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MANILA BULLETIN:

PH lifts poultry import ban from California, South Dakota

BY JEL SANTOS

Aug 31, 2024 04:54 PM



(MB FILE PHOTO)

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has lifted the ban on the importation of domestic and wild birds, including poultry products, from California and South Dakota.

In a statement released on Saturday, Aug. 31, the agency said the two US states have not reported any new avian influenza outbreaks since early June.

The ban was initially enforced in response to confirmed cases of the H5N1 subtype of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in California and South Dakota, with the latter facing restrictions since November last year. This virus has caused the deaths of millions of birds and presents a potential health risk to mammals, including humans.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. signed Memorandum Order No. 37 earlier this week, effectively lifting the import restrictions.

According to DA, the order allows the importation of various poultry products, including meat, hatching eggs, day-old chicks, and semen for artificial insemination, from the two states, which have been free of new outbreaks since May and June.

The agriculture department said the poultry sector, which makes up approximately 18 percent of the Philippines' agricultural output, is vital to the nation's food security.

The industry experienced a 2.0 percent growth in the first half of this year, with chicken production as the primary driver, the agency added.

Per DA's data, Central Luzon holds the largest poultry inventory at 33.68 million birds, followed by Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon) with 27.32 million, and Northern Mindanao with 25.87 million.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/31/ph-lifts-poultry-import-ban-from-california-south-dakota>

MANILA BULLETIN:

DA rolls out ASF vaccination in Batangas

BY DANNY ESTACIO

Aug 30, 2024 06:33 PM

LOBO, Batangas – The government started the vaccination campaign against Asian Swine Fever (ASF) in this province here on Friday, August 30.



THE government started the vaccination campaign against ASF in Batangas in the town of Lobo on Friday, August 30, 2024. (Photo via Danny Estacio)

The Department of Agriculture (DA), the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), and the Provincial Veterinary and Municipal Agriculture Office inoculated 41 piglets with vaccines purchased from Vietnam in a farm owned by Vicente Manalo in Barangay Malapad na Parang.

The farm tested negative for ASF on Thursday, August 29.

DA Assistant Secretary Dante Palabrica said the effects of the vaccine will be determined in 14 days and a blood test will be conducted to find out the health of the hogs.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/30/da-rolls-out-asf-vaccination-in-batangas>

MANILA BULLETIN:

PSAC pushes for long-term development through water, electricity measures

BY ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS

Aug 31, 2024 09:06 AM

AT A GLANCE

- During the meeting, the PSAC stressed the need to reevaluate the Philippine Energy Plan, focusing on affordability while also considering energy self-sufficiency, as a supporting strategy.

The Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC) has proposed to President Marcos a series of initiatives to improve infrastructure and, ultimately, the quality of life for every Filipino family.



Photo: Bongbong Marcos/Facebook

This developed after President Marcos met with the PSAC in Malacañan last Aug. 29.

In a statement, the PSAC said it focused its recommendations on enhancing energy affordability and securing a reliable water supply nationwide.

"These initiatives are crucial to driving progress and uplifting communities. By focusing on affordable energy and reliable water supply, we aim to create a foundation for long-term development that benefits every Filipino," PSAC lead convenor and Aboitiz Group President and Chief Executive Officer Sabin Aboitiz said on Saturday, Aug. 31.

"The private sector stands ready to collaborate with the government by sharing expertise, resources, and innovative solutions to make these goals a reality," he added.

During the meeting, the PSAC stressed the need to reevaluate the Philippine Energy Plan, focusing on affordability while also considering energy self-sufficiency, as a supporting strategy.

The group also recommended revising capacity auctions, including the Green Energy Auction Program (GEAP), and aligning Power Supply Procurement Plans to drive down electricity costs for consumers.

Regarding water security, the PSAC emphasized the importance of implementing flood control basins as part of the government's Infrastructure Flagship Projects, particularly concentrating on the 88 rivers identified by the Integrated Water Resources Management Office (IWRMO).

The council also urged the government to expedite the privatization of water utilities in other metropolitan centers facing water supply challenges, following the successful model in Metro Manila.

"This move would improve water distribution systems, reduce non-revenue water losses, and streamline permit processing," the PSAC said.

It called for the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System Regulatory Office (MWSS-RO) to closely monitor the Enhanced Lifeline Program to provide greater discounts to low-income consumers, particularly those who are marginalized or beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).

The PSAC also proposed that the IWRMO study the feasibility of improving water service levels in the provinces, balancing investment needs with efforts to expand coverage and enhance service quality.

In a Facebook post, President Marcos thanked the PSAC for its insights and recognized the importance of these recommendations in achieving the administration's goals of accessible, affordable, and reliable essential services.

"I sat down with the PSAC to discuss opportunities to improve the lives of every Filipino family through critical infrastructure that will lower electricity rates, ensure a reliable water supply, and enhance flood protection," Marcos said.

"I am grateful to our private sector partners who are committed to helping us achieve these goals," he added.

President Marcos created the PSAC to create and strengthen innovative new synergies between the private and public sectors. PSAC comprises business leaders and experts across six main sectoral groups — Agriculture, Digital Infrastructure, Jobs, Healthcare, Build-Build-Build, and Tourism.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/31/psac-pushes-for-long-term-development-through-water-electricity-measures>

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<https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/30/da-rolls-out-asf-vaccination-in-batangas>

MANILA BULLETIN:

A climate-related mass die-off leaves over 100 tons of dead fish collecting at a Greek port

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

Aug 30, 2024 01:44 PM



Workers collect dead fish from a river near the port city of Volos, central Greece, Thursday, Aug. 29, 2024, following a mass die-off linked to extreme climate fluctuations. (AP Photo/Vaggelis Kousioras)

VOLOS, Greece (AP) — More than 100 tons of dead fish were collected in and around the port of Volos in central Greece after a mass die-off linked to extreme weather fluctuations, authorities said Thursday.

