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MANILA BULLETIN:

‘No limit in buying’: 41 Kadiwa ng Pangulo centers to sell ₱43\kilo rice

BY [JEL SANTOS](#)

Oct 10, 2024 05:32 PM



(MB PHOTOJEL SANTOS)

Starting Friday, Oct. 11, a total of 41 Kadiwa ng Pangulo centers will sell well-milled rice at ₱43 per kilo as part of the Department of Agriculture’s (DA) Rice-for-All program, an agency official announced Thursday, Oct. 10.

The DA currently has a total of 20 Kadiwa ng Pangulo centers.

“Starting tomorrow, we will be selling ₱43 ‘yung ating (our) Rice for All program. We will be adding 21 new additional sites beginning tomorrow,” Arnel De Mesa, the spokesperson of the DA, said during a press briefing.

“No limit ang pagbebenta. Kung gusto mong bumili ng 30 kilos, puwede. No limit (There is no limit. If you want to purchase 30 kilos, that’s allowed. No limit),” he added.

De Mesa attributed the lower rice prices to the decline in global rice prices. India, the No. 1 exporter of grain, recently allowed white rice exports, which boosted the global supply.

Earlier, the DA sold ₱45 per kilo of rice at the Kadiwa ng Pangulo centers. The Rice-for-All program, spearheaded by Food Terminals Inc., offers well-milled rice at various Kadiwa ng Pangulo centers for ₱45 a kilo.

In a statement, Agriculture Secretary Francisco “Kiko” Tiu Laurel Jr. said the DA’s vision is to “lower the price of this staple food under the Rice-for-All program to the most affordable level possible.”

“Rice sold under this program will be accessible to more consumers, thanks to our planned expansion of the Kadiwa network,” he said.

Not available at ‘ordinary’ Kadiwa stores

De Mesa explained that the ₱43 per kilo of well-milled rice is available at “ordinary” Kadiwa stores and only at Kadiwa ng Pangulo centers.

He noted that the “ordinary” Kadiwa” stores offer more expensive rice as they base it on their pricing to their suppliers.

“Iyong ordinaryong Kadiwa ay may binebentang bigas din pero hindi ‘yung ₱29 at ₱43 (The ordinary Kadiwa stores also sell rice but there’s no ₱29 and ₱43),” he said.

The ₱29 per kilo of rice is being sold to “vulnerable” groups, which include senior citizens, persons with disability (PWDs), solo parents, and beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).

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Unlike the ₱43, the ₱29 program of the DA, which is subsidized by the National Food Authority (NFA), has a limit of 10 kilograms per customer on a first-come, first-served basis.

In August, the DA launched the Rice-for-All program in a bid to provide cheaper rice to Filipinos.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/10/41-kadiwa-ng-pangulo-centers-to-sell-43-kilo-rice>

MANILA BULLETIN:

NFA launches cost-cutting measure by accepting ‘palay’ in farmers’ own bags

BY [JEL SANTOS](#)

Oct 10, 2024 05:30 PM



The National Food Authority (NFA) will begin pilot testing the acceptance of “palay (unmilled rice)” bagged by farmers in new or good secondhand sacks, a cost-saving measure expected to save the agency millions of pesos, NFA Administrator Larry Lacson said on Thursday, Oct. 10.

He said the savings would be redirected to purchase more palay for buffer stocks and support farmers’ incomes.

According to the Department of Agriculture (DA), the pilot testing for the current main crop, around 20 percent of the target 6.4 million 50-kilo bags of palay will be procured using farmers sacks.

Should the pilot testing succeeds, Lacson said the NFA will implement it next year with up to 90 percent of palay to be procured and allowed to be bagged in farmers’ sacks.

“At 20 percent of 6.4 million bags of procurement target during the main cropping season, NFA will save around ₱27.4 million in the fourth quarter alone in terms of the cost of new sacks and warehouse handling,” he said.

Lacson noted that by reaching 90 percent of the 10.9 million-bag palay procurement target next year, the government could save ₱215.5 million, which the NFA could use to acquire an extra 7,700 metric tons of palay at ₱28 per kilo.

The agency said it has decided to accept palay in farmers' sacks during various consultations with farmers nationwide.

Such was finalized at the NFA's national planning conference conducted in Dumaguete City last September, Lacson stated.

Trimming power cost thru solar project

On Thursday, Oct. 10, a memorandum of agreement (MOA) was forged between the NFA and state-owned Philippine National Oil Co. to implement a rooftop solar photovoltaic system at its main office in Quezon City

The initiative seeks to decrease electricity costs and improve overall energy management of the NFA.

With this, Lacson said the NFA is in the path of going green.

“We will not only save on our power cost from this solar rooftop project, we are also contributing to the reduction of carbon emission and in safeguarding the environment,” he said.

The NFA administrator said the solar project that agency's headquarters will be eventually replicated in other NFA offices and warehouses across the country.

Under the agreement, NFA will lease a 100 kiloWatt-peak solar PV system, which is projected to substantially lower its electricity expenses.

“The monthly billing will be calculated based on the net energy output of the solar system, set at a rate 10 percent lower than prevailing utility prices. This cost-saving measure is expected to provide NFA with significant financial relief, allowing it to allocate more resources toward its core mandate of maintaining sufficient rice buffer stocks,” the agency said.

“For the entire NFA network, the total solar capacity will be 5 MWp.”

Per the agreement, the ownership of the solar PV system will transfer to NFA after fifteen years at no additional cost, further enhancing the long-term benefits of this investment.

“This lease-to-own arrangement not only reduces upfront costs but also provides NFA with a sustainable energy solution for years to come,” the NFA stated.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/10/nfa-launches-cost-cutting-measure>

MANILA BULLETIN:

DBM boosts education budget, cuts cash assistance

BY [MANILA BULLETIN](#)

Oct 10, 2024 12:41 PM

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) increased its 2025 funding for education but reduced its cash assistance allocation or ayuda for poor Filipinos.

Of the proposed P6.352 trillion national budget for next year, P977.6 billion, or over one-sixth of the total, will be poured into education.

This education budget is higher than the sector's P968.9 billion allocation in the 2024 General Appropriations Act (GAA).

On the other hand, the total allocated budget for cash assistance or "ayuda" is P253.378 billion, which provides financial support to vulnerable sectors of society.

This is lower than the total appropriations for ayuda or cash assistance programs, which amounted to P318.5 billion this year.

It is also lower than the P357.5 billion allocated for financial assistance programs across agencies in the General Appropriations Act four years ago.

Financial assistance for this sector includes various programs across several agencies, such as the Department of Agriculture's (DA) Rice Farmers Assistance, Department of Health's (DOH) Cancer Assistance Fund, Department of Labor and Employment's (DOLE) TUPAD Program, Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) 4Ps, and fuel subsidies for the transport sector.

On Oct. 10, DBM Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman stated that the 2025 national budget prioritizes social services, particularly education, with its budget accounting for 15.4 percent of the National Expenditure Program (NEP).

"As mandated by the constitution, the education sector [composed of the Department of Education (DepEd), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)] will remain as top priority with a total budget of P977.6 billion," Pangandaman said.

According to the DBM, the budget will fund DepEd's MATATAG Agenda for basic education and provide increased allocations for key programs like the school-based feeding program.

