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MANILA BULLETIN:

PPA seeks process reform to discourage importers from using ports as storage areas

BY AARON RECUENCO

Oct 6, 2024 02:44 PM

The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) is now coordinating with the Bureau of Customs (BOC) in coming up with streamlined processes that would discourage importers from turning ports into storage areas.

PPA General Manager Jay Daniel Santiago initiated the move as he observed how consignees would circumvent the existing rules to take advantage of low storage fees in the country's ports, particularly in two major ports in Metro Manila—the both the Manila South Harbor (MSH) and the Manila International Container Terminal (MICT).

In a normal process, importers would seek import entry clearance before the arrival of their imports in the country. But with the ports only charging P700 a day storage fee, some importers would resort to late filing of import entry to save cost.

The filing of entry signals the start of processing at the BOC.

Santiago explained that if importers, for instance, would delay the release of the cargo for one month, they would only pay P21,000 for 30 days at P700 per day charge.

“This is way cheaper compared to private storage fees so maybe this is done to save storage or warehousing cost,” said Santiago.

“We are coordinating with BOC...for importers not to delay the filing of their importation entry. We are slowly reviewing our processes in PPA and in coordination with BOC,” he added. The PPA initiated the streamlining of process for the release of cargo following the latest incident wherein it was found out that almost 900 container vans of imported rice were monitored to be stored at the MICT.

Following the discovery, Santiago raised alarm of its effects to the price of rice in the market since overstaying imported rice would create artificial rice shortage that would eventually jack up the rice price.

Lowering the price of rice per kilo, it was recalled, is one of President Marcos' campaign promises and the almost 900 overstaying container vans have more than 20 million kilos of rice.

On Oct. 1, Santiago has already forwarded a letter to the Department of Agriculture that contains the list of importers with overstaying rice and other agricultural products.

What the PPA also wants to implement is the BOC's strict observance of the disposal of overstaying cargos—which includes selling them to raise fund or donate to other government agencies like the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Monitoring

Santiago said the PPA has already directed the head of operations and engineering of Asian Terminal Inc., the terminal operator of Manila South Harbor, to report the overstaying containers to the BOC for appropriate disposition in accordance with Section 1129 of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act concerning abandoned containers.

“We believe having this information on a regular basis will help both PPA and DA identify trends, address any challenges promptly, and improve overall service delivery,” said Santiago.

Holiday demand

To prepare for the expected demand increase during the Christmas season, the PPA has also intensified its monitoring of pork, chicken, and onion inventories.

The agency provided the DA with a detailed inventory of these shipments at the Manila ports as of September 30 which include: 135 TEUs of pork shipments, 101 TEUs of chicken, and 24 TEUs of onions

The PPA reported 21 containers of pork have remained at the port for over 30 days, despite BOC clearance, with five containers exceeding 1,000 days in dwell time.

For chicken shipments, 22 containers cleared by the BOC are still at the port, with 12 of them exceeding 600 days in dwell time. Four onion containers have not yet received OLRs (On-Line Release System) clearance, which refers to the electronic release instructions for import shipment generated by the BOC's electronic to mobile system.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/10/6/ppa-ports-are-not-storage-areas>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Food retail sector growth may ease this year

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

October 6, 2024 | 12:00am



The USDA-FAS Manila said the country's total food and beverage retail sales are expected to reach \$119 billion this year, about 5.3 percent higher than last year's \$113 billion.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — The country's food retail sector is expected to grow at a slower pace of five percent this year as more Filipinos choose to spend less as they cope with higher food prices, according to the US Department of Agriculture – Foreign Agricultural Service.

The USDA-FAS Manila said the country's total food and beverage retail sales are expected to reach \$119 billion this year, about 5.3 percent higher than last year's \$113 billion.

However, the estimated 5.3 percent growth rate for this year is slower than the 9.7-percent expansion in 2023.

“FAS Manila expects slower retail sales growth at five percent due to thriftier spending and less home cooking,” the agency said.

Nonetheless, the agency pointed out that the expansion of modern retail stores to key cities and provinces as well as their product diversification to provide novel options to consumers would provide support for the sustained growth of the food service sector.

“Stores offer more imported food and beverage products to provide variety to consumers in the growing middle-income class and upper-income classes, who remain unaffected by inflation,” the report said.

“While still-elevated inflation remains, the increase in overseas workers and higher employment rates at home result in more income to cover necessities, including food and beverages,” it added.

