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MANILA BULLETIN:

Marcos names new envoys, gov't officials

BY BETHEENA UNITE

Nov 17, 2024 03:01 PM

President Marcos has appointed new ambassadors and government officials in various agencies.



President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. (Photo courtesy of Malacañang)

In a document released by the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) on Saturday, Nov. 16, Marcos named new envoys to three countries.

He appointed Patrick Chuasoto as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Kingdom of Sweden with concurrent jurisdiction over the Republic of Latvia.

The President also named Eduardo Jose De Vega as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the French Republic with concurrent jurisdiction over the Principality of Monaco, and Christopher Montero as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Indonesia.

Marcos also designated new officers in government agencies.

He named Maria Amifaith Fider-Reyes as member of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR); Danton Bueser as member representing the national government and Jose Mari Ponce as member representing the private sector both in the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA).

Marcos appointed Nasser Halipa as member representing agrarian reform beneficiaries of Mindanao in the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

He also tapped Leonor Cleofas as the administrator and chief executive officer of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) and Elpidio Vega as chairperson of the same agency. He likewise named five members of the agency's Board of Trustees, including Cleofas and Vega.

Moreover, he designated three Presidential Legislative Liaison Officer III namely Rickee Gerald Brieva, Joshua Agustin Soriano, and Rey Zarate Jr. at the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office (PLLO) under the Office of the President (OP).

The Chief Executive also appointed several directors in the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).

All new appointees were named in a PCO document dated Nov. 14.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/17/marcos-names-new-envoys-gov-t-officials>

MANILA BULLETIN:

3-month fishing ban in Visayan Sea underway

BY TARA YAP

Nov 17, 2024 02:01 PM

ILOILO CITY – The annual three-month fishing ban in the Visayan Sea, one of the country’s richest fishing grounds, is underway.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) of the Department of Agriculture (DA) officially launched the closed fishing season under Fisheries Administrative Order No. 167-3 from Nov. 15, 2024 to Feb. 15, 2025 in Estancia town, Iloilo province.



POLICE were tapped to implement a three-month fishing ban in the Visayan Sea until Feb. 15, 2025. (BFAR Region 6)

“The closed season is not enough. We have to provide a very good environment for these species by protecting the critical habitats,” said BFAR-6 Regional Director Remia Aparri.

Aparri said that the ban will enable herring, mackerel, sardines, short-bodied mackerel, Goldstripe sardine, Indian mackerel, Fimbriated sardine, and rainbow sardine to repopulate.

The move will also address overfishing in the Visayan Sea that gives livelihood to around 100,000 fishermen.

Areas covered are Gigantes Island in Iloilo province; Olotayan Island to Culasi Point in Capiz province; northeastern tip of Bantayan Island in Cebu province; westward of Guimaras Strait, and northern coast of Negros Island.

The BFAR has tapped the Philippine National Police (PNP) Maritime Group, PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) to enforce the ban.

The BFAR urged local government units (LGUs) to help enforce the ban through their sea patrol groups.

Also present during the launching were BFAR Regional Directors Ariel U. Pioquinto and Mario N. Ruinata of Bicol and Central Visayas regions.

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<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/17/3-month-fishing-ban-in-visayan-sea-underway>

MANILA BULLETIN:

French apples take center stage in Metro Manila event

BY MB LIFESTYLE

Nov 17, 2024 09:05 AM



The French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Philippines (CCIFP) and Interfel concluded a three-day event highlighting the excellence of French apples at the Grand Hyatt Manila in Taguig City. Held Nov. 12-14, the "Bonjour French Food" initiative aimed to strengthen connections between French fruit exporters and Philippine stakeholders, offering new business opportunities and promoting culinary innovation.

The event opened with remarks from Kevin Charuel, managing director of CCIFP, followed by Cheryl Caballero, undersecretary of the Department of Agriculture's High Value Crops Development Program. Philippe Lintanf, regional agri-food counselor at the French Embassy, provided an overview of France's phytosanitary standards, while Daniel Sauvaitre, president of Interfel, and Eric Guasch, chairman of Interfel's International Committee, discussed the French apple sector.



A culinary workshop demonstrated the versatility of French apples in Filipino cuisine. Chefs Charles Soussin, Mark Hagan, and Carlo Miguel prepared dishes such as stuffed apple chicken with prawn and apple coulis. The session showcased how French apples could be incorporated into local gastronomy.