Pangandaman assured that the government's education agenda will prioritize access to quality education through initiatives like Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education and Education Assistance and Subsidies.

The department further said that the sector's budget, aligned with the country's six-year development plan, focuses on boosting human capital development through significant investments in education, health, and social protection. (Derco Rosal)

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/10/dbm-boosts-education-budget-cuts-cash-assistance>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Contract farming for corporate employees

BY [YVETTE TAN](#)

Oct 11, 2024 07:18 AM

AVANT GARDENER



Most of us know that the reason food staples are expensive is because it passes through many hands before it can get from the farmer to the consumer. If we could shorten that chain, it would make basic household ingredients cheaper.

That's what Raffy Tesoro, Philippine textile expert and Chief Creative Officer of Biogenetics Agriventures Incorporated (BAI) and his team are hoping to do. BAI is an "agricultural and community think tank consultancy that focused on creating agricultural tech solutions that also does integration, execution, innovation, and connectivity within and without corporations."

It partnered with the Philippine Transmarine Corporation (PTC), the largest manpower Management Agency in the Philippines, to "provide food security for their employees." The company contract farms rice for PTC employees' monthly rice allowance. "We provide Jasmine grape rice and ₱62 a kilo delivered right to their offices," Tesoro said. At the time of this writing, it's about ₱75-82 per kilo.

They also offer a service they call Market Day, where they bring fresh produce to PTC offices twice a month for employees to buy at competitive prices. "Like, currently, broccoli is ₱700 [a kilo]... We sell it for like ₱255," Tesoro said. "What does this do? It provides a means for the employees to have a much more well-rounded nutritional profile that's easily accessible. A lot of PTC employees plan their food purchasing around Market Day because not only is it cheaper than the supermarket, it's also fresher, because we get [the produce] maybe 24 or 48 hours before."

It's a win-win for everyone because PTC employees get access to fresh produce at rates cheaper than the market or grocery stores and the farmers BAI works with are guaranteed that their harvests will be purchased at fair prices. Because the farming is contracted, there's less chance of wastage because the produce is accounted for even before it's planted. "What we're trying to do is not waste money, not waste effort, and [move towards sustainability]," Tesoro said. "And I'm not even being an eco warrior with sustainability. Sustainability means prolonged profitability. That keeps your business going. That's what we're after... Not just our business, but everybody's [businesses], and

it starts with food.” The program, which just completed its final stage, has been a success. The company benefits because employee health [increases. They have less] sick days [and] better nutrition. Employee job satisfaction goes way up because they feel like their place of work... cares about their welfare,” Tesoro said.

The company is also planning to offer fresh prepacked food like salad cups to employees at a much cheaper price than commercial chopped salad offered in restaurants. BAI is looking to work with other companies who are looking for a similar setup. “There are several investment models. Either the company pays for the entire stock... And the other is, we have an open system where other people can invest in contract farming, and then we can give them first crack at milled rice so it comes out cheaper,” Tesoro explained, adding that they can work with companies with as little as 20 employees. Interested parties may inquire with him via LinkedIn.

Tesoro wants to feed the nation, a goal he admits comes from an ulterior motive: “I have a vision where we can become, potentially, the next cultural soft power out of Asia,” he said. “Everybody’s like... we should invest in our artists, [and I’m] like, you can’t invest in artists unless you invest in farmers, miners, plumbers, fishermen. You need to have the basic industries organized efficiently and profitably before you can even begin to do cultural or tech industries.

“So this is why we’re doing this. I want to make fabrics. I want to do fashion, but there’s no way to do it without [investing in agriculture and food security] first. And also, I can’t get the raw materials I need, like cotton that comes from agriculture, or piña or abaca. Even even animal fiber is still agriculture... So that's why we have to fix all that first.”

Contract farming can be an efficient way to shorten the chain between farmer and consumer, and if done properly, can result in higher yield for the farmer and less expenses for the buyer. Company-subsidized contract farming, such as the partnership between PTC and BAI, can be an efficient way to bolster employee health and morale, which is a high indicator of company growth. As Tesoro pointed out, a well-fed citizenry is the backbone of a thriving nation, one that is ready to make a positive mark on the world.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/11/contract-farming-for-corporate-employees>

MANILA BULLETIN:

A boost to the country's agriculture industry and food safety

Vienovo Philippines Feedmill Plant Inauguration

BY [MB BUSINESS](#)

Oct 10, 2024 06:09 PM



Vienovo Philippines, a leading player in the country's feed industry, celebrated the grand opening of its new feed mill plant in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon. The state-of-the-art facility is expected to significantly contribute not only to the region's agricultural development and economic growth, but in total Philippines.



The inauguration ceremony was graced by government officials, industry leaders, and local stakeholders. In his speech, Vienovo Philippines' President and CEO Mathieu Guillaume, emphasized the company's commitment in providing high-quality feed products that support the livestock industry and ensure food security.

“Today, I am filled with appreciation and gratitude, that I stand here today as we inaugurate our feed mill plant, here in Bukidnon. This moment, marks a significant milestone, on the journey of Vienovo Philippines, and I am honored to share it with all of you. Vienovo Philippines was founded with a vision; and that is to be the preferred choice in animal nutrition, delivering holistic and reliable products that ensures growth on your farm businesses. And as we open our fourth plant, here, in the beautiful province of Bukidnon, we are one step closer to realizing that vision. This plant is not just a testament of our goals, but also to our unwavering commitment to the Filipino farmers, the agriculture industry and the food security of this beautiful country, the Philippines”, said Guillaume.

Vienovo Philippines’ mission has always been clear. And this is to accelerate, livestock production by providing consistent high-quality feeds and excellent service. The company leverages on advance European nutritional know-how, to assure that their product meets the highest standard of quality and sustainability.



FOURTH PLANT IN PH. Vienovo Philippines’ new facility in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon will allow the company to enhance, their production capacity, streamline supply chain, and ensure consistent supply of high-quality feeds across the Philippines, particularly to their customers in the Mindanao area.

Guillame also added that the company is not just prioritizing their numbers.

“Beyond our business goals, this plant represents our commitment to the local community. We are proud to contribute to the economic goals of Bukidnon, by generating employment opportunities, and supporting local suppliers by sourcing raw materials and services locally, we aim to boost the local economy”, said Guillaume.



BEYOND BUSINESS GOALS. More than their business targets, Vienovo Philippines has committed their economic goals to the local community of Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon. Vienovo Philippines officers and board of directors, (L-R): Mathieu Guillaume, Joel Jimenez, Nico Bolzico and Jacques Christophe Branellec, during the opening ceremony of the company’s Bukidnon feed mill plant.

“As we look to the future, we remain committed to our vision of becoming an international player in the feed industry. We will continue to innovate, and to evolve and strive for excellence in everything we do. Our priority will always be to serve the Filipino, encouraging new generation to embrace new methods of farming, and in turn, improving the way we feed our nation” shared Guillaume. “Today, we celebrate not just the inauguration of a new plant but the beginning of a new chapter in our journey. Together we will continue to build brighter future for the Philippines,” said Guillaume.

