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**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Remembering Dr. Henry Lim Bon Liong, a pillar of the Filipino-Chinese community

Sterling Paper Group chair passes away at 72

**BY JULES VIVAS**

Aug 3, 2024 06:58 PM

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## AT A GLANCE

- He dreamed of a prosperous Philippines where the agricultural sector thrives, and the country stands as a model of success.



(Photo Dr. Henry Lim Bon Liong FB page)

Dr. Henry Lim Bon Liong, the respected chairman of Sterling Paper Group of Companies, passed away on Friday, August 2, 2024, at the age of 72. As the former President of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII), Dr. Lim's contributions to nation-building are as diverse as they are significant.

Born to Chinese immigrant parents, Henry Lim's early life was steeped in the values of hard work and perseverance. His father, Lim Seh Leng, arrived in the Philippines at the age of 11, while his mother, Maria Co Chiao Ti Lim, was born in the country. Dr. Lim grew up in Malabon and later moved to Binondo, the heart of Manila's Chinatown. Despite the challenges of being a first-generation Filipino-Chinese, Lim's upbringing was rooted in Chinese cultural heritage while embracing the Filipino way of life. His father's initial small business in bookbinding and photo album manufacturing served as the foundation upon which Dr. Lim would eventually build his own successful career.

Dr. Lim attended high school at La Salle and then pursued higher education at the University of the Philippines (UP), where he studied mechanical engineering. After completing his education, Dr. Lim joined the family business, Sterling Paper Group of Companies. Under his leadership, Sterling Paper expanded its reach and diversified its products, becoming a household name in the Philippines. Dr. Lim's innovative mindset and dedication to quality helped elevate the company's status in the competitive market. Particularly passionate about agricultural innovation, Dr. Lim was among those who introduced hybrid rice technology to the Philippines. With the support of Professor Yuan Longping, known as the "Father of Hybrid Rice," he and his team developed the first Philippine tropical hybrid rice variety, SL-8H.

Dr. Lim embarked on a mission to develop a rice variety suited to the Philippine climate. His mother had asked, "Why don't you develop a variety that's climatized to our conditions?" Encouraged by her, he sought advice from agricultural experts, including a professor from China. Dr. Lim needed to acquire a specific 45-hectare property in Laguna known for its isolation and good water resources. Initially, the property was priced at 25 pesos per square meter, but the owner eventually demanded 250 pesos per square meter. Despite the high cost and the financial crisis of the time, Dr. Lim's mother urged him, saying, "You need to pay for that piece of property because it's important." He liquidated his assets to finance the purchase and the subsequent establishment of the research center.

Tragedy struck when Dr. Lim's family van was hit by a container trailer, resulting in the death of his mother, younger brother, and the driver. Dr. Lim survived but with severe injuries. Two months later, on January 17, Dr. Lim's lead scientist, Professor Yuan, experienced a dream in which Dr. Lim's mother instructed him to recheck the rice flowers. Professor Yuan recounted, "I saw Lim's mother in my dream, and she told me to go out and check the rice flowers again." The following day, Professor Yuan discovered that the variety had stabilized. Dr. Lim named the first successful variety "SL-8," with "SL" representing his father's initials and "8" referring to the plot number where it was stabilized. This variety significantly increased farmers' yields. He later developed two more varieties, SL-7 and SL-9. The highest quality rice was named "Doña Maria" in honor of his mother. Dr. Lim explained, "The first variety was SL-8, discovered in plot number 8. Later, I developed SL-7 and SL-9. The highest quality rice, I named Doña Maria after my mother," explained Dr. Lim in an interview with *Manila Bulletin Lifestyle*.

For this achievement, he received commendations from the Department of Agriculture and the China National Hybrid Rice Research and Development Center in Hunan, China. Dr. Lim Bon Liong remained a staunch advocate for hybrid rice technology, viewing it as a potential solution to hunger and poverty. This initiative significantly increased rice yields in the country, providing a more sustainable livelihood for Filipino farmers. "We [Doña Maria] are now harvesting around 1,000 metric tons per hectare," Dr. Lim proudly stated.

Under Dr. Lim's leadership, the Sterling Paper Group of Companies has flourished into one of the Philippines' most prominent conglomerates. His influence extended beyond business into philanthropy, where he has made significant contributions as President of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII), a strong partner of the Philippine government in nation-building and development. Dr. Lim served as president of

FFCCCII from 2019 to 2021. During his term, the FFCCCII swiftly responded to various national crises, providing relief during natural disasters like earthquakes, typhoons, and volcanic eruptions, as well as during the Marawi siege. The Federation's network of chapters across the country enabled them to provide swift aid during natural and man-made disasters. During the Marawi siege, Lim personally sent containers of his Doña Maria rice to support the soldiers and civilians affected by the conflict.

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Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the federation under his guidance, played a crucial role by donating essential supplies, such as safety gear, relief goods, and thermal scanners, to frontliners, hospitals, and communities across Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. The FFCCCII's Operation: Bakuna also supported the government's vaccination efforts, securing 500,000 doses of Sinovac vaccines.

On the other hand, Federation's Barrio Schools Program, which began in the early 1960s, has aided in the construction of around 6,000 school buildings across the Philippines. "Every day, millions of public school children are being educated by teachers in the schools built by the Federation," Dr. Lim noted, emphasizing the program's vast reach and impact. As an entrepreneur, Dr. Lim was dedicated to giving back to the community through his agricultural and business ventures, consistently emphasizing his deep connection to and love for the Philippines in his work and personal life.

Dr. Lim acknowledged the challenges posed by geopolitical tensions, particularly in the West Philippine Sea. He emphasized the importance of diplomacy and collaboration over conflict. "We are not taking any sides at all. We are trying to patch up things as much as possible," he asserted, demonstrating his commitment to peaceful resolutions and fostering unity. Looking to the future, Dr. Lim envisioned a fully integrated Filipino-Chinese community contributing to the nation's growth while preserving their cultural heritage. He dreamed of a prosperous Philippines where the agricultural sector thrives, and the country stands as a model of success. "The ultimate vision is that we should be good neighbors," Dr. Lim emphasized, reflecting his aspiration for harmonious and mutually beneficial relationships.

Dr. Lim embodied the essence of "Dugong Tsino, Pusong Pinoy (Chinese blood, Filipino heart)." His life reflects a seamless integration of his Chinese heritage with his Filipino identity, which allowed him to bridge cultural divides and foster strong ties between the Chinese and Filipino communities. "We are Chinese by blood but Filipinos by heart," Dr. Lim said, capturing the dual identity that defines his life and work.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/3/remembering-dr-henry-lim-bon-liong-a-pillar-of-the-filipino-chinese-community>



**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Oil spill-affected fishers in Cavite town receive food packs

BY JEL SANTOS

Aug 3, 2024 04:14 PM



(MB FILE PHOTO)

All the registered fishers in Noveleta town of Cavite who have been affected by the oil spill have already received food packs as part of government's assistance package, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) said on Saturday, Aug. 3.

In a statement, the agency reported that it has distributed food packs to 1,612 registered fishers in Noveleta.

The BFAR said the food packs include crucial items such as rice, canned goods, and other non-perishable foods to support the families of fishers.

It added that further assistance plans, including initiatives for livelihood restoration and environmental recovery, are in the works and will be implemented over the next few weeks.

