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MANILA BULLETIN:

DA: Rice supply enough despite 'Kristine' havoc

BY ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS

Oct 25, 2024 05:02 PM

AT A GLANCE

- Laurel said the DA was able to harvest around 60 to 70 percent of the rice crops more than a week before the storm hit.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) assured Filipinos that the country's rice supply remains sufficient despite the onslaught of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine which ravaged different parts of the Philippines this week.



File photo

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said this during a situation briefing headed by President Marcos in Malacañan on Friday morning, Oct. 25.

During the briefing, Marcos asked Laurel about the impact of the storm on the country's agriculture sector, to which the latter responded in the affirmative.

"We have enough stocks, sir," Laurel said.

He assured the President that the DA was able to harvest around 60 to 70 percent of the rice crops more than a week before the storm hit.

He added that the DA also accelerated the harvesting and procurement of crops through the National Food Authority (NFA), which is providing significant assistance to the storm's victims.

"Then we have Kadiwa trucks also in CamSur (Camarines Sur), we also have NFA rice ordered by the LGUs being deployed as we speak," Laurel said.

"And to prepare for what is coming, we also instructed NFA to send additional rice above and beyond what was requested," he added.

President Marcos requested the DA chief to keep him updated on the status of the country's agricultural sector.

According to the DA on Friday, Severe Tropical Storm Kristine caused over P80 million in damages and losses in the agriculture sector in Luzon and the Visayas. Citing assessments from its Regional Field Offices (RFOs) it said the damage to rice, corn, high-value crops, and livestock stands at P80.80 million.

The typhoon has so far affected 2,864 farmers and ravaged 1,570 hectares of agricultural areas while the total volume of production loss was at 5,287 metric tons (MT).

https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/25/da-rice-supply-is-enough#google_vignette

MANILA BULLETIN:

Less cheese in your burgers and pizza? Blame expensive imports, says USDA

BY BEN ARNOLD DE VERA

Oct 25, 2024 04:52 PM

Filipinos may find less cheese in their burgers, pizza and other cheesy food due to more expensive imports, according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In an Oct. 23 report, USDA-Foreign Agricultural Service's (FAS) Manila office projected cheese demand in the Philippines next year "will continue to decline due to high prices and tight supply."

At present, domestic cheese production, which uses the milk of buffalos—more popularly known locally as carabaos—and cows, is "minimal," FAS Manila noted, such that "supply will continue to be supported by imported cheese products."

The meager local production mostly comes from the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) and the government-owned Dairy Training and Research Institute (DTRI), which churn out mozzarella and white cheese.

"There are also growing Indian communities in the country that prefer to buy buffalo milk-derived Indian type cheeses," FAS Manila said.

Amid expectations of lower cheese imports to the Philippines in 2025, FAS Manila expects "usage will be conservative among fast-food, pizza chains, and other restaurants, which are the drivers of demand for cheese."

"Hotels, which are an important market for cheese, will continue to moderate cheese offerings due to high prices," FAS Manila added.

Citing figures from Trade Data Monitor (TDM), FAS Manila estimated 22,000 metric tons (MT) of cheese were imported by the Philippines from January to June 2024, of which 37 percent came from New Zealand; 14 percent from the US; also 14 percent from Australia; 13 percent from Denmark; five percent from Indonesia; and the remaining 17 percent from other countries.

During the first half of this year, imported cheese dropped by a tenth because "prices increased in June and there were reports of continued increase to date."

As such, FAS Manila sees total cheese import volume in 2024 to be nine-percent lower than the 46,000 MT imported last year.

New Zealand accounted for 42 percent of cheese imports to the country in 2023; 13 percent were from Australia; 12 percent from the US; 11 percent from Denmark; four percent from Indonesia; and 18 percent from other nations.

Moving forward, FAS Manila forecasted that elevated global cheese prices would keep Philippine imports flat next year, affecting food manufacturers in the country.

"The food manufacturing sector's expansion will remain conservative due to high raw material prices," according to FAS Manila.

As local cheese production is meager, domestic producers manage to export an average of 1,000 MT yearly, including cheddar, edam and spreadable cheeses.

"Cheese is exported to cater to Filipino communities abroad such as those in the US, Canada, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong. The increasing numbers of Filipinos abroad encourage exporters to ship locally produced cheese to cater to this market," FAS Manila explained.

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<https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/25/cheese-prices-soar-burgers-and-pizza-get-smaller>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Marcos sends presidential helicopters, military and police assets for 'Kristine' response

BY BETHEENA UNITE

Oct 25, 2024 11:12 AM

Presidential helicopters will be deployed along with other transportation assets from the military and police to bring aid to those who were heavily hit by typhoon Kristine.



Flooded road in Noveleta as of 6:30 a.m. on October 25, 2024. (Photo courtesy of Allan Faustino Bella/MANILA BULLETIN)

President Marcos said this on Friday, Oct. 25, assuring the people that help is on the way.

"Today, we will continue sending our help and aid. I make this pledge to our people: Help is on the way. It will come by land, air, and, even by sea," Marcos said.

The President said he has ordered the full mobilization of available personnel and resources of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to conduct relief operations.

"I have ordered them to deploy vehicles, aircraft, boats, ships and all other transportation assets for, first rescue, and then relief and rehabilitation. This includes presidential helicopters," he said.

Marcos also cancelled all personnel leaves, except for medical reasons and those with humanitarian justifications, in the uniformed services as he wants to see "a conveyor belt of aid that is constantly delivering aid to the front."

He further said that members of the AFP and the Philippine National Police (PNP) medical corps will join in the relief effort as frontline personnel.

According to the President, a C-130 left Manila at 6:49 a.m. Friday and has arrived after an hour at the Bicol International Airport.

"And there is another element of Black Hawk helicopters that are in Legazpi and are attempting to go to Naga. We have a weather window of about two days for air operations in Bicol and we will try to take full advantage of all that," he said.

Of the 36 towns affected by the typhoon in Camarines Sur, nine towns are still fully submerged, Marcos said.

'Belt of aid'

"I have ordered the DBM (Department of Budget and Management) Secretary to immediately release all necessary funds so that needed resources can be procured expeditiously," Marcos said.

According to the Chief Executive, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall rush to all affected areas to provide relief goods, both pre-positioned and new supplies to augment those provided by the local government units, and will mobilize the grant of financial aid under existing government programs once the weather permits.