As part of its commitment to sustainable practices, Vienovo Philippines has incorporated environmentally friendly measures into the design and operations of the new feed mill. This includes implementing waste management systems and adopting energy-efficient technologies.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/10/a-boost-to-the-country-s-agriculture-industry-and-food-safety-1>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA lowers Rice-for-All selling price to P43/kilo

The Philippine Star

October 11, 2024 | 12:00am



Individuals line up for affordable rice sold at P29 per kilo at the Kadiwa store inside the National Irrigation Administration Office in Quezon City on July 5, 2024.

The STAR / Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) will start selling rice at P43 per kilo under its Rice-for-All program at Kadiwa stores starting this week.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel said that they aim to give the most affordable rice for consumers at Kadiwa outlets, which they also intend to expand within the year.

“We expect to double our Kadiwa outlets this weekend as part of a broader goal of reaching 169 stores by the end of the year,” he said in a statement.

This week, a total of 21 Kadiwa outlets will open across Metro Manila and Laguna.

The outlets will also offer rice at P29 per kilo for senior citizens, solo parents and persons with disabilities.

The DA Agribusiness Marketing Assistance Service has partnered with several farmer and fisherfolk cooperatives to establish at least one Kadiwa store in each of the 1,500 municipalities nationwide

“This partnership demonstrates the Filipino ‘bayanihan’ spirit where the government and private sector collaborate, a tie-up that is crucial in the implementation of government programs,” said DA Assistant Secretary Genevieve Guevarra.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/10/11/2391674/da-lowers-rice-all-selling-price-p43kilo>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

‘Smoke-free future’



COMMONSENSE - [Marichu A. Villanueva](#) - The Philippine Star

October 11, 2024 | 12:00am

NEUCHATEL – This is my second time to participate in the “Technovation” event being held at the R&D (research and development) Cube of Philip Morris International (PMI) here at its headquarters in Switzerland. The first time was in January 2020, or two months before the lockdown started in the Philippines following the COVID-19 pandemic.

So it is sort of a return visit to Neuchatel, one of the 26 cantons or territories in Switzerland. (A canton is similar to a state in the United States.) The Technovation event is a continuing corporate activity of the PMI coming on the heels of the inauguration of its P8.8-billion manufacturing facility in Batangas last April 15.

Along with its Philippine affiliate, Philip Morris Fortune Tobacco Corp. (PMFTC), the new manufacturing facility was put up and located in the company’s 25-hectare property in the First Philippine Industrial Park in Tanauan City. Since its inauguration, it is now producing specially designed tobacco sticks for PMI’s “smoke-free” heated tobacco product (HTP) lines. The PMI views their new plant facility as another milestone in their company’s drive to achieve their corporate vision of a “smoke-free future” in the Philippines. Representing President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. (PBBM) at the inauguration of the PMI factory were Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. and First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos. In his message, the agriculture secretary thanked the giant American tobacco company for fulfilling its investment pledge to PBBM during his last US official visit as well as its continuing support for tobacco farmers and their families in the Philippines.

The President's home province, Ilocos Norte, is one of the country's chief producers of Virginia tobacco used in the manufacture of cigarette products and one of the biggest agricultural products of the Philippines being exported. The PMI started producing finished and semi-finished goods in their state-of-the-art manufacturing plants in Marikina and now in Batangas.

In his remarks at the inauguration rites, Jacek Olczak, PMI chief executive officer, committed "to delivering a smoke-free future" with the latest innovations to further improve the quality and safety of their HTPs, also called "heat-not-burn" devices. "This facility embodies the spirit of science-based innovation that defines our company today," Olczak cited.

Olczak is credited with steering PMI's transformation into a business-to-consumer company that is observing its ten-year "smoke-free journey" that started in 2014. The Polish Olczak was appointed to head PMI in May 2021. He started his career with PMI in 1993 and rose through the ranks, beginning in finance and general management positions across Europe, including managing director of PMI's markets in Poland and Germany and president of the European Union Region.

And in the process of doing so, Olczak led PMI's "expanding the company's product portfolio into wellness and health care," through the so-called "harm reduction" innovations in their product lines.

IQOS, currently the PMI's most popular tobacco heating device, was launched in the Philippines in 2020, together with its accompanying tobacco sticks called HEETS. This coincided with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic when my friend, who shifted to using IQOS, escaped the "cold turkey" effect after quitting his smoking habit. Although he has been smoking cigarettes since he was a teenager, his transition enabled him to gradually quit nicotine addiction from his imported brand of Japan-made menthol cigarettes.

The next thing he knew, he no longer craved a nicotine fix and lost any desire to smoke again.

He quit but he had already developed chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, a common illness of smokers.

All PMI smoke-free, nicotine-containing products are intended for adults who would otherwise continue smoking or using other nicotine products and who are looking for a better alternative to cigarettes. Thus, PMI's public advisory: "If you don't smoke, don't start. If you smoke, quit. If you don't quit, change."

The Philippines has the most stringent laws against smoking in public places – be it cigarettes or e-cigarettes or vapes. This is not to mention the so-called “sin taxes” or higher rates of excise taxes on all cigarette products in a bid to disrupt the smoking habits of Pinoys. Ironically for a giant multinational company, PMI has adopted the “bold ambition” to get rid of cigarettes, a product deemed harmful to one’s health for smokers. And, equally harmful too, to “secondhand smokers,” or the people who do not smoke but are exposed to and breathe the air filled by cigarette smoking.

While not risk-free, PMI argued their smoke-free products are a “far better choice than continued smoking” of cigarettes, the tar content of which has been medically proven to cause cancer. “By leveraging science and technology, we can provide these (smoking) people with products that have the potential to be far less harmful than continuing to smoke cigarettes,” PMI asserted. IQOS Ilumina, the latest version of PMI’s heated tobacco device and its consumable heat sticks called TEREA, were introduced to the country last year. In late 2023, PMFTC added ZYN nicotine pouches to its portfolio of smoke-free products. In 2023, PMI reported 74 percent of their commercial efforts and 99 percent of their R&D expenditures were spent to create smoke-free products. The smoke-free business of PMI accounted for 38 percent of their net revenues for the second quarter of this year. From their own estimates, 72 percent of smokers who switched to IQOS had stopped smoking, PMI declared. PMI further estimates 36.5 million adults around the world use their smoke-free products. Of this total, 30.8 million are IQOS users, PMI noted. Much earlier, PMI and PMFTC invested \$3.1 million in 2018 to put up a solar power plant at its manufacturing facility in Batangas. The 2.5-megawatt solar plant is expected to reduce more than 2,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions with more environment-friendly electricity produced from renewable energy source.

Using science-based innovative energies to replace conventional fuels is also aligned with its vision of a “smoke-free future,” PMI touted.

<https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2024/10/11/2391633/smoke-free-future>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

NFA tweaks bagging policy to save costs

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

October 11, 2024 | 12:00am



NFA Eastern Visayas regional office in Palo, Leyte.

PNA.gov.ph

MANILA, Philippines — The National Food Authority (NFA) will start accepting palay bagged in new and secondhand sacks to reduce handling cost and save money.

The policy shift will allow the agency to generate savings from purchasing and using NFA sacks, which it previously used in bagging palay bought from farmers.

NFA Administrator Larry Lacson yesterday said the policy change would not compromise the quality of the staple.

