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MANILA BULLETIN:

'No more baha, please': Gonzales asks Pinoys to exercise proper waste disposal

BY ELLSON QUISMORIO

Aug 20, 2024 12:34 PM

AT A GLANCE

- Senior Deputy Speaker Pampanga 3rd district Rep. Aurelio “Dong” Gonzales Jr. is pleading to Filipinos to exercise proper waste disposal amid the projected La Niña or extended rainy season.



(MANILA BULLETIN)

The second-highest ranked official in the House of Representatives is pleading to Filipinos to exercise proper waste disposal amid the projected La Niña or extended rainy season.

“I call on all Filipino households to do appropriate waste segregation and disposal not only during the ‘ber’ months and rainy season but throughout the year as well,” Senior Deputy Speaker Pampanga 3rd district Rep. Aurelio “Dong” Gonzales Jr. said on Tuesday, Aug. 20.

Specifically, Gonzales wants Filipinos to properly get rid of non-biodegradable materials like plastics. He said local government units (LGUs) should launch a campaign on how to properly segregate waste materials.

“If they are fielding trucks to collect garbage, people should be informed well ahead of the schedule of collection,” he said.

Gonzales, a civil engineer, pointed out that efficient garbage disposal would prevent flooding when the rains come.

“Very often, we see streets flooded because water inlets and drainage systems are clogged with garbage. We notice that even in subdivisions, where residents are supposed to follow proper waste segregation and disposal

procedures,”

he

added.

“If we can prevent flooding, that means we can avert possible loss of life, property and livelihood. We can also save precious taxpayers’ money in clearing drainage systems,” stressed the Cabalen.

He said the public should help LGUs and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to maintain drainage systems and ensure that they are cleaned of debris and other garbage materials.

At the same time, the House leader suggested that LGUs, including barangays, collect rain water for use for irrigation during the summer months.

“Maybe, we should start building catchment basins or collection ponds in lands not devoted to farming and productive purposes. We should learn from the experience of neighboring countries like Taiwan,” he said.

Gonzales urged the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the National Irrigation Authority (NIA) to look into this practice and start doing it in communities where it is feasible.

This way, farmers can plant not just one but two or even three crops in a year and double or triple their harvest and income, he said.

Gonzales likewise asked households to conserve water by collecting rain water for use in flushing toilets and watering plants.

“LGUs can follow the example of Marikina City, which encourages rain water collection. They can even offer rewards or incentives for households doing this,” he said.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/20/no-more-baha-please-gonzales-asks-pinoys-to-exercise-proper-waste-disposal>

MANILA BULLETIN:

BFAR slammed for allocating huge chunk of 2025 budget to aquaculture

BY JEL SANTOS

Aug 20, 2024 05:10 PM



A progressive fisherfolk group has criticized the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) for allocating a substantial portion of its proposed 2025 budget to the aquaculture subsector, rather than addressing the “more crucial and ailing” municipal fisheries subsector.

In a statement on Tuesday, August 20, the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said that from BFAR’s proposed ₱10.2 billion budget in 2025, ₱3.1 billion is allocated to the Aquaculture Subprogram, while the Capture Fisheries Subprogram is set to receive only ₱547.3 million.

Ronnel Arambulo, the vice chairperson of Pamalakaya, said that small-scale fishers in municipal fisheries need systematic support to improve their output, as opposed to the aquaculture sector, which consists of large enterprises with considerable capital and the ability to manage large-scale fish farms.

“Nakakadismaya na pinaglalaanan pa ng BFAR ng mas malaking pondo ang akwakultura imbes na bigyang prayoridad ang mga naghihirap sa munisipal na pangisdaan (It’s disappointing that BFAR is allocating more funds to aquaculture instead of prioritizing those suffering in municipal fisheries),” he said.

Arambulo reminded the BFAR to give priority to small fishers in the country.

Arambulo, who is a fisherman in Laguna de Bay, said that he has been a witness to how big fishing pens owned by fishing corporations “monopolize the communal fishing grounds”, leaving almost nothing to small and municipal fisherfolk.

Municipal fisheries production, according to Pamalakaya, consistently declined mainly because of the high cost of production due to inflation, and the destructive and profit-driven projects in coastal areas that exacerbate the impacts of natural calamities.

“Ang patuloy na pagbagsak ng produksyon ng isda ay sumasalamin sa kahirapang dinaranas ng mga mangingisda, at sa aming higit na pangangailangan para sa konkreto at regular na suporta mula sa pamahalaan (The continued decline in fish production reflects the hardships faced by fishermen and underscores our greater need for concrete and consistent support from the government),” he added.

Oil-spill affected fishers

Pamalakaya had earlier reported that over 50, 000 fishers from Cavite, Bataan, and Metro Manila have been affected by the oil spill.

Fish traders are exploiting the oil spill to drive down fish prices even further, putting fisherfolk and mussel operators at a disadvantage, the group stated.