The report also noted that the country’s food inflation is expected to moderate in the remaining months of the year as lower tariffs on rice, pork, corn and other imported commodities take effect, easing the burden being experienced by consumers.

“With local supply challenges, such as lower agricultural production yields, African swine fever and recent typhoons, opportunities for imported products have increased,” the USDA-FAS Manila said.

The report said the Philippines remains as the largest market for US consumer-oriented products in Southeast Asia, providing American exporters the “strong” opportunity to ship various products such as chicken, pork, beef cuts, frozen fries, soups, chocolates, cookies and biscuits, among others.

The Philippines ranked as the ninth-largest market for US agricultural and related products in 2023, reaching \$3.6 billion, according to USDA-FAS Manila.

The US remains the largest single country exporter of agricultural products to the Philippines, it said.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/10/06/2390371/food-retail-sector-growth-may-ease-year>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

New wage set for Central Luzon

[Ric Sapnu](#) - The Philippine Star

October 6, 2024 | 12:00am



Wage Order RBIII-25 mandates a P50 to P66 increase in the daily minimum wage of workers in private establishments in the region.

STAR / File

SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga, Philippines — A new minimum wage rate in Central Luzon will take effect on Oct. 17 after its affirmation by the National Wages and Productivity Commission and publication in a local daily.

Wage Order RBIII-25 mandates a P50 to P66 increase in the daily minimum wage of workers in private establishments in the region.

“The increase will be given in two tranches – P25 to P41 upon effectivity of the wage order on Oct. 17 and another P25 effective April 16, 2025,” said Geraldine Panlilio, Department of Labor and Employment director for the region.

Panlilio, who also chairs the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board, said the new minimum wage in the provinces of Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija,

Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales will be P525 for non-agriculture, P495 for agriculture and P515 for retail/service under the first tranche.

Next year, when the second tranche will be implemented, the minimum wage would be at P550 for non-agriculture, P520 for agriculture and P540 for retail/service, she added.

The minimum wage in Aurora province upon effectivity of the first tranche will be P475 for non-agriculture, P460 for agriculture and P410 for retail/service. Upon implementation of the second tranche, the minimum wage will be P500 for non-agriculture, P485 for agriculture and P435 for retail/service.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/10/06/2390526/new-wage-set-central-luzon>

Goodbye inflation?



EYES WIDE OPEN - Iris Gonzales - The Philippine Star

October 6, 2024 | 12:00am

The inflation boogeyman seems to have been beaten – knocked out and black and blue, just like in boxing.

Indeed, the great inflation monster of the post-pandemic period appears to have been driven away.

The US was the first to call this when in mid-September, it cut interest rates by half a percentage point, saying that inflation was no longer a problem.

It's the same here at home, especially with Friday's surprise inflation, a jaw-dropping 1.9 percent in September – the lowest since May 2020. Our economic managers must be popping the champagne, celebrating what seems to be the end of the stubborn inflation era.

In reality though, it's not quite party time just yet.

Prices are still high

Just go to your favorite supermarkets and neighborhood sari-sari stores and you will see that prices remain high and Filipinos are still feeling the pinch.

Why is this? Because the fact remains that prices are still up. A low inflation in September does not mean that prices are down. It just means the rate of the increase in prices of basic goods and commodities is slower.

If you make that grocery run, you will see that prices are still absurd.

Some examples:

A carton of milk costs P120, from P90 in the recent past; a can of sardines now costs P30 from P19 before, while galunggong has gone up to P211 from P197.

Did you know that even our all-time favorite coconut is now at P40 to P45 per piece from P30 to P35 before?

What does this mean for Filipinos?

It means that while inflation may no longer be an economic problem, it is still very much a gut issue. It means prices are relatively stable compared to before but the fact remains that the cost of living in this country of 120 million is still high and for some 20 million Filipinos living below the poverty line, it is still a major struggle to put food on the table.

This is what the Marcos administration needs to keep in mind.

The main driver of low inflation is slower inflation in food and non-alcoholic beverages, which registered a slower increase of 1.4 percent in September from 3.9 percent in August. Inflation for rice was at 5.7 percent in September from 14.7 percent in the previous month.

But the slower rice inflation is due to the base effects, meaning because of high inflation in the previous years and not so much – or not yet – because of President Marcos' Executive Order 62, issued in July, which reduced rice tariffs to 15 percent from 35 percent.

Rice at P20 per kilo?

Speaking of rice, we have yet to see Marcos' campaign promise of a P20-per-kilo-rice become a reality.

