, however, long and tedious, so that it behooves governments all over the world to anticipate any outbreak of epidemics, whether involving animals or human beings.

Aside from anticipation, the health and environment authorities should get a clear picture of an epidemic or pandemic as early as possible, and act accordingly to stem the tide of the disaster.

That is the legacy lesson that we learned from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic of 2020-2022, along with various outbreaks of African swine fever (ASF) that has hit the hog industry hard in the country over several years.

‘We understand that the ASF situation calls for swift and decisive measures, and the livelihood and survival of the whole hog industry depends on the government’s timely action.’

ASF outbreaks which are triggered by the fast-multiplying ASF virus are, again, reported in at least two provinces in Luzon — Batangas and La Union, with the rich Calabarzon region being hit the hardest.

The provincial veterinary office of Batangas reported to the Department of Agriculture (DA) that at least 150 barangays have been affected by the African swine fever. Among the towns reeling from the ASF outbreaks are Lobo, Calatagan, Lian, Talisay, Rosario, and Lipa.

The losses and devastation caused by ASF are mind-boggling, especially in Batangas where there is traditionally a thriving hog industry. In Lobo town, the mayor said the losses incurred by the municipality have reached P100 million. The residents of 20 barangays have culled more than 10,000 hogs to prevent the virus from spreading to other barangays.

In La Union, the DA Region 1 office recorded 48 new ASF cases in barangay Namtutan, San Fernando City. Cases were also reported in the towns of Balaoan and Luna.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa, who is also the department's spokesman, said the last month's massive floodings caused by typhoon "Carina" and the strong monsoon rains had caused the ASF outbreaks. Responding to the situation, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has ordered an immediate emergency procurement of ASF vaccines to address the outbreaks in Batangas and La Union.

The vaccines could be available later this month.

The agriculture department said Batangas will be the first to be covered by the controlled ASF vaccination, the province being one of the major producers of pork and pork products.

Since the DA's need for an initial 10,000 doses of ASF vaccines is indeed in the nature of an emergency, it was explained that the purchase will not undergo the usual bidding process of the government.

We understand that the ASF situation calls for swift and decisive measures, and the livelihood and survival of the whole hog industry depends on the government's timely action. In these extraordinary circumstances, emergency procurement without competitive bidding is acceptable.

https://malaya.com.ph/news_opinion/timely-action-on-asf/

BUSINESS MIRROR:

Ubra: Humidity poses risk to poultry output

- [Ada Pelonia](#)
- [August 12, 2024](#)

The poultry subsector's positive performance in the second quarter may be difficult to repeat in the July-to-September period, according to the United Broiler Raisers Association (Ubra).

Ubra Chairman Elias Jose Inciong said the third quarter is usually a difficult period for local poultry raisers due to several factors, including humidity.

“The third quarter is a difficult period for production,” Ubra Chairman Elias Jose Inciong told the BusinessMirror. “Humidity remains high, and this affects the quality of the feeds, so it’s difficult for chickens to grow.”

Due to the so-called “third quarter syndrome,” the size of broilers are smaller than usual, which prolongs the rearing period of chickens, according to a statement released by the Department of Agriculture in 2007.

Figures from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) indicated that the country’s farm output contracted by 3.3 percent in the second quarter as El Niño ravaged farmlands.

PSA data indicated that the crops and livestock subsectors recorded declines in terms of value while the poultry and fisheries subsectors buoyed the performance of Philippine agriculture in April to June.

The value of agriculture and fisheries production amounted to P413.91 billion in the reference period at constant 2018 prices. This was lower than last year’s P427.69 billion.

The poultry subsector, which amounted to P70.15 billion, posted a growth of 8.7 percent, with every poultry commodity recording increments in their value of production.

“In the third quarter, I’m not so sure if there will be that much of an increase, if at all—hopefully there will be an increase,” Inciong said.

He also said he was “surprised” by the performance of the poultry subsector in the second quarter, considering the dry spell and the woes experienced by raisers in previous months.