Before the oil spill, Pamalakaya said the regular farmgate price of mussels was ₱1,200 per tub. However, it has now plummeted to ₱300 to ₱500 due to concerns that the products might be contaminated with oil.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has already provided fuel assistance to fisherfolk affected by the oil spill, allowing them to access fishing areas far from the contaminated waters. Each fisher received ₱3,000 fuel subsidy from the government.

https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/20/bfar-slammed-for-allocating-huge-chunk-of-2025-budget-to-aquaculture#google_vignette

Attaining strategic autonomy



THE CORNER ORACLE - Andrew J. Masigan - The Philippine Star

August 21, 2024 | 12:00am

The Chinese threat over our sovereign territories, our national security and economic well-being is serious and persistent. Beijing's intention towards the Philippines is less than noble and nothing will give Beijing more satisfaction than to see a weaker Philippines buckling down to its will. That said, we must strengthen the nation's core so as not to be vulnerable to China's destabilization offensives and their attacks to hamper, hinder and harm our national interest.

By strengthening the nation's core, I mean minimizing dependencies and eliminating security risks. In short, attaining some degree of strategic autonomy.

Let's face it, no matter how diplomatically savvy the Philippine government may be, we are still a sitting duck due to our reliance on foreign sources for food, fuel and basic manufactured goods. We are unable to credibly defend ourselves (yet) without the help of our allies. We are unable to modernize our infrastructure without foreign financing. We are unable to support the economy without the remittances our OFWs bring. These vulnerabilities can and will be exploited by the adversary.

To be truly resilient, we must build and/or strengthen our industries towards self-reliance with special emphasis on agriculture. This is fundamental. We must also achieve some degree of strategic autonomy in defense-related manufacturing (which is practically non-existent), energy, capital markets and export-related industries.

I am well aware that pundits like me have been saying this for years and politicians have never failed to chime -in in agreement. But the situation today is different. Our security and way of life are under threat by no less than the second most powerful nation in the world. We must act with resolve and urgency this time.

Certain members of the private sector have stepped up to the plate. Metro Pacific Agro Ventures, Inc. will soon commence operations of the country's biggest dairy

farm with an output of six million liters of milk a year. It has also invested P1 billion in a greenhouse built to have an output of 1,600 metric tons of vegetables a year.

Initiatives like these are a good start but there is a long way to go to achieve food security. We must do more because the Department of Agriculture, under the current leadership, is a non-performer, with farm outputs even contracting by 3.3 percent.

A good start would be to break the agricultural syndicates that have prevented our agricultural sector from flourishing. These syndicates are not composed of private individuals alone but also involve government agencies within the DA. Due to lack of space, I will not elaborate on how the syndicates operate – that deserves a piece on its own. Suffice it to say that our leaders are well aware of it.

The point I want to make is that we do not have the luxury to kowtow to self-interest anymore. Neither do we have the luxury to work within the framework of legislative processes to eliminate the laws and bureaucratic hurdles that stand in the way of agricultural development. Going this route could take decades. The need is urgent. That said, Malacañang's use of emergency powers to accelerate reforms should be considered. For more complicated reforms, convening an emergency Legislative Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) is an option it should exploit. Like I said, building a resilient agricultural sector and a strong economy is a matter of national survival.

We must all acknowledge our vulnerabilities. The biggest mistake we can make is to take our time in strengthening our core. None of us want to be caught flat-footed.

Eliminate the risks

Just as we must work towards greater self reliance, so must we eliminate the threats in our midst.

I recently listened to a talk delivered by Brian Poe Lamanzares, the son of Senator Grace Poe. Brian brought to light certain security risks. For a young man, I have always been impressed by Brian's grasp of pressing national issues.

The first risk involves electricity. The National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) has the mandate of operating, maintaining and developing the government's power grid. But unbeknownst to many, the NGCP is 40 percent owned by China through its state-owned company, the State Grid Corporation of China (SGCC).

Chinese engineers have control over key elements of NGCP's transmission system. In fact, National Transmission Corporation president Melvin Matibag testified before the Senate that SGCC may be able to turn the power off in the Philippines if it wanted to. This should worry us all.

The second risk relates to telecommunications. Dito Telecommunity is a consortium between Udenna Corporation and Chinatel, a state-owned company of China. Chinatel owns 40 percent.

Chinese law mandates its state-owned companies to submit intelligence to the Chinese government. So it goes without saying that the Chinese are able to engage in surveillance operations on Philippine affairs using Dito's system.

The third risk relates to our water. China entered our water sector through a loan agreement. In 2019, the Duterte government secured a \$283.2-million loan from China to build the New Centennial Water Source – the Kaliwa Dam Project. The project is comprised of three dams that augment Metro Manila's water supply by 60 percent.