The Department of Agriculture, he said, has been ordered to implement a quick planting and production turnaround plan to help farmers grow food the country needs.

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) was also ordered to undertake emergency road clearing operations. Private contractors are urged to join in the restoration of traffic on damaged roads and bridges, Marcos added.

He further said that in order to blunt any attempt at profiteering, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is monitoring compliance with the price control on selected goods imposed in all areas under the State of Calamity, in accordance with the law.

He directed the DTI to ensure the unhampered flow of goods in all the affected areas.

Marcos likewise tasked the DA to deploy Kadiwa rolling stores to affected areas, and to expand its fleet by contracting private vehicle owners.

Meanwhile, the President has expressed his sympathy to the victims of the typhoon.

"I would like to express my sympathy for our fellow Filipinos who have become victims by Tropical Storm Kristine," he said in his speech during the 2024 Galing Pook Awards on Friday morning.

"We are grateful for the resilience, leadership, and proactive measures undertaken by our local government units, which have saved many, many lives," he added.

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Flooded road in Noveleta as of 6:30 a.m. on October 25, 2024. (Photo courtesy of Allan Faustino Bella/MANILA BULLETIN)

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https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/25/marcos-sends-presidential-helicopters-military-and-police-assets-for-kristine-response#google_vignette

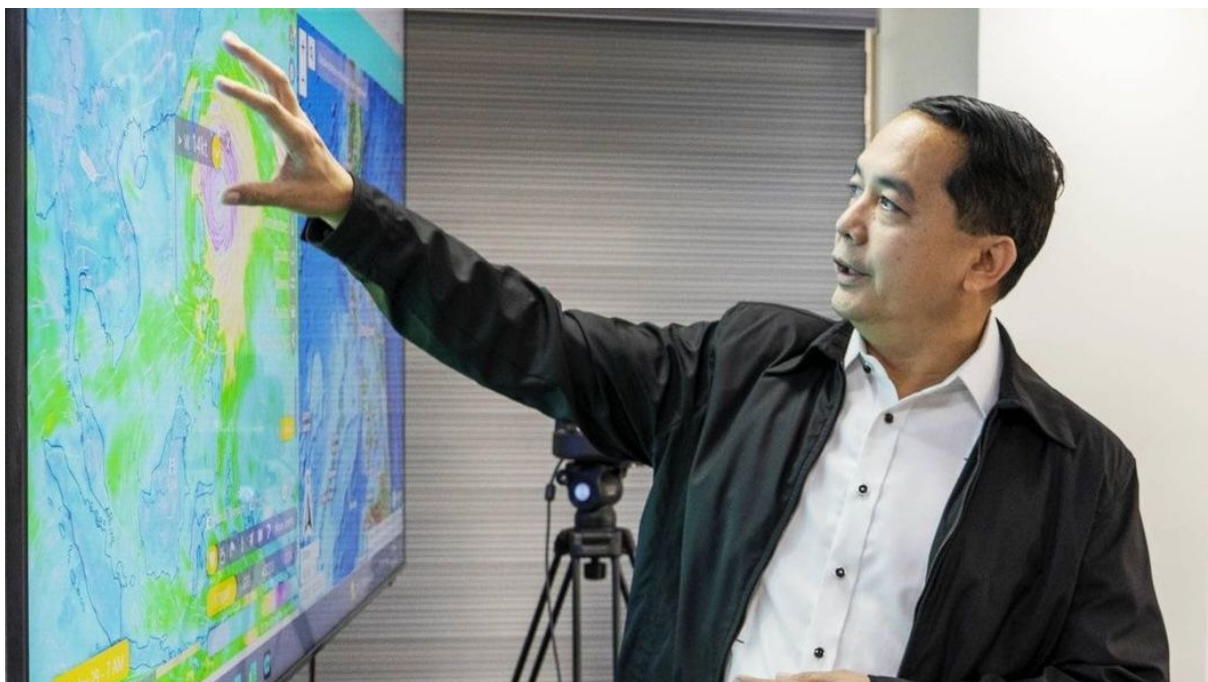
MANILA BULLETIN:

‘Kristine’ damage to agri, infra now at P347M; 264 roads still impassable—OCD

BY RAYMUND ANTONIO

Oct 26, 2024 03:00 PM

Severe Tropical Storm Kristine has caused hundreds of millions worth of damages to the country’s agricultural sector and infrastructure, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) said on Saturday, Oct. 26, adding that millions more worth of damages are expected in the coming days.



Administrator and Undersecretary Ariel Nepomuceno (OCD/MB file photo)

During a media forum held in Quezon City, OCD Administrator and Undersecretary Ariel Nepomuceno cited reports as of 7 a.m. of Saturday, but stressed that the figures will go up as assessments will be done on the ground after the rescue operations.

The initial damage on agriculture was already at more than P143,472,000, while damages to infrastructure across CAR, Ilocos, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Regions 10, and 12 were placed at P203,826,000.

“Aangat pa iyan kasi iyong mga pag-uulat ay pumapasok pa lang iyan at kasalukuyan pang nasa rescue stage pa lang tayo ngayon, wala pa tayo sa—may ilan-ilan sa recovery ano pero doon pa tayo sa rescue operations (Those figures will increase because these were based on initial reports but we’re only at the rescue stage now—there are some in recovery but we’re mainly at the rescue operations),” he explained.

Nepomuceno added that an official report from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) will also show the impact of the damages on roads and bridges.

The official also lamented that around 50 communication lines remain inoperative following the onslaught of Typhoon Kristine in Luzon.

“At this point, for your appreciation, out of the reported 447 roads na naapektuhan ng bagyo (affected by the typhoon) – 265 out of 447 hindi pa madaanan (are impassable),” the NDRRMC official said.

“Out of 92 affected seaports, 84 doon hindi pa natin magamit (of those we cannot use). Out of the 84 reported bridges that were heavily affected, 75 diyan hindi pa rin natin magamit (we cannot use 75 of them),” he added.

The severe rainfall brought by Kristine submerged towns in Luzon, leaving at least 81 people dead and many more missing as of the latest count.

It has affected 4.2 million Filipinos and placed 83 areas under a state of calamity.

While Kristine has exited the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR), another tropical storm (international name Kong-Rey) looms near Luzon.

