

CLIPPINGS FOR TODAY OCTOBER 31, 2024

A. MANILA BULLETIN:

BOC seizes P179-million frozen mackerel smuggled from China

B. THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

New roadmap for rice completed by yearend

EDITORIAL - Where do our billions go?

Leyte is bird flu-free

Kristine death toll increases to 145

P178.5 million smuggled mackerel seized at MICP

Retail fish prices rise by P160 per kilo after 'Kristine'

C. PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Agricultural damage due to Kristine reaches P3.76B

BOC seizes 21 containers of frozen mackerel worth P178.5 million

Free rice seeds distributed for dry cropping season in Zambales town

D. BUSINESS WORLD:

Rice imports at 3.68 MMT year to date

Curbs lifted on transport of chicken from areas free of avian influenza

E. REMATE:

DA magbibigay ng P1-B suporta sa pagsasaka ng kape sa NorMin

Taiwan tutulong sa modernisasyon ng PH rice production

F. THE MANILA TIMES:

Rice imports surpass 2023 total: 3.67 MMT as of Oct. 24

DA cracks down on illegally imported fish

Searca outlines SEA agribiz future

Kalinga gets P256M farm road project

PhilRice appoints new board of trustees members

Ilocos Sur farmer coops receive P32M equipment

1,400 given agri insurance in Currimao

G. BUSINESS MIRROR:

BOC, DA seize P178.5 million smuggled mackerel from China

Rice arrivals surpass 2023 imports as of October–BPI

PDIC to auction off 52 farm, residential, vacant lots in 23 provinces on Nov. 27

H. ABANTE TONITE:

P178.5M puslit na frozen mackerel nasabat

MANILA BULLETIN:

BOC seizes P179-million frozen mackerel smuggled from China

BY [MANILA BULLETIN](#)

Oct 30, 2024 10:09 AM

By DERCO ROSAL

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) seized 21 containers of smuggled frozen mackerel from China at the Manila International Container Port (MICP) as part of a crackdown on illegal agricultural imports.

The Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) estimated the value of each container of frozen mackerel to be P8.5 million, bringing the total to P178.5 million.

On Oct. 16, the CIIS of the port recommended issuing a pre-lodgement control order on 21 containers of frozen mackerel from China, following reports of suspicious information regarding the shipments.

In a statement, BOC Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio said the control order request was made due to concerns about misclassification, misdeclaration, and undeclared goods in the shipment.

Rubio emphasized that protecting the agricultural sector is as important to the bureau's mission as preventing illegal drugs and other contraband from entering the borders of the country.

“Keeping smuggled agricultural products off our local markets ensures fair competition in the domestic market. It also keeps the costs of goods down,” Rubio explained.

CIIS Director Verne Enciso reported that the 21 unclaimed containers of frozen mackerel arrived at the MICP last month, prompting inquiries to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) about importation requirements and the consignee’s SPS Import Clearance (SPSIC) status.

BFAR then confirmed that the importer, Pacific Sealand Foods Corporation, did not apply for mackerel importation between August 30 and September 16.

As reported by the BOC, subsequent applications were rejected after the Department of Agriculture (DA) suspended the issuance of clearance for importing round scad, mackerel, and bonito. Enciso stated that they are currently gathering information on the consignee of the shipments and preparing legal cases, pointing out the need for better coordination among government agencies involved in the seizure.

“The consignee may face charges of violating Sections 117 and 1113 of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA) in relation to DA Memorandum Order No. 14, series of 2024, and other existing DA regulations,” the BOC stated.

By DERCO ROSAL

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https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/30/boc-nabs-smuggled-mackerel-worth-millions#google_vignette

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

New roadmap for rice completed by yearend

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

October 31, 2024 | 12:00am



Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr..

STAR / Jesse Bustos

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) is set to complete the latest rice industry roadmap by year-end that would outline its current priorities and vision for the sector.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the new rice roadmap, which has been undergoing updates by a technical working group, should be done before the year ends.

Tiu Laurel noted that the latest industry blueprint would capitalize on the previous roadmaps and improve them to adapt to the current needs of the industry.

One of the key details of the new roadmap would be the change in planting seasons as the government targets to implement a three-cropping season a year.

“This is totally a game changer. It is not easy to do but we will start this November with this new system to try in two areas,” he said.

The change in the cropping calendar has been voiced out by government officials as one of the possible measures to hike domestic production while minimizing the impact of typhoons and extreme weather conditions on harvest.

The creation and adoption of a rice industry roadmap is mandated under Republic Act 11203 or the Rice Trade Liberalization Law that deregulated the country’s rice sector.

Under the law, the roadmap shall serve as the guiding principle in developing the country’s industry especially with the creation of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF).

The new rice industry roadmap comes at a time that the government is keen on extending the RCEF until 2031 to build on the gains from the initial rollout of the program set to end this year.

Last month, Tiu Laurel issued Special Order 1463 that reconstituted the technical writing team for the finalization of the country’s rice industry roadmap.

The team is chaired by Hazel Tanchuling of Rice Watch Action Network and currently serves as the chairperson of the National Sectoral Committee on Rice and Other Food Staples of the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries. Meanwhile, Raul Montemayor of the Federation of Free Farmers serves as the vice chairperson.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/10/31/2396449/new-roadmap-rice-completed-yearend>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

EDITORIAL - Where do our billions go?

The Philippine Star



It's been days since the country felt the full wrath of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine, and now another tropical cyclone has entered the Philippine area of responsibility, threatening to intensify into a super typhoon with the strength of Yolanda. And yet in many parts of the Bicol Region and several areas hit by Kristine, the torrential floods have yet to fully subside. As of yesterday, the death toll from Kristine and the cataclysmic flooding that it spawned had risen to 145.

The high death toll plus the devastation caused by Kristine on agriculture, private property and public infrastructure have raised questions on the utilization of the billions allocated annually for flood control projects. Yesterday, President Marcos' sister, Sen. Imee Marcos, demanded a full accounting of the P132 billion that she said was allocated for flood control in Bicol over the past six years, with P86.6 billion of the amount appropriated in the past two years alone. For 2024, she said, the region has P31.94 billion allocated for flood control.

Nationwide, the flood control funding of the Department of Public Works and Highways for this year is reportedly around P255 billion. The amount is way higher than the entire P40.13-billion appropriation for the Department of Agriculture and P24.57 billion for the Department of Health. Apart from the DPWH, other agencies involved in flood control are local government units. In the National Capital Region, the task has been given to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

Where do the billions in taxes go?

While scrutinizing the utilization of the flood control funding, lawmakers should also take a second look at the wide leeway given to local governments for flood control. Like traffic in Greater Manila and other urban centers in the country, devolution has led to piecemeal and uncoordinated implementation of flood control projects. Rivers that overflow and mountains that are hit by landslides during torrential rainfall typically straddle multiple cities, towns and even provinces. Flood control in such areas works best with coordinated approaches, with manmade interventions interoperable.