What is suspect is that a Chinese contractor, China Energy Engineering Corporation (CEEC), was selected to build the dam. According to the Commission on Audit, during the bidding process of contractors, the two other bidders were included merely to satisfy the three-bidder requirement of the procurement law. Furthermore, COA noted that CEEC had already begun deploying technical equipment and conducting preliminary activities at the project site even before the formal Notice to Proceed was awarded to it.

The need to recognize the threats to national security and the need to eliminate them cannot be over emphasized. This warrants an investigation and swift action from our leadership.

<https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2024/08/21/2379337/attaining-strategic-autonomy>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Pigs intercepted in Valenzuela test positive for ASF – DA

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

August 21, 2024 | 12:00am



A piggery farm worker begins disinfecting an empty pig pen after more than 10 pigs were infected by African swine fever (ASF) on August 20, 2024.

STAR / Ryan Baldemor

MANILA, Philippines — Some of the pigs intercepted at a Valenzuela City checkpoint recently tested positive for African swine fever and were culled and buried to curb the spread of ASF, the Department of Agriculture reported yesterday.

The DA said the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) confirmed through tests that 11 hogs carried by a truck intercepted by authorities in Valenzuela on Saturday were positive for ASF.

The BAI noted that even before the blood tests, the pigs showed clinical signs of ASF.

“The pigs were condemned and buried as part of the disease containment measures,” the DA said in a statement.

The other 38 pigs transported by a different truck, which was intercepted by authorities at a checkpoint in Quezon City tested negative for ASF.

The BAI allowed the pigs to be slaughtered immediately for market sale and consumption.

The government has intensified measures to stop the transport of sick animals, especially those with clinical signs of ASF and falsified documents, to prevent the spread of the fatal hog disease following a resurgence of cases in Batangas.

The government set up checkpoints: two in Quezon City, two in Valenzuela, one in Laguna, one in Batangas and another one in Cavite.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Constante Palabrica reminded the public that “all permits must be valid and animals showing any signs of illness need to be tested.”

The DA urged hog traders and transporters to comply with regulations to avoid the spread of ASF and protect the swine industry.

ASF is a disease fatal to pigs, but not harmful to humans.

The disease has spread across 74 provinces in 17 regions nationwide, according to the BAI.

As of Aug. 8, 64 municipalities in 22 provinces have confirmed ASF cases, the bureau said.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/08/21/2379372/pigs-intercepted-valenzuela-test-positive-asf-da>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Lawmaker to public: Proper waste disposal key to preventing floods

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

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 07:24 AM August 21, 2024

MANILA, Philippines — Proper waste disposal is key to preventing floods, House of Representatives Senior Deputy Speaker and Pampanga 3rd District Rep. Aurelio Gonzales said on Tuesday.

In a statement, Gonzales said waste segregation must be done not only during the rainy season and the ‘ber’ months — or from September to December — as improper management of garbage during the dry season can still have an effect once the wet season starts.

“I call on all Filipino households to do appropriate waste segregation and disposal not only during the ‘ber’ months and rainy season but throughout the year as well,” Gonzales said.

“Very often, we see streets flooded because water inlets and drainage systems are clogged with garbage. We notice that even in subdivisions, where residents are supposed to follow proper waste segregation and disposal procedures,” he added.

According to Gonzales, it is incumbent upon local government units (LGUs) to launch a campaign on how to properly segregate waste materials and where to dispose them — including schedules of garbage collection so that trash can be collected in an orderly manner.

“If they are fielding trucks to collect garbage, people should be informed well ahead of the schedule of collection,” he said.

“If we can prevent flooding, that means we can avert possible loss of life, property and livelihood. We can also save precious taxpayers’ money in clearing drainage systems,” he added.

Last July 26, President Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos Jr. himself [appealed to the public to follow proper garbage disposal practices](#), as improper waste disposal contributed largely to floods experienced during the onslaught of Typhoon Carina and the southwest monsoon.

“We encountered problems, I hope that people will learn. Do not throw your trash anywhere because this trash can clog our drainage system and pumps that’s why these were not as effective,” Marcos said after visiting [flood-hit Malabon](#).

Marcos also said the government is looking at building weirs to [address the country’s perennial problem of flooding](#).

Gonzales, a civil engineer by profession, meanwhile suggested that LGUs use rainwater collection so that it can be used for irrigation during the dry season.

Both the Department of Agriculture and the National Irrigation Authority should look into this practice and eventually start implementing it if feasible, the House official said. (*with reports from Arianne Denisse Cagsawa, trainee*)

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1975015/lawmaker-to-public-proper-waste-disposal-key-to-preventing-floods>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DTI: 43 of 249 Metro stores violated price freeze

By: [Alden M. Monzon](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:10 AM August 21, 2024



Inquirer file photo

MANILA, Philippines — Almost a fifth of the supermarkets and grocery stores in Metro Manila inspected so far by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) were found to be violating the ongoing price freeze imposed in the region.