Business-to-business meetings allowed French exporters, including representatives from Innatis, DISTRIMEX, Groupe La Blottière, and Blue Whale, to present apple varieties such as Royal Gala, Granny Smith, and Kissabel. Attendees sampled the produce while discussing potential collaborations.



The event concluded with a cocktail reception featuring an apple-infused cocktail by the Grand Hyatt's head mixologist and Calvados, a French apple brandy.

The first shipment of French apples is expected in the Philippines in the coming weeks, marking a step forward in bilateral trade and culinary exchange.



<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/17/french-apples-take-center-stage-in-metro-manila-event>

MANILA BULLETIN:

PH Hass Avocados now exported to Japan; 1st shipment sent from Mindanao—DA

BY JEL SANTOS

Nov 17, 2024 03:24 PM



(DA PHOTO)

The Philippines has successfully entered Japan’s high-value market for Hass avocados, marking a major milestone in the country’s agricultural export growth, the Department of Agriculture (DA) announced on Sunday, Nov. 17.

According to the agency, the first shipment of Philippine-grown Hass avocados was recently sent from Mindanao.

“This is a testament to the Philippines’ dedication to expanding its agricultural exports and the high quality of our farm produce,” DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said in a statement.

He expressed optimism that this achievement will open doors to other international markets for locally-grown avocados.

The Hass variety, known for its small size and purplish-black skin when ripe, is particularly favored in Japan.

Experts predict the global Hass avocado market to reach \$18 billion by 2025, providing significant growth opportunities for Philippine exporters.

The DA said the export breakthrough was a result of the collaborative efforts of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), the Office of the Agriculture Attaché in Tokyo, and Dole Stanfilco.

BPI Director Glenn Panganiban said that negotiations for access began in 2011.

“Securing access to Japan’s highly competitive market for Hass avocados is a significant step forward in our trade relations with Japan,” he said.

In 2023, the Philippines exported \$1.1 billion worth of agricultural products to Japan, resulting in a \$990 million trade surplus.

Panganiban said that the inclusion of Hass avocados, alongside established exports like bananas and pineapples, fortifies the Philippines’ position as a reliable supplier of high-quality fruits to Japan’s discerning consumers.

Japan imported \$160 million worth of Hass avocados (61,000 metric tons) in 2023, with major suppliers including Mexico, Peru, and the United States.

Per Agriculture Attaché Aleli Maghirang, the Philippines is the first Asian country granted export access for Hass avocados to Japan.

“This provides local producers with an excellent opportunity to capitalize on Japan’s growing demand for fresh fruits,” she said.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/17/ph-hass-avocados-now-exported-to-japan>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Unprogrammed funds raise 2024 budget to P5.93 trillion

[Louise Maureen Simeon](#) - The Philippine Star

November 17, 2024 | 12:00am



Latest data from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) showed that the adjusted program for the year has been set at P5.932 trillion as of end-October.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — The government has made adjustments anew to the national budget by about P164 billion, entirely for unprogrammed appropriations, to reach a record P5.93 trillion for this year.

Latest data from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) showed that the adjusted program for the year has been set at P5.932 trillion as of end-October.

The amount is P164.08 billion above the programmed P5.768 trillion budget. The entire additional fund went to unprogrammed appropriations.

Unprogrammed appropriations provide standby authority to incur additional agency obligations for priority programs or projects when revenue collection exceeds targets, and when additional grants or foreign funds are generated.

The DBM started adjusting the national budget with an initial P65 billion last month. Last year, the total adjustments reached P374.39 billion.

Of the additional funds, the bulk or roughly 36.93 billion was for infrastructure and social program assistance of the Department of Agriculture, Department of Public Works and Highways and Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Some P10 billion was allocated to the Department of Health for its priority social programs and social welfare and development.

About P5.97 billion served as payment of personnel benefits for about 35 departments and agencies.

Another P5 billion went to government counterpart of foreign-assisted projects of the National Irrigation Administration.

There was also P2.96 billion earmarked to support the foreign-assisted projects of the Department of Transportation.

Some 31 agencies, likewise, received P2.77 billion as part of the Pension and Gratuity Fund.

About P900 million was for the financial subsidy for the purchase of photovoltaic mainstreaming for rural electrification of the National Electrification Administration.

Under the 2024 General Appropriations Act, unprogrammed appropriations increased to P731.4 billion from the original proposal of P281.9 billion. This means that lawmakers inserted P449.5 billion during the bicameral conference committee.

