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MANILA BULLETIN:

Government urged to implement price control on fish as prices soar post-typhoons

BY JEL SANTOS

Nov 2, 2024 02:24 PM



Amid rising fish prices following recent typhoons, fishers' group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) has urged the government to impose price control on essential fish products.

Based on the group's latest market monitoring, a significant surge in retail prices for staple fish, with galunggong (round scad) now priced at ₱220 to ₱240 per kilogram, tilapia at ₱160 to ₱180 per kilogram, and bangus at ₱180 per kilogram.

“Hindi ang bagyo at lalong hindi mga mangingisda ang dahilan ng pagsirit ng presyo ng isda sa palengke, kundi ang mga pribadong trader na sinasamantala ang kalamidad para manipulahin ang presyo (Neither the typhoons nor the fishers are to blame for the spike in fish prices. It is the private traders who exploit the calamities to manipulate prices),” Pamalakaya Vice Chairperson Ronnel Arambulo said in a statement on Saturday, Nov. 2.

Arambulo noted that while the farm gate price for tilapia remains between ₱50 and ₱60 per kilogram, retail prices have tripled, reaching as high as ₱180.

He attributed this discrepancy to traders and the government's failure to buy fish directly from local fishers at fair prices, which would make them more affordable for consumers.

To prevent traders from exploiting fish prices, Arambulo urged the Department of Agriculture (DA) to take concrete steps, either through direct purchase from fishers or by implementing price controls.

Pamalakaya said its call is rooted in Republic Act 7581, or the Price Act, which provides for “Automatic Price Control” to curb illegal manipulation, including profiteering on essential goods.

Arambulo stressed that urgent government intervention is needed to protect both consumers and small fishers, who remain vulnerable to price exploitation.

The recent typhoons, Kristine and Leon, have caused major disruptions in the Philippines, hitting agriculture hard and pushing up market prices.

(MB FILE PHOTO)

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<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/2/price-control-on-fish-as-prices-soar>

MANILA BULLETIN:

NDRRMC: 249 towns, cities under state of calamity; 'Kristine', 'Leon' affected over 8 M Pinoys

BY AARON RECUENCO

Nov 2, 2024 12:17 PM

A total of 249 cities and municipalities declared a state of calamity as a result of the devastation wrought by tropical storm “Kristine” and super typhoon “Leon” that affected around 8.6 million people from 2.1 million families, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC).

Based on the NDRRMC data, Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon) has the most number of cities and municipalities which declared a state of calamity, followed by Bicol region with 84, and Eastern Visayas with 13.

Calabarzon and Bicol region were the hardest hit by “Kristine” after the heavy rains it unleashed resulted in massive flooding.

In the NDRRMC data, Bicol region has the most affected population with over three million from 721,885 families; followed by Central Luzon with 1.09 million from 331,849 families; and Calabarzon with 1.01 million from over 241,000 families.

While electricity and water supplies have already been restored in most of the areas hit by “Kristine”, several areas are still experiencing communication problems.

The NDRRMC also reported that the damage to infrastructure and agriculture from the two weather disturbances have already reached P7.3 billion and P4.4 billion, respectively.

The figures, however, are still expected to increase as the assessments and in far-flung areas, as well as the effects of “Leon”, are still being conducted.

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<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/2/249-towns-cities-under-state-of-calamity>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Provide public with easier access to affordable food, Cua urges local officials

BY CHITO CHAVEZ

Nov 2, 2024 02:28 PM

Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP) president Dakila “Dax” Cua called on local leaders nationwide to exercise measures that allow individuals at the grassroots level to effortlessly gain access to budget-friendly food items.

Cua’s call came at the heels of the recent Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey that showed 46 percent of Filipino families considered themselves “food-poor”, the highest since the 49 percent obtained in June 2008.