Fillip Sawali, the director of the DTI's Fair Trade and Enforcement Bureau, said on Tuesday that 43 out of the 249 establishments they have gone to since Aug. 19 were issued notices of violation.

“But this is a low number. Generally, [they are] compliant and we have a good degree of [compliance] from our retailers,” Sawali told reporters on the sidelines of the DTI's routine inspection at the Guadalupe public market in Makati City.

“If their explanation or defense is not sound, then we will go ahead and file a case, a formal charge,” he added.

Limited coverage

On July 26, the DTI issued an advisory on the automatic price freeze imposed in Metro Manila and at least six other provinces, which were placed under a state of calamity due to the severe effects of Supertyphoon “Carina” (international name Gaemi) and the southwest monsoon.

The price freeze only covers basic necessities and prime commodities.

Basic necessities under the DTI’s mandate include canned fish and other marine products, processed milk, coffee, laundry soap, detergent, candles, salt, bottled water and locally manufactured instant noodles.

The Department of Agriculture, for its part, oversees rice, corn, cooking oil, fresh and dried marine products, fresh eggs, fresh pork, beef and poultry meat, fresh milk, fresh vegetables, root crops, sugar and fresh fruits.

The Department of Energy, on the other hand, is responsible for household liquefied petroleum gas and kerosene.

Under the Price Act, prices of basic necessities are automatically frozen at their prevailing prices for 60 days in an area where a state of calamity has been declared.

Under the same law, penalties for price manipulation include imprisonment of five to 15 years, with fines ranging from P5,000 to P2 million.

Those found violating the price ceiling, meanwhile, face prison time of one year to 10 years, as well as fines ranging from P5,000 to P1 million.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1974888/dti-43-of-249-metro-stores-violated-price-freeze>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

1,000 El Niño-hit farmers, fishers in Zambales get cash aid

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 04:40 AM August 21, 2024



FARM FRESH A farmer in San Marcelino, Zambales, shows his freshly harvested singkamas (turnip) in this photo taken in February this year. Farmers in the province are among those who suffered from the impact of the dry spell and drought that accompanied the El Niño weather phenomenon early this year. —Joanna Rose Aglibot

SAN ANTONIO, ZAMBALES, Philippines — One thousand farmers and fishermen in the province received cash aid from the government on Monday after suffering from the prolonged dry spell early this year caused by the El Niño weather phenomenon.

Each beneficiary, who were vetted by the Zambales Provincial Agriculture Office, received P10,000 each from Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. during the event held at the Botolan People's Plaza.

Ebdane, in a statement, said the fund came from President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. meant for fishing and farming folk who lost their livelihood during the dry spell.

“We are thankful to the President for this assistance, and we hope that this will help ease the loss of income among farmers and fisherfolk because of this weather phenomenon,” the governor said.

Last month, Marcos released P311.16 million in financial assistance for drought-affected farmers and fishermen in six provinces during an award ceremony in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga, including the P10 million for Zambales. Other provinces that received assistance were Pampanga, Bataan, Bulacan, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija.

In June, Eduardo Lapuz Jr., director of the Department of Agriculture in Central Luzon, said at a press briefing in Pampanga that the effects of El Niño in the region was “mild.”

Still, the dry spell, drought and pests that thrived during El Niño damaged P386 million worth of rice, corn and other high-value crops in the region’s seven provinces as of May 31, he added.

According to Lapuz, the El Niño’s mild impact was due to the “convergence of responses by various agencies, adding that farmers also delayed planting and maximized available irrigation to mitigate the effects of the prolonged dry spell and drought. —*Joanna Rose Aglibot*

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1974864/1000-el-nino-hit-farmers-fishers-in-zambales-get-cash-aid>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Truck with 11 pigs positive for ASF caught in Valenzuela

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:00 AM August 21, 2024



HEALTH CHECK Pigs are inspected at a livestock checkpoint in Cavite province for symptoms of African swine fever to prevent the spread of the disease. —Richard A. Reyes

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) said on Tuesday that 11 hogs later found to be positive for African swine fever (ASF) were intercepted over the weekend at a livestock checkpoint in Malanday, Valenzuela City, leading to the animals' seizure.

“The pigs were condemned and buried in a central burial site as part of disease containment measures,” the BAI said in a statement. It added that the 11 hogs had shown symptoms of ASF even before undergoing testing for the disease.

Another 38 hogs in a truck that was intercepted on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City were allowed to pass through after the batch tested negative for ASF.

As part of efforts to control the spread of the disease by preventing the transport of infected hogs, the BAI has set up checkpoints in the northern and southern parts of the National Capital Region.

“ASF remains a serious threat to the swine industry. The Department of Agriculture-BAI continues to enforce stricter quarantine measures to protect both farmers and consumers,” the bureau said.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) also urged hog traders and transporters to comply with existing rules and regulations to prevent the infectious disease from further spreading.