While devolution has its advantages, it can also hamper the long-term and nationally coordinated planning needed for major projects such as flood control infrastructure. Local executives tend to plan their projects and programs in three-year increments – the duration of their term in office.

There is also the problem of corruption, which certain local government officials and even private contractors have cited. Multilateral aid agencies and other institutions have conducted studies showing that road and flood control projects are among the biggest sources of corruption in developing countries. Flood control projects in particular can be difficult to check for proper implementation and completion. The consequences of fund misuse, as the country is seeing, can be catastrophic.

<https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2024/10/31/2396480/editorial-where-do-our-billions-go>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Leyte is bird flu-free

Bella Cariaso - The Philippine Star

October 31, 2024 | 12:00am



DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. issued Memorandum Circular 44, declaring Leyte free from avian influenza.

AFP

MANILA, Philippines — The province of Leyte has been declared free from bird flu, according to the Department of Agriculture.

DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. issued Memorandum Circular 44, declaring Leyte free from avian influenza.

Tiu Laurel said the first case of pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) subtype H5N1 was detected in the town of Kananga on March 19, affecting broiler breeder chickens.

“The provincial and municipal governments, in coordination with the DA regional office and the Bureau of Animal Industry, immediately conducted investigation, depopulation, cleanup and disinfection of infected areas,” Tiu Laurel said.

He said more than 90 days have lapsed since the cleanup and disinfection.

Continued surveillance and monitoring of affected areas showed negative presence of bird flu, the DA said.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/10/31/2396581/leyte-bird-flu-free>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Kristine death toll increases to 145

[Mayen Jaymalin](#), [Pia Lee-Brago](#) - The Philippine Star

October 31, 2024 | 12:00am



People wade through a flooded road brought about by Tropical Storm Trami, in Naga, Camarines Sur on October 25, 2024. Philippine rescue workers battled floodwaters on October 25 to reach residents still trapped on the roofs of their homes as Tropical Storm Trami moved out to sea after killing at least 40 people.

AFP / Zalrian Sayat

MANILA, Philippines — The number of fatalities from Severe Tropical Storm Kristine has increased to 145, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

The NDRRMC said of the reported fatalities, 14 have been validated. It said 115 people were injured and 37 were reported missing.

Kristine displaced more than 761,000 people, with over 333,000 staying in evacuation centers.

The agency said the amount of damage to agriculture was estimated at P2.8 billion.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) said the amount of damage to rice and other crops has increased to P3.7 billion. Damage to infrastructure was placed at P3.6 billion.

Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro IV, deputy administrator for operations at the Office of Civil Defense, said power has been restored in 228 of 352 cities and municipalities that experienced outages at the height of Kristine.

Alejandro said 86 of 99 road sections destroyed by Kristine are now passable to all types of vehicles.

251,000 workers displaced

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said Kristine displaced 251,000 workers, mostly in Bicol and Calabarzon.

Labor Undersecretary Benjo Benavidez said the government would focus its cash for work program in these regions.

In Bicol, Benavidez said the DOLE is aiming to extend emergency employment to more than 83,000 typhoon-affected workers. A majority of them are in Camarines Sur.

Residents whose homes or businesses were destroyed and incurred losses can avail themselves of the DOLE's Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Displaced and Disadvantaged Workers or TUPAD program.

Aside from providing emergency employment, Benavidez said livelihood assistance would be given to typhoon victims.

More help coming

Help continues to pour in for people displaced by Kristine, according to the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

DSWD Secretary Rex Gatchalian yesterday said the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has pledged to donate 33,000 family food packs for the victims.

Gatchalian met with UAE Ambassador Mohammed Obaid Alzaabi and Emirates Red Crescent board chairman Hamdan Musallam Al Mazrouei on Tuesday to discuss the embassy's plan to roll out humanitarian assistance.

He said the UAE embassy would provide critical relief supplies, including food packs and drinking water, in regions hit hard by Kristine.

Transport and distribution of UAE relief goods will be handled by the DSWD and its regional offices.

Meanwhile, the Quezon City government will donate P10 million for victims of Kristine in Bicol.

The city council on Tuesday authorized Mayor Joy Belmonte to extend financial assistance to nine local government units in Camarines Sur and Albay.

The municipalities of Bato, Bula, Buhi, Nabua, Pili and Tinambac in Camarines Sur as well as Libon and Guinobatan in Albay will receive P1 million each from the Quezon City government. Iriga City in Camarines Sur will receive P2 million.

San Juan City also allotted P1 million in assistance for victims of Kristine in Camarines Sur, which is its sister local government unit.

“The financial aid shows the bond between San Juan and Camarines Sur, underscoring our commitment to support one another in times of need,” San Juan Mayor Francis Zamora said.

Crop damage up

The amount of damage caused by Kristine to rice and other crops has increased to P3.76 billion from P3.1 billion previously.

The DA said aside from rice, damage and losses were reported on corn, cassava, high-value crops, livestock, poultry and fishery as well as agricultural infrastructure.

Retail prices of vegetables – red pepper, cabbage, carrots and Baguio beans – continue to go up, the agency said.

The Energy Regulatory Commission has urged power distribution utilities to allow staggered payments for electricity bills and observe a moratorium on disconnection to give consumers relief from the effects of Kristine. – **Sheila Crisostomo, Bella Cariaso, Janvic Mateo, Jose Rodel Clapano, Brix Lelis, Gilbert Bayoran, Ramon Efren Lazaro**

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/10/31/2396594/kristine-death-toll-increases-145>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

P178.5 million smuggled mackerel seized at MICP

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

October 31, 2024 | 12:00am



DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel said the “hot” goods were intercepted at the Manila International Container Port (MICP).

MICT Photo

ADVERTISEMENT

MANILA, Philippines — At least 567 metric tons of smuggled mackerel from China valued at P178.5 million were confiscated by the Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Customs, DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel announced yesterday.

Tiu Laurel said the “hot” goods were intercepted at the Manila International Container Port (MICP).

He said 21 shipping containers of the smuggled fish arrived in the country earlier this month, with at least three of the containers opened.

Tiu Laurel said the importer of the frozen fish, Pacific Sealand Foods Corp., failed to produce a sanitary and phytosanitary import clearance when the shipment was unloaded at the MICP.

“At current market prices, this frozen mackerel shipment is worth P178.5 million,” he said.

The importer of the smuggled fish will face charges of economic sabotage under Republic Act 12022 or the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Law, according to Tiu Laurel.

He said the government would donate the confiscated mackerel to victims of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine if the frozen fish are fit for human consumption.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources will conduct the tests to determine if the fish are safe to be eaten, Tiu Laurel said – **Evelyn Macairan**

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/10/31/2396606/p1785-million-smuggled-mackerel-seized-micp>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Retail fish prices rise by P160 per kilo after 'Kristine'

[Dominique Nicole Flores](#) - Philstar.com

October 30, 2024 | 2:57pm



Vendors clean various seafood products up for sale at a market in Quezon City on March 17, 2023.

