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**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Tolentino pushes anew for the creation of Sulu's transition fund

**BY DHEL NAZARIO**

Sep 21, 2024 05:06 PM

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## AT A GLANCE

- Senate Majority Leader Francis Tolentino renewed his call to various government agencies to work together to come up with a transition fund to cover the expenses urgently needed by Sulu province.

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Senate Majority Leader Francis Tolentino renewed his call to various government agencies to work together to come up with a transition fund to cover the expenses urgently needed by Sulu province.



Senate Majority Leader Francis Tolentino urges government agencies to create a Sulu transition fund to prevent disruptions in the delivery of vital services in the province, following the Supreme Court (SC) decision that separated Sulu from the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). (Senate PRIB photo)

He said this following Sulu's severance from the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

During the hearing on the proposed budget for 2025 of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and its attached agencies, Tolentino, who presided over the subcommittee hearing, asked DILG Secretary Benhur Abalos how the agency has been assisting Sulu, as the latter transitions from BARMM to Region IX.

Region IX, the Zamboanga Peninsula, is being presumed as the region that would absorb administrative jurisdiction over the province.

“As we discuss this, there is no budget for Sulu’s police vehicles, so how can they conduct patrols? The funding for the salaries of DILG personnel in the province has stopped,” Tolentino remarked.

“You have regional officers in Region IX, and perhaps Sulu will be transferred there. What happens now to Sulu? Is it possible to carve out something from your budget allocation to form a Sulu fund? This could come from a small share from each agency, but if pooled, this transition fund could be substantial enough,” the senator told Abalos.

In response, Abalos said that just like other agencies, the DILG did not anticipate the exclusion of Sulu from BARMM, based on the recent decision of the Supreme Court (SC), which he noted was immediately executory.

“We are coordinating with the Ministry of the Interior Local Government of BARMM if it would be possible to keep the status quo. In the same token, we face a dilemma on how to raise these funds from what we currently have. It is difficult, but we're trying to scrape some funds using every means possible,” shared Abalos.

Tolentino then turned to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to ask whether the agency had come up with a directive yet to guide government agencies in assisting the province.

Responding to the senator, Carlos Castro, a director at DBM, said the agency is in the process of drafting a comment to establish a funding mechanism for Sulu, which would cover provisions such as salaries, government assistance and other related matters – including the consideration of a transition fund for the province.

Tolentino stressed the need to expedite the issuance of the DBM directive to ensure that vital government services in the province would not be disrupted.

“We're not just talking about DILG. We're talking about the Department of Health, Department of Agriculture, Agrarian Reform, DSWD, and the rest. We all need to help Sulu,” the senator stressed.

Throughout the seven-hour hearing, Tolentino relayed the same appeal to other agencies under the DILG, such as the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, and Bureau of Fire Protection.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/9/21/tolentino-pushes-anew-for-the-creation-of-sulu-s-transition-fund>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# **Target: Artificial shortage? Container vans loaded with 20 M kilos of imported rice discovered at MICT**

**BY AARON RECUENCO**

Sep 20, 2024 11:20 AM

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Almost 900 container vans loaded with around half a million sacks of rice remain at the Manila International Container Terminal (MICT) despite the clearances issued by the Bureau of Customs, raising fears that it would result in artificial rice shortage and eventually lead to price increase.

Currently, the average dwell time for container vans at the storage areas of ports being managed by the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) is 5.4 days but some rice containers remain at the port and are taking longer to be withdrawn by the consignees.

In some cases, container vans with sacks of imported rice have been staying more than 20 days in the PPA-managed ports. Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) General Manager Jay Daniel Santiago confirmed that there are indeed 888 container vans that are unusually being held at the storage area of the MICT.

The container vans sitting at the MICT storage area are estimated to contain around 20 million kilos of rice.

“While other cargoes are generally released within the allotted free storage period, some rice container shipments from some consignees remain at the ports for over 20 days despite having been cleared for release by the Bureau of Customs,” said Santiago.

The holding of the container vans loaded with rice triggered suspicion that the rice importers are deliberately delaying the release in order to create rice shortage which will eventually lead to price increase.

After the unloading of cargoes in Philippine ports, the shipments are given a five-day free storage period and citing PPA data, the shipments are generally released within the free storage period. But this is not the case for the rice shipment based on the MICT data.

Santiago suspected that the rice importers were deliberately holding the rice shipment at the MICT since doing so in private warehouses could lead to inspection and possible filing of charges relating to rice hoarding.

Santiago said they are now coordinating with the Department of Agriculture to come up with a guideline to address the issue. “We are coordinating with the Department of Agriculture so that when they issue permits to import, it should also require the consignees to immediately pull out from the ports to stabilize the price of rice in the markets,” said Santiago.