Based on the BAI’s tally, there were active ASF cases in 11 regions, 22 provinces and 64 municipalities as of Aug. 8.

Vaccine test run

The DA earlier announced it would administer some 10,000 doses of an ASF vaccine bought from Vietnam as part of a controlled trial to test its efficacy.

On Tuesday, it laid down the rules for the controlled vaccination drive, with Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa saying the hogs in three barangays in Lobo town, Batangas would be the first to be inoculated.

“The good thing about this is many hog raisers joined the orientation and they are very eager to participate in the actual vaccination,” said De Mesa, also spokesperson for the DA.

As announced by the department, the vaccine would be injected only in breeders and growers.

De Mesa said that aside from conducting an orientation and validating the participating farms, the inoculation team would also draw blood samples first from the hogs to be vaccinated to determine whether or not there was an active infection. Eventually, the DA intends to administer 600,000 doses to hogs in other areas outside the province.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1974910/truck-with-11-pigs-positive-for-asf-caught-in-valenzuela>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Pineapple exports up 2.7% in 2023 on solid demand from China

August 20, 2024 | 8:30 pm



PHILSTAR

PINEAPPLE exports rose 2.7% to 600,000 metric tons (MT) in 2023 due to strong demand, particularly from China, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

In its Major Tropical Fruits Review, the FAO said that a 3% increase in shipments to China boosted pineapple exports last year. China took up about 43% of all pineapple exports in 2023.

It cited strong demand for “premium quality pineapples.”

The FAO said that the Philippines’ MD2 variety has been well-received by the market due to its long shelf life, price-to-quality ratio, and year-round production cycle.

MD2 is the most commonly planted pineapple variety in the Philippines.

It added that the average export unit value of Philippine pineapple rose 3.8% to \$593 per MT.

Other export markets, like Japan and South Korea, also expanded between 6-8% in 2023. Japan accounted for about 30% of Philippine pineapple exports, while South Korea took up 14%.

The Philippines remained the second-largest exporter of pineapple after Costa Rica.

Shipments from Costa Rica rose 5% to 2.1 million MT in 2023, following a 5% drop the year prior.

“Weather conditions in key Costa Rican growing areas were favorable for the cultivation of pineapple throughout 2023, resulting in higher yields and thus higher supplies for export,” the FAO said.

The US and the European Union remained the exclusive destination for Costa Rican pineapple.

Global exports rose 3.9% to 3.2 million MT, driven by the increase in Costa Rican supply. Costa Rica accounted for 65% of the export trade in 2023. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/08/20/615213/pineapple-exports-up-2-7-in-2023-on-solid-demand-from-china/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Modernized fish hatcheries seen boosting aquaculture prospects

August 20, 2024 | 8:29 pm



BRUCE WARRINGTON-UNSPLASH

THE National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) said on Tuesday that modernized fish hatcheries will help raise the output and competitiveness of aquaculture.

“The modernization of hatcheries will elevate and transform the aquaculture industry into a more economically profitable, cost-efficient, and cost-effective operations,” NFRDI Executive Director Lilian C. Garcia said during a memorandum of agreement signing for its temperature-controlled hatchery project.

The NFRDI’s partners in the *bangus* (milkfish) hatchery project are the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the Department of Science and Technology’s Metals Industry Research and Development Center.

She added that the project will jumpstart the mechanization and automation of hatcheries in the Philippines.

On the sidelines, Ms. Garcia said that the project’s objective is to increase the supply of *bangus* fry for growers.

“The current problem is that the production of fry has been affected by the seasons... through this project there will be a stabilization (of supply),” she added.

She said cooler parts of the year tend to reduce milkfish fry production.

The core of the project is a cost-effective and reliable heating system to keep water temperatures within optimal ranges in *bangus* hatchery tanks.

The NFRDI had selected the BFAR's National Fisheries Development Center in Dagupan City as the site for the temperature-controlled hatchery.

"We chose Dagupan because... it is one of the big producers of *bangus*. The facilities there will be used to test the technology," Ms. Garcia said.

She added that the modernized equipment will be offered to investors, private hatchery operators, and government hatcheries.

In the second quarter, *bangus* production declined 4.6% year on year to 78,125 metric tons, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/08/20/615220/modernized-fish-hatcheries-seen-boosting-aquaculture-prospects/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

BIMP-EAGA deemed critical for kick-starting halal export trade

August 20, 2024 | 8:34 pm



FREEPIK

CROSS-BORDER investment within the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) will be key to the future success of the Philippine halal industry, the head of an industry association said.

At a conference on Tuesday, PCCI President Enunina V. Mangio said collaboration within BIMP-EAGA will help the Philippine halal industry prove its global competitiveness.

“We believe that halal is a key area where our cultural and economic commonalities offer unique opportunities for partnership and innovation,” Ms. Mangio said.