The Philippine STAR / Jesse Bustos

MANILA, Philippines (**Updated 4:35 p.m.**) — In the wake of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name: Trami), Metro Manila markets are seeing a surge in retail fish prices by as much as P160 per kilogram.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has recorded an increase in fish prices since the onset of Kristine in the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) on October 21. As of Monday, October 28, prices have risen for the following fish:

- **Tilapia**
- **Galunggong (local and imported round scad)**
- **Alumahan (Indian mackerel)**
- **Sardines**
- **Squid**
- **Tambakol (yellow-fin tuna)**

Sardine prices have experienced the largest price jump, doubling to P320 per kilogram on Monday, October 28, from P160 on October 21. By Tuesday, the price per kilogram had dropped to P250, though it remains P90 higher than pre-Kristine levels.

Following sardines, squid is now sold in National Capital Region markets for as high as P480 per kilogram, an increase of P30 since October 21. Squid prices briefly reached P500 per kilogram at most in the two days leading up to October 29.

Local galunggong has also seen one of the sharpest increases, with some markets selling the fish for up to P360 per kilogram on October 28. This reflects a P40 rise since Sunday and a P60 increase since Kristine entered PAR.

The prices of local galunggong, however, had eased to P320 per kilogram, but still P20 above the P300 per kilogram price prior to Kristine.

After reaching P360 as Kristine made landfall, local galunggong prices dipped to a maximum of P320 on October 26 before rising again to P360 on Monday.

While imported galunggong decreased to P260 on October 26 from P300 per kilogram on October 21, it rebounded to P280 on Monday, signaling an increase in prices.

Alumahan also experienced price fluctuations, rising to P420 per kilogram on October 26 — a P70 increase from October 21 — but then decreased to P400 per kilogram on Tuesday.

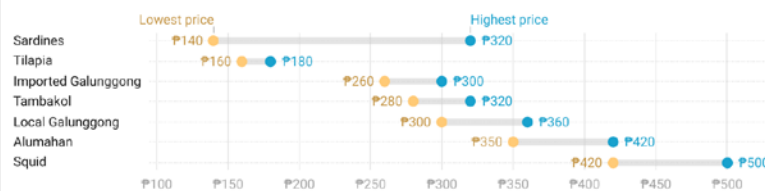
The cost of tambakol decreased to P300 per kilogram on Monday; however, this still represents a P20 increase compared to prices before Kristine's onslaught.

Meanwhile, prices of tilapia fluctuated between October 21 and October 28, reaching a peak of P160 to P180 per kilogram.

On October 26, the maximum price for tilapia was P170 per kilogram, but by Monday, it had increased by P10, climbing to P180.

Range of retail fish prices from Oct. 21 to 29

Fish prices in Metro Manila markets fluctuated during the week of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine's onslaught. After the storm left the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR) on Oct. 25, various fishes saw price hikes.



All values are in pesos per kilogram, reflecting the highest recorded prices for each fish type in NCR markets.
Chart: Dominique Nicole Flores • Source: Department of Agriculture • Created with Datawrapper

Farmgate prices still low

Fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (PAMALAKAYA) has called the price hikes in some fish “baseless,” citing how farmgate prices are much lower for small fisherfolk.

Farmgate prices refer to the prices of agricultural products purchased directly from farmers or fisherfolk.

“Walang batayan ang pagtataas ng retail price ng ilang isda matapos humagupit ang Severe Tropical Storm Kristine, dahil nananatiling mababa ang farmgate price ng mga ito sa maliliit na mangingisda,” PAMALAKAYA Vice Chairperson Ronnel Arambulo told **Philstar.com** in a message.

(The increase in retail prices of some fish following the onslaught of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine is baseless, as farmgate prices remain low for small fisherfolk.)

Arambulo used galunggong as an example, noting that its farmgate prices are approximately P80 to P100 per kilogram. Meanwhile, current retail prices in NCR markets range from P200 to P320, more than double the cost paid to fisherfolk.

The fisherfolk group attributed this to private traders, whom he says are capitalizing on the recent disaster to impose price increases in fish markets.

Arambulo said that the government, particularly the DA, should intervene to ensure fish prices are fair and affordable for consumers.

The DA has reported [P3.40 billion in agricultural losses](#), which includes P11.20 million in damages to local fish such as tilapia.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/10/30/2396394/retail-fish-prices-rise-p160-kilo-after-kristine>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Agricultural damage due to Kristine reaches P3.76B

By: [Zacarian Sarao](#) - Reporter / [@zacariansINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 06:31 PM October 30, 2024



To further assess the damage brought by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name: Trami), President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday, October 25, 2024, conducted an aerial inspection in the National Capital Region, Cavite, Laguna, and Batangas. (Photos courtesy of MPC Pool)

MANILA, Philippines — Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name: Trami) has left the country a running total of P3.76 billion in agricultural losses, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Wednesday.

According to the DA's latest bulletin, the most affected was rice, with a production loss of 169,830 metric tons amounting to P3.20 billion.

Corn was the second most affected crop, with 2,501 metric tons volume loss amounting to P51.71 million.

Cassava was also heavily impacted with 217 metric tons of volume loss, totaling P8.46 million.

A total of 17,874 metric tons of high-value crops were also destroyed, amounting to P408.09 million.

Kristine also destroyed 3,483 heads of livestock and poultry worth P6.90 million.

Meanwhile, 98 fisherfolk have been reported to have suffered 66 metric tons of volume loss amounting to P11.20 million.

Agricultural infrastructure was also affected, with P26 million in damages to irrigation facilities and P43.47 million in other farm structures, including rain shelters, greenhouses, animal houses, and administrative buildings.

The DA said it has so far provided P541.02 million worth of agricultural assistance, such as rice, corn, and vegetable seeds, as well as medicine for livestock and poultry to its regional offices.

The department has also provided rice stocks from the National Food Authority to the Ilocos and Bicol regions.

A total of P1 billion quick response fund was released for the rehabilitation and recovery of affected areas, while P500 million was shelled out for the Survival and Recovery Loan Program, which offers loans up to P25,000 to affected individuals, payable in three years without interest.

Kadiwa stores were also deployed in affected areas.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1999471/agricultural-damage-due-to-kristine-reaches-p3-76b>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

BOC seizes 21 containers of frozen mackerel worth P178.5 million

By: [Faith Argosino](#) - Reporter / [@FArgosinoINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 06:15 PM October 30, 2024



Bureau of Customs (BOC) | FILE PHOTO

MANILA, Philippines — Authorities impounded 21 containers with P178.5-million worth of frozen mackerel from China, according to the Bureau of Customs (BOC).