Based on the National Expenditure Program for 2025, the DBM proposed that unprogrammed funds be at P158.7 billion, 78 percent lower than this year's level.

The figure is just 2.5 percent of the total expenditures for 2025, significantly lower than the 12.7 percent share in this year's budget.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/11/17/2400690/unprogrammed-funds-raise-2024-budget-p593-trillion>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Palace bares new appointments

[Neil Jayson Servallos](#) - The Philippine Star

November 17, 2024 | 12:00am



Malacañang Palace, the official residence of the president of the Philippines, as seen from the Pasig River.

Gov.ph

MANILA, Philippines — Malacañang yesterday announced new appointments in the Departments of Agriculture (DA), Education (DepEd), Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Foreign Affairs (DFA), Labor and Employment (DOLE), Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Trade and Industry (DTI), Transportation (DOTR) and the Office of the President (OP).

President Marcos named Lorna Belinda Calda as Director III of the DA while Nasser Halipa was named member of the Representing Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries of Mindanao.

Gerson Abesamis and Graciela Mendoza were named Director IVs of DepEd while Ricky Arzadon was appointed Director IV of DENR together with Director III Vicente Abella.

Marcos named three ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the DFA, namely Patrick Chuasoto to Sweden and Latvia, Eduardo de Vega to France and Monaco and Christopher Montero to Indonesia.

DOLE's Rogelio Chavez Jr. was named representative of the labor sector to the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority board.

Meanwhile, Sabeniano Caliao Jr. of DPWH and Jerico Namoro of DTI were named Directors III while Ernesto Robillo of DOTr was named Director II.

The OP's legislative liaison office also appointed three Officers III, namely Rickee Brieva, Joshua Soriano and Rey Zarate Jr.

Apart from these, Marcos also named Maria Amifaith Fider-Reyes as member of the Commission on Human Rights and Danton Bueser and Jose Mari Ponce as national government representatives in the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority's board of directors.

Marcos also named Leonor Cleofas the new administrator and chief executive of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS).

Elpidio Vega, a long-time government corporate counsel and acting MWSS chairman, was now named chairman in an official capacity.

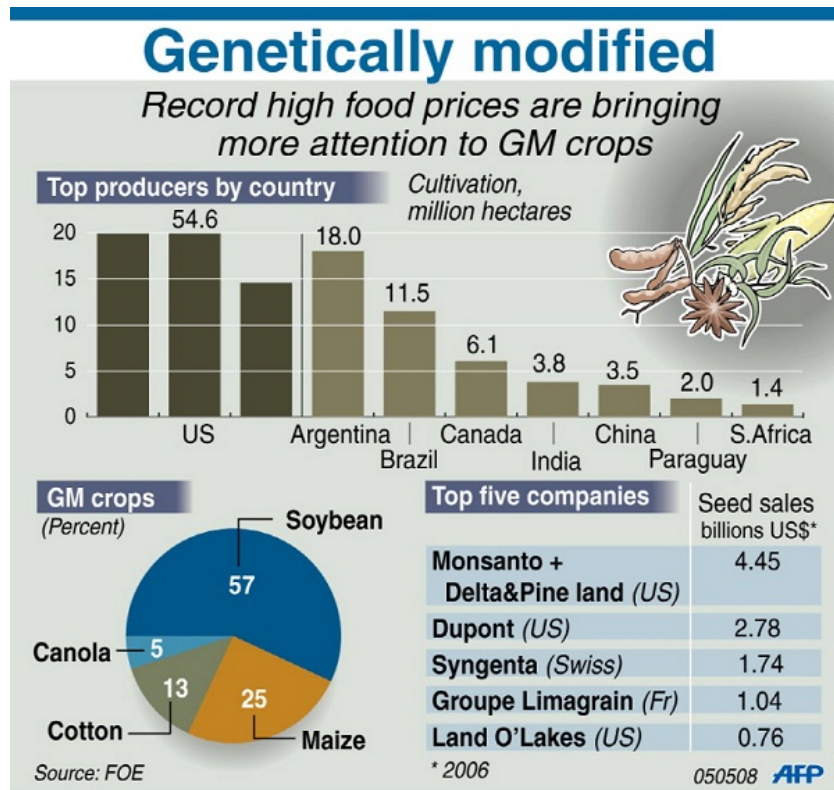
They will sit on the MWSS board of trustees alongside new members Merly Cruz, Dale Brian Go and Jose Hernandez.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/11/17/2400755/palace-bares-new-appointments>

Legal obstacles hamper adoption of genetically modified crops in PH

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 08:29 AM November 17, 2024



Graphic shows the top producers of genetically modified crops in the world. A study said on Monday, June 10, 2013 that more pest species are becoming resistant to the most popular type of genetically modified, insect-repellent crops, but not in areas where farmers follow expert advice.