The lower tariffs on rice are expected to lower rice prices but it's taking time. Rice prices range from P45 to P48 per kilo at present for the regular-milled rice.

Certain quarters in the agriculture industry have voiced their growing frustration that the government's promise of retail rice price reduction is not yet materializing two months after the tariff cut took effect.

Several factors may be blamed for this. One, Vietnam and Thailand seem to have taken advantage of India's self-imposed export ban on rice by raising their prices, knowing too well that we had no choice but to import from them with India out of the equation. It was only recently that India lifted its export ban amid strong global demand.

Importers may have also been just pocketing the tariff savings for themselves by continuing to sell their supply at high prices.

The government said that because of the lower tariffs, the landed cost of the imported rice has declined by 15 percent or around P7 per kilo as of mid-September.

We have yet to see the full impact of this.

As Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel said, January 2025 would be the real test of the rice tariff cut or once a significant volume of new imports have entered the market and demand has stabilized.

Elections and the cost of living

Thus, while government interventions including the Bangko Sentral's monetary balancing acts are welcome, long-term solutions to lower the cost of living in the country are still very much needed.

The kind of politicians that Filipinos will vote for in the 2025 elections can spell the difference between seeing a better Philippines or the same banana republic.

Long-term solutions to lower the cost of living include improving food supply and lowering transport costs by, for example, building farm-to-market roads.

But we lack roads and other infrastructure because taxpayers' money supposedly for these projects end up in the pockets of politicians.

Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong did research on the rackets of politicians and he found out that these unscrupulous individuals take 70 percent in kickbacks from road projects. Corruption has a ripple effect. Because of the billions that are pocketed by crooks, the government has no choice but to source the revenue elsewhere, including from VAT and other taxes, which in turn jack up the cost of goods and services that we consume.

According to PIDS, an estimated P1.4 trillion has been lost to corruption in 2017 (P670 billion) and 2018 (P752 billion) and that around 20 percent of the annual government appropriation goes to corruption.

Appalling isn't it?

But what would be more appalling is if we elect the same old trapos back in power come May 2025.

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<https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2024/10/06/2390399/goodbye-inflation>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA: Expect lower rice prices this month

[Romina Cabrera](#) - The Philippine Star

October 6, 2024 | 12:00am



A vendor arranges his rice products for sale at a public market along M. Dela Fuente Street in Sampaloc, Manila on July 14, 2024.

STAR / Edd Gumban

ADVERTISEMENT

MANILA, Philippines — Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel said rice prices are expected to lower later this month, following the sharp slowdown in the September inflation rate due to the decline in food prices.

Tiu Laurel said rice prices should reflect the reduction in tariffs on imported rice this October.

Tariffs have been cut to 15 percent from 35 percent, alongside the lifting of India's export ban on rice.

Still, Tiu Laurel said there is usually high demand ahead of and during the Christmas season that could temper the decline in food prices.

A more substantive reduction in rice prices may be seen by January 2025 as the rice inventory imported at higher prices is fully consumed.

Tiu Laurel welcomed the deceleration of inflation to 1.9 percent in September, the slowest since the 1.6 percent recorded in May 2020 during the height of the COVID pandemic.

He noted that the drop in food inflation played a key role in the overall deceleration, especially as rice inflation dropped to 5.7 percent from 14.7 percent in August.

Rice accounts for nine percent of the basket of goods and services used to track inflation.

“Food prices have significantly declined from the highs posted in the same period last year, with vegetables such as onion and tomatoes, sugar, fish and rice leading the way with the help of various interventions of the Marcos administration,” said Tiu Laurel.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/10/06/2390493/da-expect-lower-rice-prices-month>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

BOC seizes P2-M smuggled onions in Manila

By: [Jown Manalo](#) - Reporter / [@jownmanaloINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 11:52 AM October 06, 2024



The Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Customs confiscated P2 million worth of fresh onions that entered the country illegally. | PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS

MANILA, Philippines — The Bureau of Customs (BOC) confiscated smuggled fresh onions worth P2 million at the Port of Manila on Thursday, the agency said on Sunday.

The shipment from China was weighing 25,000 kilograms.

“Upon verification, it was confirmed that the shipment lacked the required Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance from the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Plant Industry (DA-BPI), leading to the issuance of a Warrant of Seizure and Detention against it,” the BOC’s statement read.

The DA-BPI said fresh vegetables and other imported agricultural products must have sanitary and phytosanitary clearances, which ensure that the products comply with health standards to prevent the spread of diseases and pests.