It is expected to enter PAR this weekend and will then be assigned the local name Leon.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/26/kristine-damage-to-agri-infra-now-at-p347-m-264-roads-still-impassable-ocd>

MANILA BULLETIN:

OCD: ‘Kristine’ death toll hits 81; agri-infra damage at P291.5 million

BY MARTIN SADONGDONG

Oct 26, 2024 12:29 PM



Residents of Vista Verde Executive Village in Cainta, Rizal use boats while some waded through floodwaters brought by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine on October 25, 2024. (Photo: Santi San Juan)

Severe Tropical Storm “Kristine” left a trail of destruction as it exited the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) while claiming the lives of 81 people and dealing P291.5 million in damage to the country’s agriculture and infrastructure sectors.

Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Administrator, Undersecretary Ariel Nepomuceno said on Saturday, Oct. 26, that there were 34 individuals who were also missing while 66 others were injured.

Calabarzon (Region 4A) had the most number of reported fatalities at 48, including at least 18 who were buried alive in a landslide in Talisay City, Batangas. It was followed by Bicol Region (Region 5) which had 28 deaths.

The other fatalities were recorded in Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) with two; and one each in Ilocos Region (Region 1), Central Luzon (Region 3), and Zamboanga Peninsula (Region 9).

Meanwhile, a total of 4,207,387 individuals or 986,974 families were affected by Kristine in 16 out of the 17 regions nationwide. Only Davao Region (Region 11) had no reported data.

Of those affected, there were around 495,000 individuals or 132,000 families that were displaced and staying in 6,452 evacuation centers or other people's house.

Kristine also caused damage to 98 infrastructure projects worth P203 million in total including roads, flood control, schools, bridges, health facilities, and other government and utility services facilities.

Thousands of people were rendered homeless as Kristine destroyed 8,432 houses.

The massive flooding and punishing winds also damaged 1,613.77 hectares of crops as well as various livestock, poultry and fisheries that affected 3,049 farmers and fisherfolk, as damage to agriculture was estimated at P87.5 million.

Nepomuceno said search and rescue operations were still ongoing since 338 areas were still flooded in Regions 1, 2, 3, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, Caraga, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, and National Capital Region.

Many households were also without power: 154 areas in Northern and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao were affected by power interruption.

Water supply also remains an issue as interruption was being experienced in 18 areas in Bicol Region and Calabarzon.

Fifty areas in Regions 1, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, 5, 10, and Cordillera Administrative Region were also experiencing communication interruption as communication lines were damaged.

On the other hand, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) said 1,867 passengers were still stranded in 37 ports nationwide although suspension of sea travels in some provinces are slowly being lifted.

Kristine exited PAR around 2 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 25. It maintained its strength while moving west southwestward over the West Philippine Sea.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/26/ocd-kristine-death-toll-hits-81-agri-infra-damage-at-p291-5-million>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

House transmits P6.325 trillion 2025 national budget to Senate

[Shiela Crisostomo](#) - The Philippine Star

October 26, 2024 | 12:00am



House committee on appropriations chair and Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Zaldy Co said the budget includes key amendments intended to bolster social safety nets and ensure food security. [Philstar.com / Irra Lising](#)

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives transmitted to the Senate yesterday the P6.325-trillion national budget for 2025.

House committee on appropriations chair and Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Zaldy Co said the budget includes key amendments intended to bolster social safety nets and ensure food security.

Co said the amendments include an additional P292.23 billion dedicated to assisting vulnerable sectors, such as low-income families, farmers and soldiers.

“This budget is a lifeline for those who need it most. By increasing funding for social programs, we’re addressing immediate needs while laying the groundwork for long-term resilience,” he explained.

Among the “significant” enhancements in the budget are an extra P39.8 billion allocated to the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS) and the Ayuda sa Kapos ang Kita Program (AKAP), which aim to offer financial aid to those earning P21,000 or less monthly.

The AKAP allocation for 2025 is three times higher than the previous year's P13 billion.

Co added that education remains a priority, with an additional P30.01 billion earmarked for scholarships under the Commission on Higher Education's Tertiary Education Subsidy and Tulong Dunong programs.

Furthermore, the Department of Education will receive P7 billion more for the construction and repair of school facilities.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines, for its part, will have P8.44 billion more in its budget for next year, as it grapples with tougher security challenges.

The increase covers an increase in the soldiers' daily subsistence allowance by 67 percent to P250. Funds have also been earmarked for critical infrastructure projects on Pag-Asa Island.

For agriculture, P30 billion has been allotted to irrigation and cold storage projects to enhance food security. The National Irrigation Administration's budget for next year is P44 billion higher than this year's allocation.

Co said the House is optimistic about a swift and favorable Senate action on the proposed budget measure.

Earlier, Co announced that the chamber decided to slash some P1.3 billion from the budget of the Office of the Vice President and realigned the amount to raise the allocation for the Departments of Social Welfare and Development and of Health.

Lawmakers decided to significantly cut the budget of Vice President Sara Duterte after she refused to explain at a congressional budget hearing her alleged misuse of confidential funds.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/10/26/2395393/house-transmits-p6325-trillion-2025-national-budget-senate>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Vegetable prices shoot up after Kristine

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

October 26, 2024 | 12:00am



Based on the price watch of the DA in Metro Manila, the retail price of cabbage ranged between P80 and P150 per kilo compared to its previous price of P60 and P120 per kilo a week ago.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — The retail prices of vegetables in Metro Manila markets have increased by as much as P30 per kilo compared to their prices prior to the devastation of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine, according to latest monitoring of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Based on the price watch of the DA in Metro Manila, the retail price of cabbage ranged between P80 and P150 per kilo compared to its previous price of P60 and P120 per kilo a week ago.

The retail price of carrots also went up between P110 and P150 per kilo compared to its previous cost of P100 to P160 per kilo, while green bell peppers increased to P180-P360 per kilo from its previous level of P170-P300 per kilo.

The retail price of chilis remained high between P250 and P500 per kilo.

According to the DA, Kristine's damage to the agriculture sector has ballooned to P143.47 million in the Bicol region, Cordillera Administrative Region, Mimaropa, Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas and Soccsksargen.

Damage to rice, corn, high value crops and livestock was reported, covering 3,358 hectares of agricultural lands and volume of production loss of 8,600 metric tons.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. assured the public that the country has enough rice supply despite the devastation brought by Kristine.