Despite solidifying its position as a leader in biotechnology in Southeast Asia, regulatory hurdles stemming from legal woes hampered the adoption of genetically modified crops in the country.

“The Philippines continues to be a leader in biotechnology in Southeast Asia, having been the first in the region to have a regulatory framework on genetically engineered

(GE) crops,” the US Department of Agriculture’s Foreign Agricultural Service said in its Agricultural Biotechnology Annual report.

So far, biosafety permits for commercial propagation have been issued for the following commodities – corn (2002), golden rice (2021), eggplant (2022) and cotton (2023).

The area planted with GE corn has expanded by more than 6,500 percent to 709,000 hectares as of February this year from only 10,600 hectares in 2003, equivalent to about 85 percent of the total corn area in the country.

Amid this progress, the Court of Appeals (CA) halted the commercial release of golden rice, locally known as Malusog Rice, and Bt (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) eggplant in April this year with the issuance of the writ of kalikasan due to environment and public health concerns.

It revoked the biosafety permits issued to the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) and the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) for the commercial propagation of both genetically modified crops.

The appellate court granted the writ of kalikasan in favor of petitioners led by Magsasaka at Siyentipiko para sa Pag-unlad Agrikultura (Masipag) and Greenpeace Southeast Asia.

A writ of kalikasan is a legal remedy for persons whose constitutional right to “a balanced and healthful ecology” is violated.

The PhilRice recently said it filed a petition for review on certiorari with a request for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction before the Supreme Court, seeking to reverse the CA’s decision.

Golden Rice is the first genetically modified rice variety for improved nutrition developed by PhilRice with the International Rice Research Institute, which contains additional levels of beta-carotene which the body converts into vitamin A.

Bt eggplant, on the other hand, contains natural protein from the soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis*, making it resistant to eggplant fruit-and-shoot borer.

The report also highlighted other strides made by the Philippines, such as being the first in the region to issue regulatory frameworks on GE crops.

It covers the cultivation and regulation of plants and plant products derived from the using plant breeding innovations.

“The country has also drafted the regulations on animal biotechnology but the policy has not been released,” it said.

According to the foreign agency, the draft covers genetically modified fish and other aquatic resources, domesticated animals and biological products used for animal husbandry for veterinary purposes, and biological agents used for biocontrol.

<https://business.inquirer.net/490690/legal-obstacles-hamper-adoption-of-genetically-modified-crops-in-ph>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Gov't sends more vets to check slaughterhouses against ASF

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 10:36 AM November 17, 2024



Staff from the City Veterinary Office (CVO) of Marikina City Meat Inspection Unit inspect freshly slaughtered carcass inside a delivery van that just arrived at their Single Port Entry site on August 15, 2024. All meat products must pass through checking here before delivery in public markets, supermarkets, restaurants and other sellers in the city. The CVO requires the meat delivery trucks to also be registered with them and in good working condition. Carcass hung from the hooks must also have plastic wrapping at the end to prevent blood from dripping to the floors and to minimize contamination as these products are loaded and taken from the vehicles, especially with the problem of African swine fever (ASF). Marikina has no slaughterhouses and gets supplies from Antipolo City, Quezon City, Rizal, Bulacan and Tarlac provinces. (INQUIRER /LYN RILLON)

The government has deployed additional veterinarians to inspect slaughterhouses in the Philippines, bolstering efforts to combat African swine fever.

Roberto Umali, deputy director of the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS), said additional veterinarians were assigned to check on slaughterhouses to take “immediate action” in case of a differential diagnosis.

In meat inspection, differential diagnosis involves identifying possible conditions that exhibit symptoms of animal diseases such as ASF.

Umali said regular or spot inspections are carried out regularly to ensure that meat products are safe for consumption.

“Yung monitoring, spot-to-spot ‘yan. Hindi mo alam kung kailan darating po. Magka-countercheck ‘yan sa slaughterhouses,” Umali said on the sidelines of the Philippine-British Meat Trade Mission Year-End Gathering in Makati City.

