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**MANILA BULLETIN:**

## **Five pigs die after ASF vaccination in Batangas, DA says death due to preexisting conditions**

**BY JEL SANTOS**

Sep 14, 2024 06:35 PM



The deaths of the five pigs in Lobo, Batangas which were inoculated with the anti-African Swine Flu (ASF) vaccine were due to their preexisting conditions, the Department of Agriculture (DA) clarified on Saturday, Sept. 14.

“May namatay nga lima [na baboy], pero because mayroon silang precondition na hindi sinabi doon sa nag-a-administer doon sa Lobo (Five pigs did die, but it was because they had preexisting conditions that were not disclosed to the ones administering the vaccine in Lobo),” said Assistant Secretary Arnel De Mesa, the spokesperson of the DA, said during a forum.

According to De Mesa, the other pigs inoculated with the ASF vaccine are now healthy.

“Normally kasi after 14 days they are developing about 40 to 50 percent noong antibodies and then after 28 to 30 days they will be developing 90 percent already of the antibodies (Normally, after 14 days, they develop about 40 to 50 percent of the antibodies, and then after 28 to 30 days, they will have developed 90 percent of the antibodies),” he said.

De Mesa said that the fact the first group exposed to ASF is still alive and in good health suggests the vaccine is working well so far.

He added that they are optimistic the vaccine will continue to be effective throughout the entire three-month exposure period.

Before being inoculated with the ASF vaccine, the DA spokesperson said that pigs must first be negative for ASF; second, they should be free from any illness because the pigs must be healthy.

“Pangatlo, kailangan mayroong magandang biosecurity, at least doon sa backyards/small-hold farms natin, mayroong bakod man lang na hindi makakatawid ang anumang hayop o tao na pupunta kasi ASF is delikado rin na virus. So, iyon lang iyong mga condition namin; apparently iyong nauna nga we were not properly informed (Third, there must be good biosecurity measures, at least for backyard or smallholder farms, such as having a fence to prevent any animal or person from crossing because ASF is a dangerous virus. So, those are our conditions; apparently, we were not properly informed beforehand),” he went on.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. had earlier ordered the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) to extend the controlled testing of the ASF vaccine to more areas across Luzon, as well as in red zones in the Visayas and Mindanao.

On Aug. 30, the agency started the vaccination of hogs against ASF in Lobo, Batangas.

The agriculture department prioritized vaccinating small-hold and backyard hog-raisers in Batangas, said De Mesa. The DA had raised indemnification for diseased pigs surrendered for culling, raising the compensation ceiling to ₱12,000 for breeders from the previous maximum of ₱5,000.

The government has authorized ₱300 million to purchase 600,000 doses of the ASF vaccine from Vietnam, plus an additional ₱50 million for inoculation expenditures.

It can be recalled that ASF returned to the Philippines in 2019, spread to more than 3,800 barangays across 53 provinces by mid-2022. This resulted in an almost 25 percent decrease in local pork output from June to October 2021 compared to the same period in 2020.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/9/14/five-pigs-die-after-asf-vaccination-in-batangas-da-says-death-due-to-preexisting-conditions>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# New DA agri program to protect farmers from debt trap

**BY RAYMUND ANTONIO**

Sep 14, 2024 02:32 PM

Farmers will no longer need to rely on loan sharks or bad loans to make ends meet as the Department of Agriculture (DA) would provide up to P60,000 per farmer per cropping season, DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said on Saturday, Sept. 14.



*(MB file photo)*

The official, who is a spokesperson for DA, announced during the Quezon City news forum that the DA launched the “Agri-Puhunan at Pantawid Program” in time for the celebration of President Marcos’ 67th birthday on Friday.

The program is a credit facility that will allow farmers registered in the Registry System for Basic Sector in Agriculture to avail around P60,000 in additional government subsidies every cropping season.

“Ang pangunahin dito is makakawala sila doon sa mga loan sharks. Imagine mo, sa 5-6 (Primary to this is they will get out of those loan sharks. Imagine, in a 5-6 [scheme]) that’s 20 percent per month – ito one percent sa isang cropping season o sa kalahating taon ay two percent per annum, halos hindi ramdam ito ng ating mga magsasaka (this one is just one percent in a cropping season or in half a year, that’s two percent per annum, our farmers won’t notice

this already),” the DA official explained.

Describing the new program as a “great opportunity,” De Mesa said that historically, farmers register a 95 percent paying rate under these kinds of credit facilities.

The “Agri-Puhunan at Pantawid Program” will be available on top of the existing subsidies, such as fertilizers, machineries, and water, provided by the government.

The two components of the credit facility are: P28,000 for the production inputs and P8,000 per month, or P32,000 in total, for the whole cropping season. This will equal to P60,000 per cropping season.

“So, hindi na mamumroblema iyong ating mga magsasaka kung saan sila kukuha ng additional na panggastusin nila, additional na pera para pambili ng fertilizer or additional inputs doon sa kanilang sakahan (our problems will not worry anymore about where they can get additional allowances, additional funding to buy fertilizer or additional inputs for their farms),” De Mesa said.

The DA official stressed that the new program aims to encourage farmers to plant more during the cropping season because the government will provide not only funding, but materials that would help the farmers.

“With these credits of worth, mas maiengganyo silang magtanim dahil mayroon silang kasiguruhan na—hindi sila mawawalan ng puhunan eh at saka iyong kanila ngang pantawid na habang hinihintay na ma-harvest iyong palay, mayroon pa silang gastusin na (they will be encouraged to plant more because they are sure that—they won’t lose their capital and they have help while waiting for the harvest, they have) ₱8,000 additional every month,” he added.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/9/14/new-da-agri-program-to-protect-farmers-from-debt-trap>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# 'Abot-kaya everywhere': Romualdez calls for wider availability of affordable rice

**BY ELLSON QUISMORIO**

Sep 14, 2024 01:40 AM

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## **AT A GLANCE**

- House Speaker Martin Romualdez has urged the Department of Agriculture (DA) and other concerned agencies to expand the availability of cheap rice all over the country through Kadiwa centers.



House Speaker Martin Romualdez (Speaker's office)

He made this call during the launch of the Bagong Bayaning Magsasaka (BBM) Rice program—a partnership between the National Irrigation Authority (NIA) and irrigation association members—aimed at providing cheap rice to vulnerable sectors of society.

Romualdez--known as "Mr. Rice"--wants to ensure that more Filipinos benefit from affordable prices of the staple grain.

As the guest of honor and speaker at the launch, held Friday, Sept. 13 at the NIA Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems (UPRIIS) Gymnasium in Cabanatuan City, Romualdez commended the program's potential to address the country's food security challenges and lower the cost of the staple for millions of Filipino families.

The Speaker also praised the Department of Agriculture (DA) for heeding his call to extend the reach of Kadiwa centers, which sell rice at an affordable price of only P29 per kilo, allowing more consumers—particularly those in need—to access cheap rice.

“Today’s launch of the Bagong Bayaning Magsasaka Rice highlights the unwavering commitment of this Administration to do right by the Filipino, as well as the power of united action to achieve what others thought was impossible,” said Romualdez, leader of the 300-plus strong House of Representatives.

“Gaya ng sinabi ng ating ahal na Pangulo sa kanyang nakaraang SONA, ang lahat ng tagumpay sa ekonomiya ay walang kabuluhan kung hindi ito nadadama ng ating mga kababayan. Ang bigas na abot-kaya ang presyo ay mithiin ng ating mahal na Pangulo para sa bawat pamilyang Pilipino,” he added.