“I urge my fellow local leaders let’s make food access a top priority, especially since we are nearing the holidays already. Huwag naman sana maging malungkot ang Pasko at Bagong Taon nang dahil hindi makabili ng pagkain ang mga kababayan natin (Let us hope that the Christmas and New Year celebration will not be worrisome for the public due to their inability to buy food),” Cua said.

The survey noted that self-rated food poverty was highest among respondents in Mindanao at 61 percent, followed by those in the Visayas at 49 percent and Metro Manila and the rest of Luzon at 39 percent.

To ease the public woes, Cua suggested that the local government units (LGUs) link the local farmers with communities.

“In doing so, we can pay our food producers more even as our people pay less for food,” the governor said.

Cua noted that “this is exactly the aim of the Department of Agriculture’s Kadiwa ng Pangulo program, as he called on LGUs to coordinate with the national government so that Kadiwa markets could be setup in their respective jurisdictions.”

“We should actively work to make the goal of having at least one Kadiwa store in the 1,500 municipalities and 149 cities in our country,” Cua stressed.

According to the Department of Agriculture, there are so far a network of 504 Kadiwa markets nationwide, including 17 Kadiwa centers, 280 Kadiwa stores, 153 pop-up stores, and 54 KNP events as of August 20.

The Department of Agriculture is targeting an increase to 40 and 60 Kadiwa centers and KNP events, respectively, by the end of 2024.

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https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/2/access-to-affordable-food#google_vignette

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Yellow onion prices stable as imports arrive

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

November 2, 2024 | 12:00am



More than 10,000 metric tons of yellow onions have entered the Philippines to augment domestic supply and stabilize prices.

MANILA, Philippines — At least 10,000 metric tons (MT) of fresh yellow onions arrived in the country, augmenting domestic stocks and stabilizing prices as all local supplies have been nearly consumed in the market.

Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) data showed that some 10,370 MT of fresh yellow onions have been imported into the country as of Oct. 24.

The latest figure accounts for almost 65 percent of the 16,000 MT import volume approved by Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. in August following the projected depletion of stocks of locally produced yellow onions.

BPI data showed that 1,173 MT of fresh yellow onions were imported in August, 5,857 MT in September and 3,140 MT in October.

With the entry of imported stocks, retail prices of yellow onions in Metro Manila markets have remained stable.

The retail prices of imported yellow onions in Metro Manila markets ranged from P70 to P140 per kilo while locally produced white onion supplies cost between P90 and P140 per kilo, based on the latest Department of Agriculture (DA) price monitoring report.

Last month, fresh yellow onions in Metro Manila retailed between P90 and P160 per kilo for the imported variant while locally produced yellow onions fetched P90 to P150 per kilo, based on the DA report.

Meanwhile, the retail prices of locally produced red onions have remained stable, selling at P70 to P150 per kilo despite the absence of any importation program for the commodity this year.

BPI data showed that no single red onion from abroad has entered the country since the DA decided to hold off any importation plans following a bumper harvest this year with locally produced stocks projected to last until the first quarter of next year.

There are still at least 77,675 MT of red onions in local cold storages, based on a separate BPI report.

Meanwhile, the country has around 2,922 MT of yellow onions in stock as of Oct. 18, almost three-fourths of which are imported.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/11/02/2396950/yellow-onion-prices-stable-imports-arrive>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Kristine agri damage reaches P4.85 billion

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

November 2, 2024 | 12:00am



Damaged rice fields at Barangay Causip in Bula, Camarines Sur on October 26, 2024.

The Philippine STAR / Noel B. Pabaleta

MANILA, Philippines — The amount of damage caused by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine to the agriculture sector has risen to P4.85 billion, according to the Department of Agriculture.

Data from the DA's operations center showed damage and losses in rice, corn, cassava, high-value crops, livestock and poultry, and fishery as well as machinery and agricultural infrastructure were recorded in the Cordilleras, Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Soccsksargen and Caraga.