Citing the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) report, the BOC said the items arrived at the Manila International Container Port in September and remained unclaimed by the consignee.

This prompted the CIIS to contact the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) to determine if the consignee has a Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance.

“Divine Ramos of the BFAR’s Fisheries Certification Section confirmed that the importer, ‘Pacific Sealand Foods Corporation,’ has no application for mackerel from August 30 to September 16, 2024,” the BOC disclosed.

Upon receiving this information, the agency said CIIS recommended the issuance of pre-lodgement control order for the 21 containers of frozen mackerel.

BOC Commissioner Bien Rubio explained that this recommendation or request “was made due to concerns that the shipment contained misclassified, misdeclared, and undeclared goods.”

“Our mission to protect the country’s agricultural sector is just as important, just as critical as our mission to stop illegal drugs and many others from entering our borders. Keeping smuggled agricultural products off our local markets ensures fair competition in the domestic market. It also keeps the costs of goods down,” Rubio explained.

“Currently, we are in the process of gathering information on the consignee of these shipments and filing appropriate cases. We also want to emphasize the importance of proper coordination among various government agencies that contributed to the seizure of these goods,” CIIS Director Verne Enciso, on the other hand, said.

BOC said the consignee may face charges for violating Sections 117 and 1113 of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act in relation to Department of Agriculture (DA) Memorandum Order No. 14, series of 2024, and other existing regulations of the DA.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1999464/boc-seizes-21-containers-of-frozen-mackerel-worth-p178-5-million>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Free rice seeds distributed for dry cropping season in Zambales town

By: [Joanna Rose Aglibot](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Inquirer Central Luzon](#) / 03:47 PM October 30, 2024



Farmers in San Marcelino, Zambales, get free rice seeds from the government for the upcoming dry cropping season. (Photo courtesy of San Marcelino Public Information Office)

SAN MARCELINO, Zambales — The local government in this town has begun the distribution of free rice seeds for the upcoming dry cropping season. Mayor Elmer Soria led the distribution of the free seeds on Wednesday, Oct. 30, in support of the agricultural sector that sustains the livelihood and food supply of the town's residents. The seed distribution is intended for farmers registered under the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture and is funded by the Department of Agriculture.

Municipal Agriculturist Remin Sardo is spearheading the initiative, which is managed by the Municipal Agriculture Office. Soria expressed his commitment to helping local farmers by providing access to free hybrid and inbred rice seeds, aiming to boost productivity and improve the town's farming industry. INQ

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1999372/free-rice-seeds-distributed-for-dry-cropping-season-in-zambales-town>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Rice imports at 3.68 MMT year to date

October 30, 2024 | 8:59 pm



PHILSTAR FILE PHOTO

PHILIPPINE rice imports totaled 3.68 million metric tons (MMT) as of late October, according to the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI).

The BPI reported that in October, rice shipments totaled 380,541.58 MT as of Oct. 24, up from 163,217.40 MT a year earlier.

In June, the government lowered the tariffs on imported rice to 15% from 35% until 2028 through Executive Order No. 62 as an inflation-containment measure.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. has said that the Department of Agriculture (DA) will meet with operators of large markets in Metro Manila next week to determine why rice prices remain elevated despite a drop in wholesale rice prices to P38 per kilogram.

He added that if wholesale rice prices were at P38 per kilo, the retail price of rice should be around P45 per kilo.

According to DA price monitors, as of Oct. 29, the retail price of imported regular-milled rice was between P45 to P48 per kilo, while well-milled rice was P45 to P55 per kilo.

The BPI reported that Vietnam remained the top supplier of rice as of late October, accounting for 79% of all imports in the year to date, or 2.91 MMT.

Thailand supplied 457,673.28 MT during the period, or 12.4% of the total, followed by Pakistan with 162,369.48 MT, or 4.5%.

It added that Myanmar and India shipped 114,766.75 MT and 22,039.04 MT of rice, respectively.

For October, the BPI issued 741 sanitary and phytosanitary import certificates with approved applicants seeking to import 597,306 MT.

As of late October, permits issued numbered 8,397 with applicants seeking to ship in 8.21 MMT.

The US Department of Agriculture projects Philippine rice imports to hit 4.7 MMT this year, upgrading its initial 4.6 MMT estimate. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/10/30/631816/rice-imports-at-3-68-mmt-year-to-date/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Curbs lifted on transport of chicken from areas free of avian influenza

October 30, 2024 | 8:58 pm



A PERSON holds a test tube labeled “Bird Flu,” in this picture illustration, Jan. 14, 2023. — REUTERS

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said it is now allowing the movement of broiler chicken for slaughter from areas without active cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza, or bird flu.

In Administrative Circular No. 9, the DA said that broiler chicken can now be transported from areas clear of the disease for slaughter, subject to meeting the requirements for transport.

The DA said these include obtaining a local shipping permit (LSP) and a veterinary health certificate.

“The broilers must be transported directly from the source farm to the designated location as specified in the LSP. Loading and unloading of broilers during transit is strictly prohibited,” the DA added.

United Broiler Raisers Association Chairman Elias Jose M. Inciong said that the regulation could possibly improve the ease of doing business for chicken farmers.

The DA previously required the concurrence of regional field offices or local government units before issuing veterinary health certificates for transport.

The DA said the previous rules posed an undue burden on the poultry industry by “adding regulatory hurdles and costs.”

It added that broiler chicken transported to areas with active bird flu cases will not be permitted to return to their place of origin.

“The trader shall implement the necessary precautionary measures to ensure that all vehicles and conveyances used for hauling are subjected to appropriate biosecurity protocols before and after shipment,” the DA said.

According to DA guidelines, broiler chickens are excluded from vaccination protocols due to their relatively short production cycles, and are deemed less prone to disease outbreaks.

Separately, the DA declared Leyte province free of avian flu in Memorandum Circular No. 44.

As of Oct 25, 53 municipalities across nine provinces have active cases of bird flu, according to the Bureau of Animal Industry. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/10/30/631815/curbs-lifted-on-transport-of-chicken-from-areas-free-of-avian-influenza/>

REMATE:

DA magbibigay ng P1-B suporta sa pagsasaka ng kape sa NorMin

October 30, 2024 18:50



MANILA, Philippines – Tiniyak ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ng hindi bababa sa PHP1 billion ang suporta para sa coffee farming industry, na nakatuon sa mga magsasaka sa Northern Mindanao.

Sa kanyang pagbisita sa Bukidnon Integrated Coffee Center sa Malaybalay City, noong Martes, sinabi ni DA Secretary Francisco Laurel Jr. na hihingi siya ng karagdagang budget allocation mula kay Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

Kaugnay nito nais aniya ng DA na bawasan ng 10 hanggang 15 porsiyento ang taunang pag-import ng butil ng kape ng bansa.