(Like what our beloved President said during his recent State of the Nation Address (SONA), all of our economic victories are for naught if our people don't feel them. It is our beloved President's dream for the people to have affordable rice.)

Romualdez extended his appreciation to all those involved in the BBM Rice program, particularly the farmers and irrigation associations, for their role in helping the Marcos administration bring down the price of rice.

He was joined at the event by Senior Deputy Speaker, Pampanga 3rd district Rep. Aurelio “Dong” Gonzales, Jr., and House Appropriations Committee Chairman and Ako Bicol Party-list Rep. Elizaldy Co.

Sept. 13 was the 67th birthday of President Marcos.

In his earlier market visits in Metro Manila, Romualdez confirmed the availability of rice priced as low as P42 per kilo. He then urged the DA to establish Kadiwa Centers in every market across the country to better serve Filipino consumers.

Looking ahead, Romualdez expressed optimism that the combination of the upcoming harvest season and the expected arrival of rice imports would further drive down the price of rice in the coming months.

“Indeed, much can be achieved when we work together. Let our achievement today be another stepping stone for higher and greater aspirations, for the benefit of the Filipino people,” concluded the Leyte 1st district congressman.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/9/14/abot-kaya-everywhere-romualdez-calls-for-wider-availability-of-affordable-rice>



**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Fisherfolk group pushes for price control to curb rising cost of retail fish

BY JEL SANTOS

Sep 13, 2024 04:08 PM



(MB FILE PHOTO)

A fisherfolk group has asked the government to implement price control to regulate the retail price of fish amid skyrocketing cost in the market.

In a statement released on Friday, Sept. 13, the fishers' group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) said the unreasonable surge in the prices of major fish in the market is due to traders and middlemen who control pricing from the farmgate to retail.

Ronnel Arambulo, the vice chairperson of Pamalakaya, said such is a “failure of the government to directly purchase the fisherfolk's products at a reasonable price and sell them affordably in the markets.”

“Dapat magkaroon ng hakbang ang Department of Agriculture (DA) para ibalik ang makatwirang presyo ng isda at iba pang produktong agrikultural sa palengke (The Department of Agriculture [DA] should take action to restore the reasonable prices of fish and other agricultural products in the market),” he said.

The fishers' group noted that the government can impose price control, as stated under the Republic Act 7581 which provisions Automatic Price Control "against illegal manipulation, including profiteering or the sale of offering of sale of any basic necessity or prime commodity at a price grossly in excess of its true worth."

The Manila Bulletin has requested a comment from the DA regarding Pamalakaya's suggestion of "price control" on fish, but the agency has yet to respond.

Retail prices of fish, according to Pamalakaya, "never reflect" the farmgate prices, as fish traders procure them to small fishers at a very low price.

"For instance, the farmgate price of galunggong in Zambales province is around ₱100-₱120/kilogram, or more than 80 percent lower compared to its usual retail price at ₱220/kilogram," the fishers' group stated.

Pamalakaya's market price monitoring this week recorded price hikes for galunggong at ₱260/kilogram (up from ₱180-₱220), tilapia at ₱150/kilogram (up from ₱100-₱120), and bangus at ₱240/kilogram (up from ₱200).

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/9/13/fisherfolk-group-pushes-for-price-control-to-curb-rising-cost-of-retail-fish-1>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Marcos wishes for better agriculture sector anew on his birthday

BY BETHEENA UNITE

Sep 13, 2024 12:22 PM

Like [last year](#), President Marcos is once again wishing for a better agriculture sector for the country on his 67th birthday.



**President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. (Mark Balmores)**

In an interview after launching a credit facility for farmers in Nueva Ecija, Marcos said he wishes for the program to further expand to other parts of the country in order to help farmers access necessary funds for their agricultural needs.

He was also wishing for sustained coordination between agencies to undertake more programs like the "Agri-Puhunan at Pantawid" Program, which Marcos unveiled in Guimba, Nueva Ecija on his birthday Friday, Sept. 13.

"Maparami ito na talagang lahat ng bawat magsasaka sa Pilipinas maramdaman itong programang ito at lahat ng programa na ginagawa natin sa Department of Agriculture (That this program will further expand so that all farmers in the Philippines can benefit from this and from all the programs of the Department of Agriculture)," Marcos responded when asked what is his birthday wish.

"Lahat ng ginagawa natin sa...pagtulong ng DBP, lahat ng mga financing institution, lahat po iyong buong sistema ng agrikultura, ay, ang birthday wish ko, mabuo na natin para maganda ang takbo ng sektor ng agrikultura para gumanda ang buhay ng bawat magsasaka ng kanilang pamilya at ng bawat Pilipino (My birthday wish is that all programs that we are implementing in cooperation with the Development Bank of the Philippines, all financing institutions, the entire system of agriculture would improve for a better agriculture sector for the benefit of all farmers, their families, and every Filipino)," Marcos added.

In his speech during the unveiling of the "Agri-Puhunan at Pantawid" Program, Marcos hailed farmers, telling them that being with them on his birthday made it more special.

"Kayo ang bumubuhay sa ating bayan. Sa inyo nagmumula ang ating kasaganahan. Sa inyong mga kamay nakasalalay ang seguridad ng pagkain ng ating bansa (You are keeping the nation alive. Our prosperity comes from you. The food security of our country is in your hands)," he said.

"Nararapat lamang na gunitain natin at kilalanin natin ang inyong kabayanihan at bigyang-pugay ang inyong walang kapantay na kahusayan at kasipagan (It is only right to honor and acknowledge your heroism and hail your unmatched skill and hardwork)," he added.

### **Low-interest credit facility for farmers**

Acknowledging that farmers oftentimes run to financing organizations that offer high interest to help them purchase agricultural needs, the President led the launching of the "Agri-Puhunan at Pantawid" Program.

"Wala nang pangambang maloloko sa presyo. Wala nang alalahanin sa kakulangan ng pondo (You will no longer have to worry about fake prices. You will no longer have to worry about lack of funds)," the President said.

The Chief Executive said that the DA and DBP have secured the initial P3 billion funding to provide a combination of low-interest loans and subsistence allowances for farmers.

According to the DA, the program aims to increase farmers' productivity and income by providing low-cost credit, financial assistance, and a ready market for their harvests.

For the dry cropping season (2024-2025), it aims to offer credit facilities to 50,000 hectares of rice farmers and cooperatives, starting with established cooperatives under the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems (UPRIIS), Magat River Integrated Irrigation System (MARIIS), and NIA systems serving the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

### **Gov't shoulders medical bills**

As part of his birthday celebration, Marcos announced that the government will be shouldering the medical bills of patients in Level 3 public hospitals in the country.

"Hindi pa po nagtatapos dito. Layunin din po namin na matulungan ang ating mga kababayan na may pangangailangang medikal (This does not end here. We also aim to help our countrymen in their medical needs)," Marcos said.

"Kaya po sa araw na ito, sasagutin po natin ang lahat ng bayarin ng mga pasyente sa lahat ng pampublikong Level 3 hospital sa bansa katulad ng Dr. Paulino Garcia Memorial Hospital dito

sa inyo (So today, we are shouldering all bills of patients in all public Level 3 hospitals like the Dr. Paulino Garcia Memorial Hospital here)," Marcos added.