"Today's distribution is just the beginning of our comprehensive relief and recovery plan for the affected fisherfolk of Cavite," BFAR Officer-in-Charge Director Isidro Velayo said.

"We are committed to providing continuous support and working closely with local communities to restore their livelihoods and ensure sustainable recovery."

Recently, the BFAR prohibited the consumption of fish and shellfish from Noveleta and Rosario, Cavite after traces of petrochemicals were found in fish samples.

In BFAR's Oil Spill Bulletin No. 2, the bureau reported that sensory evaluation of fish samples from Noveleta and Rosario in Cavite revealed some level of petrochemical tainting, even before any oil slicks were detected in the area.

Department of Agriculture (DA) spokesperson Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said earlier that DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has directed BFAR to give fuel assistance to fisherfolk affected by the oil spill, allowing them to access fishing areas far from the contaminated waters.

“Iyong bawat mangingisda ay makakatanggap ng P3,000 assistance mula rito sa fuel subsidy na ibinibigay ng DA (Each fisherman will receive ₱3,000 in assistance from the fuel subsidy provided by the DA),” he said.

The DA, De Mesa said, is also looking into whether fishers can be provided with the Quick Response Fund from the DA.

Around 29,000 fishers could be at risk if the oil spill continues to spread to seven coastal towns in Cavite, fishers' group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said.

On July 25, motor tanker (MT) Terranova, carrying 1.4 million liters of oil, capsized and sank off the waters of Limay, Bataan.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/3/oil-spill-affected-fishers-in-cavite-town-receive-food-packs>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# **BFAR prohibits consumption of fish, shellfish from 2 Cavite towns**

**BY JEL SANTOS**

Aug 2, 2024 08:56 PM



After traces of petrochemicals were found in fish samples, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) has prohibited the consumption of fish and shellfish from Noveleta and Rosario, Cavite.

In BFAR's Oil Spill Bulletin No. 2, the agency reported that sensory evaluation of fish samples from Noveleta and Rosario in Cavite revealed some level of petrochemical tainting, even before any oil slicks were detected in the area.

“Nevertheless, the Bureau maintains that as a precautionary measure, fish harvested from areas where oil slicks are observed be deemed unsafe for human consumption,” it stated.

According to BFAR, fish samples obtained from Tanza, Cavite City, and Naic showed no signs of petrochemical contamination when they were taken.

The bureau stated that the prohibition aims to prevent incidents of food poisoning caused by the consumption of contaminated seafood.

“As a precautionary measure ay ipinagbawal nang tuluyan ng BFAR iyong pagkain ng mga isda, lalo na iyong mga shellfish dito sa mga lugar na nabanggit (As a precautionary measure, BFAR has completely banned the consumption of fish, especially shellfish, in the said areas),”



Department of Agriculture (DA) spokesperson Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said in a television interview.

The DA spokesperson said that BFAR is consistently carrying out sensory testing to prevent contaminated fish and shellfish from entering the market.

“Kagaya noong nakita nga rito sa may bandang Rosario at Noveleta na kahit kaunti lang ay ipinagbawal na kaagad para masigurado natin na hindi pa lalong lalala itong problema natin sa oil spill (Just like what was observed in Rosario and Noveleta, even with minimal contamination, a ban was immediately enforced to ensure that our oil spill problem does not worsen),” he went on.

Meanwhile, De Mesa said that DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has directed BFAR to give fuel assistance to fisherfolk affected by the oil spill, allowing them to access fishing areas far from the contaminated waters.

“Iyong bawat mangingisda ay makakatanggap ng P3,000 assistance mula rito sa fuel subsidy na ibinibigay ng DA (Each fisherman will receive ₱3,000 in assistance from the fuel subsidy provided by the DA),” he said.

The spokesperson stated that the agriculture department is also looking into whether fishers can be provided with the Quick Response Fund from the DA.

Fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) had earlier reported that around 29,000 fishers could be at risk if the oil spill continues to spread to seven coastal towns in Cavite.

On July 25, MTKR Terranova, carrying 1.4 million liters of oil, capsized and sank off the waters of Limay, Bataan.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/2/bfar-prohibits-consumption-of-fish-shellfish-from-2-cavite-towns>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Congress must back P253-B ‘ayuda’ funds in 2025 budget—Tiangco

**BY DEXTER BARRO II**

Aug 2, 2024 05:58 PM

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## AT A GLANCE

- Navotas City lone district Rep. Toby Tiangco is urging his colleagues in Congress to fully support the approval of the proposed P253.3-billion allocation for the government’s social assistance and cash aid programs during the upcoming deliberations of the 2025 national budget.



Navotas City lone district Rep. Toby Tiangco (PPAB)

Navotas City lone district Rep. Toby Tiangco is urging his colleagues in Congress to fully support the approval of the proposed P253.3-billion allocation for the government’s social assistance and cash aid programs during the upcoming deliberations of the 2025 national budget.

“It is imperative that Congress throws its full support for these programs because they can directly benefit poor Filipinos, provide economic relief, and give them opportunities to uplift their lives and that of their families,” Tiangco said in a statement on Friday, Aug. 2.

“Napakahalaga na ito ay maipasa nang buo para siguradong walang maantala sa mga plano ni President Bongbong na palawakin ang mga tulong na maaaring matanggap mula sa gobyerno,” he added.

(It is very important to pass this in its entirety to ensure that there is no delay in President Bongbong’s plans to expand the assistance that can be received from the government.)

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) earlier announced that the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) would receive the bulk of the budget allocation for “ayuda” (aid) programs with P114.1 billion.

The budget proposal is 7.4 percent higher than the P106.3-billion allocation in the enacted 2024 national budget.

Tiangco, a vice chairperson of the House Committee on Appropriations, said it is evident that the Marcos administration continues to exert efforts to expand the benefits and assistance to help the country's vulnerable sectors.

"Para sa mga pamilyang Pilipino na ang gobyerno lang ang masasandalan, malaking bagay na nakikita nila na nabibigyan ng karampatang pondo ang mga programang makakapag-angat sa kanila sa kahirapan," he stressed.

(For Filipino families who have only the government to rely on, it is a big deal for them to see that programs that can lift them out of poverty are adequately funded.)

As announced in President Marcos' recent State of the Nation Address (SONA), the Department of Health (DOH) will get an allocation of P1.20 billion for its Cancer Assistance Fund.

Tiangco said the funding for this program will "greatly unburden" Filipinos who suffer from the disease.

The lawmaker noted that it's equally vital to approve, in full, the proposed funding for the Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens program under the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

This program is allocated P49.8 billion, which will be used to provide a monthly allowance of P1,000 for indigent senior citizens.

"Dapat ding pag-aralan kung papaano pa ito mapalalawak dahil maraming mga senior ang nasa waitlist. Kailangan ding maipasa ang iba't-ibang cash aid programs na nilalapitan ng ating mga seniors para sa kanilang mga pangangailangan," Tiangco added.

(It should also be studied how it can be expanded because there are many seniors still on the waitlist. It is also necessary to pass the various cash aid programs that our seniors rely on for their needs.)

At the same time, the Navotas solon is also pushing for an increase in other assistance programs such as the fuel subsidy program of the Department of Agriculture (DA), which is set to receive P100 million.