Lacson said the pilot-testing of the new bagging policy would begin this harvest season along with a plan to buy about 20 percent of the NFA's target of 6.4 million pieces of 50-kilo bags from farmers.

If the pilot-testing succeeds, the agency will implement the policy next year, allowing up to 90 percent of palay to be bagged in farmers' sacks.

The savings can be used to buy more palay for buffer stocking and boost farmers' income, Lacson said.

“At 20 percent of 6.4-million bags procurement target during the main cropping season, the NFA will save around P27.4 million in the fourth quarter alone in terms of the cost of new sacks and warehouse handling,” he said. “At 90 percent of procurement target of 10.9 million bags of palay next year, we could save around P215.5 million, an amount the NFA can use to buy additional 7,700 metric tons of palay at an average price of P28 a kilo.”

Meanwhile, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has blacklisted three importers and will revoke the license of five others due to alleged involvement in illegal trade practices.

Tiu Laurel said among those blacklisted by the Bureau of Plant Industry were LVM Grains Enterprises, Kysse Lishh Consumer Goods Trading and Golden Rays Consumer Goods Trading.

He said LVM Grains Enterprises imported milled rice, cashew nuts and coffee without the required sanitary and phytosanitary import clearances (SPIC).

Kysse Lishh Consumer Goods Trading and Golden Rays Consumer Goods Trading were banned for importing onions and oranges, respectively, without SPICs and import licenses.

Tiu Laurel said the import licenses of five other firms have been suspended for revocation due to misdeclaration, illegal importation and anti-competitive trade practices.

The names of the five companies were withheld as cases are still being prepared against them. – **Bella Cariaso**

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/10/11/2391617/nfa-tweaks-bagging-policy-save-costs>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DA to open 20 ‘coop-led’ Kadiwa outlets in Metro Manila, Laguna

By: [Jason Sigales](#) - Reporter / [@jasonsigalesINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 05:11 PM October 10, 2024



The Department of Agriculture sells rice at P29 per kilo at the Bureau of Animal and Industry’s Kadiwa in Visayas Avenue, Quezon City in this file photo taken on July 19, 2024. Philippine News Agency file photo

MANILA, Philippines – Twenty more Kadiwa stores in Metro Manila and Laguna are set to open this weekend, the Department of Agriculture (DA) announced on Thursday.

To be launched on Friday, the new farm-to-consumer outlets were the result of the DA’s partnership with the Pantao Fisherfolks Consumers Cooperative and SRT Alcala Multi-purpose Cooperative, an approach to expedite the program’s expansion.

“This partnership demonstrates the Filipino ‘bayanihan’ spirit where the government and private sector collaborate, a tie-up that is crucial in the implementation of government programs,” DA Assistant Secretary Genevieve Velicaria-Guevarra said in a statement.

The DA also announced that unlike existing Kadiwa stores operating for two to three days a week, the new cooperative-led stores will operate for seven days a week.

The new outlets will be located in the following:

Caloocan City

- **Ocean Fish, Brgy. 8**
- **Brgy. 28, Zone 3 – Site 1**
- **Brgy. 28, Zone 3 – Site 2**

Malabon City

- **BFAR – Longos**
- **18 Tuazon, Brgy. Potrero, Malabon**
- **Kalt Alles, Brgy. Potrero, Malabon**

Mandaluyong City

- **Brgy. Daang Bakal**
- **Brgy. Hulo**
- **Brgy. Addition Hills**

Marikina City

- **BFCT Bagsakan, No. 1 Marcos Highway**
- **Brgy. Tanong**
- **Fortune Barangay Hall, Brgy. Fortune**
- **Concepcion Uno Barangay Hall, Brgy. Concepcion Uno**

Navotas City

- **Kalt Alles – NFPC-PFDA, NBBN**

Pasig City

- **Lot 12, Blk. 4 R. Thaddeus St., Marietta Romeo Village, Brgy. Sta. Lucia, Pasig City**

Quezon City

- **Sauyo, Quezon City**
- **No 4 Geronimo, Philand Drive, Brgy. Pasong Tamo, Quezon City**
- **Zamora St. cor. A. Bonifacio, Brgy Sta. Lucia, Quezon City**
- **Alley 4, Bulacan St., Brgy. Payatas B, Quezon City**

Calamba City, Laguna

- **Brgy. Canlubang**

The P43 rice under the department's Rice-for-All program and the P29 rice for senior citizens, solo parents, and people with disabilities will be available in these stores.

After the launch of these cooperative-led Kadiwa outlets, the DA eyes establishing 10 to 15 new stores every month until the end of the year.

The Kadiwa ng Pangulo program is the flagship food accessibility initiative introduced by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. when he was still concurrently Agriculture secretary.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1991521/da-to-open-20-coop-led-kadiwa-outlets-in-metro-manila-laguna>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Marcos pitches PH as ideal hub for smart, sustainable manufacturing

By: [Darryl John Esguerra](#) - /

[Philippine News Agency](#) / 08:42 AM October 10, 2024



ASEAN BUSINESS SUMMIT. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. invites investors from Southeast Asia to explore business opportunities in the Philippines during the Asean Business and Investment Summit (ABIS) 2024 in Vientiane, Laos on Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024. Marcos said the Philippines is an ideal hub for smart and sustainable manufacturing, citing the government's key policy reforms and its aggressive development in infrastructure, manufacturing, agriculture and digital connectivity.

| PHOTO: Official Facebook page of PCO

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has invited investors from Southeast Asia to explore business opportunities in the Philippines that span across multiple industries.

Speaking before the Asean Business and Investment Summit on Wednesday in Laos, Marcos made the pitch for the Philippines as an ideal hub for smart and sustainable manufacturing.

He cited the Philippines' key policy reforms and its aggressive development in infrastructure, manufacturing, agriculture, and digital connectivity.

“So, let me put on my salesman’s hat and invite you to explore the investment opportunities we offer. We are targeting industries like green metals, battery manufacturing, energy equipment, data centers, and agribusiness,” Marcos said.

To support these goals, the President said his administration enacted key reforms such as the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Code, the Internet Transactions Act, and Executive Order 18, series of 2023. It is also pursuing the enactment of other key legislations like the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises to Maximize Opportunities for Reinvigorating the Economy, or the CREATE MORE Act, which is anchored on the CREATE Act of 2021 to further strengthen fiscal and non-fiscal incentives in strategic industries, he said.

The Philippine manufacturing sector continues to flourish despite global challenges, Marcos said, citing indicators such as the sustained Purchasing Managers’ Index growth proving that, with a strong foundation, industries can flourish even in uncertain times.

The President also mentioned the chemicals industry as one of the largest sub-sectors in the manufacturing industry, a major pillar supporting various sectors like agriculture, automotive, cement, creative, construction, energy, health, and pharmaceutical.

“We look at this as a major contributor to economic growth and job generation in the foreseeable future,” Marcos said. The Asean Business and Investment Summit is a major regional annual gathering that brings together world leaders, Asean representatives, and other relevant stakeholders to discuss the pressing issues in the region.

It also explores ways to ensure equal and sustainable distribution of the benefits of Asean’s thriving economy.