"Kaya't masarap itong birthday ko. Hindi lang ako maraming regalo, marami rin akong naireregalò. Ito 'yung blowout (My birthday is good. I am not the only one getting gifts, I am also giving away many gifts. This is my treat to you)," the President further said.

### **Condoning of agrarian beneficiaries' debts**

On his birthday, Marcos also led the first-ever distribution of Certificates of Condonation with Release of Mortgage (COCRoM) to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in Central Luzon.

According to Malacañang, a total of 9,832 COCRoMs were distributed, relieving around 6,000 ARBs from paying their loans amounting to P277 million and cover 10,450 hectares of agricultural lands.

To recall, Marcos signed the New Agrarian Emancipation Act (NAEA) in July 2023 which condones all loans, including interests, penalties and surcharges incurred by ARBs from land awarded under Presidential Decree (PD) 27, RA No. 6657 and RA No. 9700.

Around 600,000 farmers are said to benefit from the law, covering more than 1.7 million hectares of agrarian reform lands nationwide.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/9/13/marcos-wishes-for-better-agriculture-sector-anew-on-his-birthday>

# Retail price of fish up by P40/kilo

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

September 14, 2024 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The retail price of fish increased by as much as P40 per kilo as a fishers' group asked the Department of Agriculture to immediately intervene and address the issue.

Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas vice chairman Ronnel Arambulo said that based on their monitoring, the retail price of galunggong or round scad has reached P260 per kilo compared to its previous price of P180 to P220. Tilapia has reached P150 per kilo from its previous price of P100 to P120 and bangus or milkfish, P240 per kilo from its previous P200.

“The spike in the retail price of major fish is unreasonable. The traders and middlemen controlled the pricing from the farmgate to the retail price,” Arambulo said.

He noted that the farmgate price of galunggong in Zambales is only P100 to P120 per kilo or more than 80 percent lower than the retail price of P260 per kilo.

He added that the government should directly buy from fishermen to ensure that the fish will be sold at affordable prices and that the imposition of price control under Republic Act 7581 or Automatic Price Control should be pushed to address manipulation and profiteering.

Rice varieties being mixed

Meanwhile, farmers' group Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura (SINAG) bewailed the disappearance of regular-milled rice in the markets, saying it is mixed with other varieties for greater profits.

“We visited the markets and even the vendors were surprised when it was claimed that cheaper rice was available. We did not see P45 (per kilo) or P42 (per kilo). The retail price of rice remains high at P52, P55 going to P60,” SINAG executive director Jayson Cainglet said.

According to him, based on the information the farmers' group gathered, regular-milled rice is being mixed with well-milled rice for higher profit.

Cainglet said that lower retail price of rice should not be expected as the imported rice from Vietnam even increased by \$40 per metric ton as it is now pegged at \$620 per metric ton.

“The landed cost of the imported rice is now P48 per kilo,” he noted.

Government officials have said that the retail price of imported rice will go down by as much as P7 per kilo amid the implementation of Executive Order No. 62 on lower tariff on imported rice.

“Everybody wants a lower retail price of rice but the anticipated lower imported rice will not happen,” he said.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/09/14/2385199/retail-price-fish-p40kilo>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Marcos turns 67, distributes P3.19-B aid in 82 provinces

By: [Julie M. Aurelio](#) - Reporter / [@JMAurelioINO](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:36 AM September 14, 2024



**BBM BIRTHDAY** The Malacañang grounds were opened to the public on Friday as the Palace marked the 67th birthday of President Marcos with the distribution of food packs to visitors, who came in droves for the free meal and some souvenir shots. — PHOTO BY NIÑO JESUS ORBETA

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday celebrated his 67th birthday by extending around P3.19-billion financial assistance and services in 82 provinces, including free medical services in state-run tertiary hospitals.

In an interview with reporters in Guimba, Nueva Ecija, Mr. Marcos said his birthday wish was for the improvement of the agriculture sector and of the lives of farmers, fisherfolk, and livestock raisers.

The President was accompanied by two of his sons, House Senior Deputy Majority Leader and Ilocos Norte Rep. Ferdinand Alexander “Sandro” Marcos and Joseph Simon Marcos on his visit to Nueva Ecija.



First lady Liza Araneta-Marcos penned a sweet greeting for her husband on her Facebook and Instagram accounts, describing him as the “sweetest and kindest soul I’ve ever known.”

“I’m so proud of everything you’ve accomplished, and through it all, you’ve remained the same tender-hearted, compassionate person who first captured my heart. I love you to the moon and back, and I always will,” she said. Under the “Handog ng Pangulo: Serbisyong Sapat Para sa Lahat,” the public was treated to food and drinks at the Malacañang grounds on Friday afternoon.

In a statement, the Presidential Communications Office said P3.19 billion in financial aid and services will be extended through programs of the Department of Agriculture, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Health, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda).

Of this sum, the DOH allocated P328 million to 22 government tertiary hospitals across the country to pay for all medical expenses of all patients on the President’s birthday.

“Our goal is to help our countrymen with their medical needs. So for this day, we will pay for all expenses of all patients in all public level 3 hospitals in the country, like the Dr. Paulino Garcia Memorial Hospital here,” Mr. Marcos said in his speech in Guimba.

For its part, the Dole allocated P1.38 billion in assistance, including P1.12 billion under its Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged Workers, P191.83 million for the Integrated Livelihood Program, P53.48 million for the Government Internship Program and P14.69 million for its Special Program for Employment of Students.

The Tesda offered 7,416 slots for Technical and Vocational Education and Training enrollment and distributed training support funds to 12,038 beneficiaries worth P46.17 million.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1983130/marcos-turns-67-distributes-p3-19-b-aid-in-82-provinces>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Farmers get soft loans after debt condonation

By: [Gillian Villanueva](#), [Julie M. Aurelio](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:38 AM September 14, 2024



AFTERMATH A rice field is flattened after flash floods hit Tulunan, Cotabato. — WILLIAMOR MAGBANUA

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday unveiled the government’s low-interest credit line that rice farmers can use to buy seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and other farm inputs.

On his 67th birthday, the President launched in Nueva Ecija the Department of Agriculture’s (DA) “Agri-Puhunan at Pantawid Program (APP)” and oversaw the distribution of 9,832 certificates of condonation with the release of mortgage (Cocrom) covering P277 million in debts of land reform beneficiaries.

In his speech in Guimba, Nueva Ecija, during the launch of the low-interest credit facility, the President said farmers should be recognized and aided as they carry out their role in ensuring food security for the country.

“I am aware that despite the government’s programs, many of you are still struggling and are forced to take on loans with high interest rates just to buy seeds, fertilizers and pesticides,” he said.

He led the distribution of Interventions Monitoring Cards to select rice farmers, which can be used to access low interest loans to purchase farm inputs and pay for services from accredited merchants.

In a later visit to Palayan City, Mr. Marcos assured farmers that the government will continue promoting the welfare, rights and improvement of the agriculture sector.

“My only request is that you continue making your land productive and that you join in the efforts to improve your communities. Let us work together in improving our country. This way, we can all reach our dreams,” the President said.

### **P3-B seed fund**

The APP credit line has an initial funding of P3 billion from the DA and the Development Bank of the Philippines. The DA also signed deals with Planters Products Inc. and the DBP for the implementation of the APP.

The APP will offer a combination of low-interest loans and a monthly subsistence allowance for rice farmers.