The subsidy program intends to ease the burden of farmers and fisherfolk as prices for petroleum continue to fluctuate.

As announced by the DBM, the Protective Services for Individuals and Families in Difficult Circumstances Program and Sustainable Livelihood Program under DSWD will be allocated P35.1 billion and P4.4 billion, respectively.

Additionally, the recently launched Food Stamps Program has a proposed P1.9-billion allocation. Meanwhile, the Department of Labor and Employment's (DOLE) Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) has a proposed P14.1-billion budget.

"I appreciate the administration's clear focus and commitment to expanding assistance programs that can provide both short-term relief and long-term support towards poverty alleviation," noted Tiangco.

As a ranking member of the appropriations panel, Tiangco is among the lawmakers who will take charge in the plenary debates for next year's proposed P6.352-trillion budget.

Hearings on the 2025 budget are set to start next week.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/2/congress-must-back-p253-b-ayuda-funds-in-2025-budget-tiangco>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# El Niño's damage to PH agri bloats to ₱15.30 billion

**BY JEL SANTOS**

Aug 2, 2024 05:02 PM



(MARK BALMORE/ MB FILE PHOTO)

The El Niño phenomenon has caused P15.30 billion in damage to the country's agricultural sector, the Department of Agriculture (DA) bared on Friday, August 2.

Based on DA's final bulletin on El Niño, a total of 333,195 farmers and fisherfolk have been devastated.

The agency said the 15 regions affected by the dry spell were the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, MIMAROPA, Bicol Region, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Central Mindanao, Davao Region, Soccsksargen and Caraga.

A total of 270,855 hectares (ha) of agricultural areas have been affected by the phenomenon, the DA stated.

The agency said the crop most affected by El Niño was corn which has a volume loss of 327,310 MT with a total value of ₱5.94 billion.

Meanwhile, rice experienced a volume loss of 330,717 MT, resulting in a total value of ₱5.93 billion.

The DA said the total volume loss for HVC is 112,681 MT, corresponding to a value of ₱3.27 billion.

Per the agency, cassava incurred a volume loss of 2,320 MT with a total of ₱55.63 million.

A total of 2,679 fishers in the fisheries sector were affected, with damages amounting to ₱52.44 million.

The DA also noted that 25,547 livestock were affected including various animals like chickens, cattle, carabaos, ducks, goats, horses, sheep, and swine, with a total value of ₱37.97 million.

The agency stated that the damage to coconut crops reached ₱9.80 million.

### **Aid to farmers, fishers**

According to the DA, it has provided ₱14.54 billion worth of interventions to affected farmers and fisherfolk to address the adverse effects of El Niño.

The agency added that it conducted cloud seeding operations in target agricultural and watershed areas in Regions II (including Magat Dam), VI (Negros Occidental and Iloilo), and VII (including Capayas, Malinao, Zamora, and Bayongan Dams).

The DA said that it installed 616 water pumps to enhance water supply in Regions I, II, III, IV -B, VI, VII, and XI.

The agency also reported that it has constructed 847.8 kilometers of irrigation canals to improve water distribution in agricultural areas nationwide.

Also, the DA has implemented the alternate wetting-and-drying method, which has reduced water consumption across 162,623 hectares of farmland.

The agriculture department has also applied the quick turnaround strategy, benefiting 3,878.15 hectares of agricultural land and 1,657 farmers in Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Mimaropa, and Soccsksargen.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/2/el-nino-s-damage-to-ph-agri-bloats-to-15-30-billion>



**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Rice prices expected to remain stable

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

August 3, 2024 | 12:00am



The retail price of locally produced well-milled rice in Metro Manila markets remained stable at P48 to P55 per kilogram while regular-milled rice ranged from P45 to P52 per kilo, based on the latest Department of Agriculture (DA) price monitoring report.

Philstar.com / Jovannie Lambayan

## As imports offset production shortfall

MANILA, Philippines — Filipino consumers can heave a sigh of relief as rice prices are expected to remain stable, with imports under lower tariffs offsetting the reduction of nearly 500,000 metric tons (MT) in domestic palay harvest recorded in the first half.

The lower palay output would have a “minimal” impact on rice prices as the continued entry of imports at 15 percent tariff would offset the shortfall in local production, said Roehlano Briones, senior research fellow at the Philippine Institute of Development Studies, while noting that rice prices are expected to remain stable.

Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food Inc. president Danilo Fausto expressed the same sentiment, saying that the influx of imports would prevent any uptick in retail rice prices in the domestic market despite lower harvest in the first half.

“There should be no reason for rice prices to increase,” Fausto told The STAR.



The country's palay production from January to June declined by 5.5 percent on an annual basis to a four-year low of 8.53 million MT due to lower farm yield as some farmers delayed planting amid threats brought about by the El Niño phenomenon.

Palay output in the first half of 2023 stood at 9.026 million MT, based on Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) data.

The latest output is the lowest first-half production recorded by the country since 2020 when production fell to 8.386 million MT.

PSA data indicated that both production of irrigated and rainfed palay during the six-month period contracted on an annual basis.

Government officials and industry stakeholders attributed the reduction in palay output to the ill effects of hotter and drier weather conditions caused by El Niño.

The erratic weather conditions forced farmers to delay their planting to avoid losses. Palay planted by farmers who survived El Niño suffered lower crop yield.

Some industry players noted that the decline in palay output translated to at least seven days' worth of nationwide rice supply.

On the other hand, the country's rice imports as of July 25 have reached 2.441 million MT, a fifth higher than the 2.02 million MT recorded volume in the same period last year, based on Bureau of Plant Industry data.

The retail price of locally produced well-milled rice in Metro Manila markets remained stable at P48 to P55 per kilogram while regular-milled rice ranged from P45 to P52 per kilo, based on the latest Department of Agriculture (DA) price monitoring report.

The DA report also showed that the retail price of imported well-milled rice ranged from P51 to P53 per kilogram while its regular-milled counterpart fetched between P47 and P48 per kilo.