Marcos is in Laos to take part in the 44th and 45th Asean Summit and Related Summits. (PNA)

<https://business.inquirer.net/484189/marcos-pitches-ph-as-ideal-hub-for-smart-sustainable-manufacturing>

BUSINESS WORLD:

KADIWA rice price cut to P43 per kilo

October 10, 2024 | 8:56 pm



Rice is sold at a Kadiwa

Store inside the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) in Malate, Manila, May 30, 2024. — PHILIPPINE STAR/EDD GUMBAN

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said that it has lowered the selling price of well-milled rice at its KADIWA ng Pangulo stores to P43 per kilogram.

“We lowered the price because we have seen a decrease in the market price of rice,” Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel V. de Mesa told reporters at a briefing on Thursday.

The DA’s “Rice for All” program used to sell subsidized rice at P45 per kilo.

According to DA price monitors, Metro Manila outlets sold domestically grown well-milled rice for P45 to P55 per kilo. Imported well-milled rice also fetched P45 to P55 per kilo as of Oct. 9.

Mr. De Mesa added that the DA sells the rice in KADIWA ng Pangulo centers at a discount of at least P5 off the prevailing price.

“Rice sold under this program will be accessible to more consumers, thanks to our planned expansion of the KADIWA network,” Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. said in a separate statement.

The DA said that it’s planning to open 20 new KADIWA stores within the week across Metro Manila and Laguna.

It is targeting a network of 169 KADIWA sites by the end of the year. The DA has an overall goal of 1,500 locations.

Additionally, the DA said it is also partnering with several farm and fisheries cooperatives to expand the network.

“We also want our farmers and fisherfolk to get more value for their products, securing for them more income that will incentivize them to produce more,” DA Agribusiness and Marketing Director Junibert E. de Sagun said.

Mr. De Sagun said that unlike existing KADIWA stores that operate only 2-3 days a week, the new outlets will be open throughout the week. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/10/10/627200/kadiwa-rice-price-cut-to-p43-per-kilo/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

NFA to discontinue palay re-bagging; cost savings to boost procurement

October 10, 2024 | 8:55 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR/KRIZ JOHN ROSALES

THE National Food Authority (NFA) said on Thursday that it will no longer re-bag palay (unmilled rice) starting from the wet-season harvest to save on costs.

“The NFA has signed an order where farmers selling palay use their own sacks,” acting Administrator Larry R. Lacson told reporters at a briefing.

He added that the NFA will conduct a pilot test during the wet season harvest, in which 20% of palay procured from domestic farmers will no longer be re-bagged in NFA-branded sacks. This is equivalent to about 1.3 million bags.

“The NFA will no longer spend money on transferring the palay to new sacks; At the same time it will reduce handling costs,” Mr. Lacson said.

The NFA had previously required farmers to re-bag their harvest when selling to the NFA. Farmers have said that delayed the turnover of palay.

The NFA is required to procure domestically grown rice and hold it in reserve in the event of shortages or calamities.

The NFA is expected to save about P27.4 million from the suspension of palay repacking from October to December.

He added that if the test is successful, the NFA will roll out the measure next year, which could save the about P215.5 million.

He said that the savings realized from re-bagging could also be used in procuring more palay.

“This is an amount the NFA could use to buy an additional 7,700 metric tons of palay at an average price of P28 a kilogram,” Mr. Lacson said.

The NFA has just adopted a new pricing scheme for palay, offering between P23 and P25 per kilo.

The NFA is targeting a palay inventory of 435,000 MT before the end of the year.

Meanwhile, the NFA said that it has partnered with the Philippine National Oil Co. on a rooftop solar panels project for the NFA central office.

Mr. Lacson said that the solar project will eventually be replicated at other NFA sites.

According to their Memorandum of Agreement, the NFA will lease a 100-kilowatt rooftop solar photovoltaic system. The entire NFA network will eventually host solar capacity of 5 megawatts.

“We will not only save on our power costs from this solar rooftop project, we are also contributing to the reduction of carbon emissions and in safeguarding the environment,” he said. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/10/10/627203/nfa-to-discontinue-palay-re-bagging-cost-savings-to-boost-procurement/>

REMATE:

Presyo ng bigas sa ilalim ng ‘Rice-for-All’ program, P43/kilo na lang

October 10, 2024 18:36



MANILA, Philippines- Ibinababa ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang selling price ng bigas na alok nito sa ilalim ng farmer-to-consumer market initiative o Kadiwa stores, na sumasalamin sa bumababang presyo nito sa retail market.

Sa isang press conference sa Quezon City nitong Huwebes, sinabi ni DA Assistant Secretary and spokesperson Arnel de Mesa na sisimulan ng Agriculture Department ang pagbebenta sa Biyernes, Oktubre 11, ng P43 kada kilong well-milled rice sa ilalim ng Rice-for-All program nito.

Noong Agosto, inilunsad ng DA ang Rice-for-All Program kung saan nagbebenta ito ng P45 kada kilong bigas sa piling Kadiwa outlets.

Kasunod ito ng paglulunsad ng P29 Rice Program, kung saan nagbebenta ng subsidized rice sa presyong P29 kada kilo para lamang sa indigent at vulnerable sectors. Samantala, available naman ang Rice-for-All program sa lahat ng consumers. RNT/SA

<https://remate.ph/presyo-ng-bigas-sa-ilalim-ng-rice-for-all-program-p43-kilo-na-lang/>

REMATE:

‘Rebagging’ ng palay mula sa mga magsasaka kakalusin na ng NFA

October 10, 2024 18:00



MANILA, Philippines- Sinabi ng National Food Authority (NFA) nitong Huwebes na sinisimulan na nito ang pilot test sa plano nitong alisin ang muling pagbabalot ng mga sako ng palay o unhusked rice na binili nito sa mga lokal na magsasaka upang makatipid sa gastos.

Sa press briefing sa Quezon City, sinabi ni NFA acting Administrator Larry Lacson na tatanggapin na ng grains agency ang palay na isinasako ng mga magsasaka sa kanilang sariling mga sako, basta ito ay bago o nasa mabuting kondisyon kung secondhand o magagamit muli.

Nauna rito noong Hunyo pa lang, inanunsyo ng NFA chief na ang ahensya ng butil ay gumagawa ng pag-aaral sa hindi na muling pagbabalot ng malinis at tuyong palay na binibili nito para sa buffer stocking mandate nito.

Sinabi ni Lacson na ang inisyatiba ay maaaring magresulta sa milyon-milyong pisong halaga ng savings para sa NFA, na maaari nitong gamitin upang bumili ng mas maraming palay para sa buffer-stocking habang pinapataas ang kita ng mga magsasaka.

Sinabi ng NFA chief na ang pilot testing ng panukala ay magsasangkot ng humigit-kumulang 20% ng target nitong 6.4 milyong 50-kilo na sako ng palay na plano nitong bilhin para sa tag-ulan.

“Sa 20% ng 6.4 million bags ng procurement target sa main cropping season, ang NFA ay makakatipid ng humigit-kumulang P27.4 milyon sa fourth quarter pa lamang sa halaga ng mga bagong sako at warehouse handling,” sabi ni Lacson.

Kung magtagumpay ang pilot testing, ani Lacson, itataas ng NFA ang porsyento ng binibili nitong palay, na gumagamit ng sariling sako ng mga magsasaka, sa maximum na 90%.