The dead freshwater fish filled the bay 320 kilometers (200 miles) north of Athens, and nearby rivers. Water levels were swollen by floods in 2023, [followed by months of severe drought](#). The die-off has hit local businesses along the seafront, reducing commercial activity by 80% in the past three days, according to Volos' Chamber of Commerce.

Fishing trawlers have been chartered by the regional authorities, along with earthmovers, to scoop the dead fish out of the sea and load them onto trucks bound for an incinerator.

The fish came from Lake Karla in central Greece, a body of water drained in the early 1960s and restored in 2018 to combat the effects of drought.

“There are millions of dead fish all the way from Lake Karla and 20 kilometers (12 miles) eastward,” Anna Maria Papadimitriou, the deputy regional governor of the central Thessaly area, told state-run television.

“Right now, there is a huge effort underway to clean up the millions of dead fish that have washed along the shorelines and riverbanks ... an effort that involves multiple contractors,” she said.

Water levels rose abruptly in fall 2023 during a [deadly storm that caused extensive flooding](#) in central Greece, but have since receded due to low rainfall and [successive summer heat waves](#). The mayor of Volos lashed out at the regional authority, accusing it of acting too slowly, while the city’s Chamber of Commerce said it was taking legal action to seek damages after the severe drop in commercial activity.

“Businesses along the seafront, particularly in the catering industry, are now suspending operations,” the chamber said in a statement. “A strong stench along the seafront is repulsive to both residents and visitors ... delivering a severe blow to tourism in Volos.”

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/30/a-climate-related-mass-die-off-leaves-over-100-tons-of-dead-fish-collecting-at-a-greek-port>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Bohol governor cites robust economy in SOPA

BY CALVIN CORDOVA

Aug 31, 2024 05:34 PM

CEBU CITY – Bohol Gov. Aris Aumentado highlighted the province’s robust economy in his State-of-the-Province Address (SOPA) on Saturday, August 31, at the Bohol Cultural Center in Tagbilaran City.



AUMENTADO (FB)

Aumentado said Bohol’s economy “is very positive” after the latest data from the Philippine Statistics Authority showed that the province’s Gross Domestic Product grew by 7.1 percent or an economic production of P171-billion worth of goods and service

The latest data was “much higher” than the 4.2 percent growth over the previous year, Aumentado said.

“This also means that Bohol was the third largest economy in Region 7, in the overall ranking of Provinces and Highly Urbanized Cities. Of course, things will change with the creation of the Negros Island Region, which leaves Bohol, Cebu, and highly urbanized cities in Region 7,” Aumentado said.

The governor added that even during the administration of his late father, Erico Boyles Aumentado, poverty reduction has always been the province’s top priority for Bohol.

“Our previous lowest level of poverty incidence among families was in 2018 at 15.1 percent. Poverty rose after the pandemic to 19.1 percent. Now, we are very proud to report that the latest PSA data shows that we have succeeded once again in bringing our poverty incidence down to its lowest-ever level, at 14.8 percent,” Aumentado stated.

To further reduce poverty, Aumentado said he has issued marching orders for the whole provincial government workforce to focus on the first 24 towns with the highest poverty incidence and prioritize them for programs and projects.

Aumentado said that from the start of his administration, he has pursued a clear direction and focused development agenda.

“The roadmap highlights nine Strategic Change Agenda, fully supportive of the Philippine Development Plan of His Excellency President Ferdinand ‘Bongbong’ Marcos Jr.,” he said.

Aumentado also talked about environmental sustainability.

“To uphold our unique status as the first and only UNESCO Global Geopark in the Philippines, we have created the Bohol Island Geopark Management Council under the Office of the Governor. This initiative links with our Bohol Regenerative Island Project and our Protect Danajon Project,” Aumentado said.

Aumentado has just returned from a preventive suspension over the controversial construction of a resort within the Chocolate Hills.

The governor said that steps are being taken to strengthen the province’s environmental campaign.

“Despite the recent controversy over certain resorts that were initiated before our term, we are committed to continue protecting the environment, and to make sure that no such structures are built in the future. Even as we faced complaints over Captain’s Peak Resort – which, again, was initiated before our term, we also gave assistance in the form of cash and food to the displaced workers of the resort. When I resumed my duty, I directed all mayors with protected areas in their jurisdictions to inventory and monitor all structures and establishments in these critical locations, making sure they have ECCs and other permits,” he said.

On climate-smart agriculture, Aumentado said Bohol remains African Swine Fever (ASF)-free despite outbreaks in many nearby provinces.

“We are still proudly ASF-free. We had a few close calls but they were quickly arrested and contained, thus protecting our P6-billion hog industry. It has been decided that we will again set up strict checkpoints to maintain this status,” he said.

Aumentado also emphasized that Bohol remains one of the country’s top tourist destinations.

“Our outlook for tourism is even better than we expected. We have not only recovered from the post-pandemic slump, but we have achieved a 463 percent increase in tourist arrivals from 2021 to 2023! We are on track to greatly exceed the one million tourist arrivals of last year!” he said.

The province also continues to enjoy a sound peace and order situation.

“Bohol is still a zero-insurgency province as confirmed by the Philippine National Police and the Philippine Army. Under this administration, 76 former rebels have surrendered, marking a significant step toward our shared goal of lasting peace,” Aumentado said.

For the governor, Bohol continues to be on the upswing and remains a top destination in the country and even a top investment destination.

“The provincial government continues to hold the trust of the people. And I am humbly grateful for it. Bohol is a special province. And through all challenges, Bohol continues to be one of the most beautiful provinces in the country, if not the most beautiful,” he said.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/8/31/bohol-governor-cites-robust-economy-in-sopa>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

41 hogs in Batangas first to get ASF vaccine

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

August 31, 2024 | 12:00am



Agriculture Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa said in an interview that the 41 pigs were from Barangay Mapalad na Parang in Lobo, Batangas.