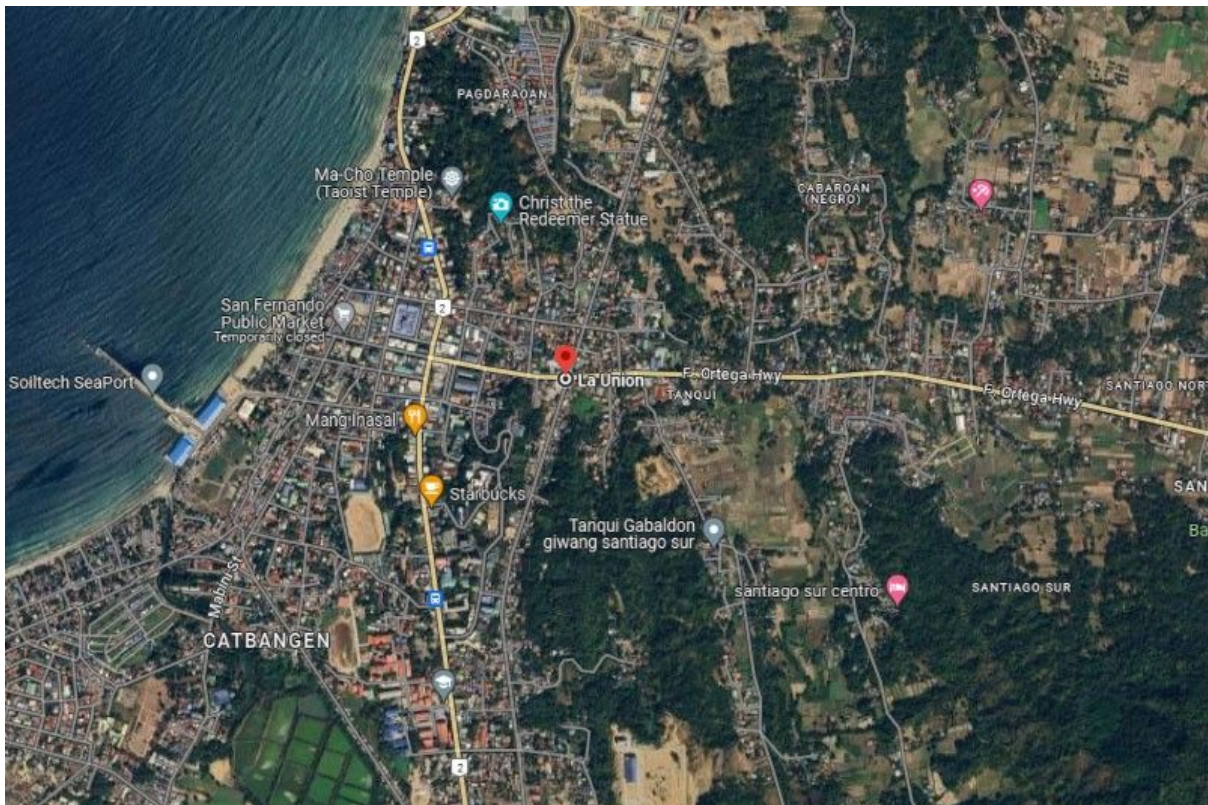
<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/08/03/2374972/rice-prices-expected-remain-stable>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# La Union declares state of calamity

[Jun Elias](#) - The Philippine Star

August 3, 2024 | 12:00am



The declaration will allow the local government, led by Gov. Ruffy Ortega-David, to utilize its calamity fund to assist affected residents and rehabilitate the damage to agriculture and infrastructure in the province.

Google Map

**SAN FERNANDO CITY, Philippines** — The La Union provincial government declared yesterday a state of calamity due to the damage caused by Typhoon Carina and the southwest monsoon.

The declaration will allow the local government, led by Gov. Ruffy Ortega-David, to utilize its calamity fund to assist affected residents and rehabilitate the damage to agriculture and infrastructure in the province.

The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) said 34,090 families were affected by the recent weather disturbance, which destroyed over P86.8 million of agricultural products.

PDRRMO also reported that P17 million worth of infrastructure projects, such as roads and flood control projects, were destroyed by the typhoon.

Meanwhile, the Department of Agriculture and the provincial veterinary office confirmed two new positive cases of African swine fever (ASF) in Luna, a coastal town in northern La Union.

Mayor Gary Pinzon said the municipal task force against the disease has been managing the situation and implementing precautionary measures to control the spread of ASF, which was discovered in Barangay Napaset.

“Key measures include the prohibition of ingress and egress of swine within a one-kilometer radius from the identified ground zero for the next 14 days,” Pinzon said in a statement.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/08/03/2374986/la-union-declares-state-calamity>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# PCO releases list of new gov't appointees

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

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 08:40 PM August 03, 2024



President Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos Jr. (PPA POOL)

MANILA, Philippines — The Presidential Communications Office on Saturday released the [names](#) of newly-appointed government officials.

Commission on Higher Education  
Aline G. Magalong – Director III

National Security Council

- **Richelieu Raymund Remandaban – Assistant Director General**

Career Executive Service Board

- **Angelina M. Carreon – Career Executive Service Officer Rank III**
- **Khadaffy D. Tangcol – Career Executive Service Officer Rank III**

Movie and Television Review and Classification Board

- **Fernando C. Prieto – Member**

Philippine Postal Corporation

- **Luis D. Carlos – Postmaster General/Chief Executive Officer; Member, Board of Directors**
- **Noel B. Dacasin – Member, Board of Directors**

Department of Education  
Salustiano T. Jimenez – Director IV, Career Executive Service Officer Rank III

Philippine Reclamation Authority

- **Mario K. Espinosa – Acting Member, Board of Directors**
- **Eligio T. Ildefonso – Acting Member, Board of Directors**
- **Fernando P. Siringan – Acting Member, Board of Directors**

Department of Budget and Management

John Aries Macaspac – Director IV, Career Executive Service Officer Rank III

- **Rudylia C. Parrel – Director IV, Career Executive Service Officer Rank III**

Department of Agriculture (National Meat Inspection Service)

- **Orlando C. Ongsotto – Director II, Career Executive Service Officer Rank V**

Department of Agriculture (Food Terminal Incorporated)

- **Arnold I. Atienza – Acting Member, Board of Directors**

Philippine Rice Research Institute

- **John C. De Leon – Executive Director**
- **Ariel B. Dolores – Member, Representing the Farming Sector, Board of Trustees**

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

- **Lormelyn E. Claudio – Director IV, Career Executive Service Officer Rank III**

Land Management Bureau

- **Emelyne V. Talabis – Director IV, Career Executive Service Officer  
Rank III**

Department of Finance (Securities and Exchange Commission)

- **Oliver O. Leonardo – Director III, Career Executive Service Officer  
Rank III**

Department of Foreign Affairs

- **Daniel R. Espiritu – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to  
Ireland**
- **Amable D. Aguiluz V – Special Envoy of the President to Japan for Trade  
and Investments**

Department of Information and Communications Technology

- **Ferdinand B. Felicen – Director I**

Department of Justice (Land Registration Authority)

- **Laura Irynn Padua – Acting Register of Deeds IV, Career Executive  
Service Officer Rank IV**

Department of Health

- **Amelita M. Pangilinan – Director IV, Career Executive Service Officer  
Rank III**
- **Ferdinand S. Salcedo – Director IV, Career Executive Service Officer  
Rank III**
- **Paula Paz Sydiongco – Director IV, Career Executive Service Officer  
Rank III**
- **Ellenietta Herundina – Director III, Career Executive Service Officer  
Rank IV**



- **Maria Victoria Gamolo – Director III, Career Executive Service Officer  
Rank IV**

Department of Labor and Employment (National Tripartite Industrial Peace Council)

- **Michaela Sophia E. Rubio – Member, Representing the Employers’  
Sector**

Department of Public Works and Highways

- **Soray’yah M. Ibrahim – Director III, Career Executive Service Officer  
Rank IV**

Department of Science and Technology (Technology Application and Promotion Institute)

- **Marion Ivy D. Decena – Director IV, Career Executive Service Officer  
Rank III**

Department of Social Welfare and Development

- **Riduan P. Hadjimuddin – Director IV, Career Executive Service Officer  
Rank III**

National Authority for Child Care

- **Maria Gabriela R. Concepcion – Member (Lawyer)**

Department of the Interior and Local Government

- **Juan Jovian E. Ingeniero – Director IV, Career Executive Service Officer  
Rank III**

- **Araceli A. San Jose – Director IV, Career Executive Service Officer Rank  
III**

- **Dennis D. Villaseñor – Director IV, Career Executive Service Officer  
Rank III**

- **Jhoaden G. Lucero – Director III, Career Executive Service Officer Rank**

**III**

Local Government Academy

- **Thelma T. Vecina – Director IV, Career Executive Service Officer Rank**

**III**

Philippine Commission on Women

- **Rosemarie P. Rafael – Member, Representing the Labor Sector**
- **Evelyn T. Uy – Member, Representing the Farmers and Fisherfolk Sector**

Department of Trade and Industry

- **Grace F. Baluyan – Director IV, Career Executive Service Officer Rank**

**III**

Philippine Pharma Procurement, Inc.