“Investment flows across our borders will drive the development of infrastructure, enhance technological capabilities, and create new industries that can thrive within our integrated regional economy,” she added.

She said other areas ripe for collaboration are agriculture, manufacturing, services, and tourism.

During a panel discussion, Brunei Darussalam Ambassador Megawati Manan said that her country has a skilled workforce and imports raw materials in volume.

“Brunei’s niche is our highly educated human resources ... We can always see that there are opportunities there in terms of exporting our talent within the BIMP-EAGA region,” she said.

“In terms of halal, we are importing a lot of raw materials, especially (farm products), and we have our eyes on the Philippines right now,” she added.

She said that Brunei could also help bring Philippine halal products to the Middle East.

“We are looking at a third-party manufacturer that will bring agricultural produce into Brunei to be manufactured ... which will be packaged with the Brunei halal brand to help the products go up to the Middle East,” she said.

Malaysian Ambassador Dato Abdul Malik Melvin Castelino said that the key focus for the BIMP-EAGA should be the regions' natural resources.

"The Philippines is one of the key players in the BIMP-EAGA region. It has a lot of resources, including copper, gold, nickel, and, of course, many agricultural products like bananas, pineapples, and coconut," he said.

"These resources complement the industrial and manufacturing needs of the region, with countries importing and exporting raw materials and semi-processed goods," he added.

He also added that other significant areas of cooperation include the cross-border trade in fisheries, textiles, automotive, electronics, and semiconductors.

Indonesian Ambassador Agus Widjojo said that since the BIMP-EAGA countries have much in common in terms of natural resources.

"That poses a challenge when we have to look for opportunities, but we also have differences, which is why we belong to different countries," he said.

"We have different political systems, characteristics of society, and characteristics of the state. So, I think it is within those realms that we have to find opportunities," he added.

He said that the focus should be on small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to generate employment.

"This is very important to build the economic structure of each country, increase participation in productive sectors of the economy, and fill domestic demand," he said.

"However, to strengthen those SMEs, we need to be equipped with good infrastructure, including modes of transportation and logistics services," he added.

On Tuesday, business chambers from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia joined the PCCI in signing a memorandum of cooperation to expand the flow of goods and services and generate more investment within BIMP-EAGA. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/08/20/615215/bimp-eaga-deemed-critical-for-kick-starting-halal-export-trade/#google_vignette

BUSINESS WORLD:

BoC seizes smuggled farm goods

August 20, 2024 | 8:15 pm



BW FILE PHOTO

CUSTOMS agents seized P30 million worth of smuggled agricultural goods at a warehouse in Navotas City on Aug. 15.

The smuggled goods, consisting of 63 metric tons of imported onions, carrots, tomatoes, pickled radish and egg noodles, were found inside two cold storage units, the Bureau of Customs (BoC) said in a statement on Tuesday.

Customs Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio said the raid is “just one of many steps we are taking to intensify our crackdown on smuggling activities.”

The warehouse owner or operator was given 15 days to prove that the imported goods were legitimate, the bureau said. — **Beatriz Marie D. Cruz**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/the-nation/2024/08/20/615228/boc-seizes-smuggled-farm-goods/>

REMATE:

Naharang na mga baboy sa QC, Valenzuela positibo sa ASF

August 20, 2024 16:28



MANILA, Philippines – Nagpositibo sa African swine fever ang mga baboy na sakay ng isa sa dalawang trak na naharang sa checkpoint sa Quezon City at Valenzuela City, ayon sa Bureau of Animal Industry nitong Martes, Agosto 20.

Nasamsam sa checkpoint sa Quezon City ang 147 baboy na may ASF.

Ayon sa BAI, nagpakita umano ng senyales ng ASF infection ang 11 baboy na sakay ng isa sa mga trak bago pa isagawa ang blood tests.

“The pigs were condemned and buried in a central burial site as part of the disease containment measures,” sinabi ng ahensya.

Negatibo naman sa ASF ang 38 iba pang baboy na sakay ng isa pang trak. Pinayagan ng BAI na katayin agad ang mga ito.

Matatandaan na naglagay ng border controls ang Department of Agriculture para pigilan ang pagkalat ng ASF.

Hinimok ng DA ang mga hog trader at transporter na sumunod sa regulasyon upang maiwasan ang pagkalat pa ng ASF at protektahan ang swine industry ng bansa. *RNT/JGC*

<https://remate.ph/naharang-na-mga-baboy-sa-qc-valenzuela-positibo-sa-asf/>

PH pineapple exports expanded 2.7% in 2023

By Janine Alexis Miguel

August 21, 2024

PHILIPPINE pineapple exports increased by 2.7 percent last year, making the country the second leading exporter of the fruit in 2023, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said.

In its tropical fruits market review for 2023, the FAO said the Philippines delivered a total of 600,000 metric tons (MT) of pineapples last year, compared to 2022's 580,000 MT.