Casar Ramirez

MANILA, Philippines — Forty-one pigs in Lobo, Batangas were vaccinated against African swine fever yesterday as the Department of Agriculture (DA) rolled out 10,000 doses of vaccine to contain the spread of ASF in the country.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa said in an interview that the 41 pigs were from Barangay Mapalad na Parang in Lobo, Batangas.

“We started with 41 piglets and will transfer to other farms. This (vaccination) will continue. After Lobo, we will go to other municipalities of Batangas. We will start the validation of other sites so that we can consume the entire 10,000 doses (of ASF vaccine),” de Mesa said.

He added that the DA, Bureau of Animal Industry and several Batangas local government units aim to complete the vaccination by next week.

“So far, the vaccination was smooth. We conducted a technical briefing. The owner of the farm was very cooperative. Actually, the farmers are very receptive. They were happy that their hogs will be finally vaccinated,” de Mesa said.

After Batangas, the DA will proceed to the nearby provinces of Quezon and Laguna and other red zone areas to complete the vaccination drive.

“After 14 days, the vaccinated hogs will be tested, and then the hogs will be tested again after 28 days, 60 days and then after 120 days,” De Mesa said, referring to the monitoring that must be done.

Representatives from the Food and Drug Administration, the National Federation of Hog Raisers, and Pork Producers Federation of the Philippines chairperson and AGAP party-list Rep. Nicanor Briones were also present to witness the vaccination.

In Negros Occidental, provincial veterinarian Placeda Lemana said the province remains ASF-free amid reports of a resurgence of the viral disease in a town in neighboring Negros Oriental.

Negros Occidental is still banning the entry of hogs and pork-related products from Panay, Guimaras, Negros Oriental, Cebu, Luzon and Mindanao provinces due to ASF threats. – **Gilbert Bayoran**

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/08/31/2381726/41-hogs-batangas-first-get-asf-vaccine>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA: Rice importers should utilize permits within 2 months

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

August 31, 2024 | 12:00am



Workers unload sacks of rice from a delivery truck along Dagupan Street in Tondo, Manila on January 22, 2024.

STAR / Ernie Penaredondo

MANILA, Philippines — Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has ordered rice importers to utilize the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance (SPSIC) issued to them by the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) within 60 days, warning that sanctions await traders who fail to comply.

Tiu Laurel issued Memorandum Circular 35, aiming to ensure food security in the country and protect the welfare of local farmers.

“The actual product/consignment must be shipped out within 60 days from the date the SPSIC is issued, regardless of the country of origin. This shipment is still subject

to plant quarantine procedures at the port of entry upon arrival,” Tiu Laurel said in the circular.

He made the directive amid reports that rice importers failed to use the import permits months after BPI issued the SPSIC.

“The Department of Agriculture (DA) recognizes the need to ensure enough supply and buffer stock to ensure availability, accessibility and affordability of safe rice,” Tiu Laurel said.

He added that rice importers should fully utilize their applied SPSIC.

“Low or no utilization of SPSICs may result in sanctions and penalties in accordance with the guidelines as this can create discrepancies in the forecasting being done in relation to the availability of rice supply,” Tiu Laurel added.

From January to Aug. 22, at least 2.7 million metric tons (MT) of imported rice have arrived in the country using 3,723 SPSICs.

In August, at least 208,949 MT of imported rice entered the country while 167,403 MT arrived in July.

Executive Order 62 allowing a 15 percent tariff on imported rice took effect on July 7.

Based on the monitoring of DA in Metro Manila markets, the retail price of local rice remained lower compared to imported grains despite almost two months of the implementation of EO 62 on a lower tariff.

The National Economic and Development Authority has promised that the retail price of imported rice will go down by at least P7 per kilo with the implementation of EO 62 but this has yet to be felt by consumers.

Meanwhile, the DA has lifted the ban on the importation of poultry products from California and South Dakota, United States after the bird flu outbreak in the two US states was addressed.

Tiu Laurel issued Memorandum Order 37, allowing the resumption of the importation of domestic and wild birds and their products including poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs and semen originating from California and South Dakota.

He reported that all affected counties in the two US states have already been cleared of the high pathogenicity avian influenza and no further outbreaks have been recorded.

Too much onion imports

Farmers' group Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura (Sinag) executive director Jayson Cainglet yesterday said the decision of DA to import 16,000 MT of white onions is too much amid the P12 per kilo drop in the farmgate price of red onions.

In a message to The STAR, Cainglet said that based on the consultation with onion farmers in Nueva Ecija, the cold storage facilities are still full of red onions.

“The onion farmers are suffering losses of P12 per kilo as the farmgate price went down to P45 (per kilo) compared to the cost of production between P52 and P58 per kilo,” Cainglet said.

He added despite the drop in the farmgate price of onions, the retail price of onions remains high between P120 and P150 per kilo.

“According to the farmers, there is no problem with them importing white onions but their request is the volume should not be too big. It should be half or 8,000 MT as there is so much supply of red onions,” he said.

He added that local red onions would rot in the warehouses if the farmers fail to sell them.

Sinag would appeal DA's decision on behalf of the onion farmers.

Tiu Laurel approved on Wednesday the importation of 16,000 MT of white onion bulbs following the recommendation of the BPI.

The DA has confirmed that the current supply of red onion is enough until March next year, even with the expected demand increase in the holiday season this year.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/08/31/2381787/da-rice-importers-should-utilize-permits-within-2-months>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

BSP sees inflation cooling in August

[Louise Maureen Simeon](#) - The Philippine Star

August 31, 2024 | 12:00am



A slower growth in the prices of rice, meat and fish may have contributed to the slowdown in inflation in August.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — Inflation likely eased in August and returned to the target band of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) after a quick uptick in July, amid lower prices of oil and other food commodities. Based on its monthly forecast, the BSP said the headline rate could settle within the range of 3.2 and four percent.

This is significantly lower than the July headline rate of 4.4 percent, which was the highest recorded since October 2023.

If realized, this would also mark the return of the inflation print back to the two to four percent target of the BSP after a quick breach in July.