For the dry cropping season, the APP will offer credit lines to farmers and cooperatives behind 50,000 hectares of rice in Luzon. It targets to reach rice farmers tilling 1.2 million hectares nationwide.

A rice farmer tilling one hectare of farmland will receive P58,000. This includes a P8,000 monthly subsistence allowance to be given for four months, and a P14,500 government subsidy per hectare.

In a statement, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel said the APP program is part of the government’s measures to “make farming more bankable, attract more and

bigger investments, nurture a new generation of farmers by uplifting their living conditions and ensure national food security and sustainability in the Philippines.”

After the launch of the APP, Mr. Marcos then visited Palayan City where he led the distribution of 9,832 Cocroms to over 6,000 land reform beneficiaries.

The certificates covered P277 million in debts of agrarian reform beneficiaries farming 10,450 hectares of land in the province.

### **‘Mere scrap of paper’**

The loan condonation is mandated by law under Republic Act No. 11953, or the New Agrarian Emancipation Act, which Mr. Marcos signed last year.

The distribution of Cocroms aims to “erase all unpaid principal amortizations, interests, and surcharges on agricultural lands awarded under the government’s agrarian reform program,” according to the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

The DAR also distributed P41 million in agri-credit checks to 480 land reform beneficiaries representing 12 agrarian reform organizations.

But the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) dismissed the government’s debt condonation program as a “mere scrap of paper.”

The KMP said, in a statement, that “Cocroms are not even land titles, and even farmers in possession of land titles can be ejected from the land.”

“As long as land monopoly remain and haciendas exist, there will be no genuine emancipation of farmers and ARBs (agrarian reform beneficiaries). Genuine land reform will persist as a just and democratic demand of Filipino farmers,” said Danilo Ramos, chair of KMP.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1983118/farmers-get-soft-loans-after-debt-condonation>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# **DA's budget urgently needs monitoring, liquidation**

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

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 02:10 AM September 14, 2024

In a public-private group meeting last Sept. 11, two measures were discussed to stop the considerable waste and corruption indicated by the Commission on Audit (COA) reports from 2020, 2021, and 2022.

For each of these years, COA identified unliquidated and unexplained Department of Agriculture (DA) expenses at the alarming level of 30 percent on a budget of less than P70 billion.

These anomalous expenses ranged from P22 to P24 billion each year covered by the COA review.

There is a history behind this. During the previous administration, the operating budget of the legislated public-private body Philippine Council of Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) was cut by half.

Important committees like the one for international trade were abolished. The effective private sector monitoring of the DA budget was changed and decreased. Largely because of this monitoring deterioration, devastating DA budget misuse has resulted.

## **Request**

The AgriFisheries Alliance (AFA) is composed of three coalitions representing three critical sectors—farmers and fisherfolk (Alyansa Agrikultura or AA), agribusiness (Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food Inc. or PCAFI) and science and academe (Coalition for Agriculture Modernization in the Philippines or CAMP).

Alarmed by the massive DA budget misuse, AFA leaders wrote six official letters to two Senate committees requesting for an investigation. No response was given. Not to be deterred, AFA asked the Senate to identify the restoration of effective private-sector monitoring of the DA budget as a condition for the ratification of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) on Jan. 19, 2023. It was approved, but was only implemented 10 months later.

Last Jan. 5, shortly after his assumption into office, Secretary Francis Tiu Laurel Jr. decisively ordered the DA regional directors to make available the complete list of DA-funded projects in their respective regions. This would restore the effective private-sector monitoring of the private-led Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Councils.

However, the budget today for this important monitoring is extremely limited. Tiu Laurel then submitted a 50-percent increase for the proposed 2025 PCAF budget. This is now at P200 million, which is only a tenth of one percent of the DA budget. Unfortunately, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) not only denied the proposed increase but, ironically, decreased the allocation. In its current deliberations, Congress must now increase it.

We need correct budget use to be able to compete against cheap, subsidized imports and increase our exports for more jobs. Our agriculture exports last year were a dismal \$6.4 billion compared to Thailand's \$52.7 billion.

As it stands, agriculture's share of our total budget has averaged 2 percent, compared to Thailand's 4 percent. If even that is lost to waste and corruption because of very limited budget monitoring in scope and frequency (done only once a year), how can we progress? Congress must immediately take action on this critical issue.

### **Liquidation**

Tiu Laurel is now addressing the DA's devastating nonliquidation record that he has inherited. We recommend an added measure for implementation.

The DA has previously concentrated on three budget measures. They are a unit's allotment (how much is available), commitment (how much is identified for a specific purpose), and release (how much money is actually spent.)

We must now have both the government and private sector monitor our recommended fourth measure—liquidation. This is done at the end of the year. COA records it. But as shown in the past, little is done about it.

Liquidation reports should now be done every quarter, instead of just at the end of the year when it is too late to take action. This way, liquidation can be used as a key performance indicator or KPI, influencing the relevant person's care progression.

In addition, a reward and punishment system should be put into place. At the Sept. 11 meeting, it was stated that not a single person was penalized for the significant nonliquidation of expenses.

Increased private-sector monitoring of the DA budget, together with a new emphasis on liquidation, will go a long way in ensuring correct budget use. This is absolutely necessary for our sorely-needed agriculture development.

*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/479896/das-budget-urgently-needs-monitoring-liquidation>

**REMATE:**

## Fisherfolk group ‘umaray’ sa pagtaas ng presyo ng isda

September 14, 2024 15:34



MANILA, Philippines- Hiniling ng fisherfolk group sa pamahalaan na magpatupad ng price control para sa regulasyon ng retail price ng isda sa gitna ng pagtaas ng presyo nito sa merkado.

Sinabi ng fishers' group na Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) nitong Biyernes na ang mitsa ng biglaang pagtaas ng presyo ng isda ay ang traders at middlemen na kumokontrol sa presyo mula farmgate hanggang retail.

Inihayag ni Ronnel Arambulo, vice chairperson ng Pamalakaya, na ito ay “failure of the government to directly purchase the fisherfolk’s products at a reasonable price and sell them affordably in the markets.”

“Dapat magkaroon ng hakbang ang Department of Agriculture (DA) para ibalik ang makatwirang presyo ng isda at iba pang produktong agrikultural sa palengke,” giit niya.



Binanggit ng fishers' group na maaaring magpatupad ang pamahalaan ng price control, sa ilalim ng Republic Act 7581 na may probisyong Automatic Price Control “against illegal manipulation, including profiteering or the sale of offering of sale of any basic necessity or prime commodity at a price grossly in excess of its true worth.”

Sa kasalukuyan ay wala pang komento ang DA hinggil dito.

“For instance, the farmgate price of galunggong in Zambales province is around ₱100-₱120/kilogram, or more than 80 percent lower compared to its usual retail price at ₱220/kilogram,” anang fishers' group.

Batay sa market price monitoring ng Pamalakaya nitong linggo, nakapagtala ito ng price hikes para sa galunggong at ₱260/kilogram (mula sa ₱180-₱220), tilapia sa ₱150/kilogram (mula sa ₱100-₱120), at bangus sa ₱240/kilogram (mula ₱200). **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/fisherfolk-group-umaray-sa-pagtaas-ng-presyo-ng-isda/>

**REMATE:**

## 400 ASF-hit hogs na naharang sa NCR checkpoints dinispatsa ng DA

September 14, 2024 09:14



MANILA, Philippines- Kinondena ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang daan-daang African swine fever (ASF)-infected hogs na naharang sa iba't ibang checkpoints sa National Capital Region (NCR).