“Kailangan natin ng kahit dagdag na 30,000 ektarya para sa pagsasaka ng kape, na sana ay ma-secure natin,” sabi ni Laurel.

Samantla habang nasa Bukidnon, namahagi din si Laurel ng mga input at suporta sa 16 na asosasyon ng mga magsasaka ng kape na kasangkot sa Mindanao Robusta Coffee Project, isang pakikipagtulungan sa pagitan ng DA at multinational food and beverage company na Nestlé Philippines.

Sinabi ni Jose Uy III, ang pinuno ng corporate affairs ng Nestlé, na nangangailangan ang Pilipinas ng humigit-kumulang 400,000 metric tons ng coffee beans bawat taon, kung saan ang Nestlé ay gumagawa ng humigit-kumulang 40,000 metric tons sa lokal upang matugunan ang pangangailangan ng Pilipinas.

Humigit-kumulang 80 porsiyento ng mga produktong kape ng Nestlé ay galing sa Mindanao.

Inaprubahan kamakailan ng pamahalaang panlalawigan ng Bukidnon ang isang roadmap ng industriya ng kape upang higit pang mapalakas ang produksyon at pagpapanatili sa rehiyon. (*Santi Celario*)

<https://remate.ph/da-magbibigay-ng-p1-b-suporta-sa-pagsasaka-ng-kape-sa-normin/>

REMATE:

Taiwan tutulong sa modernisasyon ng PH rice production

October 30, 2024 14:05



MANILA, Philippines – ISINIWALAT ng Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) ang plano nito na simulan ang modern technology para sa rice farming sa Pilipinas, katuwang ang Department of Agriculture (DA).

Sa isang press conference, sinabi ni TECO Representative Wallace Minn-Gan Chow na layon ng proyekto na ipakita ang suporta ng Taiwan sa ‘food security at affordability targets’ ng administrasyong Marcos.

“By introducing modern technology from Taiwan, we aim to strengthen the Philippines’ capability to provide accessible and affordable rice. Ensuring that even in the face of natural calamities, no one goes hungry,” ang sinabi ni Minn-Gan Chow.

Kabilang sa pagtutulongan ng TECO at DA ay ang Taiwan Technical Mission.

“We are going to launch a cooperative project to enhance rice production in the provinces of Isabela and Cagayan in the very near future,” aniya pa rin.

Nauna nang iniulat ng DA ang pagbaba sa projected annual local palay production dahil sa pinagsamang epekto ng El Niño phenomenon, weather disturbances, at La Niña.

Ang Palay output for 2024 ay inaasahang bababa sa 19.41 million metric tons (MT) mula 20.4 million MT target.

Sa kabila nito, tiniyak naman ng DA ang matatag na rice inventory na may supplementary supply mula sa rice imports, kung saan, ‘as of Oct. 14’ ay umabot sa 3.57 million tons.

Inasalamatan naman ng Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO) ang TECO para sa donasyon na Taiwan rice sa Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) para tulungan ang mga Filipinong naapektuhan ng pananalasa ng Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name Trami).

“We would like to express our appreciation to TECO for facilitating the turnover of 500 metric tons of rice donation. The latest rice shipment, which arrived Oct. 15, is part of the 2,000 MT rice donation which was intended for distribution to mostly needy recipients and victims of calamities,” ang sinabi ni MECO Director Cheloy Garafil sa isang ceremonial turnover ng rice donation sa Manila Peninsula Hotel sa Makati City.

Inaasahan naman aniya na darating ang natitirang 500 MT sa bansa sa susunod na buwan.

Sinabi ni Minn-Gan Chow na ang “modest volume” ng rice donations ay naglalayon na ipakita ang “heartfelt gesture of Taiwanese people.”

“Taiwan reaffirms its commitment to stand with the Philippines as you endure these challenging times. The 500 (metric) tons of rice donated here today symbolizes Taiwan’s compassion and solidarity with Filipino people,” ang sinabi pa rin ni Minn-Gan Chow.

Para naman sa DSWD, mapakikinabangan ng mga apektadong pamilya sa Bicol region ang rice donation at mga residente ng Northern Luzon kasama na rin ang inaasahang epekto ng

Typhoon Leon (international name Kong-Rey).

Sa ulat, tinatayang 83,000 pamilya o mahigit pa sa 400,000 indibiduwal ang makikinabang sa rice donation. *Kris Jose*

<https://remate.ph/taiwan-tutulong-sa-modernisasyon-ng-ph-rice-production/>

THE MANILA TIMES:

Rice imports surpass 2023 total: 3.67 MMT as of Oct. 24

By Janine Alexis Miguel
October 31, 2024

RICE imports as of late October have already exceeded the 2023 total, data from the Department of Agriculture (DA) showed.

Inbound shipments of the staple totaled 3.67 million metric tons (MT) as of Oct. 24, the DA's Bureau Plant Industry reported, surpassing the 3.61 million MT imported for the whole of last year.

Rice imports as of October last year were just 2.84 million MT.

Nearly a fifth of this year's current total was imported recently: 399,291 MT in September and 380,541 MT as of October 24.

"The country is the world's biggest rice importer and rice imports could increase further due to cheaper rice imports amid the reduction in import tariff rates," Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. chief economist Michael Ricafort said when asked to comment.

Executive Order 62, signed last June, slashed tariffs on imported rice to 15 percent from 35 percent to drive down retail prices and help temper inflation.

Ricafort added that cheaper world rice prices — at their lowest since February 2022 — would also make imported rice cheaper.

"Preparations for La Niña risk later this year would also lead to some preemptive stockpiling of rice supplies that could be augmented by increased rice imports," he continued.

Vietnam remained the Philippines' biggest source of rice, accounting for over 2.9 million MT or some 79 percent of the current total.

Next are Thailand with 457,673 MT; Pakistan, 162,369 MT; and Myanmar, 114,766 MT.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has projected that the Philippines' rice import volume could reach 4.7 MMT this year, although Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has said that this is unlikely. The USDA said the country would remain the world's top rice importer this year. Vietnam is expected to follow with an estimated import volume of 2.9 million MT.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/31/business/top-business/rice-imports-surpass-2023-total-367-mmt-as-of-oct-24/1994521>

THE MANILA TIMES:

DA cracks down on illegally imported fish

By Janine Alexis Miguel

October 31, 2024

DEPARTMENT of Agriculture (DA) officials on Wednesday inspected imported mackerel at the Manila International Container Port (MICP) suspected to be illegally shipped from China.

Three of 21 container vans containing frozen mackerel were opened and importer, Pacific Sealand Foods Corp., was said to have "failed to produce a sanitary and phytosanitary import clearance when the shipment of an estimated 567 metric tons of mackerel was unloaded at the MICP."

"At current market prices, this frozen mackerel shipment is worth P178.5 million," Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said.