The BSP attributed the downward inflation pressures to lower prices of domestic oil, rice, fish and meat along with the appreciation of the peso against the dollar.

For oil prices in August, a total decrease of P2.70 per liter has been recorded for gasoline, P2.80 per liter for diesel and P3.70 for kerosene.

Since the start of 2024, gasoline prices have been adjusted upward by as much as P6.90 per liter while diesel has been more expensive by P4.05 per liter.

Kerosene, on the other hand, has a net decrease of P4 per liter.

Consumers also started seeing cheaper rice in the market in August following the implementation of Executive Order 62, which lowered the tariff on the imported staple.

Data from the Department of Agriculture's price monitoring showed that imported commercial rice can be bought for as low as P47 per kilogram from P49 a kilo the month before.

As to the peso, the local currency firmed up for most of August, touching its strongest level against the greenback in about four months last week.

Nonetheless, experts said the peso remains sensitive to depreciation pressures from the expected moves of the US Federal Reserve.

On the other hand, the BSP said higher electricity rates and other agricultural commodities due to unfavorable weather conditions are the primary sources of upward price pressures during the month.

Two weeks ago, the Manila Electric Co. announced that power rates would be higher by P0.0327 per kilowatt-hour, at P11.6339 per kWh.

This is due to higher transmission charge for residential customers amid higher ancillary service charges.

The BSP said it would continue to take a measured approach in ensuring price stability conducive to a balanced and sustainable growth of the economy and employment.

The Philippine Statistics Authority will announce the latest headline inflation on Sept. 5.

The Monetary Board's next policy meeting is on Oct. 17, wherein it is anticipated to deliver another rate cut as a response to what the Fed is widely expected to do in September.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/08/31/2381710/bsp-sees-inflation-cooling-august>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DA lifts import ban on poultry products from California, South Dakota

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

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 05:28 PM August 31, 2024



MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) has lifted the [importation ban on wild and domestic birds](#), and other poultry products from California and South Dakota in the United States.

According to the memorandum order no. 37 signed by Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. on Tuesday, the department has allowed importation of domestic and wild birds, and products including poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs and semen from the two U.S states.

In the memorandum, the DA said that the ban was lifted after California recorded no outbreaks after June 14, 2024 while South Dakota did not have any outbreaks after May 29, 2024.

In January, the department imposed an importation ban on domestic and wild birds and poultry products from California due to outbreaks of avian influenza.

Meanwhile, the ban on the same products was issued to South Dakota in November 2023 after logging cases of bird flu.

The memorandum also states that an importation ban on poultry products could only be imposed if there are three or more counties affected by the influenza.

The DA, in a statement on Saturday, said that the poultry sector saw a 2 percent population increase in the first half, adding that the “Central Luzon reported the highest inventory of 33.68 million birds, followed by Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon] with 27.32 million, and Northern Mindanao with 25.87 million.”

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1978483/da-lifts-import-ban-on-bird-poultry-products-from-california-south-dakota>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Manila Bay fish catch now safe to eat – BFAR

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

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:44 AM August 31, 2024



DELAYED BUT ALMOST DONE Siphoning of industrial fuel from the MVTerranova started late but has already recovered more than 800,000 liters. — RICHARD A. REYES

Fish from all areas in Manila Bay are now safe to eat over a month after three vessels sunk and caused oil spills, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) said.

In its latest bulletin posted on Friday, BFAR officer in charge Isidro Velayo Jr. said fish caught in all areas in Manila Bay potentially affected by the incident “are now safe for human consumption” based on latest test results.

Velayo said all samples of fish, crustaceans, cephalopods and shellfish collected on Tuesday from Bacoor City, Cavite City and the towns of Noveleta, Rosario and Tanza have passed the third consecutive round of sensory evaluation.

The BFAR declared fish and other seafood products in Metro Manila, and the provinces of Bataan, Bulacan, Pampanga and Batangas, along with the municipalities

of Naic, Ternate, Kawit and Maragondon in Cavite, fit for human consumption in previous bulletins.

Following the sinking of MT Terranova off Limay, Bataan, last July 25, the BFAR conducted a series of monitoring activities and analyses to ensure the safety of consumption of fish and other seafood products from the fishing areas surrounding Manila Bay.

“Fish in an area can be declared safe for human consumption if samples analyzed have already passed three consecutive batches of sensory evaluation,” Velayo said earlier.

Estimates from BFAR showed that the average income loss is pegged at P346.69 per day or a total of P9.8 million as of Aug. 8.

Thus, the average income loss spanning eight fishing days totaled P78.69 million, although it clarified the figures were subject to verification with concerned government offices.

Spill effect

The oil spill incident last month affected the livelihood of 28,373 fisherfolk in parts of Metro Manila, and the provinces of Cavite and Bataan.

Of these, 26,090 fishers came from many parts of Cavite, and 1,976 fisherfolk from various parts of Bataan. Some hit 307 fishers in Parañaque and Las Piñas cities in Metro Manila were also affected.

BFAR spokesperson Nazario Briguera said early this month the BFAR would not recommend lifting the fishing ban in Cavite.

As of Thursday, milkfish (bangus) retailed from P135 to P240 per kilogram in Metro Manila markets, unchanged from a year ago, based on the Department of Agriculture’s price monitoring.

Tilapia was sold from P110 to P160 per kg, as opposed to the previous P120 to P160 per kg.

Local round scad (galunggong) ranged from P180 to P280 a kilo, also the same as last year’s while imported round scad is not available.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Coast Guard on Friday said it has collected over 900,000 liters of oil so far from its siphoning operations for sunken vessel MTKR Terranova in Bataan province.

Cleanup ops

In a statement, the PCG said a total of 903,265 liters have been collected from Terranova from Aug. 19 to 29, with their contracted salvor Harbor Star aiming to collect 200,000 liters daily.

Citing figures from Harbor Star, the amount of oil recovered is at 12,437 liters per hour, or over 298,000 liters per day.