BOC Commissioner Bienvenido Rubio reiterated that strict enforcement of import regulations is essential to protect citizens from unsafe agricultural products.

“By rigorously enforcing import regulations, we not only shield our citizens from unsafe agricultural products but also enhance public trust and ensure the integrity of our nation’s food supply,” Rubio said in a statement.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1990321/boc-seizes-p2-m-smuggled-onions-in-manila>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Slower inflation implies moderate erosion of real wages, analysts say

October 6, 2024 | 7:20 pm



PNA FILE PHOTO

By **Chloe Mari A. Hufana**, *Reporter*

THE PHILIPPINE INFLATION in September, which slowed to an over four-year low, implied a moderate erosion of workers' real wage as it remains below the cost of living, labor experts said.

University of the Philippines Diliman School of Labor and Industrial Relations Assistant Professor Benjamin B. Velasco said that while slower inflation is welcome news, it implies that real wages have not increased.

“As per the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), whole-year inflation in 2023 was 6%. The recent National Capital Region minimum wage of P35 is a 5.7% rise over P610,” he told *BusinessWorld* in a Facebook Messenger chat over the weekend.

“We will have to see how the 2024 average inflation is, compared with 2023 inflation. Nominal minimum wages rose just below inflation. Real wages are stagnant or even dipped slightly, which is actually the long-term trend in the Philippines,” he added.

The consumer price index slowed to 1.9% year on year in September from 3.3% in August and 6.1% a year ago, the PSA said on Friday. This was linked to the declining food and transport costs.

“Prices still increased even if by a small amount. This implies a reduction of purchasing power,” Mr. Velasco noted.

Core inflation, which excludes volatile prices of food and fuel, eased to 2.4% in September from 5.9% a year ago. Core inflation averaged 3.1% in the January-September period.

Broken down, food inflation slowed to 1.4% from 4.2% in August and 10% in the previous year.

BOTTOM

30%

Mr. Velasco said inflation for the bottom 30% of the population is “usually higher,” citing a PSA report in 2023 which showed yearly inflation for the bottom 30% was 6.7%.

“As for the bottom 30%, the basket of goods of the poorer Filipinos is skewed for food. Unfortunately, food inflation is greater than nonfood inflation,” he said. “Despite lower inflation, we need pro-active interventions to assist [the] working poor and [the] poorest of the poor.”

Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino National President Renecio “Luke” S. Espiritu, Jr. said the slower inflation rate last month is not “worth celebrating” as wages remain insufficient to cover day-to-day cost of living.

“Beyond looking at the inflation rate, let us look at the daily lives of the average Filipino,” he told *BusinessWorld* in a Facebook Messenger chat over the weekend.

“For a worker, a low inflation rate means little if the cost of everyday living remains sky-high and wages remain to be way below the cost of living.”

He added that the high costs of essential services, like electricity, water, and telecommunications continue to burden micro, small, and medium enterprises.

“There will be no ease for the working Filipino if wages do not keep up with inflation,” he added. “The little increases we get in the minimum wage do not reflect reality when it comes to actual needs of a working-class family.”

Federation of Free Workers President Jose Sonny G. Matula echoed that the drop in inflation would not necessarily help ease the burden of minimum wage workers.

“Even with lower inflation, many workers are still grappling with the effects of high living costs from previous inflationary periods,” he said in a Viber message.

“Minimum wage earners, in particular, have seen their purchasing power significantly reduced, and wage increases remain necessary to bring them back to a level where they can meet basic needs,” he added.

LEGISLATE

WAGE

HIKES

Both labor leaders reiterated their call for a legislated wage hike, noting the current daily minimum wages per region do not align with the inflation rates.

“While this (slower inflation) provides a window for wage hikes, especially where workers have long been demanding fair compensation, (such as) workers without a union and without bargaining power, it ultimately depends on how businesses choose to allocate their savings,” Mr. Matula added.

In February, the Senate approved on third and final reading a P100 across-the-board minimum wage increase for workers in the private sector. The House of Representatives has yet to pass similar legislation.

The current daily minimum wage in the capital region is P645 for non-agricultural workers and P608 for workers in agriculture and service/retail establishments employing 15 workers or fewer.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/the-nation/2024/10/06/625991/slower-inflation-implies-moderate-erosion-of-real-wages-analysts-say/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Irrigation project under study using canals to retain rainwater

October 6, 2024 | 7:55 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR/ MICHAEL VARCAS

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said it is studying the use of peripheral canals to retain rainwater for irrigation.