Up to 105,166 hectares of agricultural areas were destroyed at the height of Kristine, resulting in production losses of 580,367 tons and displacement of at least 120,315 farmers.

Palay plantations incurred most of the losses with 85 percent, or P4.12 billion in total damage covering 97,303 hectares and production losses of 509,852 tons.

The DA said the volume of palay damage is equivalent only to 2.52 percent of the total annual production target of 20.19 million tons.

Meanwhile, 11 percent or P554.83 million in damage was recorded for high-value crops covering 5,672 hectares.

Damage to corn production reached P62.38 million covering 2,056 hectares.

The DA said it would provide P541.02 million worth of agricultural inputs to address the damage caused by Kristine. It said at least P1 billion in quick response fund is available for the rehabilitation and recovery of affected areas.

Shift in planting calendar eyed

Meanwhile, the DA is considering shifting the palay planting calendar to minimize the impact of Kristine.

Lorna Calda, officer-in-charge of the DA's field operation services, said adjustments should be made in the planting calendar for the country to adapt to the impact of climate change.

“We have historical data on when typhoons enter the country and which areas are always affected,” Calda said. “For example, when rains enter in September or October, harvest should be done before these months.”

She said farmers should be made aware of the effects of climate change.

Calda said that in Bicol, among those rescued in the floods were employees of the DA.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/11/02/2397067/kristine-agri-damage-reaches-p485-billion>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Bukidnon leads provinces in agricultural fisheries output

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

November 2, 2024 | 12:00am



The province had the highest value of production in agriculture and fisheries for the past three years, according to the PSA.

BW / File

MANILA, Philippines — Bukidnon led the provinces in 2023 in terms of the value of agricultural and fisheries production in 2023, accounting for at least six percent of the country's total output, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said.

In a report, the PSA said Bukidnon produced P155.28 billion worth of agricultural and fisheries products in 2023, accounting for 6.8 percent of the P2.31 trillion total agricultural value produced last year.

The province had the highest value of production in agriculture and fisheries for the past three years, according to the PSA.

Bukidnon produced the highest value of crops as well as livestock in 2023. The province produced P104.517 billion worth of crops, representing 8.5 percent of the nation's total crop output. In terms of livestock, the production value of Bukidnon was estimated at P30.433 billion.

Batangas had the second-highest value of livestock production last year at P30.328 billion while Cebu ranked third with P26.682 billion.

In crops, Isabela posted the second highest value of output (P59.504 billion) followed by Nueva Ecija (P59.055 billion).

The PSA said Pampanga had the second highest value of production in agriculture and fisheries followed by Pangasinan and Negros Occidental.

Pampanga posted a P93.729- billion in output while Pangasinan and Negros Occidental registered P88.299 billion and P87.475 billion, respectively, based on PSA data.

Batangas came in fifth at P78.713 billion worth of agriculture and fisheries output. The province also topped poultry production nationwide with an estimated value of P33.841 billion, accounting for 9.5 percent of the country's total output.

Bulacan and Pampanga placed second and third in terms of poultry production with an output value of P26.071 billion and P25.333 billion, respectively.

Meanwhile, Pampanga posted the highest value of fisheries production last year at P41.483 billion. The province contributed 12.8 percent of the value of the country's total fisheries output last year.

The second largest producer of fisheries in terms of current value last year was Pangasinan at P22.676 billion followed by South Cotabato at P22.455 billion.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/11/02/2396942/bukidnon-leads-provinces-agricultural-fisheries-output>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Farmers group asks gov't for compensation due to losses after storms

By: [Dianne Sampang](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 03:16 PM November 02, 2024



Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas Chairperson Danilo Ramos. Photo from Danilo Ramos/Facebook

MANILA, Philippines — The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) on Saturday urged the government to provide compensation to farmers after recent series of calamities that brought billions in peso worth of damages to the agriculture sector.

According to KMP Chairperson Danilo Ramos, many farmers are unable to recover from the frequent calamities affecting crop production.