As of this writing, the siphoning operation temporarily stopped to change tanks, according to the PCG. The agency's BRP Sindangan conducted aerial surveillance in the area while divers held an underwater survey.

Terranova, owned by Shogun Ships Co. Inc., capsized last July 25 some 3.6 nautical miles east off Lamao Point in Limay town while it was carrying 1.4 million liters of industrial fuel oil. One crew member died and 16 others were rescued.

A state of calamity was declared in the entire province of Bataan as well as in nine cities and towns in Cavite in the aftermath of the oil spill.

The PCG earlier warned that should the 1.4 million liters of fuel carried by the tanker leak out, it would be the worst oil spill in the country's history.

Aside from Terranova, another vessel, MV Mirola 1, ran aground off Mariveles, Bataan, on July 31, while MV Jason Bradley, which had a cargo of 5.5 tons of diesel, capsized off the coast of Bataan on July 23 due to bad weather.

The contracted salvor for these vessels, FES Challenger, continued resealing and patching operations of the vessel's manhole and air vents.

The Oil Spill Response Team patrolled the coastline and observed no oil sheen.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1978387/manila-bay-fish-catch-now-safe-to-eat-bfar>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

‘Malunggay’ for food security

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 02:14 AM August 31, 2024

Since food security is a key mandate of the Department of Agriculture (DA), promoting moringa (or “malunggay”) must also be its priority. This is important because of our alarming malnutrition problem.

Plant a moringa tree in your backyard, and you will have better food security. The DA must give moringa almost as much attention as rice. It is a low-cost, high-return initiative.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, “Moringa is a genus of shrubs and trees with multipurpose uses: its leaves, herbs and immature pods are consumed as vegetables. For small-scale farmers, it is a source of maternal and child nutrition, medicines and household income.”

Benefits

According to Food Science and Human Wellness, “moringa provides seven times more vitamin C than orange, 10 times more vitamin A than carrots, 12 times more potassium than bananas and 25 times more iron than spinach. The fact that moringa is easily cultivated makes it a sustainable remedy for malnutrition. It is used to treat malnutrition in children younger than 3 years. About six spoonfuls of leaf powder can meet a woman’s daily iron and calcium requirements during pregnancy.”

The last point is especially important. Based on available data from Save the Children, childhood stunting is so severe, we are now ranked ninth in the world. It is costing us P328 billion a year.

Moringa addresses not just stunting.

According to Dr. Atli Arnarson in his article “6 Science-Based Health Benefits of Moringa,” it is rich in antioxidants, which act against free radicals in our bodies. High levels of free radicals cause oxidative stress, which is associated with chronic diseases like heart disease and Type 2 diabetes. Other moringa benefits Arnarson identified included lowering blood sugar levels, reducing inflammations and lowering cholesterol.

Private and government action

In the private sector, Moringaling Philippines Foundation, Inc. has organized six congresses on the topic. It continues to conduct trainings and seminars nationwide. According to former managing director Jayson Simon, for a P70,000 investment, you can plant 4,000 trees in one hectare. For the fresh leaves alone, this would earn P320,000 annually. If a processing investment is added, it can yield more than P1 million.

In government, Agriculture Undersecretary Cheryl Caballero is addressing the moringa value chain.

Last August 24, Caballero went to Rosales, Pangasinan, to establish a model nursery using the hub-and-spoke approach. The main nursery will be in Rosales, with hubs in eastern and western Pangasinan. Both plantation and household growers will now get high-quality seedlings for growing as well as processing.

On that same day, Caballero also made arrangements with a processor who is already exporting moringa oil, capsules, tea, and dried leaves to the United States, Europe and Japan.

The DA, with a necessary significant budget increase (for high-value crops) that Congress should approve in its current deliberations, must now prioritize moringa. The result will be food security, job creation and a grateful and healthier nation. **INQ** *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/477462/malunggay-for-food-security>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DA starts hog shots in Batangas

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:12 AM August 31, 2024



Personnel of the Department of Agriculture (DA)-Central Luzon vaccinate a pig against African swine fever during the distribution of hogs to affected raisers in San Simon town, Pampanga province recently. (Photo courtesy of DA-Central Luzon)

The Department of Agriculture (DA) aims to inoculate hogs in areas with active cases of African swine fever (ASF) as it began the vaccination of pigs in Lobo town in Batangas province.

For the initial government-controlled vaccination held on Friday, doses of ASF vaccines were administered to 41 hogs from two farms in Barangay Malapad na Parang in Lobo town.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said a controlled trial of Vietnam-developed live vaccines will be conducted in Lobo, the ground zero of swine fever resurgence in the country, before moving to nearby areas.

De Mesa, also the DA's spokesperson, said the 10,000 doses of ASF live vaccines secured from AVAC Vietnam via emergency procurement will be given to hogs "in a matter of weeks."

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Constante Palabrica said inoculated pigs will be observed to check their conditions. The DA carried out the controlled vaccine administration to curb the spread of the animal disease five years after the country's first ASF outbreak.

Palabrica said developing hog immunity is critical to limiting the spread of the virus that has resulted in the death of millions of hogs and multibillion pesos in losses since 2019.

Some 150,000 doses, also from Vietnam, are expected to arrive in the country next week, although it has not yet been approved internationally, according to a report from Vietnam state media. —*JORDEENE B. LAGARE*

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1978389/da-starts-hog-shots-in-batangas>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DA begins controlled trial of ASF vaccines in Batangas town

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

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 06:21 PM August 30, 2024



FILE PHOTO: The Department of Agriculture (DA) begins the controlled trial of the African Swine Fever (ASF) vaccines at Lobo town in Batangas province on Friday, August 30, 2024. INQUIRER FILES

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) started Friday, August 30, the controlled trial of the African Swine Fever (ASF) vaccines in Lobo, Batangas.

The DA considered this vaccination program as a “step forward” to combat the highly contagious viral disease of pigs, which has already affected the livelihoods of hog raisers in the country.