- **Winston Castelo – Chairman; Member, Board of Directors**
- **Maria Blanca Kim B. Lokin – President/Chief Executive Officer; Member, Board of Directors**

Small Business Corporation

- **Robert T. Castillo – President/Chief Executive Officer; Member, Board of Directors**

Department of Transportation

- **Marie France C. Tiatco – Assistant Secretary**

National Economic and Development Authority

- **Agnes E. Tolentino – Assistant Secretary**
- **Philorita A. Ridao – Director IV, Career Executive Service Officer Rank**

**III**

Regional Development Council

- **Ricarte R. Padilla – Chairperson, Region V**

Presidential Communications Office (People's Television Network, Inc.)

- **Victoria C. Recio (Member, Representative from the Government Sector, Board of Directors)**

Office of the President (Movie and Television Review and Classification Board Appeals Committee)

- **Gladys R. Sommereux – Member, Representative of the Television Industry**

Office of the Special Envoy on Transnational Crime

- **Markus V. Lacanilao – Special Envoy on Transnational Crime**

Philippine Center on Transnational Crime

- **Anthony D. Alcantara – Executive Director**

Presidential Management Staff

- **Cherry Pie Felisse M. Maraya – Director IV, Career Executive Service Officer Rank III**

Department of the Interior and Local Government

- **Michelle M. Bonifacio – Member, Sangguniang Panlungsod, City of Angeles**
- **Jose Ruben S. Tolentino – Member, Sangguniang Panlungsod, City of San Juan**

Philippine National Police

- **Aldrin L. Abila – Police Colonel**

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1969122/pco-releases-list-of-new-govt-appointees>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

## **BFAR: Don't eat fish from oil spill areas**

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

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:44 AM August 03, 2024



**ENVIRONMENTAL THREAT** An aerial image from environmental group Greenpeace taken around 4 kilometers off Hagonoy, Bulacan, shows the oil slick from a tanker, which sank on July 25 in Bataan due to bad weather.—NOEL CELIS/GREENPEACE

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) advised the public to refrain from consuming fish caught from areas affected by an oil spill from Bataan province as they are considered unfit for human consumption.

“This is to avoid incidents of food poisoning as a result of ingesting contaminated seafood,” BFAR said in its latest bulletin issued on Thursday afternoon.

BFAR said results from the sensory evaluation showed fish samples collected from the towns of Noveleta and Rosario in Cavite province have “some degree of tainting with petrochemicals.”

Fish samples gathered from Cavite City as well as the towns of Tanza and Naic remain free from petrochemical contamination.

### **Continuous sampling**

BFAR said continuous fish sampling is ongoing in affected areas in Central Luzon, Calabarzon and the National Capital Region for traces of oil and grease.

It is also conducting laboratory testing for the presence of harmful substances like polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in fishes and other seafoods in these areas.

The local government of Bataan has imposed a fishing ban in Limay while Cavite has been placed under a “no-catch” zone for all types of shellfish.

“As of this writing, monitoring of catch landings and market inspection are being conducted,” BFAR said.

It also said ground validation is ongoing across affected areas, simultaneous with the validation of affected fisherfolk to ensure accurate documentation and provide support to affected communities.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) said BFAR is currently assessing damaged areas to determine the assistance to be provided to affected fisherfolk.

“For now we can only give fuel vouchers so fishermen can go to nearby fishing grounds. I also asked BFAR to coordinate with DSWD (Department of Social Welfare and Development) so the agency can also give food packs to affected fisherfolk,” Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said in a statement.

The DA also said BFAR is providing dispersants to help treat the oil that leaked from MT Terranova, which was carrying 1.4 million liters of industrial fuel when it capsized and sank en route to Iloilo province.

Meanwhile, the siphoning of the 5,500 liters of diesel oil from motor tanker Jason Bradley, one of the three vessels that sank off the waters of Bataan province, began on Friday, according to the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

The fuel tanker sank in shallow waters off Mariveles town on July 26, a day after the sinking of Terranova.

PCG said the BRP Malapascua was deployed in the vicinity waters of Barangay Cabcaben, where Jason Bradley sank, to monitor the waters and utilize oil dispersants. —*With a report from Nestor Corrales*

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1969012/bfar-dont-eat-fish-from-oil-spill-areas>



# Action-oriented congresses

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 02:10 AM August 03, 2024

## RESULTS FROM CACAO INTERCROPPING

	<b>COCONUT ONLY</b>	<b>COCONUT PLUS CACAO</b>
<b>COST</b>	P36,000	P130,300
<b>REVENUE</b>	62,900	272,900
<b>NET INCOME</b>	26,800	142,600
<b>PERCENT RETURN</b>	74%	109%

**SOURCE:** PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY

**INQ** GRAPHICS

National industry congresses are useful when they provide much new information. But they are even more useful when this information results in concrete action.

This happened during the recent National Cacao Congress held in Cebu from July 30-31. This was sponsored by the Philippine Cacao Industry Council and the Philippine Cacao Industry Association headed by Armi Lopez-Garcia.

Here are two examples.

The first is the often discussed proposal of planting cacao in between coconut trees. But not much has happened, perhaps because critical information has not been effectively communicated. There are currently 3.6 million hectares planted to coconut trees in 69 out of our 82 provinces. Two-thirds of these hectares are largely idle because there is nothing planted in between these coconut trees.

During the congress, Philippine Coconut Authority's Willy Mercullo Jr. identified compelling reasons for cacao intercropping. One is pest and disease management. This disrupts the habitat of pests and reduces their ability to establish large populations.

A second is improving the soil structure. This helps in water management and additional micronutrients for soil fertility. Both decrease the need for potentially harmful pesticides and fertilizers.

### **Increased income**

But the third is the most important reason. Through cacao intercropping, incomes are significantly improved. The table below contains a summary of the financial information Mercullo provided for one hectare.

While there is an additional cost of P94,200, the corresponding additional revenue of P210,000 (or double the investment) is well worth it. This detailed study and thorough work that went into it should motivate the farmers, as well as the reluctant banks which need to give the necessary loans, to take quick action.

Another congress information item was provided by Sen. Pia Cayetano. A champion of a creative and educated citizenry, Cayetano has talked about the critical connection between nutrition and the sad state of our education achievement.

For the national feeding program, milk is an important component that can address even our severe stunting situation. But though choco milk is far superior in terms of nutrition to pure milk (and favored by children who easily tire of the pure milk taste), choco milk is not offered consistently. We should add cacao powder to our milk. Unfortunately, we import this cacao powder.

### **Market opportunity**

Related to this, Danilo Fausto, president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce of Agriculture and Food Inc. reported that we annually import 30,000 tons of cacao powder. At P370 a kilogram, this translates to P11.1 billion spent a year.