“Mga 400 na iyong ibinaon naming may sakit at para kaming nagpapatintero nitong mga biyaherong bumibili ng may sakit,” ayon kay DA Assistant Secretary for Swine and Poultry Constanse Palabrica.

Sinabi pa nito na ang “stringent biosecurity o border control measures” ay isa lamang sa mahahalagang estratehiya ng DA sa pagkontrol sa muling pagkabuhay ng kaso ng ASF sa bansa.

Sa ngayon, sinabi ni Palabrica na mahigit 70 personnel ng DA at Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) ang naka-deploy sa mga checkpoints sa Metro Manila at kalapit-lalawigan.

Samantala, may 41 bakunadong “healthy at ASF-free hogs” aniya sa dalawang mga sakahan sa likod-bahay sa Lobo, Batangas ang patuloy na mino-monitor.

“Ngayong araw na ito ay ika-labing-apat na araw mula noong ating binakunahan iyong first batch sa Lobo. At ngayong araw din na ito ay kukunan ng dugo upang makita kung nag-react ba iyong baboy,” aniya pa rin.

Tinukoy ang pangangailangan na i-monitor ang development ng antibodies sa hanay ng vaccinated growers.

Base sa pag-aaral, ang mga baboy ay dapat na maka-develop ng 40% ng antibodies sa ika-14 hanggang ika-15 araw at 90 hanggang 95% naman na antibodies matapos ang 30 araw.

Gayunman, sinabi ni Palabrica, umabot na sa lima hanggang anim na bakunadong baboy ang namatay.

Binigyang-diin nito ang pangangailangan para sa isang “stringent biosecurity measure” kahit pa sa mga bakunadong baboy para masiguro ang bisa ng bakuna sa pag-develop ng antibodies.

Sa ngayon, ang iba pang natitirang bakunadong baboy ay nagpapakita ng positibong pagtugon sa AVAC live vaccines.

Nauna rito, nangako naman ang DA na gagamitin nito ang 10,000 doses ng AVAC live vaccines sa Batangas ngayong buwan ng Setyembre. **Kris Jose**

<https://remate.ph/400-asf-hit-hogs-na-naharang-sa-ncr-checkpoints-dinispatsa-ng-da/>

**REMATE:**

# Paglulunsad ng Agri-Puhunan at Pantawid Program pinangunahan ni PBBM

September 13, 2024 17:59



MANILA, Philippines – PINANGUNAHAN ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. , araw ng Biyernes, ang paglulunsad ng “Agri-Puhunan at Pantawid Program” sa Guimba, Nueva Ecija.

“Kaya naman, sa pangunguna ng Kagawaran ng Agrikultura, kasama ang Development Bank of the Philippines, ang DBP at ang Planters Products Incorporated, inilulunsad natin sa araw na ito ang Agri-Puhunan at Pantawid Program,” ang inanunsyo ni Pangulong Marcos sa isinagawang paglulunsad na idinaos sa Our Lady of Sacred Heart Gymnasium sa Guimba.

Ang nasabing event ay kasabay ng pagdiriwang ng kaarawan ni Pangulong Marcos, ngayong araw ng Biyernes. Binati siya ng mga benepisaryo habang isinasagawa ang programa.

Sa ilalim ng Pantawid program, ang bawat magsasaka ay makatatanggap ng isang Interventions Monitoring Card (IMC), na maaaring gamitin para bumili ng

‘seeds o mga buto at fertilizers, at maging ibang kagamitan para sa pagsasaka sa pamamagitan ng accredited merchants.

“Wala nang pangambang maloloko sa presyo. Wala nang alalahanin sa kakulangan ng pondo,” ayon sa Chief Executive.

Idinagdag pa ng Pangulo na bibigyan ng gobyerno ang mga magsasaka ng P32,000 na tulong pinansiyal. Ipamamahagi ito ng P8,000 kada linggo sa bawat buwan sa loob ng 4 na buwan.

Sa panahon naman ng pag-aani, tutulong ang National Food Authority (NFA) sa pamamagitan ng pagbili sa kanilang ani sa halagang limang tonelada o 100 sako ng palay sa presyo na hindi bababa sa P21 kada kilo.

Pahihintulutan naman ng Pangulo ang mga magsasaka na kumita ng P105,000 kada ektarya , ipoproseso sa pamamagitan ng kanilang IMCs.

Sinabi pa rin nito na sa ilalim ng “Handog ng Pangulo: Serbisyong Sapat para sa Lahat,” magtatatag ang gobyerno ng KADIWA centers kung saan ang bigas at iba pang agricultural products ay available sa mababang presyo.

Magbibigay naman ang gobyerno ng libreng mga buto o punla at fertilizers, at maging ang iba pang tulong at mag-aalok ng financial support sa ilalim ng Sustainable Livelihood Program, TUPAD, at iba pang aid programs.

Para naman sa mga naghahanap ng trabaho, sinabi ng Pangulo na tutulong ang pamahalaan sa pamamagitan ng job fairs at Government Internship Program. “Magbibigay din po tayo ngscholarshipat sakatoolkitat magsasagawa ngskills demonstrationsa iba’t ibang panig ng bansa. Mag-aalok din tayo ng mgaslotpara puwedeng gamitin ng ating mga mag-aaral at ‘yung magte-training, magagamit nila ‘yan sa TVET,” ang tinuran ng Pangulo.

Idinagdag pa ng Punong Ehekutibo na ang gobyerno ay magbibigay din ng libreng medical assistance sa pamamagitan ng Level 3 public hospitals, binanggit ang Dr. Paulino Garcia Memorial Hospital sa Nueva Ecija.

Tinuran pa ng Pangulo na maglulunsad din siya ng mini trade fairs, mag-aalok ng business counseling at entrepreneurial training para tulungan ang mga nagpa-plano na magsimula ng kanilang negosyo.

“Layunin namin na maihatid sa lahat ng Pilipino ang lahat ng serbisyo ng pamahalaan na makakatulong upang makapagsimula kayo ng kabuhayan, magkaroon ng edukasyon, at magkaroon ng mabuting kalusugan,” ayon kay Pangulong Marcos. *Kris Jose*

<https://remate.ph/paglulunsad-ng-agri-puhunan-at-pantawid-program-pinangunahan-ni-pbbm/>

# Climate crisis and food security

By Amado Tolentino Jr.

September 14, 2024

CLIMATE change is causing heat waves, droughts, wildfires and floods, all of which affect the food system, in particular the matter of food security.

Food security is defined as access to sufficient quantities of food in appropriate quality. It depends on an affordable supply of all elements required for a nutritious diet.

At the same time, food production contributes to climate change, causing 30 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

A sustainable food system has social, economic, cultural and environmental dimensions. It is crucial to prevent further loss of biodiversity and stabilizing climate. In that connection, resilience or the capability to cope with shocks without significant loss of livelihood, health and nutrition is the key. Thus, it is necessary to turn attention to limiting climate-related hazards that affect food supply. In that regard, adaptation to climate change matters most to some climate-battered developing countries. Relevant options for adaptation strategies include, but is not limited to, cage culture for breeding fish, floating gardens for growing vegetables on rafts and subsistence crop cultivation at the household level. Well-advised farmers opt for flood-tolerant and short-yielding crop varieties for survival even if short in nutrition requirements.