“DA’s new strategy includes using controlled and monitored vaccinations to help pigs reach 25 weeks and attain 100 kg, providing a new approach to tackling the disease,” it said in a statement.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary for Swine and Poultry Constante Palabrica, who is also a doctor of veterinary medicine, underscored the importance of the vaccination program for the hog population.

“ASF has severely affected both large integrators and backyard farms. While larger farms can invest in biosecurity measures, 60% of our hog population in backyard farms struggle with insufficient funding for effective protection,” Palabrica said in the same statement.

“We must embrace innovative solutions like this vaccine to improve outcomes for our hog industry,” he added.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., meanwhile, said the vaccination program for hogs manifests the government’s support to the industry.

“This effort highlights DA’s commitment to safeguard the swine industry and enhance national food security amid the ASF crisis. We’re dedicated to support hog farmers and ensure the sustainability of our agriculture sector,” he said.

The DA said it allotted P300 million for the procurement of 600,000 ASF vaccines. On Monday, 10,000 ASF vaccines from Vietnam arrived in the country. It is, however, unclear as of writing if the doses that arrived earlier this week are part of the planned total ASF vaccine procurement of the DA.

On August 12, Batangas province was placed under a state of calamity due to the spread of the swine fever. As of August 9, at least 40 barangays in Batangas’ Lipa City, and towns of Calatagan, Lian, Lobo, Rosario, San Juan, Talisay, and Tuy reported ASF cases.

Lobo town reported that 16 of its 26 barangays logged a sum of 8,818 hog deaths as of July 31 due to ASF, which resulted in livelihood losses of P103,338,000.

The DA has set up livestock checkpoints across Luzon to contain the spread of the ASF to ensure that no dead pigs or animals will be transferred from one place to another.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1978280/da-asf-vaccines-batangas>

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<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1978280/da-asf-vaccines-batangas>

REMATE:

August inflation inaasahang babagal sa 3.2%-4%

August 31, 2024 14:52



MANILA, Philippines- Inaasahang babagal ang inflation ngayong Agosto sa gitna ng mas mababang presyo ng produktong petrolyo at iba pang agricultural products na naobserbahan sa nasabing panahon, base sa Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) nitong Biyernes.

Sinabi ng BSP na inaasahan nitong ang inflation— rate ng pagtaas ng presyo ng mga bilihan at serbisyo— ay papalo “within the range of 3.2% to 4%.”

Naitala ang inflation sa 4.4% noong Hulyo.

Sinabi ng BSP na ang mas mataas na electricity rates at presyo ng agricultural commodities, dahil sa masamang panahon, ang pangunahing mitsa ng upward price pressures para sa buwang ito.

Subalit, ang mga salik na ito ay “expected to be offset by lower domestic oil prices as well as lower rice, fish, and meat prices along with the peso appreciation,” anito.

“Going forward, the Monetary Board will continue to take a measured approach to ensuring price stability conducive to balanced and sustainable growth of the economy and employment,” base sa BSP.

Nakatak dang ipalabas ng Philippine Statistics Authority ang opisyal na datos sa inflation para sa buwan ng Agosto sa Setyembre

5. RNT/SA

<https://remate.ph/august-inflation-inaasahang-babagal-sa-3-2-4/>

REMATE:

BFAR: Isdang nahuli mula sa lahat ng parte ng Manila Bay ligtas kainin

August 31, 2024 13:14



MANILA, Philippines- Ligtas nang kainin ang mga isda at iba pang seafood products mula sa fishing areas na nakapalibot sa Manila Bay na posibleng apektado ng oil spill sa Limay, Bataan noong Hulyo 25, 2024, base sa Department of Agriculture–Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR).

Sinabi ng BFAR na ligtas na ang lahat ng sample ng isda, crustaceans, cephalopods, at shellfish na nakolekta noong Agosto 27 mula sa Bacoor City, Cavite City, Noveleta, Rosario, at Tanza.

Ito ay matapos magsagawa ng serye ng monitoring activities at pag-aanalisa upang matiyak na ligtas kainin ang mga isda at iba pang seafood products mula sa fishing areas na pumapalibot sa Manila Bay.

Samantala, idineklara nang ligtas kainin ang mga isda at iba pang seafood products sa mga lalawigan ng Bataan, Bulacan, Pampanga, Batangas, at Metro Manila, maging sa mga munisipalidad ng Naic, Ternate, Kawit, at Maragondon sa probinsya ng Cavite.

“Bulletin No. 4 dated August 13, 2024, and Bataan Oil Spill Bulletin No. 5 dated August 22, 2024, respectively, remain safe for human consumption based on the result of the latest analyses conducted by the DA-BFAR,” batay sa press statement.

“Based on the stated results, the public is therefore informed that fish in ALL areas in Manila Bay potentially affected by the oil spill are now safe for human consumption,” dagdag pa rito. **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/bfar-isdang-nahuli-mula-sa-lahat-ng-parte-ng-manila-bay-ligtas-kainin/>

REMATE:

ASF vaccination sa Batangas umarangkada!

August 30, 2024 17:20



MANILA, Philippines- Sinimulan ng pamahalaan nitong Biyernes ang controlled trial ng Vietnam-made African swine fever (ASF) vaccine bilang bahagi ng pagsisikap na labanan ang pagkalat ng sakit sa hayop.

Sinabi ng Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Animal Industry (DA-BAI) na sinimulan ng mga tauhan at opisyal ang pagtuturok ng mga baboy sa Lobo, Batangas — munisipalidad na may isa sa pinakamaraming kaso ng ASF.

Ayon sa ahensya, saklaw ng ASF vaccination rollout ang pagbabakuna sa malulusog na mga baboy upang mapigilan ang pagkalat ng sakit, na nakaaapekto sa local hog sector mula nang matukoy ito noong 2019.

Sinabi ng DA-BAI na malulusog na baboy lamang ang babakunahan.