Ipinaliwanag ng hepe ng NFA na ang inisyatiba upang alisin ang rebagging ay narating kasunod ng serye ng mga konsultasyon nito sa mga magsasaka sa buong bansa.

Sa ilalim ng Rice Tariffication Law, ang NFA ay may tungkulin na mapanatili ang isang pambansang rice buffer stock na katumbas ng hindi bababa sa siyam na araw ng pagkonsumo, na ngayon ay nasa 330,000 metriko tonelada, upang masakop ang mga kinakailangan sa panahon ng kalamidad at iba pang kalamidad. **Santi Celario**

<https://remate.ph/rebagging-ng-palay-mula-sa-mga-magsasaka-kakalusin-na-ng-nfa/>

REMATE:

Pinas sinisi ng Tsina sa water cannon attack

October 10, 2024 15:36



MANILA, Philippines- Sinisi ng China ang Pilipinas sa water cannon attack sa Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) ships nitrogen Martes ng umaga sa Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal, kung saan sinabing nanghimasok umano ang Filipino vessels sa teritoryo nito.

Binanggit ng government-owned media China Military Online, sa ulat nitong Miyerkules, ang pahayag ni China Coast Guard (CCG) spokesperson Liu Dejun na sinabing pumasok ang Philippine vessels na may hull numbers 3001 at 3002 sa Huangyan Island (tawag ng China sa Panatag) “without authorization” mula sa Chinese government.

Inihayag ni Liu na dahil dito ay napilitan ang CCG na magsagawa ng “professional, reasonable and legitimate control measures.”

Iginiit ng CCG ang “indisputable sovereignty” ng China sa halos kabuuan ng South China Sea.

“We urge the Philippines to immediately cease its infringements,” wika ni Liu.

Nauna nang inihayag ni BFAR spokesperson Nazario Briguera na binomba ng CCG vessel ng water cannon ang BRP Datu Cabaylo malapit sa Panatag, ang tradisyunal na Filipino fishing ground halos 220 kilometro sa kanluran ng lalawigan ng Zambales.

Sa isang panayam, inilahad ni Briguera na tatlong CCG vessels at isang Chinese warship “approached at a close distance and shadowed the movements of Datu Cabaylo and BRP Datu Sanday.”

Nagsasagawa ang dalawang barko ng ng resupply mission sa mga mangingisdang Pilipino sa Panatag.

“The CCG vessels also opened and directed their water cannons, but failed to reach” ang Datu Cabaylo, ayon sa BFAR.

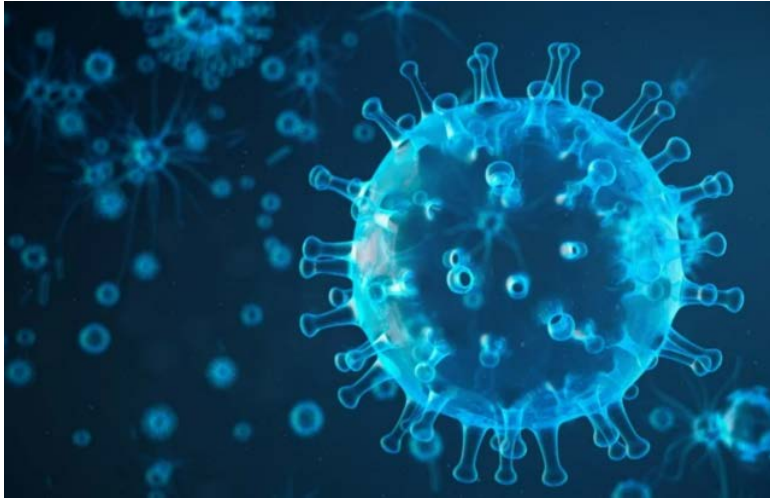
Matagumpay namang naisagawa ng BFAR ships ang misyong maghatid ng supply sa pitong Filipino mother boats at 16 small fishing boats sa bisinidad ng Bajo de Masinloc. **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/pinas-sinisi-ng-tsina-sa-water-cannon-attack/>

REMATE:

Ikatlong kaso ng bird flu sa tao naitala sa California

October 10, 2024 09:12



CHICAGO, Illinois – Iniulat ng California ang ikatlong kaso ng bird flu sa tao noong Miyerkules sa isang taong nakipag-ugnayan sa mga infected dairy cattle at sinabing natukoy nito ang dalawa pang posibleng kaso sa mga tao.

Dinadala ng kumpirmasyon ang mga impeksyon sa bird flu sa U.S. sa mga taong nalantad sa mga dairy cows at manok sa 16 ngayong taon. Ang isa pang tao sa Missouri na walang agarang kilalang pakikipag-ugnayan sa mga hayop ay nagpositibo rin.

alam na link o contact sa pagitan ng alinman sa mga nakumpirma o posibleng mga kaso ng California, na nagmumungkahi na ang virus ay kumalat mula sa mga hayop patungo sa mga tao sa estado at hindi mula sa tao patungo sa tao, sinabi ng California Department of Public Health.

Ang paglukso ng virus sa mga baka sa 14 na estado at ang mga impeksyon ng mga manggagawang bukid ay nag-aalala sa mga siyentipiko at mga opisyal ng pederal tungkol sa mga panganib sa mga tao.

Inaasahan ng California na kumpirmahin ang mga karagdagang kaso sa mga taong nakikipag-ugnayan sa mga nahawaang baka ng gatas, sinabi ng departamento ng pampublikong kalusugan. Noong nakaraang linggo ay nag-ulat ito ng dalawang kaso ng tao sa mga taong nakipag-ugnayan sa mga baka ng gatas na nahawaan ng virus.

Ang lahat ng mga tao ay nakipag-ugnayan sa mga hayop sa iba't ibang mga sakahan at nakaranas ng banayad na mga sintomas, kabilang ang pamumula ng mata o paglabas, sinabi ng departamento. Sinabi nito na walang naospital. **RNT**

<https://remate.ph/ikatlong-kaso-ng-bird-flu-sa-tao-naitala-sa-california/>

ABANTE:

Bigas babagsak presyo sa RTL

Abante News

- **October 10, 2024**



Kumpiyansa si National Unity Party president at Camarines Sur Rep. LRay Villafuerte na bababa ng P5 hanggang P7 ang kada kilo ng bigas sa umpisa ng 2025 kapag napirmahan na ni Pangulong Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. ang panukala na mag-aamiyenda sa Rice Tariffication Law (RTL).

Ayon kay Villafuerte niratipika na ng Kamara de Representantes at Senado ang panukalang mag-aamiyenda sa RTL (Republic Act 11203) bago nag-adjourn ang sesyon ng Kongreso noong nakaraang buwan.

Si Villafuerte ang may-akda ng RTL at House Bill 10381, ang amendatory bill ng RA 11203.

Sinabi ng solon na unti-unti nang bumababa ang presyo ng bigas matapos na ipatupad ni Marcos ang EO 62 na nagbawas ng taripa sa imported na bigas na naging 15% na lamang mula sa 35%.