We must make mandatory the more nutritious and delicious chocomilk for our feeding program. More importantly, we should supply, rather than import, the cacao powder necessary to provide the chocomilk. This will not only improve nutrition and intellectual growth for our children. It will also open an important additional market to improve the livelihoods of our poor farmers.

The 1,300 participants of the National Cacao Congress got both new information and actionable ideas from the congress' well-selected topics. For future congresses, especially on agriculture which needs both creativity and urgent action, it is suggested that congresses are planned with the anticipated desired results in mind even before the congresses start.

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

<https://business.inquirer.net/472732/action-oriented-congresses>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

## **DA eyes locally made drugs vs FMD**

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:12 AM August 03, 2024

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is exploring the possibility of producing vaccines against foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) to prevent and manage the disease's incursions or spreads.

Since 2014, the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) recognized the Philippines as FMD-free even without a vaccination practice.

However, the agency said there is a need to prepare for contingencies as the livestock industry still bears the threat and risk of this severe, highly contagious viral disease.

The DA convened a technical working group to conduct a feasibility study of manufacturing locally produced FMD vaccines.

The DA said an unlikely outbreak "has a significant economic impact," per Special Order No. 1083.

The country has not inoculated livestock against FMD for over a decade although neighboring countries such as Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam recently reported FMD cases.

The panel, to be chaired by Agriculture Assistant Secretary Constante Palabrica, is tasked to provide technical inputs to ascertain the viability of manufacturing FMD vaccines.

The group will review policies and prepare criteria of minimum facility capabilities, criteria of minimum personnel capacities, biological risk assessments and cost-benefit analysis.

The TWG will finalize a comprehensive report recommending, or otherwise, the viability and feasibility of manufacturing locally produced FMD vaccines.

According to the WOAAH, this transboundary disease deeply affects livestock production and disrupts regional and international trade in animals and animal products.

FMD affects cattle, swine, sheep, goats and other cloven-hoofed ruminants.

“The disease is estimated to circulate in 77 percent of the global livestock population, in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, as well as in a limited area of South America,” it added. —*JORDEENE B. LAGARE*

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1968964/da-eyes-locally-made-drugs-vs-fmd>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

## **DA: Over 101,000 MT imported rice arrives in PH under lowered tariffs**

Philippine News Agency / 12:56 PM August 02, 2024

Rice vendor Eddie Pascual, 58, wait for his usual clients at his rice stall in Marikina Public Market on Monday, June 10, 2024. INQUIRER / GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

**MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) reported Thursday the arrival of more than 101,000 metric tons (MT) of imported rice as of July 25.**

The said volume arrived following the implementation of Executive Order No. 62, or the lowering of tariffs on imported rice from 35 to 15 percent last July 5, which is expected to lower rice retail prices by P6 to P7 per kilogram.

“Overall, from January to third week ng (of) July, nasa (it’s at) 2.4 million metric tons, which is higher than the level of the same period last year,” DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said in an ambush interview citing import data of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI).

De Mesa said the entry of said volume further sustains a stable supply of the country’s staple, alongside the local palay production during the dry harvest season.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the Philippines has recorded more than 8.53 million MT for the first semester of the year.

De Mesa, likewise, mentioned the National Food Authority (NFA)’s strong procurement for the country’s national rice buffer stock, securing 3.5 million bags of palay during the dry harvest season.

He said these bolsters confidence in the country’s rice inventory despite the effects of the enhanced southwest monsoon, Super Typhoon Carina, and the looming La Nina.



To date, the rice sector incurred around 10,639 MT of volume loss amounting to P635.17 million, which is well within the 500,000 MT to 600,000 MT annual projected losses due to natural calamities.

The DA has also assured that there's no reason for rice retail price hikes considering a stable supply in the country.

As of July 31, the prevailing price range of local regular-milled rice in Metro Manila is set at P45/kg to P50/kg, while the local well-milled rice is set at P48/kg to P55/kg, according to the DA-Bantay Presyo.

For imported regular-milled rice, the price range is pegged at P47/kg to P48/kg, and P51/kg to P53/kg for imported well-milled rice.

<https://business.inquirer.net/472649/da-over-101000-mt-imported-rice-arrives-in-ph-under-lowered-tariffs>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Lab test shows no bird flu case in Tarlac

By: [Jun A. Malig](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Inquirer Central Luzon](#) / 03:40 PM August 02, 2024



Samples from poultry farms in Tarlac showed no bird flu outbreak in the province, the Department of Agriculture (DA) in Central Luzon announced on Thursday.

MABALACAT CITY, Pampanga — Samples from poultry farms in Tarlac showed no bird flu outbreak in the province, the Department of Agriculture (DA) in Central Luzon announced on Thursday.

Citing laboratory test results conducted Wednesday by the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), the regional agency said poultry from Tarlac showed that “samples weren’t infected by the highly pathogenic avian influenza” and that there is no cause for worry among consumers and industry players.

“All samples from Tarlac tested negative for the (bird flu) virus. Based on these results, news about the bird flu is untrue,” the DA Region 3 quoted DA Assistant Secretary for Swine and Poultry Dante Palabrica.

Early this week, a newspaper report quoted an official of the Philippine Eggboard Association, an organization of egg farmers, saying that chicken from a poultry farm in Tarlac had tested positive for bird flu.

On Wednesday, the DA Region 3 posted on its social media page BAI's statement that the latter had not received any official report about the bird flu outbreak from the Tarlac government.

The BAI also said that its Animal Diagnosis and Reference Laboratory "is the sole authority to officially detect and confirm positive cases of bird flu through standardized testing protocols."

It said that should there be any confirmed case of bird flu, the public would be informed promptly, and all necessary measures would be taken to address and contain any outbreak. INQ

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1968827/lab-test-shows-no-bird-flu-case-in-tarlac>

**REMATE:**

# **Pinsala sa agrikultura sa El Niño umabot sa P15.30B**

August 3, 2024 09:39



MANILA, Philippines – Ang El Niño phenomenon ay nagdulot ng P15.30 bilyon na pinsala sa sektor ng agrikultura sa bansa, inihayag ng Department of Agriculture (DA) nitong Biyernes, Agosto 2.

Batay sa huling bulletin ng DA sa El Niño, kabuuang 333,195 magsasaka at mangingisda ang nasalanta.

Sinabi ng ahensya na ang 15 rehiyon na apektado ng dry spell ay ang Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, MIMAROPA, Bicol Region, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Central Mindanao, Davao Region, Soccsksargen at Caraga.

May kabuuang 270,855 ektarya (ha) ng mga agricultural areas ang naapektuhan ng phenomenon, ayon sa DA.

Sinabi ng ahensya na ang pananim na pinakanaapektuhan ng El Niño ay mais na may volume loss na 327,310 MT na may kabuuang halaga na ₱5.94 bilyon.

Samantala, nakaranas ng volume loss ang bigas na 330,717 MT, na nagresulta sa kabuuang halaga na ₱5.93 bilyon.

Sinabi ng DA na ang kabuuang volume loss para sa HVC ay 112,681 MT, katumbas ng halagang ₱3.27 bilyon.