Be that as it may, access to clean energy, water and health care should be paramount. So, are the ways of radically reducing carbon dioxide and methane emissions.

Extreme heat has serious impacts on crops and forests, and affects oceans which also have a bearing on food systems. To be more

specific, the climate crisis negatively affects food security in several ways. For one, access to safe drinking water is becoming more precarious. Climate events like floods often disrupt it. Illnesses like diarrhea have a strong correlation with rising temperatures. At the same time, heat waves make it more difficult to handle food safely.

Even worse is price volatility during a climate crisis which leads to poor market transparency, financial speculation in commodity markets as well as export restrictions. The current grain-market disruptions resulting from Russia's invasion of Ukraine show the consequences of unrestricted exports. Governmental institutions, civil society organizations and international development agencies have been making efforts to achieve food security. Actions are crucial to boost food systems' resilience in identified policy areas, e.g., sustainable water management, ecosystem health, agricultural productivity and protection of biodiversity. Policymakers' action could extend to health care through nutritious food supply in the field of education, assistance to climate migrants/refugees and even funding for research on food systems. In conclusion, the climate crisis threatens not only food security because it could extend to environmental destruction that makes pandemics more likely. Even wars that displace masses of people and lead to rising food prices is not far-off. Getting a grip on one area could help contain others.

In the words of Prof. Joachim von Braun (Bonn University Center for Development Research), "The global community must modify food systems in ways that overcome current food insecurity and ensure food security long term."

[https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/09/14/opinion/columns/climate-crisis-and-food-security/1971336?fbclid=IwY2xjawFUaJdleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHdv\\_hwAykScQPf8aiIFPoTIGlhF5FddniAhHy-kahkkJ2vKSb0EreSen4w\\_aem\\_NM-u7p9uw4bUsVlsUMVwsA](https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/09/14/opinion/columns/climate-crisis-and-food-security/1971336?fbclid=IwY2xjawFUaJdleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHdv_hwAykScQPf8aiIFPoTIGlhF5FddniAhHy-kahkkJ2vKSb0EreSen4w_aem_NM-u7p9uw4bUsVlsUMVwsA)

# DA launches P3-B funding program

By Janine Alexis Miguel

September 14, 2024

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) has launched a P3-billion funding program to support farmers tilling 1.2 million hectares of rice fields nationwide.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. on Friday said the Agri-Puhunan at Pantawid (APP) program aims to increase rice productivity and income, provide low-interest loans, subsistence allowance and market access to farmer-members of agricultural cooperatives.

"The APP program essentially represents contract farming, which will guarantee a decent, higher income for our farmers and provide the government with a stable supply of our staple food. It could also help reduce the volume of rice imports," Tiu Laurel said at the program's launch in Nueva Ecija, with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in attendance, along with 5,000 farmers.

The program will extend credit to farmers for seeds and other inputs, crop insurance, subsistence allowance until harvest season, and ensure a ready market with the National Food Authority and the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

The DA tapped Planters Products Inc. (PPI) and the Development Bank of the Philippines to facilitate the APP.

"We envision this program as a self-sustaining initiative that will finally unlock the potential of the agriculture sector, which provides two out of every 10 jobs in the Philippines but contributes less than 10 percent to the gross domestic product," Tiu Laurel said.



"We are hopeful this will be a game changer for the sector and those who depend on farming," Tiu Laurel added.

For the 2024-2025 dry cropping season, the APP is extending credit facilities to agricultural cooperatives with members working in 50,000 hectares of land.

Initially, the program will include established cooperatives registered with the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in the Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems, Magat River Integrated Irrigation System and NIA systems serving the Cordillera Administrative Region.

#### Intervention monitoring cards

Farmers holding intervention monitoring cards are qualified to avail themselves of the enhanced credit facilities of the APP. The card can be used to purchase seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and ameliorants, and to pay for services through PPI-accredited merchants.

For instance, an APP beneficiary who plants rice on 1 hectare of land will receive a net amount of P58,000 covering production costs — inputs, land preparation, hauling and a subsistence allowance of P32,000 broken down to P8,000.00 monthly for four months.

APP proceeds will be used for government subsidies for inputs, services and insurance.

Farmers joining the APP can each earn around P65,000 per cropping period based on 5 metric tons per hectare. This is inclusive of the P32,000 subsistence allowance, even after repaying the loan, its interest and taxes.

[https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/09/14/business/top-business/da-launches-p3-b-funding-program/1971422?fbclid=IwY2xjawFUaJFleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHZZpCxyulWwi1\\_Sw0yh3kZyWEDfNRLSLNsZzP403JfFqdpN6w9aU-3Iyw\\_aem\\_IOhxJIH58chLXE2-0xwnjQ](https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/09/14/business/top-business/da-launches-p3-b-funding-program/1971422?fbclid=IwY2xjawFUaJFleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHZZpCxyulWwi1_Sw0yh3kZyWEDfNRLSLNsZzP403JfFqdpN6w9aU-3Iyw_aem_IOhxJIH58chLXE2-0xwnjQ)

# Inflation seen slowing to 2.5% in September

By Niña Myka Pauline Arceo  
September 14, 2024

RICE supply gains due to lower tariffs could help bring this month's inflation to an over four-year low, Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) said.

The Ayala-led bank expects consumer price growth to hit 2.5 percent in September, down from 3.3 percent a month earlier.

If realized, it would be the slowest since October 2020's 2.3 percent.

"Taking into account the latest data ... the improvement in rice supply will likely continue to pull down the headline print," BPI said in a statement on Thursday.

In June, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ordered the tariff on rice imports be slashed to 15 percent from 35 percent in a bid to help rein in inflation, which was threatening to breach the 2.0- to 4.0-percent target due to higher food prices, particularly for rice.

Officials have said that the impact would be felt beginning August.

Last week, the Philippine Statistics Authority reported that rice inflation had slowed to 14.7 percent last month from 20.9 percent in July. It added that the rate could drop further as supply improves.

Data from the Bureau of Plant Industry showed that rice imports accelerated to 296,350.9 metric tons (MT) in August compared to 167,403.8 MT in July.

BPI said that inflation could "bounce back as favorable risks fade," but it still expects the rate to average within target at 3.4 percent this year and 3.0 percent in 2025.

"Upside risks include a potential La Niña in the 4th quarter, as well as the African swine fever, which could drive meat prices higher," the bank said.

"However, stable commodity prices amid the economic slowdown in major economies like China may offset these risks," it added.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) last month revised its inflation projections and said that the outlook continued to lean toward the downside.

The risk-adjusted forecast for 2024, however, was raised to 3.3 percent from 3.1 percent but that for 2025 was cut to 2.9 percent from 3.1 percent. The central bank expects an increase to 3.3 percent in 2026.

The baseline forecast for this year was also hiked, to 3.4 percent from 3.3 percent, while that for 2025 was trimmed to 3.1 percent from 3.2 percent. For 2026, the BSP expects inflation to settle at 3.2 percent.

"With a favorable inflation outlook, the BSP may continue reducing its policy rate in the coming months," BPI said.

"A substantial rate cut from the Fed (Federal Reserve) in September would give the BSP more room to cut its own rates further," it added.

The central bank's benchmark rate currently stands at 6.25 percent following a 25-basis-point cut last month.