In August, Tiu Laurel ordered the importation of fish in response to a shortfall caused by the closed fishing season imposed annually in the Davao Gulf, as well as in the Visayas and Zamboanga Peninsula. The three-month long closed fishing season will start on November 1 in waters northeast of Palawan, and from November 15 in the Visayan Seas and Zamboanga Peninsula. These areas are known grounds for small pelagic fishes like sardines and mackerel. Tiu Laurel said the order calls for the importation of 30,000 metric tons of pelagic fish species, which must arrive in the country before Jan. 15, 2025. Fish imports are typically done near the yearend, based on updated projections of fish supply and demand.

Imports arriving before the closed fishing season starts will only be released to the market starting Oct. 1.

Majority, or 80 percent of the import volume, will be allocated to registered importers from the commercial fishing sector, while the rest would go to fisheries associations and cooperatives.

A minimum import volume of 112 metric tons, equivalent to four container vans, will be allocated to commercial importers, while the minimum import volume for fisheries associations and cooperatives will be 56 metric tons or two containers. Additional import volume will be determined based on an importer's percentage share of fish landings in the last three years.

"Importers must ensure the fish supply comes from reputable sources and does not stem from illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing," the DA said.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/31/business/top-business/da-cracks-down-on-illegally-imported-fish/1994515>

THE MANILA TIMES:

Searca outlines SEA agribiz future

By [Leander C. Domingo](#)

October 31, 2024

THE Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca) outlined measures for Southeast Asia's agribusiness future during the second Seameo International Conference on Food and Nutrition (ICFN) 2024 in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Oct. 17-18.

With the theme "Understanding the Challenges, Gains, and Opportunities in Environmental Nutrition Research, Programs, and Policies in Southeast Asia," ICFN 2024 covered discussions on food systems, indigenous food and nutrition, sustainable diets, environmental food factors, and food security.

The conference organized by the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (Seameo) Regional Centre for Food and Nutrition (Recfon) aimed to "enhance understanding of the gains, challenges and opportunities associated with environmental nutrition in Southeast Asia."

As one of the plenary speakers in the session on "Bridging Disciplines for Holistic Solutions/Integrated Actions on Sustainable Food Systems," Searca Director Glenn Gregorio's talk centered on the current state of sustainable food production and its future outlook.

Emphasizing the potential of Southeast Asian countries as agribusiness hubs, with their agriculture upgraded and transformed from traditional farming to a globally competitive agribusiness industry, Gregorio said "there is a need to strengthen local supply chains and commodity clusters to enhance Southeast Asia's integration into global value chains."

In discussing Southeast Asia's market overview post-pandemic, Gregorio said that there was a shift in consumer behavior from a just-in-time to a just-in-case model.

"[This is] wherein people resorted to stocking and seeking alternative food sources; the trend toward home cooking with a focus on healthier and higher-quality food; and the growing importance of local sourcing and home gardening for self-sufficiency," he added.

Gregorio also proposed strategic actions needed to sustain Southeast Asia's agribusiness sector. These include addressing supply chain gaps and other coordination issues; supporting small farmers, especially with access to technologies, technical knowledge, and finance; promoting climate-resilient agriculture; investing in rural infrastructure, innovation and research and development; and strengthening regulatory and certification systems.

Professor Rina Agustina of Fakultas Kedokteran Universitas Indonesia emphasized the importance of culturally acceptable planetary health diets, echoing the EAT-Lancet Commission's recommendations.

Another speaker, Professor Drajat Martianto of Institut Pertanian Bogor University, presented the importance of reducing food miles or the distance food travels from production to consumption.

Serving as rapporteurs for the plenary session were Beatrisa Martinez, Searca executive coordinator, and Zara Mae Estareja, Searca senior associate for public relations.

Martinez and Estareja also managed Searca's institutional exhibit showcasing the School-plus-Home Gardens Project or S+HGP and its offshoot projects: School-plus-Home Gardens cum Biodiversity Enhancement and Enterprise or SHGBEE in Cambodia and Busuanga, Philippines, and the School Edible Landscaping for Entrepreneurship or SEL4E project in Rizal.

The event was co-organized by Searca and Seameo Regional Centre for Tropical Biology.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/31/business/agribusiness/searca-outlines-sea-agribiz-future/1994464>

THE MANILA TIMES:

Kalinga gets P256M farm road project

By Leander C. Domingo

October 31, 2024

A FARM-TO-MARKET (FMR) road rehabilitation project worth P256 million in Kalinga will facilitate the movement of farm produce, allowing farmers in the province to earn more.

The ongoing FMR rehabilitation project is under the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) Scale-UP in Pinukpuk town. It will directly connect the barangay of Pinukpuk Junction, Pakawit and Bayaw to the national road leading to the market center in Pinukpuk and Tabuk.



Photo shows a portion of the 12.5-kilometer Pinukpuk Junction-Pakawit-Binansagan farm-to-market road in Kalinga that will undergo improvements. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE PHOTO

Elvy Estacio of the DA-PRDP Cordillera office said the 12.50-kilometer improvement of Pinukpuk Junction-Pakawit-Binansagan FMR is expected to benefit 498 households or 2,164 individuals.

"[This FMR] will boost the efficiency of local agricultural trade and support the community's economic development," he said.

Estacio said the improvement of the Pinukpuk Junction-Pakawit-Binansagan FMR is the sixth infrastructure subproject in Kalinga approved under the DA-PRDP, with an expected completion date of September 2026.

Earlier this month, the groundbreaking ceremony of the project was led by Kalinga Gov. James Edduba along with Pinukpuk Mayor Irving Dasayon, DA-Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) Technical Director for Research and Regulations Arlene Sagayo, and representatives from contractor Upland Construction and Engineering Services.

Edduba said it was a collaborative effort that brought the subproject to fruition with support from the provincial legislative body for approving the counterpart funding. Also supporting the project are the Provincial Project Management and Implementing Unit headed by Provincial Agriculturist engineer Domingo Bakilan and the rest of the DA-PRDP team.

Edduba also said that a pledge of commitment to the development of coffee farms in Pinukpuk was also signed by the local governments of Kalinga and Pinukpuk.

Urging barangay officials and beneficiaries to monitor the project, Dasayon said "we will see a permanent road, but nothing is permanent without our vigilance and protection."

Sagayo expressed her enthusiasm for the FMR subproject, noting that "poor road conditions have long hindered farmers."

"This FMR subproject will help expedite the transport of agricultural produce of both women and men farmers and get more income," she added.

Sagayo also said that Kalinga has implemented P1.40 billion in infrastructure subprojects and P21.30 million worth of enterprise subprojects since the PRDP began.

"These projects are in support of coffee, banana, and heirloom rice among other commodities," she added.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/31/business/agribusiness/kalinga-gets-p256m-farm-road-project/1994462>

THE MANILA TIMES:

PhilRice appoints new board of trustees members

By [The Manila Times](#)

October 31, 2024

THE Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) has strengthened its leadership with the appointment of three new members to its board of trustees (BOT).