Ayon sa ahensya, ang cassava ay nagkaroon ng volume loss na 2,320 MT na may kabuuang ₱55.63 milyon.

May kabuuang 2,679 na mangingisda sa sektor ng pangisdaan ang naapektuhan, na may danyos na aabot sa ₱52.44 milyon.

Nabatid din ng DA na 25,547 mga alagang hayop ang naapektuhan kabilang ang iba't ibang hayop tulad ng manok, baka, kalabaw, itik, kambing, kabayo, tupa, at baboy, na may kabuuang halaga na ₱37.97 milyon.

Sinabi ng ahensya na umabot sa ₱9.80 milyon ang pinsala sa mga pananim ng niyog. *Santi Celario*

<https://remate.ph/pinsala-sa-agrikultura-sa-el-nino-umabot-sa-p15-30b/>



**REMATE:**

## Suplay ng gulay, isda nananatiling stable sa kabila ng pagsalanta ni Carina

August 2, 2024 18:24



MANILA, Philippines – Sinabi ng Department of Agriculture (DA) noong Miyerkules (Hulyo 31, 2024) na nananatiling stable ang supply ng mga gulay, isda, at iba pang mga agricultural commodities, kabilang ang bigas, pagkatapos ng pinalakas na habagat at Super Typhoon Carina.

Ayon sa Department of Agriculture nananatiling stable ang supply ng mga gulay, isda at iba pang mga agricultural commodities, kabilang ang bigas, kasunod ng pinalakas na habagat at Super Typhoon Carina.

Ito ay matapos tumaas ang pinsala sa agrikultura sa PHP1.21 bilyon para sa 22,088 metric tons (MT) ng volume loss, na nakaapekto sa 46,625 na magsasaka at mangingisda, ayon sa DA-Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Operations Center bulletin no. 14.

Kaugnay nito sa isang panayam, pinawi ni DA Assistant Secretary Arnel De Mesa ang mga alalahanin sa posibleng pagtaas ng presyo ng mga gulay sa highland at lowland.

Para sa mga high-value crops, ang DA-DRRM ay nag-ulat ng humigit-kumulang 2,044 MT volume loss na nagkakahalaga ng PHP88.81 milyon. Kabilang sa mga apektadong lugar ang bahagi ng Cordilleras at Mimaropa.

Samantala tiniyak din ni De Mesa ang “minimal” na pagsasaayos ng presyo sa mga produktong isda sa kabila ng mga epekto ng parehong pinahasay na habagat at banta ng oil spill sa ilang karagatan.

“Ang closed fishing season pa natin ay November kaya makaka-recover pa rin naman,” De Mesa said as the fisheries sector incurred around PHP360.80 million worth of damage affecting 3,334 fishers, mostly sa Pampanga at Bulacan.

Nitong Hulyo 20, iniulat ng Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) ang pagdating ng 56,000 MT ng bigas sa ilalim ng ibinabang taripa na 15 porsiyento.

Sa ngayon, ang pinsalang natamo sa sektor ng bigas ay umakyat sa PHP635.17 milyon, o 10,639 MT ang volume. (*Santi Celario*)

<https://remate.ph/suplay-ng-gulay-isda-nananatiling-stable-sa-kabila-ng-pagsalanta-ni-carina/>



**REMATE:**

## **Ibinebentang P45/kg bigas ‘di lang dapat sa Kadiwa stores – rice retailers**

August 2, 2024 16:39



MANILA, Philippines – Hinimok ng mga rice retailer ang Department of Agriculture na magpatawag ng pagpupulong ng mga importer, retailer at wholesaler para payagan ang pagbebenta ng P45/kg well-milled rice hindi lamang sa mga piling tindahan ng Kadiwa.

Nauna nang sinabi ni DA Assistant Secretary Arnel De Mesa na ang well-milled rice na nagkakahalaga ng P45 kada kilo ay ibebenta sa apat na Kadiwa sites: FTI Taguig, Caloocan, Barangay Potrero sa Malabon, at Bureau of Plant Industry sa Maynila.

Sinabi ni Orly Manuntag, tagapagsalita ng Grain Retailers Confederation of the Philippines, gayunpaman, ay nagsabi na ang pagbebenta ng P45 na bigas sa 4 na lugar ng Kadiwa ay masyadong limitado.

“Kayang ibenta ito ng mga retailers galing sa wholesalers and importers. Dapat magkatulungan. Kung sa Kadiwa lang kasi ito ibebenta, masyadong limitado,” aniya sa isang radio interview.

Hinimok niya ang DA na tukuyin ang mga importer para maka-avail ng mas murang bigas ang mga retailer. Ito ay matapos bawasan ng NEDA ang rice tariffs mula 35 porsiyento hanggang 15 porsiyento simula Hulyo. *RNT*

<https://remate.ph/ibinebentang-p45-kg-bigas-di-lang-dapat-sa-kadiwa-stores-rice-retailers/>

**REMATE:**

## **Mga isda sa katubigang sapul ng Bataan oil spill ‘di ligtas kainin – BFAR**

August 2, 2024 07:39



MANILA, Philippines – Sinabi ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources na ang mga isda na nakolekta nito mula sa mga lugar sa Region 3, CALABARZON at National Capital Region matapos ang oil spill sa Bataan ay hindi akma sa pagkonsumo ng tao.

Sa kanilang ikalawang oil spill bulletin na inilabas noong Huwebes, nakita ng BFAR ang ilang antas ng bahid ng petrochemical sa mga sample ng isda na nakolekta mula sa Noveleta at Rosario sa Cavite, sa kabila ng isinagawang pagsusuri bago namataan ang mga oil slick sa lugar.

Walang nakitang kontaminasyon sa mga sample mula sa Tanza at Cavite City.

Nagdeklara na ng state of calamity ang Bataan matapos tumaob ang oil tanker na MT Terranova na may dalang mahigit 1.4 milyong litro ng fuel oil sa bayan ng Limay.

Isang fishing ban ang ipinataw sa Limay habang ang lalawigan ng Cavite ay no-catch zone na ngayon para sa lahat ng uri ng shellfish.

Patuloy na binabantayan ng BFAR ang mga isda at pamilihan sa mga apektadong lugar upang matiyak ang kaligtasan at kalidad ng pagkaing-dagat para sa pagkonsumo.