(Spot-to-spot monitoring is conducted. You will not know when it will arrive. It will countercheck slaughterhouses.) The NMIS, a specialized regulatory agency under the Department of Agriculture, is the country’s sole national controlling and competent authority on matters related to meat inspection and hygiene for locally produced and imported meat.

Umali said tapping more veterinarians forms part of a broader collaboration with the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) to avoid the risk of infected animals entering slaughterhouses.

He explained the ongoing dialogue between the BAI, NMIS and operators and dealers to avoid the closure of slaughterhouses just because an infected hog entered a slaughter house.

“May mga proposal kasi ngayon, ang problema natin... Ang may kasalanan, dealer. Bakit isasara yung slaughterhouse? May mga question na gano’n. Ito yung gustong gawin ngayon,” he noted.

(There are proposals to resolve this issue. The dealer is responsible for the infiltration of infected hogs, yet slaughterhouses are often blamed for this. These questions have been raised in our dialogues, and they want these to be addressed.)

“Papaano... kasi on the part of the negosyante, especially the slaughterhouse operators, masakit yun, masaraduhan ka,” he said.

(For entrepreneurs, especially slaughterhouse operators, the closure of these facilities affects their business.)

In a move to reduce the risk of spreading animal diseases, the DA earlier ordered the establishment and operationalization of livestock, poultry and meat inspection sites in strategic locations within and near Metro Manila. Although the BAI's National Veterinary Quarantine Services Division maintains major interregional checkpoints, there are no strategic inspection sites in the National Capital Region, a major destination for livestock and poultry commodities from South Luzon provinces to the North Luzon provinces and vice-versa.

This is outlined in Administrative Circular No. 10 which the DA issued after the resurgence of ASF in Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) and the detection of new cases in other previously free areas. The DA is also reviewing the existing regulations governing the transport of livestock products such as chicken and pork to address supply problems caused by lingering animal health issues and manage price spikes during the holiday season.

As of Nov. 6, there are active ASF cases in 20 provinces in six regions, based on the BAI's data.

<https://business.inquirer.net/490694/govt-sends-more-vets-to-check-slaughterhouses-against-asf>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

PH sends maiden shipment of hass avocados to Japan

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 10:58 AM November 17, 2024



Avocados

The Philippines has sent to Japan its first shipment of Hass avocados worth around P2 million, thus expanding its access to the lucrative food market.

Agriculture Attaché Maria Alilia Maghirang of the Philippine Agriculture Office in Tokyo said the Philippines was the first in Asia to export Hass avocados to Japan.

“This provides local producers with an excellent opportunity to capitalize on Japan’s growing demand for fresh fruits,” Maghirang said in a statement over the weekend.

Bureau of Plant Industry director Gerald Glenn Panganiban said 2,240 boxes containing 12,320 kilograms of this popular fruit worth \$40,320 (or approximately P2.4 million) had been delivered to Japan.

“[The] target next year is to ship 88,000 boxes equivalent to 484,000 kilograms of hass avocados amounting to \$1.584 million,” he said. The Hass avocado, known for its smaller size and pebbly skin that turns purplish-black when ripe, is particularly well-suited to Japanese preferences.

<https://business.inquirer.net/490713/ph-sends-maiden-shipment-of-hass-avocados-to-japan>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Sugar industry expects adequate supply despite import freeze until 2025

November 17, 2024 | 7:58 pm



BOC - PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE DIVISION (BOC-PIAD)

SUGAR producers said the supply of refined and raw sugar will be sufficient even after the government announced an import freeze until the middle of 2025.

“We do have sufficient supply of sugar — raw and refined — despite the drop in production,” United Sugar Producers Federation of the Philippines President Manuel R. Lamata said via Viber.

Last week, the Department of Agriculture and the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) said they intend to postpone refined sugar imports.

The SRA has said that raw sugar production during the current crop year would decline by 7.2% from a year earlier due to crop damage sustained during the dry conditions brought about by El Niño.

Mr. Lamata added he sees the need to import sugar by October 2025.

The Sugar Council and the National Congress of Unions in the Sugar Industry of the Philippines have noted however that mill gate prices for raw sugar have declined.

“An apparent decrease in demand has consequently caused the steady drop in prices,” the groups said in a joint statement.