“What we will do is offset the water so that it does not go directly to the sea, but it can be used in irrigation,” Agriculture Undersecretary Roger V. Navarro said on the sidelines of a forum organized by the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines.

He added that the DA is looking to partner with the departments of Public Works and Highways, Interior and Local Government, and Environment and Natural Resources, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), and the Bureau of Soils and Water Management. The DA’s flagship projects include increasing irrigation to underserved farming areas.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. issued Executive Order No. 69 transferring the NIA to the control of the Office of the President, which is expected to improve NIA’s access to funding.

Mr. Marcos has pushed for more irrigation dams and bulk water projects to ensure sufficient usable water for communities.

Only 68% of the country’s farmland was irrigated as of 2023, equivalent to 2.11 million hectares, leaving 1.1 million without access.

“You can just imagine we have 2.6 meters of rainfall every year. That’s a lot of water. The problem is we are doing flood control but don’t consider our production areas,” Mr. Navarro added.

The Philippines faces an average of 20 typhoons a year. In August, Metro Manila and nearby provinces were flooded due to the typhoon-enhanced southwest monsoon. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/10/06/626093/irrigation-project-under-study-using-canals-to-retain-rainwater/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

PHL chicken production seen rising 3.8% in 2025

October 6, 2024 | 7:56 pm



PHILSTAR FILE PHOTO

PHILIPPINE chicken production is expected to increase 3.8% to 1.63 million metric tons (MT) in 2025, according to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In a report, the USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service said that the increase in production follows reduced feed costs and an easing in the number of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), or avian flu, infections.

Some 53 municipalities across nine provinces have active cases of avian flu, according to the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) as of Sept. 27.

It added that the adverse impacts of African Swine Fever (ASF) on pork production will drive chicken consumption in the Philippines.

A recent surge in ASF cases was reported in the Philippines, which the Department of Agriculture blamed on the recent rains and weak biosecurity.

"Despite high operating costs, primarily due to high domestic corn prices, the chicken meat sector rapidly expanded in the first and second quarters of 2024... this growth will generate positive momentum for 2025," the USDA added.

The USDA said the decline in imported soybean meal prices will carry over into next year and offset the cost of corn used in animal feed.

“Challenges such as the tight supply of day-old-chicks will temper the growth of chicken meat production,” it added.

The USDA said that the limited supply of breeding stock may weigh on production growth.

“Higher prices mean more commercial raisers are willing to turn day old chicks (DOC) into broilers 28-35 days later. The elevated DOC prices will temper production growth in the rest of 2024 and 2025,” it added.

Meanwhile, the USDA reported that chicken imports are expected to increase to 480,000 MT from the 470,000 MT forecast in 2024.

“The price competitiveness of imported chicken products vis-à-vis domestically produced remains very attractive, especially for food service and institutional buyers seeking to maintain specific price points,” it added.

Meat Importers and Traders Association President Emeritus Jesus C. Cham said that imported chicken, along with pork, continues to be in demand due to the “scarcity of local production.”

“Delayed shipments are also arriving together en masse, squeezing liquidity of importers. With new arrivals, the pendulum is shifting to the other end with some selling below landed cost,” he said via Viber.

Meat imports in the seven months to July rose 7.8% to 757,296 MT, according to the BAI. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/10/06/626094/phl-chicken-production-seen-rising-3-8-in-2025/>

REMATE:

Agri damage mula sa hagupit ni Julian P551.81M na

October 6, 2024 09:26



MANILA, Philippines- Pumalo na ang halaga ng pinsala sa crop sector mula sa pananalasa ni Bagyong Julian sa mahigit kalahating bilyong piso, base sa Department of Agriculture (DA). Sa typhoon situation bulletin ng DA, binanggit ng ahensya na ang halaga ng production loss dahil sa weather disturbance ay P551.81 milyon.

Winasak ni Julian ang 15,296 ektarya ng agricultural areas sa Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, at Central Luzon.

“Damage and losses have been reported in rice, corn, high-value crops, livestock and poultry, and irrigation facilities,” pahayag ng DA.

Sumampa naman ang bilang ng mga apektadong magsasaka sa 29,734, habang ang volume of production loss ay umabot sa 22,623 metric tons (MT).

“The volume of production losses from the affected agricultural areas is estimated at 21,830 MT for palay, 742 MT for corn, and 51 MT for high-value crops,” anang Agriculture Department.