The leading recipient of pineapples from the Philippines was China, with a share of 43 percent, indicating a 3-percent increase in shipments.

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In its tropical fruits market review for 2023, the FAO said the Philippines delivered a total of 600,000 metric tons (MT) of pineapples last year, compared to 2022's 580,000 MT.

The leading recipient of pineapples from the Philippines was China, with a share of 43 percent, indicating a 3-percent increase in shipments.

Other top markets for Philippine pineapples during the period included Japan and the Republic of Korea, with quantity shares of 30 percent and 14 percent, respectively.

Shipments to both destinations expanded by some 6 to 8 percent in 2023, the FAO said.

It also noted that the average export unit value of shipments from the Philippines to world markets reached \$593 per MT last year, higher by 3.8 percent compared to the previous year.

"Amid changing consumer preferences, import growth continued to be driven not only by the need for higher volumes but also by growing demand for more premium pineapples, with the MD2 variety from the Philippines particularly sought after," the FAO said.

The Department of Agriculture earlier said that the country's tropical fruit exports were valued at P5.16 billion last year as some of the major fruits recorded an increase in export figures.

The Bureau of Plant Industry said the Philippines was able to deliver some 12,548.49 metric tons of mangoes abroad with an equivalent worth of P2.9 billion; 3,045.6 metric tons of avocado valued at P377 million; and 4,731 tons of fresh durian generating P1.89 billion.

The 2023 export figures showed a 316 percent increase for avocado, 109 percent for mango, and a significant 4,000 percent for durian, respectively, compared to last year, it said.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/08/21/business/top-business/ph-pineapple-exports-expanded-27-in-2023/1965634>

Pork Patrol

BusinessMirror
August 20, 2024



Personnel from the Quezon City Veterinary Department inspect delivery vans along Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City, on August 20, 2024, as part of ongoing efforts to control the spread of African Swine Fever (ASF).

The Department of Agriculture reports fluctuating prices in public markets for pork and chicken due to the ASF outbreaks in several provinces.

Latest monitoring shows liempo priced at P305 per kilogram, while kasim has dropped by P10 per kilogram.

The vigilance aims to prevent further disruption to the food supply chain.

Image credits: [Nonoy Lacza](#)

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/20/pork-patrol/>

China top PHL's pineapple market in 2023

Ada Pelonia
August 20, 2024



File Photo: Dole Philippines Pineapple Plantation

CHINA was the top buyer of pineapples from the Philippines last year, accounting for almost half of the volume it exported, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) reported.

“Trade data by destination show a 3-percent increase in shipments to China in 2023, the leading recipient of pineapples from the Philippines at a share of some 43 percent,” FAO said in its latest report.

The report noted that based on industry sources, imports of pineapples from the Philippines to China benefited from higher Chinese demand for premium quality pineapples.

FAO said the long shelf life, year-round production cycle, and attractive price-to-quality ratio of the MD2 pineapples—the main variety cultivated in the Philippines—proved to be a “particularly strong” selling point.

The report also showed that Japan and South Korea were the other major buyers of pineapples from the country.

“Further key import markets for pineapples from the Philippines remained Japan and the Republic of Korea in 2023, at quantity shares of some 30 percent and 14 percent, respectively,” it read.

The FAO noted that shipments of Filipino pineapples to both destinations expanded by some 6 to 8 percent in 2023.

It also said that the average export unit value of shipments from the Philippines to world markets was \$593 per MT in 2023, a 3.8-percent increase from the previous year.

Pineapple shipments from the Philippines, the second leading exporter of pineapples to global markets, expanded by a reported 2.7 percent in 2023 to some 600,000 metric tons (MT).

Meanwhile, the FAO said the global exports of pineapples grew by 3.9 percent in 2023 to 3.2 million metric tons (MMT).

It added that this was driven largely by higher supplies from Costa Rica, the world’s largest exporter at a market share of some 65 percent.

“Shipments from Costa Rica accordingly increased by 5 percent in 2023, to 2.1 million tons, in strong contrast with the near 5-percent drop experienced in 2022,” the report read.

The FAO said that based on industry information, weather conditions in key Costa Rican growing areas “were favorable for the cultivation of pineapples throughout 2023, resulting in higher yields and thus higher supplies for export.”

“However, industry sources reported that despite this positive performance, there was a noticeable reduction in planted area in Costa Rica,” it read.

The report said this was due to smaller pineapple farmers having been discouraged from continuing their operations because of the low profit margins that had prevailed in this industry for many years.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/20/china-top-phls-pineapple-market-in-2023/>

DAR, ATI tap Sarangani coop as learning site for agriculture

Jonathan L. Mayuga
August 20, 2024

THE Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in partnership with the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) launched recently the Harvest Haven Integrated Farm of the Alkikan Agriculture Cooperative (Alagco) as a Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) in the Sarangani province.