“There was a period from October to March or April that the industry recorded heavy losses because of overproduction, which was exacerbated by importation. I expected a reduction as a reaction to the losses and oversupply situation. Apparently, the industry did not lose its momentum,” Inciong said in a mix of English and Filipino.

Meanwhile, Inciong urged the government to fast-track the creation of quarantine inspection areas at the customs border.

This after the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) called for urgent regional efforts to combat the rise in bird flu cases across the Asia-Pacific region.

“That statement of the FAO should prompt the government to accelerate the establishment of quarantine inspection areas at the customs border.”

He added that FAO’s statement would make authorities “more aware of the need for urgency in implementing this long-time need of the entire agri-fishery sector.”

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/12/ubra-humidity-poses-risk-to-poultry-output/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

‘Roadmap to ease Quezon coco sector woes’

- Jovee Marie N. de la Cruz
- August 12, 2024
- 3 minute read



Lucena City—The creation of a coconut industry roadmap for Quezon will enable the province to address supply challenges and increase the income of planters, according to its top local official.

In an interview following the opening of the 2024 Niyogyugan Festival last Friday, Quezon Governor Helen Tan noted that the province is among the top producers of coconut in the Philippines, accounting for 10 percent of total supply nationwide.

However, Tan said the coconut industry of the province is currently grappling with a number of challenges, including the ill effects of El Niño.

She said the weather phenomenon compounded existing problems in the sector and that the roadmap will guide the future of Quezon province’s coconut industry.

“We are lobbying for the creation of a coconut industry roadmap. An international organization has helped us map out the coconut industry in Quezon, and we’ve conducted consultations with major companies to focus on replanting, rehabilitation, and zoning,” said Tan.

“Our local oil millers are struggling with supply, forcing them to outsource because there’s no consistent roadmap. Farmers have diverse interests, so we need proper zoning to understand how much volume we need.”

Tan said there is a need to focus on beefing up planting and rehabilitation efforts and properly designing the industry’s future to ensure sustainable coconut production.

She said the roadmap will determine which areas are suitable for conversion, the number of farms dedicated to coco sugar and coco water production and prevent any sector from sacrificing the overall health of the coconut industry.

The provincial government of Quezon, in collaboration with the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), is conducting a study on the development of coconut industry growth areas in Quezon.

This initiative, which is expected to be completed by June 2025, aims to establish a value chain analysis and an agri-business model to increase productivity and income for local farmers.

Festival

In celebration of the annual Niyogyugan Festival, Tan underscored the importance of promoting local products and supporting farmers.

Tan said showcasing local goods is a key strategy for aiding farmers and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the province.

“You can see that we are showcasing local products here. This is one of our ways to help farmers promote their goods, which are sourced from our agricultural communities and MSMEs,” Tan said.

This year's festival also marks a significant development—the registration of the Niyogyugan Foundation, according to Tan.

In the past, Tan said farmers had expressed their misgivings that they did not fully benefit from the celebration of the festival.

She said the foundation aims to address these concerns by ensuring that coconut farmers, who are integral to the festival's spirit, feel the direct impact of the event.

“Five percent of the sales during the festival will go to the foundation, which is managed by coconut farmers themselves. We also have a scholarship program focused on supporting farmers, fostering a culture of unity and mutual support.”

With the theme “Tara na sa Quezon! Niyogyugan na,” the week-long festival is set to showcase the rich culture, agricultural heritage, and tourism potential of the province.

The website of the provincial government indicated that Quezon has a total agricultural area of 4,167.6421 sq. km representing 47.87 percent of the total provincial land area as of 2023.

“The total area planted with coconuts covers 379,137.60 hectares, making Quezon the province with the largest coconut production area in the Philippines. Also, Quezon is the top coconut producing province in terms of total coconut production in the country with 1,493,066.64 metric tons [MT] in the year 2020.”

Copra making is considered one of the largest income-generating agricultural activities in the province. However, with the volatile price of copra both in the local and international markets, the government has encouraged intercropping and multi-storey cropping to generate additional income for the coconut farmers.