“The increase in the overall damage and losses is attributed to reports in Ilocos and Cagayan Valley Regions. These values are subject to further validation,” dagdag nito.

“As field assessments and validations continue, further damage and losses are expected in the affected regions, particularly on palay and high-value crops in Cagayan Valley,” anito pa.

Sa Saturday News Forum, sinabi ni DA Assistant Secretary at spokesperson Arnel de Mesa na ang agricultural damage dulot ni Julian “will not cause significant concern” pagdating sa supply at presyo.

Humina si Julian bilang low pressure area (LPA) nitong Biyernes sa paglabas nito sa Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR). **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/agri-damage-mula-sa-hagupit-ni-julian-p551-81m-na/>

REMATE:

P200M ismagel na karne nakumpiska ng NBI

October 6, 2024 08:35



MANILA, Philippines – Sinira ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) ang mahigit P200 milyong halaga ng smuggled meat sa isang treatment storage at disposal facility sa San Ildefonso, Bulacan, nitong Sabado.

Nasamsam ang mga frozen na produkto sa isang raid sa isang cold storage facility sa Marilao, Bulacan, noong Setyembre 27, matapos madiskubre ng cyber patrol ng NBI na nagbebenta ng karne online ang kumpanya.

Taliwas ito sa sinasabi ng kumpanya na nag-ooperate lamang sila bilang isang planta ng yelo kaya naging dahilan para mag-isyu ang NBI ng subpoena para ipaliwanag ng kumpanya kung bakit ito nag-aangkat ng prudokto na hindi dumaaan sa mga awtoridad.

Sinabi ni NBI Director Jaime Santiago na idineklarang hindi maganda para sa human consumption kaya itinapon ang mga karne sa pamamagitan ng thermal decomposition upang maiwasan na makarating sa merkado.

Hindi bababa sa pito pang trak, na may kargang mga nakumpiskang produkto mula sa Marilao, ang itatapon.

Inaasahang aabot ng limang araw bago makumpleto ang pagsira ng mga smuggled na karne.

Nagbabala ang NBI sa mga kumpanyang sangkot sa ilegal na importasyon na paigtingin nila ang kanilang pagsisikap, partikular na ang inaasahang pagtaas ng mga frozen na produkto sa panahon ng “ber” months.

Binigyang-diin ni Santiago na sa ilalim ng bagong Anti-Agri Economic Sabotage Law na nilagdaan kamakailan ng pangulo, ang mga nagkasala ay maaring maharap sa habambuhay na pagkakakulong at multa na limang beses ang halaga ng mga produktong sangkot sa krimen. *Jocelyn Tabangcura-Domenden*

<https://remate.ph/p200m-ismagel-na-karne-nakumpiska-ng-nbi/>

REMATE:

Julian nag-iwan ng P481M pinsala sa agrikultura sa Pinas

October 5, 2024 17:00



MANILA, Philippines- Lumabas na sa Pilipinas ang Supertyphoon “Julian” (international name: Krathon).

Sa paglabas sa bansa ni Julian ay nag-iwan naman ito ng limang kataong patay at dahilan ng pinsala sa agriculture sector na umabot sa P481.27 milyon ayon sa National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

Sinabi ng Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) na inabandona na ni Julian ang Philippine Area of Responsibility ng alas-8 ng umaga, araw ng Biyernes, at huling nakita sa 480 kilometro sa hilaga ng Itbayat, Batanes.

Inihayag pa ng NDRRMC na may isang katao ang nananatiling nawawala habang walo naman ang sugatan, may 242,973 indibidwal, o 69,290 pamilya na karamihan sa Northern Luzon, ang apektado.

Kapwa nagdeklara naman ang lalawigan ng Ilocos Norte at Batanes ng state of calamity habang patuloy naman ang NDRRMC sa pagta-tally ng mga report ng pinsala.

Sinabi ng NDRRMC na ang pinsala sa imprastruktura ay umabot sa P738.15 milyon habang sa agrikultura naman ay P309.16 milyon, subalit sinabi ng Department of Agriculture (DA), araw ng Biyernes na umabot na ito sa P481.27 milyon.

Sa kabilang dako, lumipad naman si Pangulong Marcos patungong Ilocos Norte at Batanes para personal na inspeksyunin ang pinsala at nagpahayag ng pangamba sa umusbong na problema sa sektor ng sakahan.

Sa pinakabagong bulletin nito, iniulat ng Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Operations Center ng DA na may 20,134 magsasaka sa mga rehiyon ng Ilocos, Cagayan Valley at Central Luzon ang apektado.