The Harvest Haven Integrated Farm Learning Site is located in the town of Malungon and features diversified farming with a different array of vegetables, fruits, flowers, and farm animals. It also includes a training hall designed for educational activities.

DAR and ATI turned over to Alagco a Certificate of Learning Site for Agriculture I during the event. It will now serve as the official site for agriculture in the area. The certification is valid until its renewal on July 2029.

In a statement, Sarangani Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II Cenon Original said he is excited to open and see more opportunities arise for the Alkikan Agriculture Cooperative.

“This learning site provides a valuable chance for farmers to gain insights from their peers. I extend my gratitude to all the partner stakeholders, particularly the ATI, for their crucial role in making this LSA a reality,” he said.

Original added that Alagco is now the first LSA in DAR Region XII, showcasing an extension modality for other farmers to adapt to more productive and sustainable economic growth.

LSA Cooperator Mary Antoinette Cabrega expressed her gratitude to all partner stakeholders and co-members for their support in establishing the learning site.

“Every member has a responsibility to take action for the benefit of the future generations of farmers,” she said.

Alagco has received support from the local government and various government agencies for its potential to provide more learning opportunities to the farmers.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/20/dar-ati-tap-sarangani-coop-as-learning-site-for-agriculture/>

Zambales gov distributes P10 million cash assistance to farmers, fishermen

Henry Empeño
August 20, 2024

IBA, Zambales—The provincial government of Zambales on Monday distributed cash assistance amounting to P10 million to 1,000 farming families and fishermen who were affected by the El Niño phenomenon.

Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., who led the distribution, said the assistance came from the office of President Marcos who released a P10-million cheque for Zambales last July 12 in San Fernando, Pampanga, along with assistance for other provinces in Central Luzon.

“This fund came directly from the President and we have, in tum, allocated the money to local farmers and fishermen who were affected by El Niño the most,” Ebdane said during the awarding at the Botolan Peoples Plaza in Botolan, Zambales.

The beneficiaries, who were vetted by the Zambales Provincial Agriculture Office, received P10,000 each.

Agriculture Central Luzon Regional Executive Director Eduardo Lapuz, Zambales Provincial Agriculturist Crisostomo Rabaca, Central Luzon Social Welfare Regional Director Venus Rebuldela, Zambales Board Member Lugil Ragadio, who chairs the Provincial Board Committee on Agriculture and Fishery, and Botolan Mayor Jun Omar Ebdane assisted in the distribution.

El Niño, which creates conditions like long dry spells and warmer sea surface temperature, results in agricultural damage and water shortages, and was felt throughout the country.

Ebdane said President Marcos distributed a total of P311.16 million in financial assistance for farmers and fishermen affected by El Niño in the provinces of Zambales, Pampanga, Bataan, Bulacan, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija.

“We are grateful to the President for this assistance, and we hope that this would help ease the loss of income among farmers and fisherfolk because of this weather phenomenon,” Ebdane added.

Meanwhile, Ebdane also gave away on Monday a tricycle unit to the Municipal Federation of Senior Citizens Association (FSCAP) of Castillejos, Zambales.

The “Sulong Senior Tricycle Service” will make it easier for FSCAP to deliver services to senior citizens in the town, said FSCAP president Leodegario Sagum.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/20/zambales-gov-distributes-%e2%82%a710-million-cash-assistance-to-farmers-fishermen/>

11 baboy naharang sa Quezon City positibo sa ASF

[Angie dela Cruz](#)

August 21, 2024 | 12:00am



Nagtayo ang mga tauhan ng Quezon City Veterinary Office, Department of Agriculture, at Quezon City Police District (QCPD) ng checkpoint para sa livestock, poultry, at iba pang meat products sa Commonwealth Avenue lungsod para mapigilan ang pagkalat ng African swine fever (ASF).

Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — Kinumpirma ng Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) na nagpositibo sa African Swine Fever (ASF) ang mga baboy na laman ng isa sa dalawang truck na naharang sa livestock checkpoints sa Quezon City nitong weekend.

Ayon sa BAI, matapos ang pagsusuri, 11 baboy ang nakitaan na agad ng ASF infection bago pa isagawa ang blood test. Agad na pinatay ang mga ito ay ibinaon sa central burial site bilang bahagi ng disease containment measures.

Samantala, ang nasa 38 baboy naman na mula sa isang truck ay nagnegatibo sa ASF kaya pinahintulutan ng BAI ang pagkatay sa mga ito.

Nananatiling naka-heightened surveillance ang BAI para mapigilan ang pagpasok ng mga infected na baboy sa Metro Manila.

Hinikayat naman ng DA ang mga hog traders at transporters na sumunod sa mga regulasyon nang maiwasan ang pagkalat lalo ng ASF.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2024/08/21/2379438/11-baboy-naharang-sa-quezon-city-positibo-sa-asf>