“We demand immediate and significant compensation for these ongoing damages, as part of the government’s responsibility in addressing climate impacts on agriculture,” Ramos said in a statement.

Ramos also stressed that farmers are the country’s “primary food producers” yet they continue to reel from the impacts of climate change.

“Farmers and fishers are the most vulnerable to these disasters, yet we are neither the primary contributors to climate change nor the beneficiaries of policies and projects that destroy the environment,” Ramos added.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Thursday that Kristine caused a P4.85 billion damage in agriculture. Damage in rice crops amounted to 85 percent or P4.12 billion.

The group also noted that genuine agrarian reform is needed to address climate change issues in the agricultural sector.

“A resilient agricultural sector is essential for food security in the face of climate change, but this can only be achieved if farmers are genuinely empowered and supported,” Ramos stated.

Further, the KMP also called on the government to be “transparent” in utilizing disaster emergency funds, adding “as well as a shift towards policies that prioritize the welfare of farmers and rural communities.”

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2000523/farmers-group-urges-govt-for-compensation-due-to-losses-after-storms>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

NDRRMC: Reported deaths due to Kristine climb to 146

By: [Dianne Sampang](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 01:25 PM November 02, 2024



People cross a river next to a bridge that collapsed after the river overflow due to heavy rains brought about by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name: Trami) in Laurel, Batangas province, south of Manila 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. (Photo by Ted ALJIBE / AFP)

MANILA, Philippines — The number of reported deaths due to Severe Tropical Storm Kristine climbed to 146, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said on Saturday.

In its 8 a.m. situational report, the NDRRMC said 20 deaths were validated and Region 5 logged the highest tally with 15 validated deaths.

The agency also said 19 persons were reported missing and 91 people were reported injured.

The NDRRMC reported that Severe Tropical Storm Kristine and Typhoon Leon affected 8,534,215 individuals or 2,179,856 families. Region 5 had the most number of affected individuals at 3,027,690.

A total of 178,747 houses were reported damaged in the following areas:

- **Region 1**
- **Region 2**
- **Region 3**
- **Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon)**
- **Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan),**
- **Region 5**
- **Region 6**
- **Region 7**
- **Region 9**
- **Region 10**
- **Region 11**
- **Region 12**
- **CARAGA**
- **Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao**
- **Cordillera Administrative Region**

Last Thursday, the Department of Agriculture said the sector sustained P4.85 billion in damage because of Kristine. Damage in rice crops was at 85 percent or P4.12 billion.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2000515/ndrrmc-reported-deaths-due-to-kristine-climb-to-146>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DA urged to implement price control on fish in Kristine, Leon aftermath

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

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 12:54 PM November 02, 2024



The Department of Agriculture should implement price control on fish, according to fisherfolks group Pamalakaya (Photo by Willie Lomibao).

MANILA, Philippines — A fisherfolks group has urged the Department of Agriculture (DA) to implement price control on fish following the onslaught of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (International name: Trami) and Typhoon Leon (International name: Kong-rey).

Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) on Saturday said the price of galunggong (round scad) was between P220 and P240 per kilogram.

It also recorded the price of tilapia (black carp) between P160 and P180 per kilo and bangus (milkfish) at P180 per kilo.

Pamalakaya tallied this data from October 29 to 31 from local members at markets in Cavite, Rizal, and Quezon City.

The fisherfolk group added that prior to Kristine's onslaught, galunggong cost P180 to P200, tilapia cost P120, and bangus cost P120 to P150 per kilo.

"The typhoons and especially the fisherfolk are not to blame for the rising market price of fish but the private traders that take advantage of calamities to manipulate prices," Pamalakaya Vice Chair Ronnel Arambulo said in Filipino.

"The DA must be compelled to implement concrete steps to ensure traders are not taking advantage of fish prices in the market, whether it be through price control or directly buying the product of fishermen," he added.