Lowering the price of rice is one of the main targets of the Marcos administration after netizens started to criticize the President over his alleged failure to make true of his campaign promise of bringing down the price of rice to P20 per kilo. As some agriculture expert said that it is impossible to fulfill, the national government has started selling rice for P25 per kilo in some government-sponsored rolling stores.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/9/20/target-artificial-shortage-container-vans-loaded-with-20-m-kilos-of-imported-rice-discovered-at-mict>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# BOC: Rice shipment delays not due to port congestion

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

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 01:21 PM September 21, 2024



(INQUIRER FILE PHOTO / MICHAEL JAUCIAN)

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Customs (BOC) clarified on Saturday that the potential rice shipment delays are not caused by congestion in Manila ports but due to pending requirements the consignees need to comply with.

This came after concerns were raised that shipment delays may affect rice prices due to [unreleased rice shipments](#).

“[T]he rice shipments are ready for release once consignees fulfill their responsibilities, and the accumulation at the ports is not due to any delay caused by congestion,” the BOC said in a statement.

According to the BOC, 258 shipping containers with rice are still at the Port of Manila where 237 of these are cleared for release upon payment of duties and taxes while the remaining 21 containers are still being processed to be cleared after presenting the Goods Declaration on Friday.

Meanwhile, 630 rice containers remain at the Manila International Container Port where 492 have already been cleared for release while the 138 others are still pending. The BOC underscored that no rice shipments have exceeded the 30-day period containment at the ports, otherwise, the agency will declare the containers abandoned. As mandated by the Section 1129(d) of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act, shipments should be claimed within 30 days and should be cleared from payment of duties and taxes.

BOC Commissioner Bienvenido Rubio urged the consignees to sign the requirements needed to release the shipments, adding that “[t]he BOC stands ready to enforce abandonment proceedings as mandated by law if goods remain unclaimed.”

The Department of Agriculture urged the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) on Thursday to speed up the release of over 800 container vans loaded with rice that have been in Manila ports for months.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel said on Monday that port congestion and delayed rice import shipments keep the price of rice high.

Agri party-list Rep. Wilbert Lee also called on the BOC and PPA to fast track the release of the containers since “every delay in unloading rice cargoes not only adds to costs but also worsens the situation for consumers, especially with inflation.”

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<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1985564/boc-says-rice-shipment-delays-not-due-to-port-congestion>



**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Flood-hit towns, city in Palawan, Negros Occ. under calamity state

By: [Allaine Kate Leda](#), [Carla Gomez](#), [Geraldford Ticke](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:06 AM September 21, 2024



**COLLAPSED ROAD** This road in Barangay New Canipo, San Vicente town in Palawan is rendered impassable after a portion collapsed on Tuesday, as heavy rains flooded several towns in the province. — PHOTO COURTESY OF IRENE CABILES

**PUERTO PRINCESA CITY**—The municipalities of Dumarán, Roxas, and San Vicente in Palawan have placed themselves in a state of calamity due to widespread destruction to properties, agriculture and government infrastructure spawned by floods caused by the prolonged rains.



According to the officials of the three towns, the declarations were made based on the recommendations from their respective Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Councils, with the three localities having sustained close to P78 million in damages.

The calamity declarations in Palawan came just after the towns of Hinigaran, and San Enrique and La Carlota City in Negros Occidental also placed their respective localities under a state of calamity due to damages wrought by heavy rains and flooding from Sept. 13 to Sept. 17.

Latest reports in Negros Occidental showed that the damage to the province's agriculture and properties has reached P104 million.

In a statement on Thursday, the Palawan Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) said the recent calamity has caused significant agricultural losses in the three towns.

Data showed the three towns recorded P77,797,897 in damages. Roxas reported an estimated P42.540 million in damages; San Vicente, P17,808,900; Dumaran incurred P17,448,947 in losses.

San Vicente Vice Mayor Ramir Pablico, the municipal council's presiding officer, said during Thursday's session that there was a need for the declaration, as majority of the town's barangays were flooded due to the prolonged rains.

The declaration would allow the town to urgently access its P5 million quick response fund (QRF) to provide immediate assistance to the affected residents.

In addition to the QRF, the San Vicente local government has approved a P10,588,495 supplemental budget to purchase relief goods to be distributed to the displaced families.

AGRI LOSSES This banana plantation in Roxas, Palawan, is submerged in flood on Sept. 16 amid torrential rains for a week in the province. —ROXAS MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURE OFFICE PHOTO

### **Displaced, death toll**

The latest report from the PDRRMO indicated that 3,537 families, or 13,407 individuals, remained in evacuation centers across Palawan as of Thursday.

Authorities said the floods caused by the rains dumped by the southwest monsoon and enhanced by Tropical Storm Ferdie (international name: Bebinca) and Tropical Depression Gener have also claimed eight lives in three towns—four from Rizal, three from Balabac and one from Roxas.