"A week before the storm hit, we accelerated harvesting and buying from the National Food Authority (NFA), so it helped," Tiu Laurel said.

"We also have NFA rice ordered by the local government units being deployed as we speak. To prepare for what is coming, we also instructed NFA to send additional rice above and beyond what was requested," he added.

The DA said at least 4,798 farmers were affected.

At least P500 million will be allocated for the Survival and Recovery Loan Program of the Agricultural Credit Policy Council where affected farmers can avail themselves of up to P25,000 loanable amount, payable in three years at zero interest.

The DA said that insured farmers will be indemnified through the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/10/26/2395398/vegetable-prices-shoot-after-kristine>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Marcos orders ‘conveyor belt of aid’

[Helen Flores](#) - The Philippine Star

October 26, 2024 | 12:00am



President Marcos assesses the extent of damage from Kristine during an aerial inspection in affected areas in Batangas, Cavite and Laguna.

STAR / File

ADVERTISEMENT

MANILA, Philippines — With pleas for help from thousands affected by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine appearing to overwhelm private and government aid groups, President Marcos has ordered concerned agencies to set up “a conveyor belt of aid” for victims, even as another weather disturbance looms this weekend.

“I want to see a conveyor belt of aid that is constantly delivering aid to the front,” the President said in a statement yesterday.

To speed up and streamline disaster response, Marcos directed Cabinet secretaries to lead relief and rehabilitation work in specific areas.

He also ordered Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman to immediately release funds “so that needed resources can be procured expeditiously.”

“The DSWD (Department of Social Welfare and Development) shall rush to all affected areas to provide relief goods, both pre-positioned and new supplies, to augment those provided by the local government units,” the Chief Executive said.

“As soon as weather permits, the DSWD will mobilize the grant of financial aid under existing government programs,” he added.

The President also ordered the “full mobilization” of available personnel and resources of the Armed Forces of the Philippines for relief operations. The

Philippine Air Force said it has deployed three of its C-130 aircraft for delivery of relief supplies to the Bicol region.

Other uniformed services such as the Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Fire Protection and the Philippine Coast Guard are placed under the same status, he said.

“I have ordered them to deploy vehicles, aircraft, boats, ships and all other transportation assets for, first rescue, and then relief and rehabilitation. This includes presidential helicopters,” Marcos said.

He also cancelled all personnel leaves, except for medical reasons and those with humanitarian justifications, in the uniformed services. The PNP said it would utilize three helicopters for search and relief operations, spokesperson Col. Jean Fajardo said.

“All personnel are required to exert efforts to render humanitarian assistance particularly in affected areas, and mobility assets are ready for deployment if the need arises,” Fajardo said over PTV Bagong Pilipinas.

Fajardo said at least 6,700 police officers were deployed in Bicol, Calabarzon and other areas affected most by Kristine.

Focus on Bicol

At a situation briefing at Malacañang yesterday, the President said government efforts should focus now on Bicol, the area hardest hit by the storm.

“I think we continue to concentrate on Region 5 for now because they are the ones in most need. Everyone is in need but the accessibility problem of Region 5 is a little bit more pronounced than all the other areas,” he said.

Of the 36 towns in Camarines Sur, nine remained fully submerged, Marcos said.

According to Social Welfare Secretary Rex Gatchalian, the Air Force is also assisting in airlifting potable drinking water from Manila Water and Maynilad.

“We have already provided over P111 million in augmentation support to the local government units,” DSWD Assistant Secretary and Disaster Response Management Group head Irene Dumlao said.

“These include not just family food packs (FFPs), but also non-food items (NFIs) such as family, hygiene, kitchen and sleeping kits; water containers and shelter materials like family tents and modular tents, particularly to our evacuees,” she said.

Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro told the President he had instructed the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) to find an alternative route for vehicles carrying goods, fuel and water from the Bondoc Peninsula to Camarines Sur.

Pangandaman told the President that as of Oct. 24, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund has P1.983-billion balance, of which P1.845 billion could be drawn from the 2024 General Appropriations Act and P139 million from the 2023 continuing appropriations.

From the remaining balance, Pangandaman said there are pending requests for the replenishment of Quick Response Fund (QRF), which shall be done through the issuance of special allotment release orders or SARO, the disbursement document of the budget department.

The Department of Public Works and Highways is requesting a replenishment of P1 billion; the Department of the Interior and Local Government-Philippine National Police, P25 million and the Department of National Defense-OCD, P37.5 million.

She said the DPWH-Office of the Secretary still has roughly 60 percent of its QRF fund for usage, while the DSWD's fund is "almost finished."

"I'm in touch with Sec. Rex and just waiting for the request for the balance of QRF that you need. It's more than, roughly I think P500 million. I'm just waiting for the letter and then we'll release it within the day," Pangandaman said,

"Assuming we need more, Mr. President, we still have... I just received a certification from the Bureau of Treasury, Department of Finance, for unprogrammed appropriations. So, assuming we need more funding, Mr. President, we can tap the unprogrammed appropriations," she said.

Loan for MSMEs

Also at the briefing, acting Trade Secretary Cristina Roque said the Small Business (SB) Corp. – the financing arm of the Department of Trade and Industry – has allotted P2 billion for lending to help MSMEs affected by Kristine recover.

"A lot of businesses are destroyed, a lot of businesses are affected. So what do we do after? Sometimes we always think of what happens during the situation. But after is also a very important situation that we must look at, which is how do the businesses be able to move on," she said. She said a small business can avail itself up to P300,000 worth of loan under the SB Corp.'s enterprise rehabilitation financing. Borrowers will not be required to have collateral under this facility.

"You just have to prove you have a business that is operating and for this time, you are part of a region or you're part of the town affected by the typhoon," Roque said.

She said the loans are interest-free for the first year. For the second year, there will be a one percent interest rate per month. “So for the businesses affected, please avail of this fund,” Roque said. Aside from helping MSMEs, she said the DTI continues to monitor the price and supply of basic necessities in typhoon-hit areas.

A 60-day price freeze on basic necessities is in effect in areas that have been declared under a state of calamity. She said the DTI is also coordinating with supermarkets to make sure basic necessities and food products are available.

“We will really go after those that are profiteering from this calamity,” she said. “We will do everything we can to be able to make the businesses especially MSMEs bounce back from this.”