Another major crop of the province is rice, covering a total area of 50,183.35 hectares. Rice production is placed at 194,269.99 MT with an average yield of 3.87 metric tons per hectare in 2021.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/12/roadmap-to-ease-quezon-coco-sector-woes/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

DA sets checkpoints to control ASF spread

- [Ada Pelonia](#)
- [August 12, 2024](#)
- 2 minute read

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) will set up livestock checkpoints across Luzon following the African swine fever (ASF) outbreaks in Batangas.

It noted that the checkpoints are temporary measures while the government awaits the arrival of ASF vaccines, which could take a few more weeks.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. assured that the department has the resources to respond to the new ASF cases immediately.

“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 in a statement.

He added that vaccine procurement is essential for controlling the outbreak, but acknowledged the delay in securing them.

Tiu Laurel earlier said the DA is preparing for the “emergency procurement of ASF vaccines to address the situation promptly” which could shorten the purchase period by about two weeks. (See: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/08/da-plans-purchase-of-asf-vaccines-after-outbreak-in-batangas/>)

Constante Palabrica, DA Assistant Secretary for Swine and Poultry, explained that the additional border controls are designed to stop the movement of diseased hogs, which have been a significant factor in the rapid spread of ASF in Batangas.

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

“Policemen together with Bureau of Animal Industry [BAI] and other DA personnel will man the checkpoints,” he added, noting that the border controls will help prevent the transport of other diseased animals, including birds.

The DA said, the new ASF outbreak has led several towns in Batangas to declare a state of calamity to access emergency funds, whose availability is critical for addressing the immediate impacts of the outbreak and for managing the disease’s spread.

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

“This measure is part of the broader effort to control and eventually eradicate the virus, which has severely affected the hog industry since it was first reported in 2019.”

The ASF outbreak had devastating effects on the country’s hog population, which dropped from 12.7 million in 2019 to about 9.9 million by the end of 2023.

BAI monitoring indicate that ASF has spread in all 17 regions and has affected 74 provinces. It noted that 64 towns in 22 provinces have reported active ASF cases as of August 8.

“The ongoing crisis underscores the urgent need for coordinated efforts to manage and mitigate the impacts of ASF on the local hog industry and the broader agricultural sector,” the DA said.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/12/da-sets-checkpoints-to-control-asf-spread/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

SRA clears 240K-mt sugar imports to boost local supply

- [Ada Pelonia](#)
- [August 12, 2024](#)
- 2 minute read

THE Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) has authorized the importation of 240,000 metric tons (MT) of refined sugar to beef up domestic supply.

Under Sugar Order (SO) 5, eligible participants for the importation program have been split into two. A maximum volume of 176,500 MT of refined sugar would be eligible for importers qualified under SO 2, while 63,500 MT would be eligible for those qualified under SO 3.

SRA Administrator Pablo Luis Azcona explained that the majority of the import volume was based on SO 2, “which was the voluntary purchase of farmer sugar to be classified as reserve to avail of allocation for future import program.”

“This is the first time where possible importers had to support the local farmers first in order to be eligible to join the program,” Azcona told the BusinessMirror.

“In the past administrations, importers were chosen subjectively, whether first come first served, or others, with volumes based on the decision of the SRA admin and/or SRA board,” he added.

The SRA chief said the remaining 63,500 volume import would be for replenishment of the sugar exported to the United States, which is “a market cheaper than our domestic.”

“Exporters export at a loss, but may make up for it on the imports,” he said, noting that the agency would know the actual import volume after the export is shipped.

The SRA earlier issued SO 3 which allowed the exportation of 25,300 metric tons (MT) of raw sugar to the US. (See: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/07/29/phl-gets-us-raw-sugar-quota-despite-3-yr-non-compliance/>)

Per the SO 5, it would be the first import program for crop year 2023-2024 and production crop year 2023-2024, with the aim of ensuring that “despite the projected ill effects of El Nino for Crop Year 2024-2025, the country will continue to have sufficient actual supply of sugar for domestic consumption and for buffer stock.”