### **Negros Occidental's losses**

In Negros Occidental, which also suffered widespread flooding due to the southwest monsoon enhanced by Tropical Storms “Ferdie” and “Helen” and Tropical Depression “Gener,” damage to agriculture and properties has initially reached P104 million.

The province's damage assessment continued even as most of the families who fled due to strong rains and winds have returned home.

Irene Bel Ploteña, head of the Provincial Disaster Management Program Division, said the bad weather affected 200,782 residents in 25 towns and cities of Negros Occidental, and caused the death of two from drowning.

As of Sept. 19, there were still 2,987 families, composed of 12,571 members, still in evacuation centers in Negros Occidental.

Ploteña said the P104 million losses were damages to crops, fisheries and livestock in the province.

Damage to crops was pegged at P101,737,398, while fisheries and livestock sectors lost P1,781,361 and P1,421,309 respectively.

At least 34 houses were also destroyed while 426 were damaged, Ploteña said.

In the entire Western Visayas, at least five people drowned due to heavy rains and floods spawned by the southwest monsoon from Sept. 13 to Sept. 17.

Maria Christina Illustre-Mayor, information officer of the Office of the Civil Defense in the region, said the fatalities came from the provinces of Antique, Negros Occidental, Bacolod, Iloilo and Guimaras.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1985382/flood-hit-towns-city-in-palawan-negros-occ-under-calamity-state>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Agri damage due to Ferdie, habagat hits P600M

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

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 09:04 AM September 20, 2024



The Department of Agriculture said 11,170 farmers in the regions of Mimaropa, Western Visayas and Zamboanga Peninsula have been affected. | PHOTO: Official Facebook page of Sipalay City Agriculture Office in Negros Occidental

Tropical Storm Ferdie (international name: Bebinca) and southwest monsoon (habagat) continue affecting the country's farm sector as the Department of Agriculture (DA) reported that losses rose to P600.84 million. In its bulletin as of Thursday afternoon, the DA said 11,170 farmers in the regions of Mimaropa, Western Visayas and Zamboanga Peninsula have been affected. The agency has yet to record losses due to Tropical Storms Gener and Helen.

It estimated the volume of production loss at 27,247 metric tons covering 11,696 hectares of agricultural land. Rice contributed most to overall losses with 93.66 percent or P562.75 million, the majority of which were in the reproductive and maturing stages. Corn followed with 3.17 percent or P19.04 million while the remaining 3.17 percent is attributed to high-value crops (P18.22 million) and livestock (P P819,200). “Best possible efforts are also being undertaken to carry out assistance and appropriate interventions to the affected farmers,” it said. “Furthermore, price monitoring is being conducted for possible changes in the prices of agricultural commodities,” it added.

<https://business.inquirer.net/481063/agri-damage-due-to-ferdie-habagat-hits-p600m>



**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# 50,000 rice farmers seen to benefit from new DBP facility

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 09:44 AM September 20, 2024



A farmer transplants rice seedlings at a rice field in Pulilan, Bulacan on Monday, February 26, 2024. INQUIRER PHOTO / GRIG C. MONTEGRANDE

The government is targeting to assist some 50,000 rice farmers this dry cropping season under a new program that offers low-cost credit and market support, the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) said.

DBP board director Roberto Antonio said they plan to implement the Agri-Puhunan at Pantawid (APP) in parts of Luzon, and eventually in the Visayas and Mindanao, following its launch in Guimba town in Nueva Ecija province.

“The instruction to us is to look into implementing the program in another area in Nueva Ecija,” Antonio said in a briefing in Quezon City (translated from Filipino). “We will be going up to CAR (Cordillera Administrative Region), Pangasinan and Isabela.”



On his 67th birthday last week, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. unveiled the APP, a program of the DBP in partnership with the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Some 5,000 rice farmers in Guimba are part of the APP program, with Antonio saying that studies are underway to expand its coverage to include farmers who cultivate other crops.

### **Intervention monitoring**

The target is to enlist 1 million farmers who will produce 5 tons each under the initiative.

“This is huge help in attaining our rice requirement,” he added. “We are addressing both the standing order of our President, which is [to work toward] food security and sustainability.”

Through the APP loan program, rice farmers will receive intervention monitoring cards that can be used to purchase seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and ameliorants, and pay for services of accredited merchants of Planters Products Inc.

The DA and the DBP initially allocated P3 billion for the program, which aims to provide a combination of low-interest loans and subsistence allowances to qualified beneficiaries.

Rice farmers tilling at least one hectare of farmland and who are registered under the DA’s Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture are eligible.

Each farmer will receive P58,000, including a subsistence allowance of P32,000 (or P8,000 a month), which will be released in tranches within four months. They will also receive a subsidy of P14,500 per hectare for inputs, services and insurance.

Antonio said the loan facility aims to break the cycle of rice farmers resorting to loans that carry high interest rates. As such, the program aims to uplift their living conditions.