"The PhilRice Board of Trustees plays a critical role in setting the strategic policies that guide the Institute's efforts in advancing rice research and technology in the Philippines," PhilRice said.

"As the highest decision-making body at PhilRice, the board's leadership is crucial for ensuring that research translates into effective solutions for improving the country's rice production and contributing to food security," it added.

University of Southern Mindanao President Francisco Gil Garcia has been reappointed to the board, joined by newly sworn-in trustees Francis Yenko and lawyer Ericson Velasquez. Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., who also serves as PhilRice board chairman, presided over the oath-taking ceremony.

Garcia, on the board since 2018, continues to represent the academic sector. Yenko, bringing over 30 years of experience in public service, represents the community development sector. Velasquez, a Philippine Military Academy graduate, represents the National Economic and Development Authority.

The BOT of PhilRice also includes Senen Bacani, Delfin Pilapil Jr., Adeliza Dorado, Ramon Lim and Ariel Dolores.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/31/business/agribusiness/philrice-appoints-new-board-of-trustees-members/1994456>

THE MANILA TIMES:

Ilocos Sur farmer coops receive P32M equipment

By Conrad M. Cariño
October 31, 2024

TWENTY-FOUR farmer' cooperatives and associations (FCAs) and local government units (LGUs) in Ilocos Sur were the latest recipients of agricultural equipment under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (PhilMech)-Mechanization Program.

The Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) said that P32.49 million worth of farm equipment was distributed to the beneficiaries at the Provincial Farmers Livelihood Development Center in Vigan City, Ilocos Sur, on Tuesday.



Photo shows the latest batch for farm machines distributed at no cost to beneficiaries in Ilocos Sur. PHILMECH PHOTO

Distributed were three four-wheel drive tractors, 15 disc plows, eight levee makers, two precision seeders, seven combine harvesters, one 6-ton recirculating dryer, and two single-pass rice mills.

PhilMech said that Ilocos Sur has received P317.15 million of agricultural equipment under the RCEF-Mechanization Program since 2019.

"Covering 2019-2024 fund resources of the RCEF- Mechanization Program, the province has also obtained a total of 556 units of various rice production and post-production facilities amounting to P317.15 million, benefiting 116 FCAs and LGUs," the agency said.

For his part, PHilMech Executive Director Dionisio Alvindia emphasized the importance of beneficiaries maintaining the agricultural equipment given to them at no cost.

"We are your partners, and we are providing equipment for all of you to become competitive in farming," he added.

Engineer Domingo Miranda of the PhilMech Facility Management and Field Operation Division said that more LGUs in Ilocos Sur will get their agricultural equipment once the proposed extension of the RCEF-Mechanization Program is approved.

"Ilocos Sur has 34 municipalities and cities, but as of now, only 12 LGUs have been given farm machines under the RCEF-Mechanization Program. But with the proposed extension of the RCEF-Mechanization Program, all municipalities and cities into palay [unmilled rice] production will get their farm machines at no cost," he said in Filipino.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/31/business/agribusiness/ilocos-sur-farmer-coops-receive-p32m-equipment/1994452>

THE MANILA TIMES:

1,400 given agri insurance in Currimao

By Philippine News Agency

October 31, 2024

LAOAG CITY — Some 1,400 farmers and fishers from Currimao, Ilocos Norte, are targeted for the first-ever life insurance coverage program of the municipal government in collaboration with the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (PCIC).

Under the Agricultural Producers Protection Plan of the PCIC, insured beneficiaries are entitled to a maximum of P50,000 coverage in case of death due to accident, natural causes and murder or assault, with one-year validity.

Currimao municipal agriculturist engineer Erickson Biag told the Philippine News Agency on Monday that they were now accepting applications for the second batch of registered farmers and their beneficiaries.

"We have allotted P200,000 from our office MOOE (maintenance and other operating expenses) for the payment of life insurance premiums to all farmers and fisherfolk in the municipality registered to the RSBSA (Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture), including immediate family of [those] registered as animal raiser or farmworker," he said.

Biag said the program is one of the proactive measures of the municipal government aimed to protect food producers who are also vulnerable to both natural and man-made hazards.

Interested applicants are encouraged to fill out their forms and bring their farmers' identification cards and a government-issued identification card to the Municipal Agriculture Office before Nov. 29, 2024.

The program is on top of the insurance program for crops, fish harvest and livestock, Biag said.

Ilocos Norte registered an estimated P30 million initial agricultural damage due to Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name: Trami) that affected several parts of the country last week.

"We are grateful for the free insurance coverage sponsored by the government. It is a big help for us in case of emergency," said Agnes Asuncion, a farmer from Currimao town.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/31/business/agribusiness/1400-given-agri-insurance-in-currimao/1994450>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

BOC, DA seize P178.5 million smuggled mackerel from China

Reine Juvierre S. Alberto
October 30, 2024

THE Bureau of Customs (BOC) and the Department of Agriculture (DA) impounded smuggled frozen mackerel amounting to P178.5 million from China at the Manila International Container Port (MICP) on Wednesday.

In a statement, the bureau said it seized 21 40-footer containers of frozen mackerel that lacked the required import clearance.

Each container of frozen mackerel was estimated to be valued at P8.5 million, according to the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS).

CIIS Director Verne Enciso said the 21 containers with 567 metric tons of frozen mackerel arrived at the MICP last September 2024 and remained unclaimed by the consignee.

Enciso said the BOC is currently gathering information on the consignee of these shipments and will file appropriate cases.

Warrants of Seizure and Detention against the shipment will be issued for violation of Sections 117 and 1113 of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA) in relation to Department of Agriculture Memorandum Order 14, series of 2024, and other existing DA regulations.

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (Bfar) confirmed that the importer, Pacific Sealand Foods Corporation, has no application for mackerel importation from the consignee covering the period August 30 to September 16, 2024.

Applications had also been rejected following the DA Memorandum Order 14, suspending the issuance of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance (Spisic) for the importation of round scad, mackerel and bonito.

“The absence of the necessary Spisic poses a serious risk to our local agriculture and fisheries, as well as the health and safety of consumers,” Customs Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio said.

Rubio said a request to issue a Pre-Lodgement Control Order was made owing to concerns that the shipment contained misclassified, misdeclared and undeclared goods.

“Keeping smuggled agricultural products off our local markets ensures fair competition in the domestic market. It also keeps the costs of goods down,” Rubio stressed.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. together with the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and the DA Inspectorate and Enforcement Office, opened three of the 21 container vans of frozen mackerel from China that arrived at the port earlier this month.

“At current market prices, this frozen mackerel shipment is worth P178.5 million,” Laurel was quoted in the statement as saying.