Aerial inspection

After the situation briefing, Marcos boarded a helicopter to inspect the flooding in parts of Metro Manila, Cavite and Batangas.

He was joined by some Cabinet officials, including Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel and Public Works Secretary Manuel Bonoan. During the situation briefing, weather forecaster Jun Galang of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) warned that another tropical cyclone was expected to enter the country this weekend.

“So, possible it will move closer (to the country) by next week, either Oct. 29 or 30, it will have a close approach in Northern Luzon,” Galang said.

He said PAGASA was looking at two scenarios for the new cyclone: one is it will “recurve” and the other is it will move toward extreme Northern Luzon.

Marcos expressed sympathy for the victims of Kristine and commended the “resilience, leadership and proactive” measures taken by the LGUs for their constituents.

Kristine left 46 persons dead, seven injured and 20 missing based on latest data from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. – **Louella Desiderio, Emmanuel Tupas, Michael Punongbayan, Sheila Crisostomo, Ric Sapnu**

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/10/26/2395426/marcos-orders-conveyor-belt-aid>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Agricultural damage due to Kristine hits P143 million, says DA

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

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 05:38 PM October 25, 2024

MANILA, Philippines – Damages to the country’s agricultural sector reached P143.47 million due to Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name: Trami), according to the Department of Agriculture (DA) on Friday afternoon.

DA said the storm affected 4,798 farmers and 3,358 hectares of agricultural areas in the Cordillera Administrative Region, Central Luzon, Mimaropa, Bicol Region, Western and Eastern Visayas, and Soccsksargen, resulting in a production loss of 8,600 metric tons (MT).

The department said production losses were estimated at 8,265 MT for palay (unhusked rice), 187 MT for high-value crops, 102 MT for corn, and 46 MT for cassava.

In response, DA said it provided P531.72 million worth of agricultural input from its field offices in the affected regions and P1 billion through the Quick Response Fund to aid recovery in the impacted areas.

The Agricultural Credit Policy Council’s Survival and Recovery Loan Program also received P500 million from the DA for farmers to loan up to P25,000, payable in three years at zero interest.

DA added that it was sending bags of rice stocks from the National Food Authority to be distributed in relief efforts by local government units, the Department of Social Work and Development, and other agencies.

Indemnification of insured affected farmers through the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation and the deployment of Kadiwa stores were also part of the DA’s interventions for areas hit by Kristine.

On Friday afternoon, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration reported that Kristine left the country's area of responsibility at 2 p.m.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council reported that over 2.6 million people have been affected nationwide, with 13 confirmed deaths as of October 25.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1997480/agricultural-damage-due-to-kristine-hits-p143-million-says-da>

REMATE:

Suplay ng litson baboy sa Cebu sapat sa Kapaskuhan sa kabila ng ASF

October 26, 2024 16:24



Larawan ni JAY

DIRECTO/AFP/Getty Images)CEBU CITY- Siniguro ng National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) sa lungsod na ito na sapat ang suplay ng karne ng baboy lalo ang litson baboy sa nalalapit na Kapaskuhan sa kabila ng bantag African Swine Fever (ASF), noong Biyernes.

Ayon kay Hannah Lou Ejercito, meat inspector at consumer protection head ng NMIS-7 (Central Visayas), tiniyak ito sa mga mamimili na sapat ang suplay ng karne ng baboy sa darating na Holiday season.

Aniya, lalo pa nilang paiigtingin ang gagawin inspeksyon sa mga kinakatay na baboy.

“Here in NMIS, we can assure you there will be an available supply of meat on Christmas. As the holiday nears, inspection will ensure the meat slaughtered and offered for sale in the market are fit for human consumption,” pagtiyak ni Ejercito.

Tinitiyak ng field office ng NMIS-7 na ang karneng inihahatid sa merkado ay nagmula sa mga akreditadong nagbebenta, sumailalim sa inspeksyon at ipinasa para sa sertipikasyon.

Hinikayat din nito ang mga mamimili na maging mapagbantay sa pagbili ng karne at huwag mag-atubiling humingi ng sertipikasyon sa mga nagbebenta, na dapat ay mayroon itong sertipikasyon.

Samantala, pinaalalahanan naman ng Department of Veterinary Medicine and Fisheries (DVMF) sa lungsod ang mga nagbebenta at handler na regular na kumuha ng permit mula sa lungsod, lalo na sa kanilang mga empleyado at para sa mga produktong kanilang ibinebenta upang maiwasang kwestyonin.

Ang DVMF ay regular na sinusuri ng Regulatory Section ang mga wet market at supermarket para matiyak ang wastong dokumentasyon ganun din ang inspeksyon sa tatlong proseso: ante mortem, post mortem, at post abattoir.

Bumibisita ang mga meat inspector sa mga abattoir at slaughterhouse para sa ante-mortem inspection upang matukoy kung nasusunod nila ang mga proseso na angkop sa pagkain ng tao.

Kinakailangan ding magbigay ng mga operator ng sertipiko ng kalusugan, mga sertipiko ng transportasyon ng mga hayop, at iba pang mga sertipikasyon upang ipakita na ang mga inihatid na hayop ay ligtas sa anumang sakit. **Mary Anne Sapico**

<https://remate.ph/suplay-ng-litson-baboy-sa-cebu-sapat-sa-kapaskuhan-sa-kabila-ng-asf/>

REMATE:

DA: Suplay ng bigas sapat sa kabila ng pananalasa ni ‘Kristine’

October 26, 2024 11:20



MANILA, Philippines- Tiniyak ng Department of Agriculture (DA) sa publiko na nananatiling sapat ang suplay ng bigas sa bansa sa kabila ng hagupit ni Severe Tropical Storm Kristine na tumama sa iba't ibang bahagi ng bansa nitong linggo.

Inihayag ito ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. sa situation briefing na pinangunahan ni Pangulong Marcos sa Malacañang nitong Biyernes ng umaga.

Sa briefing, tinanong ni Marcos si Laurel hinggil sa epekto ng bagyo sa agriculture sector, kung saan tumugon ang huli: “We have enough stocks, sir.”

Tiniyak niya sa Pangulo na nakapag-ani ang DA ng halos 60 hanggang 70 porsyento ng rice crops mahigit isang linggo bago tumama ang bagyo.