They added that a considerable amount of raw sugar is being withdrawn for refining, despite the stable supply of refined sugar.

“It makes no business sense for refineries to withdraw raw sugar. Hence, demand for it goes down and mill gate prices drop,” they added.

According to the SRA, raw sugar stocks hit 148,255 metric tons (MT), while those of refined sugar amounted to 323,923 MT as of Oct. 20.

The Sugar Council said that the drop in demand may have also been due to the increasing use of artificial sweeteners by the beverage industry.

Earlier, SRA said that it would look into the actual volumes of other sweeteners and, if warranted, require them to obtain clearances as well.

In September, the regulator had raised the clearance fee for High Fructose Corn Syrup to P30 per equivalent bag of sugar from P1.5 per bag.

Under tariff code 17.02 of the ASEAN Harmonized Tariff Nomenclature, only high fructose corn syrup is regulated. Artificial sweeteners are admitted at zero tariff under the ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement.
— **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/11/17/635476/sugar-industry-expects-adequate-supply-despite-import-freeze-until-2025/>

REMATE:

Bagong envoy, iba pang gov't officials kilalanin

November 17, 2024 15:20



MANILA, Philippines- Nagpalabas ang Malakanyang ng talaan ng mga bagong appointed ambassador at iba pang mga opisyal sa 12 iba pang ahensya ng pamahalaan. Sa katunayan, base sa listahan ng mga appointee, itinalaga ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. si Patrick Chuasoto bilang Philippine Ambassador to Sweden, na may concurrent jurisdiction sa sa Latvia.

Itinalaga rin ng Pangulo si Eduardo Jose De Vega bilang Philippine Ambassador to France, humahawak ng concurrent jurisdiction sa Monaco habang itinalaga naman ng Pangulo si Christopher Montero bilang Philippine Ambassador to Indonesia.

Sa kabilang dako, muli namang itinalaga ng Pangulo si Leonor Cleofas bilang administrator at chief executive officer ng Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), at Elpidio Vega bilang chairperson nito. Magsisilbi naman si Cleofas bilang miyembro ng MWSS Board of Trustees, kasama sina Vega, Merly Cruz, Dale Brian Go, at Jose Hernandez.

Itinalaga rin ng Chief Executive sina Rickee Gerald Brieve at Joshua Agustin Soriano bilang Presidential Legislative Liaison Officer III; at Rey Zarate Jr. bilang Presidential Legislative Liaison Officer II sa Presidential Legislative Liaison Office sa ilalim ng Office of the President (OP).

Si Maria Amifaith Fider-Reyes ay itinalaga bilang miyembro ng Commission on Human Rights, habang si Nasser Halipa ay itinalaga bilang miyembro ng Department of Agrarian Reform Adjudication Board, tatayong kinatawan ng mga benepisaryo ng agrarian reform.

Itinalaga ng Punong Ehekutibo si Rogelio Chavez Jr. bilang miyembro ng Technical Education and Skills Development Authority Board, tatayong kinatawan ng sektor ng paggawa.

Itinalaga rin ni Pangulong Marcos si Danton Bueser at Jose Mari Ponce bilang mga board members ng Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Board of Directors. Si Bueser ang kakatawan sa national government, at si Ponce naman sa pribadong sektor.

Samantala, ang iba pang mga appointed official ay sina Lorna Belinda Calda (Department of Agriculture, Director III); Gerson Marvin Abesamis at Graciela Mendoza (Department of Education, kapuwa Director IV); Ricky Arzadon (Director IV) at Vicente Leocadio Mariano Abella (Director III) para sa (Department of Environment and Natural Resources); Sabeniano Caliao Jr. (Department of Public Works and Highways, Director III); Jerico Namoro (Department of Trade and Industry, Director III); at Ernesto Raphael Robillo (Land Transportation Office, Director II). **Kris Jose**

<https://remate.ph/bagong-envoy-iba-pang-govt-officials-kilalanin/>

REMATE:

‘Nika’ nag-iwan ng ₱241.89M agri damage

November 17, 2024 12:14



MANILA, Philippines- Nakapagtala ang Department of Agriculture (DA) ng halos ₱241.89 milyong pinsala sa agricultural sector bilang resulta ng pananalasa ni bagyong Nika.

Saklaw ng pagtatayang ipinalabas nitong Biyernes ang Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, at Central Luzon kung saan kabuuang 10,523 magsasaka rin ang naiulat na apektado.