“We issued the order earlier this year for the importation of fish to cover requirements for the closed season. This was done to monitor market supply and ensure imports won’t affect the income of the local fishing industry when the closed season ends,” he added.

Laurel earlier issued an order allowing the importation of 30,000 MT of pelagic fish species in the last quarter of the year to augment supply due to the closed fishing season. These imports should arrive in the country before January 15 next year.

“Imports that will arrive months before the closed fishing season starts will only be allowed to be released to the market from October 1,” the DA said.

According to the department, the order specified that 80 percent of the import volume would be allocated to registered importers from the commercial fishing sector, while the balance would go to fisheries associations and cooperatives.

It added that a minimum import volume of 112 MT, equivalent to four containers, would be allocated to commercial importers, while the minimum import volume for fisheries associations and cooperatives would be 56 MT or two containers.

Meanwhile, the department said additional import volume would be determined based on an importer's percentage share of fish landings in the last three years before the importation.

“Importers must ensure that the fish supply they import comes from reputable sources and does not stem from illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing,” the DA said.

The three-month closed fishing season starts November 1 in waters northeast of Palawan and from November 15 in the Visayan Seas and Zamboanga Peninsula. All three areas are spawning grounds for small pelagic fishes like sardines and mackerel. With Ada Pelonia

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/30/boc-da-seize-p178-5-million-smuggled-mackerel-from-china/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

Rice arrivals surpass 2023 imports as of October–BPI

Ada Pelonia
October 30, 2024

RICE import arrivals as of October 24 have surpassed actual shipments for the whole of 2023, according to government data.

Figures from the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) showed that rice arrivals from January 1 to October 24 reached 3.676 million metric tons (MMT). The country imported 3.606 MMT of rice in 2023.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently said that the Philippines is poised to remain the world's largest rice importer as it adjusted upward its estimate of the country's rice shipments.

In its latest report, the international agency increased the projection of the country's rice imports this year to 4.7 MMT owing to "strong buying of Vietnam rice."

The USDA also said that the country's rice imports in 2025 could reach 4.9 MMT owing to a smaller crop, which is higher than its previous forecast of 4.6 MMT.

Meanwhile, of the volume that arrived in the Philippines, BPI data showed that over 2.9 MMT came from Vietnam, which maintained its status as the country's top source of imports.

Thailand was the second-largest supplier as it accounted for 457,673.28 MT. This was followed by Pakistan at 162,369.48 MT, Myanmar at 114,766.75 MT, and India at 22,039.04 MT.

India, the world's largest exporter, recently lifted its ban on non-basmati white rice shipments.

Government official and industry sources said India easing its export restrictions could affect world and domestic rice prices.

The USDA also said in its recent report that Asian export quotes “declined significantly” in response to India lifting its export ban on non-basmati white rice.

“Vietnam quotes decreased by \$28 to \$534 per ton, while Thailand declined by \$60 to \$517 per ton with increased pressure from India’s return to the market,” the international agency said.

The attached agency of the Department of Agriculture (DA) said it approved and issued 8,397 SPSICs for the purchase of 8.21 MMT of imported rice as of October 25.

Under existing rules, rice importers are required to secure an SPSIC from the BPI before bringing in foreign rice stocks.

This document would certify that an inbound shipment is safe for human and animal consumption, and would not bring in any pests that could be detrimental to the local agriculture sector.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/30/rice-arrivals-surpass-2023-imports-as-of-october-bpi/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

PDIC to auction off 52 farm, residential, vacant lots in 23 provinces on Nov. 27

Manuel Cayon
October 30, 2024

DAVAO CITY—The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. (PDIC) announced it will sell 52 properties across the country through electronic public bidding (e-bidding).

According to the PDIC, the properties are agricultural, residential and mixed-use lots located in 23 provinces, two of which are in the Visayas and seven in Mindanao.

Bids will be accepted through the PDIC's e-bidding portal starting at 9:00 a.m. on November 27 until 1:00 p.m. of November 28. Bids will be opened at 2:00 p.m. on November 28, the PDIC said.

To be sold on an as-is-where-is basis are corporate and closed banks' assets consisting of 28 vacant agricultural lots, 13 agricultural lots with improvements, six residential and/or agricultural lots with improvements, three vacant residential and/or agricultural lots, one vacant residential lot and one residential lot with improvements, according to the PDIC.

Of these properties, three vacant agricultural lots, one vacant residential lot, and two mixed-use lots will be sold together. One agricultural lot and one residential lot, both with improvements, are also bundled for sale.

It said the properties are located in Agusan del Sur, Aklan, Batangas, Benguet, Bukidnon, Bulacan, Cavite, Ilocos Sur, Iloilo, Isabela, Kalinga Apayao, Laguna, Lanao del Norte, Maguindanao, Misamis Oriental, Negros Oriental, Pampanga, Pangasinan, Quezon, Quirino, Sultan Kudarat, Surigao del Norte, and Tarlac.

Prospective parties can join the e-bidding through a one-time registration on the portal. Once registered, buyers may submit their bids online and observe the e-bidding

proceedings by clicking the “Assets for Sale” icon on the PDIC website’s homepage at www.pdic.gov.ph.

Participants bidding on behalf of another individual or an organization can download the Pro-forma Special Power of Attorney and Secretary’s Certificate, respectively, from the e-bidding portal.

As the statutory receiver of closed banks, the PDIC liquidates the remaining assets of closed banks to maximize recovery and help pay claims of closed bank creditors, including depositors with uninsured deposits. Proceeds from the sale of closed bank-owned properties go directly to a fund that the corporation manages for these closed banks to settle creditors’ claims.

Revenues from the sale of corporate assets are added to the Deposit Insurance Fund, the funding source for valid deposit insurance claims.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/10/30/pdic-to-auction-off-52-farm-residential-vacant-lots-in-23-provinces-on-nov-27/>

ABANTE TONITE:

P178.5M puslit na frozen mackerel nasabat

October 30, 2024

Tinatayang aabot sa P178.5 million na halaga ng frozen mackerel mula China ang nasamsam ng Bureau of Customs (BOC) sa Manila International Container Port (MICP) kamakailan.

Nag-ugat ang operasyon ng BOC sa tip ng isang impormante na ang 21 container na naglalaman ng naturang produkto ay walang Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance (spsic) mula sa Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

Agad na nakipag-ugnayan ang customs sa BFAR at nakumpirma na walang kaukulang dokumento ang shipments.

Labag ito sa Customs Modernization and Tarrif Act in relation to Department of Agriculture (DA) memorandum order no. 14 na nagsususpende sa paglalabas ng SPISC para sa imported mackerel.

Pinangunahan ni BOC Commissioner Bienvenido Rubio at Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. ang pag-iinspeksyon sa nakumpiskang mga isda sa MICP kahapon. (Andrea Salve)

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/10/30/p178-5m-puslit-na-frozen-mackerel-nasabat/>