Dagdag niya, pinabilis din ng DA ang pag-ani at procurement ng mga pananim sa pamamagitan ng National Food Authority (NFA), na nagbibigay ng tulong sa mga apektado ng bagyo.

“Then we have Kadiwa trucks also in CamSur (Camarines Sur), we also have NFA rice ordered by the LGUs being deployed as we speak,” ani Laurel.

“And to prepare for what is coming, we also instructed NFA to send additional rice above and beyond what was requested,” dagdag niya. **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/da-suplay-ng-bigas-sapat-sa-kabila-ng-pananalasa-ni-kristine/>

REMATE:

Agri damage mula kay 'Kristine' pumalo na sa P143M

October 26, 2024 09:42



MANILA, Philippines- Umabot na ang pinsala sa agricultural sector ng bansa sa P143.47 milyon dahil kay Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name: Trami), ayon sa Department of Agriculture (DA) nitong Biyernes ng hapon.

Sinabi ng DA na naapektuhan sa bagyo ang 4,798 magsasaka at 3,358 ektarya ng agricultural areas sa Cordillera Administrative Region, Central Luzon, Mimaropa, Bicol Region, Western at Eastern Visayas, at Soccsksargen, na nagresulta sa production loss na 8,600 metric tons (MT).

Inihayag ng departamento na ang production losses ay tinatayang 8,265 MT para sa palay (unhusked rice), 187 MT para sa high-value crops, 102 MT para sa mais, at 46 MT para sa balinghoy.

Bilang tugon, sinabi ng DA na nagbigay ito ng P531.72 milyong halaga ng agricultural input mula sa field offices nito sa mga apektadong rehiyon at P1 bilyon sa pamamagitan ng Quick Response Fund bilang tulong sa pagrekober ng mga nasapul na lugar.

Nakatanggap din ang Survival and Recovery Loan Program ng Agricultural Credit Policy Council ng P500 milyon mula sa DA upang makahiram ang mga magsasaka hanggang P25,000, na maaaring bayaran sa loob ng tatlong taon at wlaang interes.

Dagdag ng DA, napapadala ito ng rice stocks mula sa National Food Authority upang ipamahagi sa relief efforts ng local government units, Department of Social Work and Development, at iba pang mga ahensya.

Nitong Biyernes ng hapon, sinabi ng Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration na si Kristine sa area of responsibility ng bansa.

Iniulat ng National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council na mahigit 2.6 milyong indibidawal ang apektado sa buong bansa, kung saan 13 ang kumpirmadong patay hanggang nitong Oktubre 25. **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/agri-damage-mula-kay-kristine-pumalo-na-sa-p143m/>

REMATE:

PBBM sa DTI, DA: Sapat na suplay ng produkto tiyakin sa gitna ng pananalasa ni Kristine

October 25, 2024 15:23



MANILA, Philippines – IPINAG-UTOS ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. sa Departments of Trade and Industry (DTI) at Departments of Agriculture (DA) na tiyakin ang sapat na suplay ng goods o kalakal sa mga lugar na apektado ng pananalasa ng Severe Tropical Storm Kristine.

Sa katunayan ayon sa Pangulo, nakatuon ang pansin ng DTI sa magiging pagtalima ng mga sellers pagdating sa price control sa mga lugar na inilagay sa ilalim ng state of calamity.

”To blunt any attempt at profiteering, the DTI is monitoring compliance with the price control on selected goods imposed in all areas under the State of Calamity, in accordance with the law,” ayon kay Pangulong Marcos.

”The DTI is also directed to ensure the unhampered flow of goods in all the affected areas,” dagdag na wika nito.

Inatasan naman ng Pangulo ang DA na mag-deploy ng Kadiwa rolling stores sa mga apektadong lugar upang sa gayon ay maraming tao ang makaabot sa mga pangunahing bilihin at kalakal.

Sa kabilang dako, nagpalabas naman ang DTI ng price freeze sa mga pangunahing pangangailangan sa mga lugar na idineklara sa ilalim ng state of calamity sa gitna ng pananalasa ng bagyong Kristine.

Sa ilalim ng Price Act, “isang 60-day automatic price freeze ang ipinatutupad kapag ipinatupad ang idineklarang state of calamity, saklaw nito ang canned fish, locally manufactured instant noodles, bottled water, tinapay, processed milk, kape, kandila, laundry soap, detergent, at asin.”

Ayon sa DTI ang mga lalabag sa price freeze ay mahaharap sa parusang pagkakakulong sa loob ng isang taon hanggang 10 taon o pagmumultahin ng mula P5,000 hanggang P1 million, o pareho depende sa diskresyon ng korte.

Hinikayat naman ng DTI ang mga consumers na i-report ang mga ‘retailers, distributors, at manufacturers’ na nagbebenta ng higit pa sa umiiral na presyo. *Kris Jose*

<https://remate.ph/pbbm-sa-dti-da-sapat-na-suplay-ng-produkto-tiyakin-sa-gitna-ng-pananalasa-ni-kristine/>

REMATE:

Agri damage sa bagyong Kristine, umakyat sa P80M

October 25, 2024 10:54



MANILA, Philippines – Umakyat na sa P80.80 milyon ang halaga ng pinsala sa agrikultura sa bansa dahil sa pananalasa ng Severe Tropical Storm Kristine.

Sa bulletin ng Department of Agriculture (DA) nitong Huwebes, Oktubre 24, apektado ng bagyong Kristine ang nasa 2,864 magsasaka sa Cordillera, Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan), Bicol at Western Visayas.

Aabot naman sa 5,287 metric tons ang dami ng production loss sakop ang 1,570 ektarya ng taniman.

As field assessments continue, further damage and losses are anticipated, potentially impacting additional commodities,” ayon sa DA.