Arambulo pointed to the Price Act or Republic Act 7581, which sanctions illegal acts of price manipulation including profiteering "the sale or offering for sale of any basic necessity or prime commodity at a price grossly in excess of its true worth."

The DA reported on Thursday, Oct. 31, that fisheries suffered losses worth P11.2 million due to Kristine.

Data from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council on Saturday tallied P4.44 billion in total production loss and cost of damage in value across the agricultural sector, including fisheries, due to Kristine and Leon.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2000505/da-urged-to-implement-price-control-on-fish-in-kristine-leon-aftermath>

REMATE:

P6B pinsala sa agrikultura, imprastraktura naitala sa Bicol sa hagupit ni ‘Kristine’

November 2, 2024 14:24



BICOL- Mahigit P6.7 bilyon ang pinsala sa agrikultura, imprastraktura, at iba pang ari-arian ng gobyerno sa rehiyon sanhi ng bagyong Kristine, noong nakaraan linggo.

Ayon kay Gremil Alexis Naz, tagapagsalita ng Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Bicol, umabot sa P1.9 bilyon ang halaga ng agrikultura na pinsala, na nakaaapekto sa mga pananim, hayop, manok, at iba pang imprastraktura ng agrikultura.

Matinding tinamaan ang Camarines Sur, Naga City, na umabot sa P927 milyon ang napinsala. Sinundan ito ng lalawigan ng Albay, na umabot ng humigit-kumulang P369 milyon.

Halos hindi pa nakarekober ang ilang bayan sa Naga City, mula nang tamaan ng malawakan at matinding baha noong Oktubre 22, at ang mga bayan na apektado sa Camarines Sur at Albay ay nagsisilbing catch basin ng tubig-baha.

Habang nasa 379 na barangay ang nanatiling baha sa Camarines Sur, kasama ang dalawa sa bayan ng Libon, Albay.

Nasa P4.8 bilyon naman ang mga nasirang tulay, kalsada, flood control, at iba pang pasilidad.

Dagdag pa ni Naz, hindi bababa sa 111 kalsada at tulay ang hindi pa rin madaanan, habang 30 iba pa ay pwede lamang madaanan na sasakyan.

Umabot naman sa P2.5 milyon ang napinsala sa mga non infrastructure facility, kabilang ang mga street light at electrical system.

Umakyat sa 57 ang bilang ng mga namatay, apat ang nawawala at 35 ang mga sugatan dahil sa pagbaha at pagguho ng lupa.

Patuloy naman biberberipika ng tanggapan ng disaster management ang bilang ng mga nasawi.

Hanggang ngayon ay wala pa rin suplay ng kuryente ang mga residente sa bayan ng Tiwi ng Albay, dahil ang karamihan sa lokal na suplay ng kuryente ay nanatiling putol kasunod ng pagkawasak na dulot ni Kristine.

Maraming barangay ang nanatiling walang kuryente at halos libo-libong residente pa ang nanatili sa evacuation.

Sinabi ni Tiwi Mayor Jaime Villanueva na tatlo lamang sa 25 barangay ng bayan ang ganap na naibalik ang kanilang suplay ng kuryente, dahil ang pangunahing linya ng kuryente ay patay pa rin bunsod ng lahat ng mga poste ng kuryente sa lugar ay gumuho dahil sa lakas ng hangin.

Aniya, nagtulong-tulong na ang mga electrician mula sa mga barangay ng Tiwi para sa pag-aayos ng mga drop wire sa mga tahanan ng mga residente upang mabawasan ang mga interruption kapag ganap ng naibalik ang kuryente.

Sa pahayag naman ni Albay Electric Cooperative information officer Anj Galero, pinagsisikapan nilang maibalik ang kuryente sa buong lalawigan. **Mary Anne Sapico**

<https://remate.ph/p6b-pinsala-sa-agrikultura-imprastraktura-naitala-sa-bicol-sa-hagupit-ni-kristine/>