BPI expects the central bank to keep easing, potentially by around 100 basis points next year.

It added that it might be optimal for the BSP to cut the reserve requirement ratio first before again lowering the policy rate in December.

BPI senior economist Emilio Neri has said that the central bank has the flexibility to alternate between cutting the policy rate and reserve requirements as long as liquidity and monetary conditions support its price stability mandate.

BSP Governor Eli Remolona Jr., for his part, has said that the reserve ratio could be cut to 5.0 percent from 9.5 percent.

Lowering RRR — the percentage of deposits and deposits that banks must keep and not lend out — will free up money that can be used for productive activities and grow the economy.

[https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/09/14/business/top-business/inflation-seen-slowing-to-25-in-september/1971426?fbclid=IwY2xjawFUaItleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHdv\\_hwAykScQPf8aiIFPoTIGlhF5FddniAhHy-kahkkJ2vKSb0EreSen4w\\_aem\\_NM-u7p9uw4bUsVlsUMVwsA](https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/09/14/business/top-business/inflation-seen-slowing-to-25-in-september/1971426?fbclid=IwY2xjawFUaItleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHdv_hwAykScQPf8aiIFPoTIGlhF5FddniAhHy-kahkkJ2vKSb0EreSen4w_aem_NM-u7p9uw4bUsVlsUMVwsA)

# Veggie prices up after Typhoon Enteng disrupts supply chain

Bless Aubrey Ogerio  
September 14, 2024



**VEGETABLES at Balintawak Market in Quezon City reflect a recent surge in prices following Typhoon Enteng. The typhoon's heavy rains and flooding disrupted the supply chain, leading to price increases of up to P50 per kilogram for certain vegetables in Metro Manila markets**

TYPHOON Enteng, which brought heavy rains and flooding to several agricultural areas in the Philippines, has caused a sharp rise of up to P50 per kilogram in certain vegetables in Metro Manila markets due to disruptions in the supply chain.

Based on the Department of Agriculture's (DA) Price Monitoring database, the prices of select vegetables saw significant jumps between August 30 and September 3 following the typhoon's landfall. Yet, prices remain lower compared to the same month in 2023.

The price of Baguio beans, for instance, surged to P80-180 per kg in 2024 from P100-200 per kg in 2023. Sayote rose to P35-70 per kg this year, significantly lower

than last year's price of P60-120 per kg. Similarly, Pechay Tagalog saw its price increase to P70-120 per kg, still below last year's P80-150 per kg.

According to the September 12 market advisory of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development, vendors in Metro Manila's public markets attributed these price hikes to damaged farms and logistical challenges.

Data from the DA's Disaster Risk Reduction Management Operations Center showed the widespread damage to agricultural lands across several regions, including Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon and the Bicol Region.

The total agricultural losses amounted to P2.26 billion, with rice production being the most affected at 49 percent, followed by irrigation systems at 48 percent, and corn and high-value crops making up the remaining percentage.

Bulacan, a major supplier of vegetables to Metro Manila, was among the hardest hit by Typhoon Enteng, which therefore caused shortages in public markets.

As affected farmers recover from the damage, the DA has rolled out assistance programs, including P202.86 million for seeds, bio-control agents, and farm tools. They are also eligible for loan assistance under the Survival and Recovery (SURE) Aid Loan Program, offering loans of up to P25,000 that is repayable over three years at zero interest.

The Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation is also working to compensate insured farmers for their losses.

Image credits: [NONIE REYES](#)

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/09/14/veggie-prices-up-after-typhoon-enteng-disrupts-supply-chain/>

**ABANTE TONITE**

# **DA binida Agri-Puhunan magaan sa bulsa ng mga magsasaka**

September 14, 2024

Inilunsad na ang Agri-Puhunan Program ng Department of Agriculture (DA) sa utos ni Pangulong Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr.

Layunin nitong tulungan pataasin ang kita at tiyakin ang pagiging produktibo ng mga magsasaka sa tinatayang 1.2 milyong hektarya ng mga lupain sa buong bansa.

Sa naturang programa, mag-aalok ang DA ng tulong pinansiyal, low-cost credit at nakahandang bentahan para sa ani ng mga magsasaka.

Ayon sa DA, ginawa ang programa upang bigyang solusyon ang mga problemang kinakaharap ng mga magsasaka sa puhunan at pagbebenta ng kanilang mga produkto.

Sa programa ng DA, maaari umanong kumita ng tinatayang P60,000 ang mga magsasaka kada ani pagkatapos bayaran ang utang at buwis dito.

Sinisiguro anila ng programa na malaki-laki ang kikitain ng mga magsasaka at hindi mauubusan ang gobyerno ng suplay ng mga pagkain.

“P60,000 kada cropping season. So, hindi na mamumroblema iyong ating mga magsasaka kung saan sila kukuha ng additional na pang gastusin nila, additional na pera para pambili ng fertilizer or additional inputs doon sa kanilang sakahan,” pahayag naman ni DA Assistant Secretary at Spokesperson Arnel De Mesa sa isang news forum sa Quezon City nitong Sabado, Setyembre 14. (Migo Fajatin/PNA)

[https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/09/14/da-binida-agri-puhunan-magaan-sa-bulsa-ng-mga-magsasaka/?fbclid=IwY2xjawFUaH9leHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHTk7ddg1IC2Lk9YUwu247MTQduLhgFtnDAAB7jmEwfsZcL-NVwh05Qprw\\_aem\\_ojfE9MHaTi14KMgK\\_dhuA](https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/09/14/da-binida-agri-puhunan-magaan-sa-bulsa-ng-mga-magsasaka/?fbclid=IwY2xjawFUaH9leHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHTk7ddg1IC2Lk9YUwu247MTQduLhgFtnDAAB7jmEwfsZcL-NVwh05Qprw_aem_ojfE9MHaTi14KMgK_dhuA)

# Bayarin ng naka-confine na mga pasyente sagot ng gobyerno — Pangulong Marcos

[Gemma Garcia](#)

September 14, 2024 | 12:00am



Sinorpresa si Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. ng isang birthday cake sa launching ng ‘Agri-Puhunan at Pantawid’ Program sa Guimba, Nueva Ecija kahapon. Ipinagdiwang ng Pangulo ang kanyang ika-67 taong kaarawan kung saan tampok ang pamimigay nito ng mga kagamitan sa pagsasaka sa Region III (Central Luzon).

PPA Pool/Marianne Bermudez

MANILA, Philippines — Sasagutin ng gobyerno ang mga bayarin sa mga pampublikong ospital ng mga pasyenteng naka- confine at sumasailalim sa gamutan.

Inihayag ito ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. sa paglulunsad ng “Agri-Puhunan at Pantawid Program” sa Guimba, Nueva Ecija.

Ang nasabing hakbang ay regalo ng Pangulo sa pagdiriwang ng kanyang ika-67 kaarawan sa pamamagitan ng “Handog ng Pangulo: Serbisyong Sapat para sa Lahat” program.



“Kaya po sa araw na ito, sasagutin po natin ang lahat ng bayarin ng mga pasyente sa lahat ng pampublikong Level 3 hospital sa bansa katulad ng Dr. Paulino Garcia Memorial Hospital dito sa inyo,” sabi pa ng Pangulo.

Para matupad ang kanyang pangako, maglalabas ang Department of Health (DOH) ng P328 milyon sa may 22 tertiary hospitals sa buong bansa para tugunan ang gastusin ng mga pasyente.