Winalis ng masamang panahon ang 19,151 metric tons (MT) ng naaning bigas at mais sa 13,488 ektarya ng lupain.

“As field assessments and validations continue, further damage and losses are expected in the affected regions, particularly on palay in Cagayan Valley,” ang sinabi ng DA.

“Rice suffered the most from Julian, with losses amounting to P348.42 million or 72.39 percent of the overall damage. The majority of the 17,585 MT of rice produce was in the reproductive and maturity stages. Corn accounted for P35.75 million or 7.43 percent of the total. The natural calamity damaged 1,514 MT of corn produce, mostly in the vegetative and maturity stages,” ayon pa rin sa DA.

Ang iba pa ayon sa DA na mga kalakal at pasilidad na naapektuhan ay ang irrigation facilities (P92.68 million), high-value crops (P3.96 million) at livestock at poultry (P472,550).

Sa mga sunod-sunod na bagyo at El Niño phenomenon na tumama sa bansa sa mga nakalipas na buwan, nasirang ang 502,680 MT ng bigas.

“Alone, the El Niño-induced dry spell that ended in June ruined 330,717 MT of rice,” ayon sa final bulletin ng DA sa weather phenomenon na naka-post noong Agosto.

Sa pagtatantiya ng DA, ang bansa ay nawalan ng 500,000 MT hanggang 600,000 MT na palay production taon-taon dahil sa mga bagyo at iba pang natural calamities. **Kris Jose**

<https://remate.ph/julian-nag-iwan-ng-p481m-pinsala-sa-agrikultura-sa-pinas/>

THE MANILA TIMES:

Agri devt key to economic growth: NEDA exec

By Philippine News Agency

October 6, 2024

THE National Economic and Development Authority in Calabarzon (NEDA-4A) has emphasized the need for strategic interventions to promote sustainable growth and create opportunities for marginalized sectors and communities by focusing on the industrial and agriculture sectors.

Carmel Matabang, officer in charge (OIC) regional director of NEDA-4A, shared insights during the presentation of the Philippine Statistics Authority's (PSA) official poverty statistics at Hotel Marciano in this city, highlighting the importance of targeted policies aimed at revitalizing the industrial sector, which experienced a slowdown in 2023.

Matabang stressed the need for particular focus on agriculture, forestry and fisheries, which play a crucial role in ensuring food security and supporting rural livelihoods.

She noted that in 2023, the sector's gross value rose from 1.7 percent to 3.6 percent, underscoring the necessity of continued investment in research, technology and education to enhance competitiveness.

"Strengthening this sector is vital not only for food security but also for empowering rural communities, many of which remain vulnerable to poverty," Matabang stated.

She advocated for promoting agriculture-related education in state universities to nurture a new generation of farmers, scientists and entrepreneurs who can drive innovation and sustainability.

Another significant challenge she identified is job mismatch. Out of 11.95 million working-age individuals in the region, approximately 60 percent are economically active, leaving 40 percent engaged in unpaid domestic work and other responsibilities.

"Broadening skills to align with existing and emerging job markets will be critical for ensuring sustained growth," Matabang explained.

Digital transformation also emerged as a crucial component of the strategy. Matabang emphasized that data and statistics can be powerful tools for poverty reduction by enabling more efficient governance and fostering inclusive growth.

In the economic sector, she highlighted the value of data-driven strategies to identify emerging industries, monitor market trends and target investments that generate significant impacts on local economies.

Regarding social protection and community empowerment, Matabang noted that digital platforms can enhance service delivery, improve transparency and expand access to vital programs, especially for marginalized communities.

"By fostering collaboration among government agencies, the private sector and academic institutions, we can develop innovative solutions to the challenges we face," Matabang said.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/06/business/top-business/agri-devt-key-to-economic-growth-neda-exec/1979741>

THE MANILA TIMES:

Betcha bay gulay wow

By T. Aviles

October 6, 2024

"I was looking for comfort food I was used to from my youth. This led me to innovate and to create plant-based comfort food so that even vegetarians like me

could still enjoy them."

MORE Filipinos are turning to lead a healthier lifestyle. Eating nutritious food low in cholesterol has become the norm. Some have even opted to become vegans like Arvin Kisig Garcia Lopez, who has taken this path since the early 2000.

Not only did he become healthier but also his new lifestyle has inspired him to venture into a business that would provide a more comfortable life for him and his family.

Lopez first started to set up a quail farm but this proved difficult due to limited capital.