Batay sa ulat ng DA, nakapaminsala si “Nika” sa 11,607 ektarya ng agricultural land at nagdulot ng production losses na aabot ng 8,217 metric tons.

Upang tulungan ang mga apektadong magsasaka, sinabi ng ahensya na naglaan ito ng ₱84.88 milyong halaga ng agricultural inputs, kabilang ang mga punla para sa bigas,

mais, at gulay, maging mga suplay para sa livestock at poultry.

Sinabi ng DA na namahagi ng rice stocks mula sa National Food Authority ang local government units, Department of Social Welfare and Development, at iba pang mga ahensya.

Gayundin, ayon sa agricultural department, mayroong financial assistance kung saan maaaring humiram ng hanggang ₱25,000 sa ilalim ng zero-interest Survival and Recovery (SURE) Loan Program, na maaaring bayaran sa loob ng tatlong taon.

Makatatanggap naman ang insured farmers ng indemnities sa pamamagitan ng Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), base sa DA.

Samantala, sinabi ng departamento na ikinasa ang Quick Response Fund upang tumulong sa rehabilitasyon ng apektadong imprastruktura at agricultural areas. **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/nika-nag-iwan-ng-%e2%82%b1241-89m-agri-damage/>

THE MANILA TIMES:

Cagayan's agri damage reaches P1.4B

By Philippine News Agency

November 17, 2024

TUGUEGARAO CITY — The province of Cagayan has recorded an initial damage of P1.4 billion in agriculture from the series of weather disturbances that hit Northern Luzon in recent weeks.

Major crops like rice, corn, coconut and bananas have been wiped out, and around 30,900 homes were destroyed after Typhoon Julian, Severe Tropical Storm Kristine, Super Typhoon Leon and Typhoon Marce hit the northern part of the Philippines since the last week of September.

Several roads, bridges and schools were also damaged.

Gov. Manuel Mamba, in an interview Friday, appealed to the private sector to extend their help to typhoon victims as the provincial government's quick response fund is running out.

"Our problem is between now and the planting season because there's nothing to harvest anymore. People are without work for the next three months. We really need the help of the private sector," he said in mixed Filipino and English.

For now, Mamba said there is continuing provision of financial assistance and distribution of early maturing crops which can be harvested in 45 days as among the stopgap measures to aid typhoon-affected families.

He expressed gratitude to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., who visited the municipality of Buguey last Nov. 10, for the assurance of continued distribution of family food packs to the evacuation centers.

Vincent Abadilla, a farmer-entrepreneur in Alcala town, said all his crops could no longer be recovered after five consecutive weather disturbances inundated his farm and tore off his house's roofing.

"Hirap na nga ang buhay pinapahirapan pa kami ng baha (Life is already hard, and the flood is making us suffer)," said Abadilla, grateful that he was able to save some of his goats from drowning.

To date, the towns of Santa Ana, Santa Praxedes and Claveria are still "totally blackout" due to severe damage to major power lines, while several roads and bridges are still not passable due to flooding and approach damage.

According to the Department of Public Works and Highways, immediate clearing operations and restoration of the damaged approach of a bridge in Barangay San Jose, Gonzaga town, which connects to the municipality of Santa Ana, is now ongoing.

The approach of the bridge collapsed on Thursday evening due to soil erosion from heavy rains brought by Super Typhoon Ofel (Usagi).

https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/17/regions/cagayans-agri-damage-reaches-p14b/2005875?fbclid=IwY2xjawGnb6VleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHUrWBDpiYQlcRrJmdR-rlVD05Xm9I4JgS5ZIRzDY1-P8ChM2ZHtDR-cHCA_aem_Bu7xXXQLioBO2ilakzrGA

THE MANILA TIMES:

BARMM eyes halal industry's big potential

By Jerry Adlaw

November 17, 2024

COTABATO CITY — Following its campaign on a strategic framework for a sustainable and competitive halal industry, the Bangsamoro government has gained support from stakeholders as it seeks to implement the Bangsamoro Halal Industry Development Plan (BHIDP) 2024-2028.

The strategic framework for a sustainable and competitive halal industry serves as a blueprint to align BARM's halal industry with the Brunei Indonesia Malaysia Philippines East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), focusing on agro-industry and fisheries.

The Minister of Trade, Investment and Tourism, and Bangsamoro Halal Board Chairman Abuamri Taddik emphasized that developing the halal industry aligns with the faith and economic goals of the Bangsamoro people.