Naghanda naman ng interbensyon ang ahensya para sa mga apektado. Kasama rito ang P80.21 milyong halaga ng agricultural inputs (rice, corn, at vegetable seeds, drugs at biologics para sa mga livestock) mula sa DA Regional Field Offices CAR, III, IV-A, IV-B, V, at VIII; hanggang P25,000 loanable amount mula sa Survival and Recovery (SURE) Loan Program ng Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC), na maaaring bayaran sa loob ng tatlong taon sa zero interest; at Indemnification ng insured affected farmers sa pamamagitan ng Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (PCIC). *RNT/JGC*

<https://remate.ph/agri-damage-sa-bagyong-kristine-umakyat-sa-p80m/>

MANILA STANDARD:



By [Charles Dantes](#), [Rio N. Araja](#), [Alena Mae S. Flores](#) & [Ralph Harvey Rirao](#)
October 26, 2024, 12:35 am

Marcos: Brace for new tropical cyclone; Kristine death toll: 76

- **2.65 million people affected**
- **Infrastructure damage: P15.25m**
- **Agriculture damage: P9.7m**

President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. assured Filipinos affected by Severe Tropical Storm “Kristine” that help is coming as he directed government agencies to prepare for a tropical cyclone expected to enter the Philippine area of responsibility this weekend.

“I make this pledge to our people: Help is on its way. It will come by land, air, and, even by sea. We will continue sending our help and aid,” the President said.

“Kristine” left a path of destruction that saw at least 76 people dead, with Bicol region, Cavite and Batangas the hardest-hit.

The Office of the Civil Defense, however, said it has only validated 46 fatalities, of which 28 were from Bicol.



The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said some 2,656,446 individuals, or equivalent to 569,524 families, were affected by “Kristine” across 15 regions

Infrastructure damage reached P15.25 million while agricultural damage was estimated at P9.746 million.

“I have ordered the full mobilization of available Armed Forces personnel and resources which can be committed to relief operations. Other uniformed agencies such as the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection and the Philippine Coast Guard are likewise placed under that status,” Mr. Marcos said.

He said all government vehicles — including the presidential chopper — can be used to mobilize aid and resources.

“We’ll just have to keep monitoring the situation and make sure, always, the rescue and relief don’t stop. It doesn’t matter [if] there’s another storm coming, we cannot stop. That cannot stop,” Mr. Marcos said.

On Friday, residents of northern Luzon used spades and rakes to clear their homes of mud and debris while others still awaited rescue.

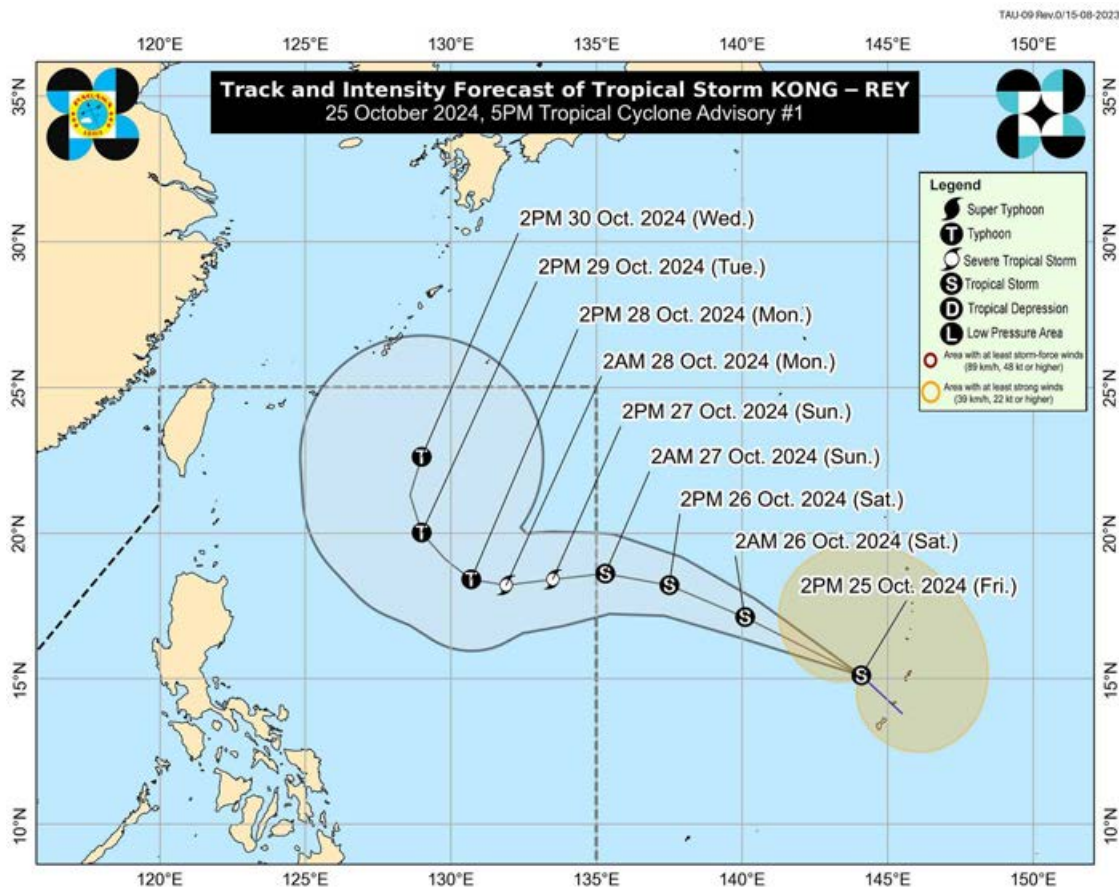


Photo shows the track of Kong Rey, the new weather disturbance.

Tens of thousands remained displaced after fleeing floods driven by a torrential downpour that dumped two months' worth of rainfall over just two days in some areas.

“Many are still trapped on the roofs of their homes and asking for help,” Bicol police director Andre Dizon said.

“We are hoping that the floods will subside today since the rain has stopped,” he added.

Accessibility, however, remained a major issue for rescuers, particularly in Bicol, Mr. Marcos said.

“That’s the problem we’re having with Bicol, so difficult to penetrate,” he said, adding that ground saturated by rain had led to “landslides in areas that didn’t have landslides before.”

In Batangas, the number of confirmed dead rose to 43, provincial police chief Jacinto Malinao told Agence France Presse.

Laurel and the nearby towns of Talisay and Agoncillo accounted for most of the dead in Batangas, with 16 others missing in Talisay, he added.

Earlier in the day, police staff sergeant Nelson Cabuso told Agence France Presse six unidentified bodies were found in the province's Sampaloc village.

"The area was hit by a flash flood Thursday. Our people are still in the area to check if there are other casualties," he said.

Cavite, on the other hand, was placed under a state of calamity, with 11 out of 23 towns and cities affected by flash floods.