However, Azcona assured the public that the country has enough stocks until the import arrives.

“We have ample stocks until the import arrives as we maintain a 2-month buffer stock, and hopefully our refineries will be up and running in December,” he said.

According to the SRA chief, their raw mills will start on September 15 and “hopefully mill adequate” by October.

“This import will ensure that we will always maintain that buffer to ensure that the current stable retail price on refined sugar is maintained for the consumer, and that our farmers of which 85 [percent] are land reform beneficiaries have a fair and stable price too.”

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/12/sra-clears-240k-mt-sugar-imports-to-boost-local-supply/>

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 Pulpandan 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.

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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.

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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.

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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 STANDARDS:

Pork producers push for state of calamity amid ASF

NewsNational

By Manila Standard

August 12, 2024, 12:40 am

With the rising cases of African swine fever (ASF) seriously affecting the livestock industry, the Pork Producers Federation of the Philippines is now urging the national government to place the country under a state of calamity.

In an interview over the ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC) on Sunday, federation chairperson and AGAP party-list Rep. Nicanor Briones emphasized the need to place the nation under such a declaration to release enough government funding for the procurement of ASF vaccines.

Thus far, the government through the Department of Agriculture (DA) rolled out 600,000 doses of vaccines to areas with reported widespread outbreak of the diseases, which include Batangas, among other affected provinces.

“Our request is (for the government) to declare a state of calamity or emergency nationwide, so we can prepare the funds because the 600,000 doses are really not enough. We have 9.9 million population of existing hogs and out of that, we have 5.4 almost 6 million under the care of our backyard raisers,” Briones told ANC.

Briones said they are quite satisfied with the quick action taken by the DA in implementing a ‘controlled vaccination rollout’ to contain the spread of ASF. The federation has been closely monitoring the situation to assess its effectiveness.

The party-list lawmaker said it is extremely important to control this outbreak to prevent shortage of pork supply in the market. As of Sunday, August 11, he said there are already 64 towns stricken by ASF across 22 provinces.

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.

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,” Briones said.

<https://manilastandard.net/news/national/314483037/pork-producers-push-for-state-of-calamity-amid-asf.html>

PILIPINO STAR NGAYON:

Baybaying apektado ng red tide, 10 na – BFAR

[Doris Franche-Borja](#) - Pilipino Star Ngayon

August 12, 2024 | 12:00am



Sa pinakahuling ulat ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), nasa 10 coastal waters na sa iba't ibang lalawigan ang kontaminado ng red tide na lampas sa regulatory limit.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — Nadagdagan pa ang bilang ng mga baybaying dagat sa bansa na nagpositibo sa paralytic shellfish poison o toxic red tide.

Sa pinakahuling ulat ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), nasa 10 coastal waters na sa iba't ibang lalawigan ang kontaminado ng red tide na lampas sa regulatory limit.

Pinakabagong nadagdag sa listahan na positibo sa red tide ay ang Irong-Irong Bay at Villareal Bay sa Samar.

Nananatili namang hindi ligtas na kainin ang mga lamang dagat sa Dumanquillas Bay sa Zamboanga Del Sur; Coastal Waters ng San Benito sa Surigao Del Norte; Coastal Waters ng Daram Island, Zumarraga Island, at Cambatutay Bay sa Samar; Matarinao

Bay sa Eastern Samar; Cancabato Bay sa Leyte; at Coastal Waters ng Tungawan sa Zamboanga Sibugay Province.

Dahil dito, hindi pa pinapayagan ng BFAR at LGUs ang paghango, pagbebenta at pagkain ng mga lamang dagat mula sa nabanggit na katubigan.

Magugunita nitong Hulyo 23, 2024, bukod tangi na ang mga baybayin ng Dauis at Tagbilaran City sa Bohol, Dumanguillas Bay sa Zamboanga Del Sur at Coastal Water ng San Benito sa Surigao Del Norte, ang apektado ng red tide.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2024/08/12/2377245/baybaying-apektado-ng-red-tide-10-na-bfar>