“And once the proposed amendments to RTL are signed into law by the President, rice prices are likely to go down even further, possibly by as low as P5 to P7 per kilo by January next year, as projected by Agriculture Secretary Kiko (Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.),” sabi ni Villafuerte. (Billy Begas)

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/10/10/bigas-babagsak-presyo-sa-rtl/>

THE MANILA TIMES:

Economies of scale

FINER POINTS

By Dr. Fermin D. Adriano, PhD

October 11, 2024

AN economies of scale situation is achieved when an increase in the scale of production decreases long-term average costs. In other words, the production cost per unit of the commodity produced decreases as the company expands its operation. This is because fixed costs such as machinery, building, administration and rent decrease as these are distributed across the many and additional outputs of the company.

Economics also informs us that "growth is a function of investment," of which there are two major sources: the government (public) and the private sector. But in a market economy such as ours, the main source of investment is the private sector. This is because the bulk of the nation's wealth is in the hands of the private sector.

Why are these concepts so important when discussing the prospects for sustained and high growth of Philippine agriculture and the agri-food sector? The simple reason is that these are critical elements in triggering economic growth and promoting development.

The agri-food sector comprises agricultural production (raw materials), food and beverage manufacturing (processing), and food and beverage distribution (marketing). Together, these comprise more than a quarter of the country's gross domestic product.

The food and beverage manufacturing subsector, meanwhile, contributes around half of the gross value added of the agri-food sector and employs more than a million workers. It is the main source of growth of the agri-food sector.

However, the foremost problem of the agri-food sector and Philippine agriculture in general is that both are dominated by micro and small enterprises/cultivators that do not enjoy economies of scale. In addition, there is little private investment, both local and foreign, happening to trigger rapid growth.

In a 2021 study conducted by the late Ramon Yedra, he noted that our food and beverage manufacturing subsector was dominated by micro and small enterprises, comprising around 99 percent. In agriculture, because of the protracted implementation of the agrarian reform program, the average land size cultivated by our small farmers is around a hectare.

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Given the retail-like operations of these firms and farms, it can be safely concluded that a big part of our food and beverage manufacturing subsector and agriculture does not enjoy economies of scale. This partly accounts for the relatively high prices of our agricultural and food commodities.

As for private sector investments in agriculture, Yedra noted that only 1 percent of total registered business establishments are engaged in agriculture production. Similarly, of approved investments both local and foreign prior to the Covid outbreak, only 1 percent went to agriculture. This is a clear reflection of the unattractiveness of agriculture as an investment venture for entrepreneurs.

To find out the reasons behind the hesitance to invest in the agri-food sector, he conducted focus group discussions with 53 companies clustered by industry groupings: commodity-industries; cold chain and logistics; and investment and financial services.

Commodities produced by the respondent firms were high-value crops such as banana, cacao, coffee, cashew, dragon fruit and purple yam (ube). They included small, medium and large companies. For the investment and financial services, respondents came from a bank, stockbrokerage, private equity firm and the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The main impediments identified by the respondents as to why the private sector is reluctant to invest in the agri-food sector can be categorized into three main areas: overall investment climate, ease of starting a business and business operation concerns.

For the first, the common observation is that investors see the agri-food sector as risky and unstable compared to other industries. There is policy inconsistency, difficulty of obtaining market information, a cumbersome tax system, rising local property taxes, outdated investors' incentives and a landholding limitation that deters big-scale investors wanting to attain economies of scale to make their operations economically viable.

As to the issue of ease of starting a business, the major disincentives cited were the tedious process of securing permits, licenses and certifications; and difficulty in accessing capital, particularly for small and medium enterprises. It was also noted that there were no venture capitalists that cater to small-scale startups engaged in the agri-food sector.

Lastly, on business operation concerns, the highlighted issues were: high cost and inefficiency of logistics (transport, shipping, storage), procurement of raw materials and poor infrastructure in the provinces, particularly in areas near sources of raw materials.

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Complaints were articulated regarding poor road structure and conditions (e.g., not fit for big transport vehicles), ports and shipping (high cost and inefficient) and electricity (high cost and fluctuating power supply). Agro-processors found difficulties in securing quality, reliable and adequate supplies of raw materials, plus high costs in transporting these.

As I noted in the beginning of this column, economies of scale and the greater participation of the private sector are critical elements in achieving sustained and high growth for agriculture and agro-industrial activities. Unfortunately, the Philippine agri-food sector gets a failing mark in both.

Our farms do not enjoy economies of scale because of the protracted implementation of agrarian reform, which has resulted in miniscule farm sizes. Establishments in the food and beverage manufacturing subsector are dominated by micro and small enterprises.

There is little interest among the private business sector, both local and foreign, to invest in agriculture because of policy and structural reasons that prevent their agricultural ventures from becoming economically and financially viable.

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It is inevitable that in the relative absence of private sector investment, government investment has to fill the gap. Unfortunately, government resources are limited compared to the wealth in the hands of the private sector.

Worse, government investment comes mainly in the form of subsidies for small farmers. These do not have a long-lasting impact on attaining sustained productivity, only lasting during the planting season. For small farmers to remain productive, they have to rely on a perpetual and ever-increasing amount of dole outs.

It is no wonder then that our agriculture sector is backward and underdeveloped.

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<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/11/business/sunday-business-it/economies-of-scale/1982780>

THE MANILA TIMES:

BFAR bidding process questioned

By Arlie O. Calalo

October 11, 2024

A LAWYER has questioned the special bids and awards committee (SBAC) of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) for allegedly prohibiting some observers including members of the media from Thursday's bidding process for the procurement of vessels and equipment worth P2.1 billion.

Faye Singson, a former prosecutor at the Office of the Ombudsman and counsel of a company that was "unfairly excluded" from the bidding process, chided Zaldy Perez, assistant director for administrative services and SBAC chairman, for not allowing in some media members as observers.

"They were supposed to be there as observers and as their job to cover the event to ensure a fair and impartial bidding process," Singson told the members of the Quezon City Press Club.

Other members of the BFAR-BAC were vice chairman Ida Capacio and members Dr. Sonia Somga, Imelda Calixto and lawyer Felizardo Palumbarit Jr.

The projects under Bid Reference 2024-62 and 2024-63 involve the acquisition of multi-mission offshore vessels, refrigerated cargo vessels, and steel-hulled fishing vessels, with a total budget of P2.1 billion.

Singson said acting BFAR head Isidro Velayo Jr. chaired the bids and awards committee meeting on September 11 and 12, which resulted in the issuance of a supplemental bid bulletin dated September 12.

She said she has informed Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. that Perez and other SBAC members had violated several provisions of the Government Procurement Reform Act of 2022. BFAR is the DA's attached agency.

Singson said that to enhance the transparency of the bidding process, the BAC is mandated to invite, in addition to the representative of the Commission on Audit, at least two observers in its proceedings.

To promote transparency and efficiency, information and communications technology should be utilized in the conduct of procurement procedures as stated in the law, Singson said.

Accordingly, there must be a single portal that will serve as the primary source of information on all government procurement.

The bid opening conducted Thursday morning should be also through videoconferencing or webcasting via Zoom.

"But the BFAR-SBAC secretariat did not provide them any link in order that the qualified bidders could participate in the video conferencing," Singson said.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/11/news/national/bfar-bidding-process-questioned/1982727>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

DA lowers well-milled rice price in Kadiwa to P43 a kilo

Ada Pelonia

October 10, 2024

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) lowered the price of well-milled rice sold at Kadiwa ng Pangulo sites to P43 per kilo on the back of decreasing local retail prices.