“Because of this, we are lifting the burden of paying high interest rates. In exchange, we want them (rice farmers) to sell five tons of their produce to the NFA (National Food Authority) at P21 per kilogram,” he said.

In a statement earlier, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the program would guarantee a “decent” higher income for rice farmers and reduce the volume of rice importation.

Antonio explained that the APP has a “cash capture mechanism” since the allotted money for the loan program will circulate during the planting season.

In the Philippines, rice has two planting seasons: dry cropping season (September to February) and wet cropping season (April to August). INQ

<https://business.inquirer.net/481054/50000-rice-farmers-seen-to-benefit-from-new-dbp-facility>

# Intercropping to address a coconut crisis

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 02:10 AM September 21, 2024

## CACAO PROFITABILITY

PARTICULARS	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5
PRODUCTION COST	P47,454	P17,809	P35,167	P41,107	P49,687
NET INCOME	(47,454)	6,171	54,813	93,893	130,313

Unless intercropping is implemented in our coconut farms, our coconut farmers will remain the poorest sector in our economy.

We currently have 2.5 million coconut farmers tilling 3.6 million hectares. They are located in 69 out of 82 provinces.

Livelihood Funds, an investment fund helping agricultural projects in rural areas, states: “Filipino coconut farmers are the poorest in their country, with around 50 percent living on much less than \$2 a day. A clear majority lack technical support and access to market and financing. Farmers are not adequately managed and, as a matter of fact, coconut yields in the Philippines are two to three times lower than in Brazil or in India.” The government must tap a finally available coconut levy fund of P75 billion in cash and P50 billion in assets to provide support for farmers.

Cacao is recommended for intercropping. Besides, we currently import more than 70 percent of our cacao needs.

Ironically, while we can produce this much under our coconut trees, we have no concept of intercropping.

Today, the Ivory Coast is the largest source of cacao, producing 45 percent of the world’s total. But Africanews reported: “Cocoa shipments to the ports in the Ivory Coast are expected to fall by 28.5 percent year-on-year in the first quarter of the 2023/2024 season.”

This should send a signal to our Philippine cocoa producers.

## **Utilization**

A multicrop system has clear advantages compared to a monocrop system.

University of the Philippines' Edna Aguilar, the lead expert in our coconut industry plan, said: "Utilizing the area under coconut will substantially increase agricultural production without opening up new land. Intercropping 40 percent of the coconut area could add significantly to the existing agricultural production area, without increasing the total net area of planting."

Given the Ivory Coast situation, which opens up a larger market and new opportunities for our cacao producers, we interviewed Armi Lopez-Garcia, president of the Philippine Cacao Industry Association. She recently arrived from the Cacao Association of Asia conference in Singapore.

"During this conference, I learned that much of the difficulty that the Ivory Coast is experiencing is because their cacao is mostly produced in monocrop plantations," she says.

A monocrop system has a disadvantage. When disease infects one plant, it spreads rapidly and decreases both the volume and income of the farmer.

We must therefore favor a multicrop system, such as cacao intercropped in between coconut trees. We can even have a multistory system: under coconut trees, cacao can be planted alongside other produce like root crops, pineapples and other fruits and vegetables. This will further increase food security and farmer incomes.

## **Benefits**

Aguilar cites five benefits from intercropping. The system allows to: (1) diversify to a product-combination of both food and cash crops, which increases biodiversity; (2) distribute labor and income throughout the year; (3) reduce risk of total loss from drought, pests, and diseases; (4) yield different types of produce resulting in a more diverse diet for the family; and (5) provide resilience to climate impacts by improving the micro-climactic conditions within plantations.

What makes cacao even more attractive is the low investment it entails to achieve high returns (see attached table).

For an initial investment of P47,454, net income will start immediately in the second year. It will reach P130,313 in the fifth year, and will continue providing benefits in the next 20 years.

One must consider that net income from intercropping will last for at least 24 years. Our large, yet significantly underutilized coconut levy fund must now be harnessed for intercropping.

It is a tragedy that such vast lands remain idle.

*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](mailto:agriwatch_phil@yahoo.com)*

<https://business.inquirer.net/481196/intercropping-to-address-a-coconut-crisis>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Cyclone deaths rise to 25; 6 towns in calamity states

By: [Nestor Corrales](#) - Reporter / [@NCorralesINO](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:22 AM September 22, 2024



Inquirer file photo

MANILA, Philippines — Another individual has died due to the combined effects of Tropical Cyclones Ferdie, Gener, Helen and Igme and the southwest monsoon, raising the death toll to 25, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said on Saturday.

In its latest bulletin, the NDRRMC said 10 deaths were recorded in Mimaropa, five in Western Visayas, two in Central Visayas, four in Zamboanga Peninsula and four in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

According to the agency, 13 were reported injured in various parts of the country while eight have remained missing.