When the 51-year-old entrepreneur became a vegan, he closed down the quail farm and started a backyard oyster mushroom farm. But the farm was hit by a typhoon prompting him to work as a satellite dish installer.

While engaged in this job, he thought of developing plant-based dishes, which he tried to sell to students at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna.

Ingredients were expensive, so it was hard for him to make a profit. He then targeted a different market segment: middle-class and professionals.

Together with a restaurant owner in Los Baños, Lopez was able to develop plant-based dishes and appetizers, which were turned into cracklings (chicharon).

"I was looking for comfort food I was used to from my youth. This led me to innovate and to create plant-based comfort food so that even vegetarians like me could still enjoy them," he said.

Inspired by the success of their pilot-test, Lopez and wife Angela Monalisa Castellort established Vegetari Vegetarian products in Los Baños in 2015.

A hands-on entrepreneur, Lopez spearheads the research and development of his plant-based cracklings or chicharron as alternative to meat.

"What is unique in our cracklings is the taste and texture as we try our best to mimic the taste of pork and tuna to be able to provide the best comfort food to our customers," he said.

Seaweeds imitate the taste of tuna while shiitake mushrooms taste like pork chicharon, he added.



From the cracklings made from mushroom and squash, Lopez developed other variants such as vegnet, vegchon kawali, plant-based bacon and coconut crackling.

These are vegetarians' delight and a hearty feast for those who want to avoid too much cholesterol food.

Lopez said that he always supports local farmers and sources local ingredients from farmers in nearby farms although he admits getting other ingredients from abroad.

From five local partner-outlets, Vegetari cracklings are distributed in a total of 30 outlets. And after successfully penetrating the local market, Lopez and his team were able to introduce and to export their brands in Australia, Hong Kong, Cayman Islands and Papua New Guinea.

Lopez also ensures to help provide employment for local residents.

"We want to assist in harnessing Filipino ingenuity to create world-class products!" he said.

He happily shared that the secret to having satisfied customers not just locally but internationally is to satisfy the taste buds of the customers.

"Vegans are still a small market but as long as the taste of the snacks is good, both vegans and non-vegans purchase our snacks."

A major challenge came to Vegetari when his manufacturing plant was hit by fire two years ago.

It was a blow to the business but with the help of friends, family and clients, Lopez and his team were able to recover.

"The journey to start anew was not easy but our perseverance, resilience and positive mind set helped us through," he added.

As a company, Vegetari has served as an inspiration and a trailblazer to other aspiring entrepreneurs in the community.

Lopez did not immediately focus on quantity but rather quality, he said: "We developed the quality and taste of our cracklings before we produced in quantity."

He recalled that Vegetari's first participation in a bazaar was most memorable. We made only 35 packs of cracklings and, in less than an hour, all were sold out. This made us realize the potential and started developing the process on how to mass-produce.



"As a boss, I am very strict in ensuring the excellence of our cracklings, especially because our products are handmade."

He said that he is now earning enough to send his five children to school.

When asked where his success in the business could be attributed, he said that his philosophy is to "try and try until you succeed." He said that nobody can go wrong with determination and innovation.

Aside from these values, he also believed that heavenly blessings coupled with clarity of vision are keys to success in the business.

"If the vision is clear, you will know which doors you should open and which directions your business would take. Everything gets clarified in time when we constantly ask for Heaven's guidance and give thanks to Him."

"Everything comes from God."

Even if he did not finish his college degree at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, he is grateful that his business has helped him gain success that he has aspired for in life.

"Challenges in life can always be transformed into opportunities and ideas can become one's gateway to thriving enterprises," Lopez said, and his record from becoming a vegan to a vegan entrepreneur has seemed to have proven this.

Quick Questions

What is your biggest fear?

If loved ones suffer.

What really makes you angry?

Injustice

What motivates you to work hard?

My kids.

What motivates you to laugh the most?

Whenever my family gets together and jokes around with each other.

What did you want to be when you were small?

A superhero.

What would you do if you won the lotto?

Invest in the business.

If you could share a meal with an individual living or dead, who would they be?

My Dad.

What is the most daring thing you have ever done?

I'd rather not say.

What was the last book you read?

"Rich Dad Poor Dad"

Which celebrity would you like to meet for a cup of coffee?

Michael Jordan

What is the one thing you will never do again?

Drive without a license.

Where will you see yourself in 10 years?

A billionaire.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/10/06/business/top-business/betcha-bay-gulay-wow/1979749>