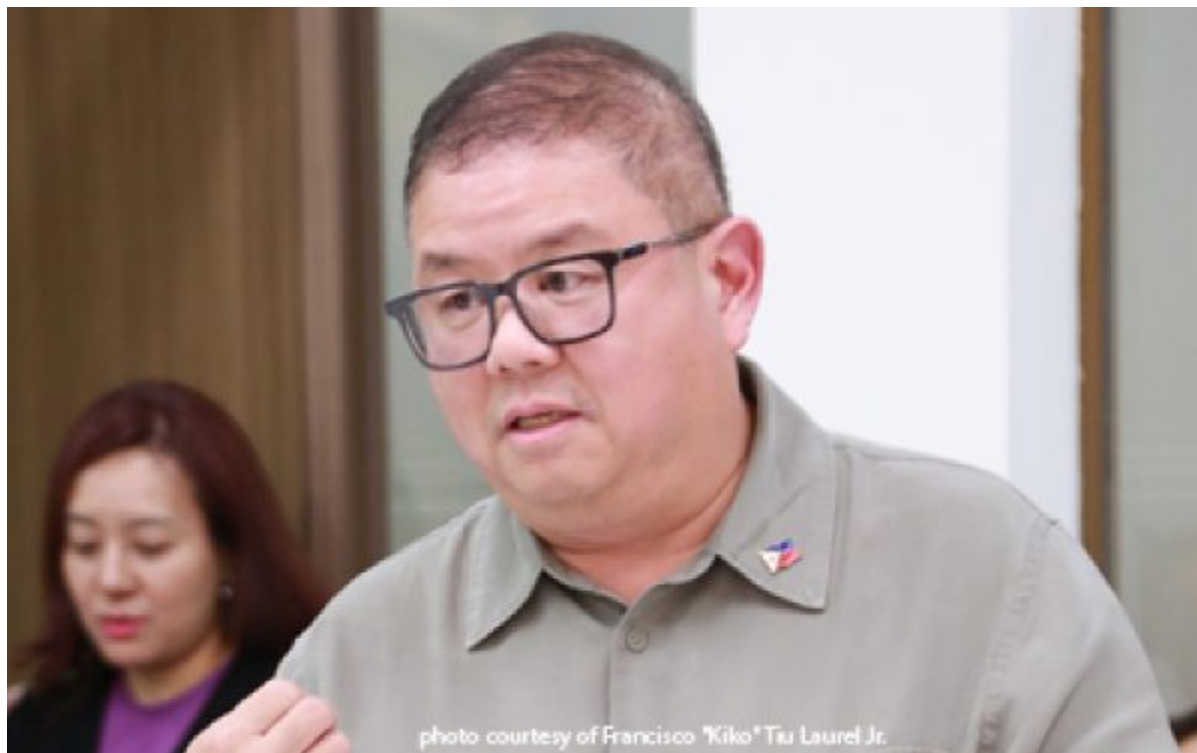
Nauna nang sinabi ng BFAR na maaaring umabot sa P350 milyon ang pinsalang dulot ng oil spill at makakaapekto sa mahigit 46,000 mangingisda sa Central Luzon, Region 4A, at National Capital Region. *RNT*

<https://remate.ph/mga-isda-sa-katubigang-sapul-ng-bataan-oil-spill-di-ligtas-kainin-bfar/>

**ABANTE:**

## ‘Pinas gagawa ng bakuna kontra FMD

- Abante News
- August 2, 2024



Pag-aaralan ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang posibilidad na dito sa Pilipinas gagawa ng bakuna laban sa foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) na natanggal na sa bansa noon pang Mayo 2014.

Ayon sa DA, bumuo ng technical working group si Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. para gawin ang pag-aaral dahil malaki ang magiging epekto nito sa industriya sakaling makarating sa bansa ang FMD.

Kamakailan, naiulat na nagkaroon ng FMD sa Indonesia, Thailand at Vietnam na mga kapitbahay lamang ng Pilipinas.

Tinuturing ni Tiu Laurel na banta pa rin ang FMD sa bansa dahil madali itong makahawa.

Hindi tulad ng African Swine Fever na mga baboy ang tinamaan, nahahawa sa FMD ang iba pang mga hayop tulad ng baka, baboy, kambing, pati na kalabaw.

Tulad ng ASF, malaking pinsala rin sa livestock industry ang FMD dahil tiyak na mamamatay ang hayop kapag tinamaan ito nito at mahahawa rin ang mga kasama nitong iba pang hayop. Sa FMD, nagsusugat ang mga paa at bibig ng hayop kaya hindi na ito nakakakain hanggang sa mamatay.

Sabi ni Tiu Laurel, kailangang maghanda ang bansa laban sa FMD at tignan kung maaaring makagawa ng bakuna laban sa FMD sa loob ng bansa na magagamit sakaling makapasok ito. (Eileen Mencias)

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/08/02/pinas-gagawa-ng-bakuna-kontra-fmd/>

# High food prices 'could put a lid' on BSP's rate cut plan

By Niña Myka Pauline Arceo

August 3, 2024

MONETARY authorities could shelve a plan to cut key interest rates next month given the likely impact of a recent typhoon and still-high rice prices, ING Manila Bank said.

"So far, the cut in rice tariffs in early July seems to have had no discernible impact on Philippine retail rice prices, and the recent typhoons may push other seasonal food prices higher in the meantime, so we may need to wait to see the impact of lower tariffs on food prices and inflation more generally," ING Manila said in a commentary.

"We think that probably puts a lid on Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' (BSP) ambitions to front-run the Federal Reserve with rate cuts as soon as this month," it added.

The Department of Agriculture has reported that agricultural losses due to the combined effects of Typhoon "Carina" and the southwest monsoon have exceeded P1.17 billion.

The calamity had affected 40,904 farmers and fisherfolk across several regions, while the typhoon-enhanced southwest monsoon resulted in loss of around 18,086 metric tons (MT) of crops from 42,708 hectares of agricultural land.

Rice losses were estimated at 10,272 MT valued at P660.6 million.

BSP Governor Eli Remolona Jr., however, has said that the calamity will not affect July inflation number as "usually the effects come with



a lag, so it may not even affect August in terms of the aggregate CPI (consumer price index) basket."

The central bank's policymaking Monetary Board remains on track to start cutting rates next month as inflation is expected to have peaked in July, he said on Tuesday. Remolona also reiterated that a 25-basis-point cut was possible, to be followed by another later this year.

ING Manila Bank said that while conditions were becoming more favorable, the "BSP could well still see a window for easing in the fourth quarter of 2024."

**The BSP's benchmark rate currently stands at 6.5 percent, the highest since 2007, following 450 basis points of increases beginning in May 2022 when inflation started surging in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.**

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/08/03/business/top-business/high-food-prices-could-put-a-lid-on-bsps-rate-cut-plan/1961593>



# NCR retail price growth eases in June

By Janine Alexis Miguel

August 3, 2024

THE annual rate of the general retail price index (GRPI) in the National Capital Region (NCR) eased to 1.8 percent in June, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

In its latest report, the agency said that the figure was slower compared to the 4.4-percent growth recorded last year and the 2.0 percent seen in May.

"The primary contributor to the deceleration of the annual growth rate of GRPI in [the] NCR was the slower annual increase recorded in the index of machinery and transport equipment," PSA said. Its price index slowed at 0.4 percent in June 2024 from 0.6 percent in the previous month.

In addition, slower annual increments were noted in the indices of five commodity groups during the month.

Food prices eased to 2.4 percent from 2.5 percent in May; beverages and tobacco, 2.6 percent from 3.0 percent; and mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials, 5.7 percent from 6.1 percent.

Chemicals, including animal and vegetable oils and fats, also posted slower growth in prices at 2.0 percent from 2.2 percent; and manufactured goods classified chiefly by materials, 1.1 percent from 1.3 percent.

Higher annual increase, meanwhile, was observed in the index of crude materials, inedible except fuels at 0.8 percent in June 2024 from 0.6 percent in the previous month.

Miscellaneous manufactured articles also posted a higher price index during the month by 1.5 percent from 1.2 percent in May.

Meanwhile, the price index of machinery and transport equipment posted slower rates at 0.4 percent from the previous month's 0.6 percent.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/08/03/business/top-business/ncr-retail-price-growth-eases-in-june/1961589>