"This Halal development encompasses not only food we eat but also other products and services within our region which could further boost our economy and enhance the lives of our people," said Taddik.

He said that the plan covers development initiatives for priority sectors in the halal industry such as food, finance, tourism and travel, pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, food supplements, modest fashion, cosmetics, and media and entertainment.

Taddik added that developing a robust halal industry is not only investing for Bangsamoro region's economic future but also actively working to adhere to food ingenuity, enhancing nutrition and access to quality halal-certified food.

According to Taddik, the strategic location of BARMM places the economic investment at the center of immense potential, particularly to BIMP-EAGA, where the demand for halal products and services continues to grow.

The BHIDP creates a full quest for economic resilience, elevating the well-being of our communities, and contributing to a more prosperous future for Bangsamoro people.

Meanwhile, Bangsamoro Planning and Development Authority Director Melanie Indar explained in a press statement that the BARMM has a unique opportunity to harness this momentum and position itself as a leader in the halal industry sector.

Indar said that halal education campaign would be a step toward coordinating a comprehensive Halal Industry Development Plan that will empower the local producers and hopefully tap export potential and create job opportunities in the whole Bangsamoro region.

Executive Director Abdul Hanna Tago of Bangsamoro Federal Business Council, based in Marawi City, cited BARMM's unique strengths that position itself favorably to develop a competitive and thriving halal industry.

The BARMM has its potential to become a significant player in the global halal market and that this trend is driven by a growing Muslim population, rising demand for certified halal products and Islamic financial services worldwide, and efforts to harmonize global halal standards and regulations.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/17/regions/barmm-eyes-halal-industrys-big-potential/2005862>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

Climate crisis spurs tech use for farms

Estrella Torres

November 17, 2024



BOLOGNA, Italy—Citing the “multiple and worrying” effects of climate change in agricultural systems around the globe, agricultural technology experts gathered at the 46th annual EIMA International Exhibition raised the need to step up strategies for adaptation, including the use of machinery and innovative techniques.

“Agriculture is the first victim of climate change, since agricultural activities take place outdoors and must adapt to the extreme weather events that have now become quite usual,” said Prof. Luigi Sartori, who teaches Agricultural Mechanization at the University of Padua, in a forum held at the sidelines of the 46th annual EIMA International Exhibition.



Citing a clear example, he said intense rains wash away fertile areas and cause soil erosion and degradation. Also, the release of carbon dioxide from the soil during the mineralization processes of organic matter further contributes to the worsening of the climate crisis, he said.

Sartori said both conservative and precision agriculture techniques need to be applied to preserve the structure and fertility of the soil, as well as the use of machinery and digital technologies to optimize the use of resources such as water and fertilizers.

Genetic improvement can be applied in the selection of crop varieties that are more resistant to climate change, according to him.

Such path, according to Sartori, plays a fundamental role in allowing crops to gradually adapt to new environmental conditions.



Demand for mechanization

Simona Rapastella, General Manager of FederUnacoma, said the demand for mechanization remains potentially very high as the agricultural world recognizes the need for innovations and plans its investments.

The weeklong EIMA International exhibition gathered 346,800 delegates, of whom 63,100 come from 150 different countries.

Over 60,000 models of vehicles, equipment and components—from tractors to combine harvesters, from soil processing equipment to treatment and harvesting machines, from forestry equipment to gardening and greenery maintenance equipment—were on display before a crowd of economic operators, farmers, contractors and technicians, as well as students and enthusiasts.

“The spotlight was on robots, drones, digital technologies and artificial intelligence systems that represent the new frontier of agro-mechanics, and which are already capable of responding to the challenges of food security, environmental sustainability and climate change,” Rapastella pointed out in a statement during the conclusion of the event.

FederUnacoma, the Italian federation of manufacturers that organized the exhibition, said the event gave them a platform to analyze the evolution of demand in the traditional markets of Europe and America, in the emerging markets of India and China, and in the newly-mechanized markets of Southeast Asia and Africa.

Image credits: [EIMA](#)

https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/17/climate-crisis-spurs-tech-use-for-farms/?fbclid=IwY2xjawGnb41leHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHa2z49Rodwba95Xf_GWf1H7jPfawr5J2gVAMlvS6Cvn0UjLz7gK5y8IT1w_aem_Ie0MflA3Hs4YZw0kLD5agQ