Naglaan ang DA ng P350 milyon para sa pagbili ng halos 600,000 doses ng ASF vaccine para sa trial.

Boluntaryo ang pagpapabakuna, kung saan prayoridad ang small hog raisers sa mga lugar na may mataas na kaso ng ASF.

“ASF has severely affected both large integrators and backyard farms. While larger farms can invest in biosecurity measures, 60% of our hog population in backyard farms struggle with insufficient funding for effective protection,” ayon kay DA Assistant Secretary for Swine and Poultry Constante Palabrica.

“We must embrace innovative solutions like this vaccine to improve outcomes for our hog industry,” dagdag ni Palabrica.

“This effort highlights DA’s commitment to safeguard the swine industry and enhance national food security amid the ASF crisis. We’re dedicated to support hog farmers and ensure the sustainability of our agriculture sector,” wika naman ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/asf-vaccination-sa-batangas-umarangkada/>

STALK MARKET | Vegetable traders try barter to tackle food security issue

Ada Pelonia
August 31, 2024



A farmer hauls a cart brimming with cauliflower at the Nueva Vizcaya Agricultural Terminal

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BAMBANG, Nueva Vizcaya—Traders in T-shirts here engage in the “stalk” market using something that lands on people’s plates or trash bins: herbaceous plants like carrots and cabbages.

And by doing so, they may be helping the province, even the country, attain food security.

One of these traders is Evangeline Ordonia, who sits, almost daily, behind a worn-out and scratched wooden desk inside one of the busiest agricultural trading posts in the country: the Nueva Vizcaya Agricultural Terminal (NVAT).

According to Ordonia, traders like her have always been saddled with the problem of wastage, especially during an oversupply of agricultural commodities. The latter leads to depressed prices that prompts her to make a decision painful to many capitalists: sell low or throw.

Sadly, she said she's forced to opt for the latter.

“Madalas po [kailangan itapon yung gulay dahil sa oversupply]. Pagka biglang bumaba yung presyo, hindi na mabibili [I often have to throw away vegetables when there's an oversupply. When the prices suddenly drop, I can no longer sell them],” Ordonia told the BusinessMirror.

This problem is shared by 61-year-old farmer Melania Runas, the go-to person by other farmers from Tinoc, Ifugao—a minimum 3-hour drive to the trading post. The farmers, Runas said, would ask her to sell their produce on their behalf. Her farm, just beside her one-story concrete house, is 10 minutes away from the NVAT.

“Noon na-experience namin yung 10 sako ng carrots dinala ng farmer pero hindi namin mabenta kasi murang-mura nga; at saka yung cabbage na almost 800 kilos pero hindi na nabenta kasi lusaw na siya [One time a farmer brought 10 sacks of carrots, which we couldn't sell due to low prices. There were also almost 800 kilos of cabbages that we couldn't sell because they were already spoiled],” Runas told this newspaper.



A Rise Against Hunger Philippines staff member sorts plastic bags for repacking produce inside the organization's warehouse. ADA PELONIA

Archaic method

A study commissioned by the Global FoodBanking Network (GFBN) revealed that of the estimated 500,000 kilos of fruits and vegetables brought to the NVAT every day, about half goes to waste with much of it dumped by the wayside.

This occurs due to lack of demand, seasonal oversupply and products that fail to meet the size or shape requirements for marketability, according to the Chicago, Illinois, US-headquartered non-profit organization.

Data from the 2023 "State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World" (SOFI) report by the Food and Agriculture Organization showed that 44.7 percent of the Philippine population suffers moderate or severe food insecurity.

In a country grappling with such problem, food wastage that stems at a critical juncture in the supply chain poses a concern.

A local food bank, the Rise Against Hunger Philippines (RAHP), decided to take on the challenge.

But unlike technological ways urged to bolster farmers' capacity to reduce wasted produce, the organization banked on an archaic market method: barter.

The RAHP spearheaded the first food bank in the country in 2019, recognized by the GFBN which they are a member of.

Upon receiving a \$150,000 grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, the RAHP jumpstarted the food bank project at the NVAT where farmers and traders can barter their surplus produce with shelf-stable goods to prevent food wastage.



Assorted vegetable packs prepared for distribution to children at Solano South Central School. ADA PELONIA

Doing business

RAHP Executive Director Jose Mariano B. “Jomar” Fleras told the BusinessMirror that the organization recovers the vegetables, which are “normally just thrown away,” so “they can be put to better use.”

The vegetables are “recovered” at the RAHP’s warehouse, located at the far end of the 6.7-hectare NVAT. Bags of chayote and red plastic food crates of squash flank a male RAHP staff member who separates plastic bags for repacking of the produce.

Beside the warehouse stood the RAHP’s food bank, where a rack showcased canned goods, bottled juice, tubes of toothpaste and shampoo bottles. Sacks of rice lean against the walls. Half-opened boxes of instant noodles sit on the lowest shelf.

As muscle-toned men carry red crates filled with produce to and from her stall inside the NVAT, Ordonia said she would bring to the food bank sweet potato, squash or sayote she considered as surplus.

Runas also said she would bring produce to the RAHP warehouse to be exchanged for non-perishable goods since these “could not be sold anymore.”

Taking off her straw hat, she said they barter the produce if the prices are low. Then she gives the traded items—rice and cans of sardines—to farmers from Ifugao.

Anchored on capacity

ACCORDING to Fleras, traders and farmers like Ordonia and Runas could trade their unsellable vegetables based on the fair market value per kilo of an agricultural commodity. The amount would be bartered with shelf-stable goods based on their respective suggested retail prices.

“Hindi sila uuwing luhaan [They won’t go home dejected],” he said. “They get something out of their produce.”

Fleras said the RAHP aims to “recover” 125,000 kilos of vegetables monthly since the organization made the barter system operational in September last year.

He explained that sometimes they would cross the threshold and rescue even more vegetables from the trash bin. However, Fleras said, this was not always the case as they sometimes are unable to reach their monthly target.