Kabilang sa mga tertiary hospitals sa Metro Manila ang Philippine General Hospitals (PGH); Philippine Orthopedic Center; Philippine Heart Center; Philippine Childrens Medical Center (PCMC); National Kidney and Transplant Institute (NKTI) ; Lung Center of the Philippines; Jose R. Reyes Memorial Hospital at East Avenue Medical Center.

Sa Luzon: Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center; Cagayan Valley Medical Center; Bicol Medical Center; Batangas Medical Center; Batanes General Hospital at Dr. Paulino J. Garcia Memorial Medical Center.

Visayas: Vicente Sotto Memorial Hospital; Gov. Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital; Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center.

Mindanao: Amai Pakpak Medical Center; Davao Regional Medical Center; Cotabato Regional Medical Center; Mayor Hilarion Ramiro Sr. Medical Center at Zamboanga City Medical Center.

Ang “Handog ng Pangulo: Serbisyong Sapat para sa Lahat” program ay inilunsad nitong Biyernes na sabay-sabay na distribusyon ng tulong ng gobyerno sa may 82 lalawigan sa bansa katuwang ang ibat-ibang ahensiya ng gobyerno para mapabuti ang buhay ng mga Filipino.

[https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2024/09/14/2385159/bayarin-ng-naka-confine-na-mga-pasyente-sagot-ng-gobyerno-pangulong-marcos?fbclid=IwY2xjawFUaHtleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHVfVnzyfP-empDhMpphCBhsovrBv0XKf\\_1xkGR2Mjoy2c82Kto904Gxw\\_aem\\_H\\_h1ReNQUZtpP-B2fUFCMg](https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2024/09/14/2385159/bayarin-ng-naka-confine-na-mga-pasyente-sagot-ng-gobyerno-pangulong-marcos?fbclid=IwY2xjawFUaHtleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHVfVnzyfP-empDhMpphCBhsovrBv0XKf_1xkGR2Mjoy2c82Kto904Gxw_aem_H_h1ReNQUZtpP-B2fUFCMg)

PILIPINO STAR NGAYON

# Bday wish ni Pangulong Marcos: Maramdaman ng magsasaka mga programa ng gobyerno

[Gemma Garcia](#)

September 14, 2024 | 12:00am



Ito ang sinabi ni Pangulong Marcos sa isang ambush interview sa Laundhing ng Agri Puhunan at Pantawid program sa Nueva Ecija.

Bongbong Marcos / Facebook Page

MANILA, Philippines — Hiling ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. na maramdaman pa ng maraming mga magsasaka ang lahat ng programa na ginagawa ng pamahalaan.

Ito ang sinabi ni Pangulong Marcos sa isang ambush interview sa Laundhing ng Agri Puhunan at Pantawid program sa Nueva Ecija.

“Birthday wish marami ito na talagang lahat ng bawat magsasaka sa Pilipinas maramdaman itong programa ito at lahat ng programa na ginagawa ng DA”, pahayag ng pangulo sa kanyang pagdiriwang ng ika-67 kaarawan kahapon, Setyembre 13.

Ayon pa sa punong ehekutibo lahat ng kanilang ginagawa ay sa tulong na rin ng Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), lahat ng financing institution, at buong sistem ng Department of Agriculture o DA.

Para na rin aniya mapaganda ang sektor ng agrikultura at at para mapangad ang buhay ng bawat magsasaka, kanilang mga pamilya at bawat Filipino.

Samantala, binati rin ni First Lady Liza Marcos ang Pangulo sa kanyang kaarawan kasama ang kanyang mga anak na sina Ilocos Norte Rep. Sandro Marcos, Joseph Simon at William Vincent.

“Happy 67th birthday to the sweetest and kindest soul I’ve ever known. I’m so proud of everything you’ve accomplished, and through it all, you’ve remained the same tender-hearted, compassionate person who first captured my heart,” ayon pa sa social media post ng Unang Ginang.

[https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2024/09/14/2385148/bday-wish-ni-pangulong-marcos-maramdaman-ng-magsasaka-mga-programa-ng-gobyerno?fbclid=IwY2xjawFUaHdleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHSJXlsFtO1Eds79YIyIJpz2A08SsOKqLbBotfC7ZO8ngXPA1N9juPpxlDg\\_aem\\_CT8Ty6yPPytNNNoHxSkD77A](https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2024/09/14/2385148/bday-wish-ni-pangulong-marcos-maramdaman-ng-magsasaka-mga-programa-ng-gobyerno?fbclid=IwY2xjawFUaHdleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHSJXlsFtO1Eds79YIyIJpz2A08SsOKqLbBotfC7ZO8ngXPA1N9juPpxlDg_aem_CT8Ty6yPPytNNNoHxSkD77A)

# Mangingisda ng Cebu nabiyayaan ng livelihood re-starter kits ng TVI

[Angie dela Cruz](#)

September 14, 2024 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Tumanggap ng iba't ibang livelihood re-starter kits ang mga mangingisda ng Toledo, Cebu mula sa Therma Visayas, Inc. (TVI), isang subsidiary ng Aboitiz Power Corporation sa pakikipagtulungan sa lokal na pamahalaan ng naturang bayan upang makabangon mula sa pinsala sa kanilang kabuhayan ng nagdaang kalamidad.

Ang livelihood re-starter kits na kabibilangan ng 6 units ng motorized boats at bagong mga fishing nets at oars ay naipagkaloob sa mga local association at kooperatiba ng mga mangingisda ng barangay Pinamungahan sa Toledo.

Bukod sa mga gamit pangisda, nagkaloob din ng pagsasanay ang TVI sa mga mangingisda doon upang mapalawak ang kaalaman sa fishing method at tuloy magkaroon ng magandang kita mula sa kanilang hanapbuhay.

Plano ding maglagay ang TVI ng artificial reefs sa karagatan doon upang maingatan ang mga isda at mamantina ang eco-balance sa dalampasigan.

Habang hindi pa ito aprubado ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), nagkaloob ang TVI ng dalawang units ng “payaw” o floating fish egg at small fish nurseries.

“During Typhoon Odette, our immediate response was to provide relief operations to our host communities, to help them start up after the typhoon,” sabi ni Nova Cruz, Reputation and Stakeholder Management Operations Specialist ng TVI.

Nagkaloob din ang kompanya ng scholarships grants sa anak ng mga mangingisda upang magkaroon ng access sa edukasyon.

Nagpaabot naman ng pasasalamat ang samahan ng mga mangingisda sa lugar sa ginawang tulong sa kanila ng TVI.

[https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2024/09/14/2385135/mangingisda-ng-cebu-nabiyayaan-ng-livelihood-re-starter-kits-ng-tvi?fbclid=IwY2xjawFUaHBleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHUbjkJ5DSibuZ1MIDVYpKr7VA3Q0QQOAJviBUGYZfg-v83DAQI9NidFYbQ\\_aem\\_1fy9ueqZ5-Rx80iYJbvSRw](https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2024/09/14/2385135/mangingisda-ng-cebu-nabiyayaan-ng-livelihood-re-starter-kits-ng-tvi?fbclid=IwY2xjawFUaHBleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHUbjkJ5DSibuZ1MIDVYpKr7VA3Q0QQOAJviBUGYZfg-v83DAQI9NidFYbQ_aem_1fy9ueqZ5-Rx80iYJbvSRw)