The disaster agency said 1,449,333 individuals or 387,755 families were affected by the weather disturbances in Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Mimaropa, Bicol,

Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Davao Region, Soccsksargen, Caraga, BARMM and Cordillera Administrative Region.

According to the agency, 23,512 individuals or 5,783 families has remained in 199 evacuation centers across the country.

It said the weather disturbances have affected 122 roads and 14 bridges nationwide.

Data from the Department of Agriculture showed that the combined effects of the tropical cyclones and the monsoon remained at P600.83 million in losses in the agriculture sector.

The towns of Dumarán, Roxas, and San Vicente in Palawan and the municipalities of towns of Hinigaran and San Enrique and La Carlota City in Negros Occidental were placed under states of calamity due to the effects of the prolonged rains that brought floods and destroyed properties in some areas.

Ferdie left the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) on Sept. 14, a day after it entered the country while Gener and Helen also exited PAR on Sept. 18. Igme left PAR on Saturday morning.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1985682/cyclone-deaths-rise-to-25-6-towns-in-calamity-states>



**REMATE:**

# Malaking pagbabago sa agrikultura ng Pilipinas, asahan sa susunod na 2 ‘gang 4 taon

September 21, 2024 12:33



MANILA, Philippines – Asahan ang malaking pagbabago sa agriculture sector ng bansa sa susunod na dalawa hanggang apat na taon, sinabi ng Department of Agriculture (DA) nitong Biyernes, Setyembre 20.

Sa Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon briefing, sinabi ni DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa na nagpapatuloy na ang ilang modernization at bagong proyekto para sa pagpapalakas ng agriculture production.

“You can expect in the next two to four years, there will be significant change sa ating buong agricultural economy and landscape,” ani De Mesa.

Sinabi pa niya na marami ring solar-powered irrigation projects ang popondohan sa susunod na taon habang ang bagong Philippine Pipe Irrigation Network System ay itinatayo para tulungan ang mas marami pang magsasaka.

“Lahat na iyong conveyance system natin naka-pipe na, hindi na iyong open canal para maging episyente at mas maging modern,” anang opisyal.

“Then iyong mga ating mga magsasaka mayroong tinatawag na hydrant — every one or two hectares, so they can easily control iyong kanilang mga farms,” dagdag pa.

Bukod sa irrigation improvement, binanggit din ni De Mesa ang paglalatang ng strategic ports sa 17 iba’t ibang lugar sa buong bansa para sa mas episyenteng pagbiyahe at distribusyon ng mga produkto, paglalagay ng cold storage at food terminals, policy transformations, at infrastructure projects.

Para naman sa unprogrammed projects, sinabi ni De Mesa na tututukan din ang mga lugar sa Mindanao, indigenous people, at iba pang rural areas sa bansa.

Dagdag ng DA na mayroon din silang World Bank-assisted projects, na mayroong P1.25 bilyong alokasyon para tumulong sa mas marami pang magsasaka partikular na sa Mindanao.

Ito ay ang Philippine Rural Development Project at scale up project; Fish Resiliency Core Project ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources; at Mindanao Inclusive Agri Development Project.

“Malaking bagay ito sa amin. Alam naman natin na priority ng ating pangulo, ng ating pamahalaan ang ating agri sector,” sinabi ni De Mesa. *RNT/JGC*

<https://remate.ph/malaking-pagbabago-sa-agrikultura-ng-pilipinas-asahan-sa-susunod-na-2-gang-4-taon/>

**REMATE:**

## **24 patay, P600M agri damage naitala sa bagyong Ferdie, Gener at Helen**

September 21, 2024 10:10



MANILA, Philippines – Umakyat na sa 24 ang bilang ng mga nasawi dahil sa pinagsama-samang epekto ng Bagyong Ferdie, Gener at Helen, kasabay ng southwest monsoon o Habagat, ayon sa National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) nitong Biyernes, Setyembre 20.

Sa pinakahuling bulletin, sinabi ng NDRRMC na siyam sa mga nasawi ay mula sa Mimaropa; lima sa Western Visayas; at tig-apat sa Zamboanga Peninsula at Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM); at dalawa sa Central Visayas.

Idinagdag pa ng ahensya na mayroong 12 katao ang nawawala sa MIMAROPA, at dalawa sa Zamboanga Peninsula, habang 13 indibidwal ang nasaktan sa iba't ibang bahagi ng bansa.

Idineklara rin ang state of calamity sa San Enrique, Negros Occidental at Pandan sa Antique.

Ayon sa NDRRMC, 1,303,677 katao o 356,578 pamilya ang apektado ng mga sama ng panahon.

Nagresulta rin ang epekto ng habagat at bagyong Ferdie ng P600.83 milyong halaga ng pinsala sa agrikultura ayon sa Department of Agriculture (DA).