In August, the DA launched the Rice-for-All program, which allowed local consumers to purchase cheaper well-milled rice at P45 per kilo in selected Kadiwa sites.

“Starting tomorrow, we will be selling P43 [well-milled rice] in our Rice-for-All program [...] This was lowered because the retail price of rice has started to decline,” Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa told reporters partly in Filipino during a press briefing on Thursday.

The prevailing price of imported well-milled rice in selected Metro Manila markets was P48.5 per kilo, based on DA’s latest price monitoring report. The prevailing price of its local counterpart stood at P52 per kilo.

“The vision is to lower the price of this staple food under the Rice-for-All program to the most affordable level possible,” Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said in a statement.

“Rice sold under this program will be accessible to more consumers, thanks to our planned expansion of the Kadiwa network,” he added.

Meanwhile, De Mesa shared that 20 new Kadiwa ng Pangulo sites would open this weekend across Metro Manila and Laguna.

“Our target is to have additional 169 sites [selling P29 and the Rice-for-All program] by yearend,” he said.

The expansion of Kadiwa ng Pangulo sites was bolstered by the recent tieup of the Agribusiness Marketing Assistance Service (AMAS) with several farmer and fisherfolk cooperatives.

AMAS is the DA’s marketing arm and the division in-charge of the Kadiwa ng Pangulo program

However, unlike existing Kadiwa stores that operate only two to three days a week, the DA said these new outlets will be open seven days a week.

DA Assistant Secretary Genevieve Velicaria-Guevarra said the department decided to launch the cooperative-led Kadiwa ng Pangulo stores to quickly spread the program’s benefits to the most number of Filipinos.

“We also want our farmers and fisherfolk to get more value for their products, securing for them more income that will incentivize them to produce more,” she said.

“This partnership demonstrates the Filipino ‘bayanihan’ spirit where the government and private sector collaborate, a tie-up that is crucial in the implementation of government programs.”

According to Guevarra, the agriculture chief’s instruction was to open Kadiwa ng Pangulo centers “in every town and city of the country” to relieve ordinary Filipino consumers of their financial burden.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/10/da-lowers-well-milled-rice-price-in-kadiwa-to-p43-a-kilo/>

ABANTE TONITE:

P43 per kilong well-milled rice swak sa mga Kadiwa store

Mabibili na bukas sa mga Kadiwa store ang P43 per kilo ng well-milled rice bilang bahagi ng Rice-For-All program ng Department of Agriculture (DA).

Nagmura ito ng P2 mula sa naunang P45 kada kilo nang inilunsad ang programa noong Agosto.

Bukas ang Rice-For-All program sa lahat ng konsyumer hindi tulad ng P29 per kilong bigas na ibinenta sa mga Kadiwa store na para lamang sa mga vulnerable sector.

Ayon kay Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., inaasahan nila na dodoble ang kanilang Kadiwa outlets sa katapusan ng linggo habang papalapit sa inaasahan nilang 169 na tindahan sa katapusan ng taon.

May kabuuang 21 Kadiwa store ang mabubuksan sa Metro Manila at Laguna sa katapusan ng linggo. (Migo Fajatin)

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/10/10/p43-per-kilong-well-milled-rice-swak-sa-mga-kadiwa-store/>

PILIPINO STAR NGAYON:

Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act para sa seguridad sa pagkain - Briones

Joy Cantos

October 11, 2024 | 12:00am

Pangulong Marcos pinuri AGAP Partylist

MANILA, Philippines — Ikinagalak ni Agricultural Sector Alliance of the Philippines (AGAP) Partylist Congressman Nicanor 'Nikki' Briones ang paglagda ni Pangulong Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos, Jr. sa Republic Act 12022, o ang Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act.

Pinasalamatan ni Briones ang Pangulo sabay sabi na isa lamang ito sa marami pang hakbang ng Marcos administration upang maseguro ang seguridad sa pagkain ng mga Pilipino at masuportahan ang sektor ng agrikultura.

Ayon sa kongresista mula sa AGAP Party-list, nilalayon ng batas na puksain ang mga krimen at anumang uri ng pananamantala na siyang makakaapekto sa mga magsasaka gayundin sa buong industriya ng agrikultura. Ipinaliwanag din ni Briones na ang mga itinuturing na economic sabotage ay ang smuggling, hoarding, profiteering at cartel sa mga produktong agrikultural pati na ang pagpapakalat ng mga maling impormasyon tungkol sa lokal na produkto.

Sinabi pa niya na ang sinumang lalabag sa batas na ito ay posibleng maharap sa pagkakakulong o multa ng higit pa sa halaga ng produktong ginamit sa krimen. Sa ilalim ng batas na iniakda at inisponsor ng AGAP Party-list representative, nakatak dang bumuo ng Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Council na siyang pangungunahan mismo ng pangulo katuwang ang mga kalihim ng agriculture, finance, transportation, trade and industry, interior and local government, justice at iba pang opisyal ng concerned agencies. Binigyang-diin ng mambabatas na magkakaroon ng special team of prosecutors sa buong bansa para mapabilis ang resolusyon ng mga kasong may kaugnayan sa agricultural sabotage.

Dagdag pa niya na hindi lang puntirya ng nasabing batas ang mga mastermind kung hindi lahat ng kasabwat, kabilang ang mga broker, empleyado ng gobyerno may-ari ng warehouse, cold storage at truckers ay mananagot at kakasuhan din.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2024/10/11/2391655/anti-agricultural-economic-sabotage-act-para-sa-seguridad-sa-pagkain-briones>

PILIPINO STAR NGAYON:

P43/kilo ng bigas, ibebenta na sa Kadiwa sites

Angie dela Cruz

October 11, 2024 | 12:00am



Agricultural and fishery products are on display for sale at the Kadiwa on Wheels booths at the Capitol Complex in Lingayen, Pangasinan on October 10, 2024

STAR/ Cesar Ramirez

MANILA, Philippines — Simula ngayong Biyernes, Oktubre 11 ay magbebenta na ng mas mababang presyo ng bigas na P43 kada kilo ang mga Kadiwa sites sa bansa.

Ito, ayon sa National Food Authority (NFA) ay batay sa ilalim ng Rice for All program ng pamahalaan.

Ayon sa NFA, ang naturang presyo ay mas mababa kumpara sa P45 per kilo na dating naibebenta rito.

Sinabi ni Agriculture spokesman Arnel de Mesa, ang hakbang ay bunga ng pakikipagpartner ng ahensiya sa mga farmers cooperative at dulot na rin ng pagbaba ng presyo ng bigas sanhi ng anihan.

Dulot nito, simula ngayong Biyernes ay madaragdagan pa ng 20 Kadiwa sites sa bansa upang higit na maabot ng taumbayan ang mas mababang halaga ng pagkain.

Bukod sa murang bigas, magiging available rin sa mga Kadiwa ng Pangulo ang murang gulay, prutas, isda at iba pang pagkain.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2024/10/11/2391645/p43kilo-ng-bigas-ibebenta-na-sa-kadiwa-sites>