“But the target is to be able to rescue that much,” he said adding one of the reasons for this is anchored on RAHP’s capacity.

“Our capacity is very small to be able to rescue more,” Fleras said. He noted that farmers would sometimes trade a thousand kilos of tomatoes but the RAHP could only get a hundred kilos.

“We only get about one percent [of the traded produce] kasi masyadong marami,” he said. To illustrate, Fleras said “this one percent that we’re able to rescue [and] recover are then given to 5,000 schoolchildren.”

Personal distribution

ACCORDING to Fleras, the RAHP could not get just one type of produce, like tomatoes, since they need to come up with a menu that the families of schoolchildren could make a meal out of the packed vegetables that households receive.

Some of these children are from Solano South Central School, a 31-minute ride from the NVAT.

Standing in front of a long table, some of the children eyed a truck moving towards the middle of the school's covered court. After all the plastic bags containing squash, cabbages and chayote were placed on the table, RAHP staff gives one to each children.

According to Fleras, the Solano South Central School is one of ten schools identified by the Department of Education (DepEd) as beneficiaries for RAHP's program. He said that the agricultural produce the organization rescued would be given regularly to 500 children per school.

Fleras added that each child is given about 3 kilos of different kinds of vegetables.

“Kami mismo nag-distribute together with the teachers. We actually see that the students are getting the package of vegetables [The teachers and our staff personally ensure that each child receive the package of vegetables].”

Bid to reduce

THE RAHP is not alone in addressing food wastage.

Since the NVAT is also a facility for the trade in fruits, the corporation managing the facility would fully operate a juice processing factory by January next year.

According to NVAT General Manager Gilbert L. Cumila, the factory would be processing lemons, pineapples and tomatoes into juice in their bid to reduce food waste.

Cumila said they plan to engage with farmers who will separate fruits with cosmetic issues—such as either too small, asymmetrical, or have blemishes—that would be processed into juices.

“We will organize the farmers na sa farm pa lang, ihiwalay na yung papunta sa juice. Yung mga small size, yung mga tabingi, yung may peklat [We will organize the farmers to separate the fruits that would be processed into juice such as those that are blemished, too small and asymmetrical],” the NVAT Inc. executive told the BusinessMirror.

Cumila explained that cosmetic issues drag down prices of commodities. He cited as example tomatoes that, he added, tend to surge in supply.

“Kung merong juice processing [factory] to absorb this, makakatulong ’yan sa pag-maintain ng magandang presyo [A juice processing factory would help in maintaining a good price for the commodity],” he said.

A report by the Commission on Audit in 2022 noted that a multi-fruit and vegetable juice processing facility was completed at a cost of P15.433 million.

Marketing strategy

ACCORDING to Cumila, their initial target was to sell the products around Nueva Vizcaya and coordinate with local government units (LGUs) through the “buy local, support local” marketing strategy.

“[Yung juice factory] ang isang nakita naming solution para makatulong ma-solve yung oversupply at ma-minimize na yung maitapon dito na hindi mabenta [The juice factory is a solution we found to help solve the problem of oversupply and minimize the surplus produce that can’t be sold].”

The RAHP and the NVAT Inc. face a juggernaut task as Nueva Vizcaya, some six hours north of Manila, is next to Benguet as the largest producer of vegetables in Northern Luzon. The NVAT itself provides market channels not only for the province but also for Benguet, Ifugao, Isabela, Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan and Quirino provinces.

The RAHP and the NVAT Inc., indeed, have no time to waste.

Image credits: [ADA PELONIA](#), [BM Graphics/Ed Davad](#)

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/31/stalk-market-vegetable-traders-try-barter-to-tackle-food-security-issue/>

Lower oil, rice prices slow August inflation

Cai U. Ordinario
August 31, 2024



Morning market scene in Barangay San Roque, Parola, Cainta, Rizal, where residents navigate fluctuating prices. Despite inflationary pressures, recent declines in oil and rice prices offer some relief, though higher electricity rates and the cost of meat still weigh heavily on household budgets.

Lower oil and rice prices offset the impact of more expensive electricity rates on inflation in August, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

BSP said inflation may have averaged 3.2 to 4 percent in August 2024, which is within the government's targets for the year.

Apart from rice and oil, BSP said prices of fish and meat as well as the appreciation of the Philippine peso helped slow down the increase in commodity prices.

“Going forward, the Monetary Board will continue to take a measured approach in ensuring price stability conducive to balanced and sustainable growth of the economy and employment,” BSP said.

The upward inflation pressures in August, BSP said, include the higher prices for agricultural commodities brought about by unfavorable weather conditions.

It can be noted that the government recently decided to reduce rice tariffs to 15 percent from the initial 35 percent to bring down the cost of the country's staple.

Rice inflation, since January 2024, has been at or above 20 percent. In July 2024, rice inflation was at 20.7 percent.

The slower August inflation outlook is consistent with the expectations of the Monetary Board that inflation would trend downward. This was a significant factor that prompted the Monetary Board to deliver a 25-basis-point reduction in policy rates to 6.25 percent on August 16.

The BSP earlier said headline inflation is projected to trend downward to within the government's 2- to 4-percent target range despite the uptick in July.

However, the risk-adjusted inflation forecast for 2024 was reduced to 3.3 percent. The baseline forecast for 2024 was adjusted to 3.4 percent from the initial 3.3 percent.

The risk-adjusted forecast for 2025 now stands at 2.9 percent. This is also lower than the baseline estimate of 3.1 percent, which was adjusted downward from 3.15 percent.

For 2026, the BSP said its risk-adjusted forecast was pegged at 3.3 percent. This is higher than the 3.2-percent baseline estimated by the Central Bank (See: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/16/bsp-cuts-policy-rate-by-25-bps-ahead-of-fed/>).

Image credits: [Bernard Testa](#)

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/08/31/lower-oil-rice-prices-slow-august-inflation/>