Sa bulletin na inilabas Biyernes ng hapon, apektado ng kalamidad ang kabuhayan ng 11,170 magsasaka, 27,427 metric tons ng agricultural produce at 11,696 ektarya ng taniman.

Pinaka-napuruhan ang bigas sa overall losses na 93.66 percent o P562.75 million. Sinundan ito ng mais sa 3.17 percent o P19.04 million, at ang nalalabing 3.17 percent ay dahil high-value crops (P18.22 million) katulad ng lowland vegetables, root crops at mga saging, maging ang livestock (P819,200) kabilang ang manok, baboy, baka, kalabaw at kambing. *RNT/JGC*

<https://remate.ph/24-patay-p600m-agri-damage-naitala-sa-bagyong-ferdie-gener-at-helen/>

**REMATE:**

# P24M kilo ng bigas nakaimbak lang sa Manila port

September 20, 2024 11:24



Nilinaw ng Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) na hindi ang port congestion ang rason kung bakit mataas ang presyo ng bigas sa merkado.

Ang utilization rate ng yarda ngayon ayon kay PPA General Manager Jay Santiago sa Port of Manila bukod sa MICT at South Harbour ay nasa 70 hanggang 72 percent lamang.

Katunayan aniya, nasa halos 500 container ng bigas na handa nang ilabas o naghihintay na lamang na i-pull out ng mga consignees ang nanatiling naka-imbak sa Manila International Container Terminal (MICT). Sa bawat isang container ay naglalaman ng halos 540 sako ng imported na bigas, ayon pa kay Santiago.

Habang sa South Harbour ay mayroon namang 21 containers.

Kung pagsasamahin ang mga nakatenggang container sa terminal ng Port of Manila ay aabot ito sa P24 milyong kilos na ng imported na bigas.

Sinabi ni Santiago na karamihan sa mga containers ay mahigit 275 days na, at for release na pero hindi pa rin inilalabas.

Nangangahulugan lamang ayon kay Santiago base sa kanilang pag-aanalisa na ang karamihan sa mga consignee ay naghihintay lamang na tumaas ang presyo ng bigas sa merkado.*(Jocelyn Tabangcura-Domenden)*

<https://remate.ph/p24m-kilo-ng-bigas-nakaimbak-lang-sa-manila-port/>



**REMATE:**

## **Winasak ng bagyong Ferdie, Gener, Helen sa sektor ng agrikultura umabot sa P600M**

September 20, 2024 14:41



MANILA, Philippines – Ang pinsala at pagkalugi sa sektor ng agrikultura sa bansa dahil sa pananalasa ng mga bagyong Ferdie, Gener, Helen, at ang pinahusay na habagat ay umabot na sa mahigit P600 milyon, sinabi ng Department of Agriculture (DA).

Ipinakita ng datos na ang halaga ng pagkawala ng produksyon dulot ng kamakailang mga kaguluhan sa panahon ay umabot sa P600.83 milyon, o katumbas ng 27, 427 metric tons (MT) ng volume loss sa 11,696 ektarya ng lupang pang-agrikultura.

Sa mga nawasak na produktong pang-agrikultura, ang bigas ang nakakuha ng pinakamaraming pinsala na may value loss na aabot sa P562.75 milyon o volume loss na 26,072 MT.

Sinundan ito ng mais, high-value crops, livestock at poultry na may kabuuang halaga na nawala na P19.04 milyon, P18.22 milyon, at P819,200, ayon sa pagkakasunod.

Bukod dito, sinabi ng DA na 11,170 magsasaka din ang naapektuhan dahil sa pinagsamang epekto ng kamakailang tropical cyclone na tumama sa bansa.

Sinabi rin ni DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa na ang mga agricultural areas na pinaka-apektado ay sa Palawan, Occidental Mindoro, Antique, at Zamboanga Peninsula.

Naghanda na ang departamento ng mga binhi para sa mga pananim upang matulungan ang mga magsasaka bilang bahagi ng programang tulong nito.

“Mayroon tayong tinatawag na Quick Response Fund at naka-preposition din ‘yung ating mga binhi ng palay, mais, at gulay. Once ready na sila magtanim, pwede sila magtanim for quick turnaround,” ani De Mesa sa Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon nitong Biyernes.

Ang iba pang tulong mula sa DA ay kinabibilangan ng Survival and Recovery Loan Program na may halagang pautangin na hanggang P25,000, at mga pondo mula sa Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation. *RNT*

<https://remate.ph/winasak-ng-bagyong-ferdie-gener-helen-sa-sektor-ng-agrikultura-umabot-sa-p600m/>

**ABANTE:**

# Mga `inabandonang bigas' pinapahakot sa Bureau of Customs

Abante News

- September 20, 2024



Bagamat bayad sa buwis at taripa, ipinapakumpiska na ng Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) sa Bureau of Customs (BOC) ang mga imported rice na lampas 30 araw nang nakatengga sa mga pantalan.