Police in Bicol region on Friday reported a total 29 deaths there, while two other bodies were previously found in Quezon province, one in Zambales and one in Masbate.

"We're lucky (the rain) happened in the morning, for sure many would've died if it happened at night," said Mimie Dionela, 56, a resident of Batangas. "It was indescribable how scared we were."

Islao Malabanan, 63, agreed he was alive only because the flood occurred during daytime, but said his family had lost everything "including our clothes."

The Department of Health activated Code Blue or the deployment of emergency health units in Cagayan Valley, Bicol, and Ilocos.

The DOH deployed P133 million worth of medical and public health emergency supplies, water sanitation and hygiene kits in areas extremely affected by "Kristine."

The Department of Energy said it mobilized personnel to restore power across affected areas in Luzon, prioritizing regions where floodwaters have receded. With AFP

Editor's Note: This is an updated article. Originally posted with the headline "Marcos orders non-stop rescue, relief ops in storm-hit areas."

https://www.manilastandard.net/news/314515127/marcos-orders-non-stop-rescue-relief-ops-in-storm-hit-areas.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawGLwxBleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHVHyCS9boUO3mHB6dw-mF4XX-WpdIZyQuP4bP7D5PLxfvVQS_BigsTgBgQ_aem_avisc23vP1aqxE3llull_w

THE MANILA TIMES:

Storm agri damage in Negros P1.6M

By Eugene Y. Adiong

October 26, 2024

BACOLOD CITY — Severe Tropical Storm Kristine affected 6,797 residents in 15 local government units in Negros Occidental, and initially left P1.691 million damages in agriculture, a report from the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management data show.

The report also said that 971 families composed of 3,319 members are still in evacuation centers.

Some Cebu Pacific flights were also cancelled.

Bacolod City, Talisay City, Silay City, Sipalay City, Himamaylan City, Bago City, La Carlota City, Escalante City, Kabankalan City, La Castellana, Ilog, EB Magalona, Valladolid, Binalbagan, Pulpandan, Pontevedra, Isabela, Don Salvador Benedicto, Murcia, Manapla and Cauayan have extended their suspension of face-to-face classes to Friday.

The Philippine Coast Guard Northern Negros District has lifted the suspensions on boat trips from Negros Occidental province to Iloilo province but trips to Manila remain suspended.

Coast Guard Commander Jansen Benjamin said in an advisory that no storm signals are in effect in the province with sea travels to Iloilo but warning signals remain over Metro Manila.

Strong winds destroyed seven houses and damaged 22, the PDRRMC report said.

Five areas hit by landslides had been cleared while two damaged bridges were allowed passable to light vehicles, the PDRRMC added.

In Bacolod City, a total of 168 families or 584 individuals in 10 barangay have been affected by floods and strong winds.

The Bacolod City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office distributed food and nonfood supplies for families staying in evacuation centers on Thursday.

The storm also caused P1.691,976.46 in damages to agriculture and the evacuation of 655 individuals from 254 families from 18 villages and six local government units, data from the Capitol show.

The evacuees were from Bago City, Cadiz City, Sagay City, Sipalay City, Hinigaran and Hinobaan.

Meanwhile, a report by Dr. Dina Genzola, acting provincial agriculturist to Gov. Eugenio Jose Lacson, showed that rice was the hardest hit crop with damage reaching P1,025,046.48 while the fishery sector sustained P575,976.48 in damages.

https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/26/regions/storm-agri-damage-in-negros-p16m/1991732?fbclid=IwY2xjawGLwLpleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHQwgsZg8-ZPcb_W85saQBm2chP-bYcgtRpIIjYIhdD8twh9MfPSs1s23hw_aem_2ZuAV9QQ-gpoY3QsGSbolA

THE MANILA TIMES:

P29M worth of Dagupan bangus escape to sea

By Gabriel L. Cardinoza

October 26, 2024

DAGUPAN CITY — Some P29 million worth of bangus (milkfish) were lost here after storm surges spawned by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine smashed their cages, letting them escape to the open sea.

A damage assessment report for fisheries sent to The Manila Times on Friday indicated that the cages were destroyed on October 23 in the island villages of Lomboy and Pugaro here.

At that time, the storm surges peaked from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. and were from one meter to two meters high as Kristine approached eastern Luzon, according to the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) in Lingayen town.

At least 10 other Pangasinan coastal areas were also devastated by the storm surges.

The report said that ponds in Lomboy village also overflowed, releasing bangus juveniles which were due to be transferred in January next year to fully grow in the cages.

The juveniles were worth P5.3 million.

The damage assessment report also indicated that 80 bangus growers in the Pugaro lost a total of 100,000 kilograms (kg) of bangus.

The same volume of bangus was also lost by 80 growers in Lomboy which were scheduled to be harvested next month.

At P120 for a kg of bangus, the aquafarmers lost P24 million, according to the report.

In Lingayen, the PDRRMO reported that the typhoon's initial damage to agriculture was P28.59 million.

Of the amount, about P13.74 million worth of rice crops were destroyed in the towns of Bani, Mabini, Mangaldan and San Fabian.

P13.1 million worth of high-value crops were destroyed in the towns of Bani, Calasiao, Manaoag and Mangaldan, and San Carlos City.

Bangus worth P1.3 million were also lost in Sual town, where a mariculture zone hosts hundreds of cages.

In Anda town, three persons were hurt when a buri tree felled by strong winds crashed into their house while they were having breakfast on October 23.

The provincial police office said those injured were Joana Mae Bacoto Cacho, 19, her mother Lutche Bacoto Cacho, 45, and her brother John Keineth Bacoto Cacho, 25.

They were immediately taken by responders to the town's rural health unit.

In Binmaley town, a cargo vessel ran aground off the coast of Buenlag village on October 23, according to the provincial police office.

The vessel was supposed to anchor at the Port of Sual in Sual town but strong winds and waves spawned by Kristine pushed it to the shore.

No one among its 13 crew members was reported hurt.

https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/26/regions/p29m-worth-of-dagupan-bangus-escape-to-sea/1991736?fbclid=IwY2xjawGLwL9leHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHQz5COHaXT_mz43OkjltcrHMVwgvspZ1Jijgn1zww_axEDGIprcD6xoD2g_aem_N54KM-ILOTzoIR8nKmdokA