Sa panayam Biyernes ng umaga, Setyembre 20, sinabi ni PPA General Manager Jay Santiago na alinsunod ito sa Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA).

Sa ilalim aniya ng batas, maaaring ideklarang abandonado na ang mga shipment na mahigit isang buwan nang nakatengga sa mga pantalan ngunit hindi pa rin pinu-pull out ng kanilang mga consignee.

Nauna nang inilahad ng PPA na tone-toneladang imported na bigas ang halos isang buwan nang nakatengga sa mga pantalan.

Hinala ng PPA na sinasadyang ipitin ng mga consignee ang inangkat na bigas sa mga pantalan dahil naghihintay na tumaas ang presyo nito sa mga palengke bago ilabas.

Nabatid na mayroon na rin umanong mahigit 200 araw nang nakatengga lang sa Manila Port.

(Andrea Salve)

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/09/20/mga-inabandonang-bigas-pinapahakot-sa-bureau-of-customs/>

# Misamis Oriental milk producers trained on food safety

By The Manila Times  
September 21, 2024

THE United Livestock Raisers Cooperative (Ulirco) underwent training on food safety and good manufacturing practices (GMP) from the Department of Science and Technology Northern Mindanao (DoST 10) to raise its production standards.

Ulirco is a National Dairy Authority-supported group that produces pasteurized milk under the brand name "Fresh Moo" in Jasaan, Misamis Oriental.

Fourteen of Ulirco staff and on-the-job trainees attended the training conducted by DoST 10 on Sept. 10, 2024. Ulirco, a recipient of DoST's Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (Setup), had previously benefited from milk processing equipment and laboratory analysis services provided through the Setup program in 2022. The cooperative also received consultancy support through DoST's Manufacturing Productivity Extension Program (MPEX).

The cooperative is applying for FDA License to Operate (LTO) and Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) which are crucial for Ulirco's bid to expand its product range and reach larger markets, including regional mall outlets, thereby increasing its market share and revenue.

Ulirco's chairman, Wilfredo Perez, expressed his profound gratitude to DoST for their unwavering technical support, saying that the training was not just a refresher but a crucial step towards securing their FDA LTO, a prerequisite for market expansion.

Perez also expressed Ulirco's eagerness to participate in more DoST programs in the future, recognizing the department's pivotal role in their journey.

The session was led by Joanah Magto, senior science research specialist of DoST Misamis Oriental, who addressed the importance of identifying and mitigating food safety hazards, particularly given the perishable nature of milk.

Michael Vincent Marte, a professional food technologist of DoST Misamis Oriental, followed the discussion on good manufacturing practices, underscoring the role of GMP in ensuring food safety and quality.

With DoST's Consultancy and Training Services, industries and MSMEs, like Ulirco, are assisted in improving their compliance with GMP requirements.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/09/21/regions/misamis-oriental-milk-producers-trained-on-food-safety/1973029>

# Rice, egg, galunggong prices increase

By Janine Alexis Miguel

September 21, 2024

PRICES of agricultural commodities increased at the start of September, with rice selling for P56 per kilogram (kg), a bit higher than P55.99/kg in the second half of August, according to data from the Philippine Statistics Authority. Well-milled rice in Western Visayas was sold at P59.3/kg.

Special rice was at P63.94/kg, up slightly by 0.47 percent from P63.64/kg in the second phase of June 2023. Regular milled rice, meanwhile, remained stable at P50.50/kg in the same period.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. on Wednesday said the expected decline in rice prices has been delayed because traders ramped up imports of the staple in anticipation of a supply shortage caused by El Niño.

He sees costs decreasing in October from reduced import tariffs. However, Tiu Laurel also noted the tax cuts' full impact "may be felt in January 2025, since demand for food usually spikes in December." Economic managers estimate the rice tariff reductions could lead to a price cut of P5 to P7/kg.

Other agricultural commodities with higher prices include galunggong (round scad) at P204.86/kg, up by 3.57 percent from P197.79/kg in the second phase of August. Bulacan sold the most expensive galunggong at P340/kg.

By region, the highest retail price of galunggong was in the National Capital Region at P256/kg.

Average price of medium-sized eggs at the national level was P9.00 apiece from September 1 to 5, up by 3.5 percent from P8.69 in August.

At the national level, cooking oil also posted a higher retail price at P159.50 per liter in the first phase of September, compared to P157.69 and P158.21 in the second and first phases of August, respectively. On the other hand, the price of onions dipped at P130.26/kg from P130.55/kg in the previous month.

A kilo of tomatoes sold at P90.7 during the period, 25.5 percent lower than P121.8/kg in the second phase of August.

Brown sugar was most expensive in the Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan) region at P119.56/kg.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/09/21/business/top-business/rice-egg-galunggong-prices-increase/1973038>



# **P29 per kilo rice sold to seniors, vulnerable groups in Ilocos Norte**

BusinessMirror  
September 21, 2024

**By Leilanie Adriano**

LAOAG CITY—Senior citizens, persons with disability, and solo parents availed themselves of cheap rice sold at P29 per kilogram during the grand launching of the Bagong Bayaning Magsasaka (BBM) Rice held at the National Irrigation Administration compound in San Nicolas town, Ilocos Norte on Friday.

“Thank you, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. for your love to Region 1 especially my town in San Nicolas,” said Violeta Pasion, a resident of the town’s Barangay 18 Bingao.

The low-priced grains were sourced from the National Irrigation Administration’s (NIA) contract farming with irrigators’ association members in the province.

Along with Pasion, Epifania Aliado, 81, and Erlina Deus, 78, also from San Nicolas town, showed their identification cards as senior citizens to the NIA personnel to avail themselves of the P29 per kilo rice merchandise.

“This is a big help for us. I hope they will continue to sell cheap rice as we have been buying our rice supply from rice traders at prices ranging from P52 to P60 per kilo,” said Aliado.

The selling of cheap rice in the province is part of the government’s pilot program on contract farming, which subsidized the farm inputs and farm machinery of farmers to lower the price of the grains sold to consumers.

Engr. Joselito De Vera, acting division manager of the Ilocos Norte Irrigation Management Office, said in an interview on Friday that Ilocos Norte has a total of 901 hectares dedicated for contract farming.

“This enabled us to secure five tons of rice which we have started to sell to the vulnerable sector until the supply lasts,” said De Vera.

Under the initial contract farming agreement with the irrigators’ associations, NIA will purchase 50 percent of their produce to be sold to vulnerable groups such as senior citizens, PWDs, and solo parents.

The remaining 50 percent will be left at the discretion of the farmers, who may sell it to private traders at competitive prices of up to P35 per kilo, which is still cheaper than the prevailing market price.

De Vera said more areas are being considered for the expansion of contract farming in the next planting season to sustain the production of low-priced grains.

To reach out to more vulnerable groups targeted under this pilot rice program, Rhoda Galban, chief of the agribusiness and marketing division of the Department of Agriculture, said that cheap rice will soon be available in Kadiwa rolling stores across the Ilocos region.

“This is just the beginning of having better access to quality and affordable rice. We have established Kadiwa sites and rolling stores where people can buy cheaper goods,” she said. PNA

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/09/21/p29-per-kilo-rice-sold-to-seniors-vulnerable-groups-in-ilocos-norte/>

# **SRA ups import clearance fee for artificial sweeteners**

Ada Pelonia  
September 20, 2024

THE Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) raised the import clearance fee for High Fructose Corn Syrup (HFCS) to P30 per equivalent bag of sugar in its bid to curb the use of the artificial sweeteners.

SRA Administrator Pablo Luis Azcona said the increase of import clearance fees for HFCS was “unanimously passed” by the Sugar Board last month and forms part of Sugar Order (SO) 4.

In early 2017, the SRA said it charged companies that import HFCS P30 per bag, but this was lowered a month later to P1.50 per bag, and “suspected to partly cause demand for domestic sugar stagnating in the past few years.”

According to the SRA, the issue of artificial sweeteners was raised to Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel by United Sugar Producers Federation (UNIFED) President Manuel Lamata and other sugar leaders in Luzon and Mindanao in early August.

“The SRA immediately acted on the concern. Thus, while collection of data on the use of artificial sweeteners is ongoing, we discovered this and decided to immediately raise the SRA fees for HFCS,” Azcona said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the SRA said another SO is being drafted based on the August 6 meeting between Laurel and other sugar stakeholders, millers, refiners, farmers, where UNIFED raised the alarm on the entry of “other sugars” or Tariff code HS1702.

“This entails requiring importers of items under HS1702 to secure an import clearance from SRA and this has been under board discussion since August,” Azcona said.

He said it has come to his attention that a similar letter addressed to the agriculture chief was sent by a group called the Sugar Council and the Nacusip this week.

“We welcome that more stakeholders are actually concerned about this issue and has decided to support the alarms initially raised by other sugar federations.”

The SRA said the alleged volume of imports under HS1702 was estimated to be around 200,000 metric tons (MT), “much higher than what some federations say.”

It added that the agency would continue to verify the data “as we have seen that this has been happening as far back as 10 years.”

“This will give us an accurate view and determine whether these other sugars have caused the demand for sugar to decline in the past few years,” Azcona added.

Despite this, the SRA chief noted that it was a “positive note that we are all together in supporting an issue that can be detrimental to the sugar industry.”

He encouraged united participation from all sectors to speed up resolution to any issues arising in the future.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/09/20/sra-ups-import-clearance-fee-for-artificial-sweeteners/>