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**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Much needed respite: Mayor Abby proposes automatic loan moratorium for calamity-hit areas

BY [PATRICK GARCIA](#)

Nov 19, 2024 03:07 PM

Makati City Mayor Abby Binay proposed on Tuesday, Nov. 19, the implementation of an automatic loan moratorium for areas in the country that were devastated by natural calamities following the onslaught of six different typhoons in the country in just one month.



## Mayor Abby Binay

"These have caused extensive agricultural damage in many areas and destroyed hundreds if not thousands of homes and small businesses. Granting automatic moratorium on government loan repayments in calamity-hit areas would provide much-needed respite to affected residents, especially farmers and fisherfolk whose sources of livelihood have been wiped out," Binay said.

In her proposal, the mayor explained that government agencies, banks, and other financial institutions can make it a policy to automatically suspend loan repayments from borrowers located in areas officially declared in a state of calamity.

"It is a reasonable and humane response to the plight of many of our fellow Filipinos," she said.

"By giving them reprieve from their financial obligation, they can focus on the day-to-day needs of their families and rebuilding their homes," she added.

Through a loan moratorium, the bank or lending institution makes a temporary agreement with the borrower to stop making loan payments for a certain period. In this way, the borrower can avoid penalties and stabilize finances before resuming regular repayments to the creditor.

The moratorium can also include local government units (LGUs) severely affected by calamities.

Several reports of some LGUs battered by the consecutive typhoons showed that their emergency response funds are already running low.

The loan moratorium can be extended by institutions such as Land Bank, Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Department of Agriculture (DA), PAG-IBIG Fund, the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and Social Security System (SSS).

“During these trying times, our citizens need all the help they can get in order to survive and recover from the devastating impacts of calamities. The government, through its financial institutions, is in the best position to alleviate their conditions,” Binay stressed.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/19/much-needed-respite-mayor-abby-proposes-automatic-loan-moratorium-for-calamity-hit-areas>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Philippine Brahminy Kite Eagle rescued in Surigao del Sur

BY [MIKE CRISMUNDO](#)

Nov 19, 2024 11:26 AM

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BUTUAN CITY – A Brahminy Kite Eagle was rescued and turned over to police in Lingig, Surigao del Sur on Sunday afternoon.



Police said the eagle was found by a resident in Sitio Kabilan, Barangay Poblacion in good condition.

“We express gratitude for the resident’s responsible actions, which ensured the bird’s safety and well-being,” police added.

The Police Regional Office-13 has ordered the turnover of the eagle to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Community Environment and Natural Resources Office for proper care, disposition, and evaluation.

PRO 13-Regional Public Information Office chief Police Major Jennifer S. Ometer said the DENR-CENRO will determine the eagle’s health and provide necessary health and food support before eventual release back to the forest.

Meanwhile, 112 PRO-13 personnel recently completed a five-day animal protection training.

They will serve as animal welfare enforcement officers in their stations, overseeing reports and cases involving cruelty to animals.

They also learned about the legal processes for filing cases and managing animal cruelty complaints.

The training was a joint project of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and PRO-13 to strengthen police ability to act against animal cruelty, in relation to Republic Act No. 8485, the Animal Welfare Act of 1998, as amended by RA No. 10631.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/19/philippine-brahminy-kite-eagle-rescued-in-surigao-del-sur>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

## A nightmare



### DEMAND AND SUPPLY - Boo Chanco - The Philippine Star

November 20, 2024 | 12:00am

It would be totally understandable if Agriculture Secretary Francis Tiu Laurel Jr. is having nightmares wondering whatever made him agree to take on a mission impossible in Philippine agriculture.

Calamities – man-made and natural – have conspired to make it a horrible year despite his best efforts to turn the sector around.

Sec. Tiu Laurel is hoping for one to two percent growth in agriculture this year. What happened instead is a 3.7 percent contraction in agricultural output for the third quarter of 2024, the steepest decline in four years.

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported that agricultural output fell by 2.2 percent in the nine months to September, reversing the slight growth seen in 2023. The PSA attributed the slump to drops across major subsectors, including crops, livestock and fisheries.

Crops, which account for more than half of the total farm output, plummeted by 5.1 percent in Q3. The decline was primarily due to a 12.3 percent drop in palay (unmilled rice) production, aggravated by El Niño and La Niña.

PSA data showed sugarcane plummeted by 83.8 percent during the July-to-September period. Lower output was also seen in mango (-11.2 percent), banana (-1.1 percent), pineapple (-0.4 percent), and coconut (-0.1 percent).

The value of livestock output dropped by 3.5 percent in the first nine months, primarily due to African Swine Fever (ASF).

El Niño has resulted in a staggering P4.39 billion in damage to the Philippines' agricultural sector, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA). Data from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) showed that approximately 2,116,420 individuals, including farmers, fisherfolk and their dependents or families, have been affected by El Niño. It is miserable out there.

Then there's typhoon damage. The combined effects of the southwest monsoon and Super Typhoon Carina (P4.73 billion in damage), Severe Tropical Storm Enteng (P3.77 billion) and the combined effects of the enhanced southwest monsoon and tropical cyclones Ferdie, Gener and Helen (P1.09 billion), according to DA estimates. Damage due to Severe Tropical Storm Kristine is estimated at P6 billion. And there's Pepito.

The biggest setback for Sec. Tiu Laurel is the continued rise in retail rice prices. BBM and Tiu Laurel followed recommendations from economists to lower the tariff on imported rice to bring down the retail price which persistently was in the P55-to-P60 per kilo range. But months after implementation, the retail prices remained high. The secretary is now saying the full impact of lower import tariffs will be felt in January 2025.

Rice importers and traders effectively sabotaged the DA's best intentions out of self-interest. Many kept their imports at the piers, choosing to first dispose of rice stocks bought at the higher tariff rates and at high domestic farmgate prices. And when they started selling the rice brought in at lower tariff, traders maximized their profits instead of passing on the promised savings to consumers.

Farmers also got screwed. "Traders are afraid the fresh harvests will coincide with the arrival of cheap imports, resulting in oversupply. So, they play safe by buying low from farmers," said Raul Montemayor, Federation of Free Farmers Cooperatives, Inc. national manager.

The Philippines is keeping the distinction of being the world's top rice importer this year, with shipments expected to increase to 4.1 MMT. According to the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the Philippines has been importing rice almost every year since 1869.

Why can't we produce enough rice to feed our people? Two things: land and water.

Agriculture experts blame our geography. We are an archipelago without any major river deltas. Thailand and Vietnam have lots of land and river deltas suitable for rice farming. Thailand, for example, has four times the arable land per person versus the Philippines.

We are also the number one in the list of the most disaster-stricken countries in the world. We are hit with numerous typhoons every year, which, according to IRRI, makes rice production riskier and more difficult. It's another geography-related issue that Thailand and Vietnam don't have to worry about.

In terms of economics, our rice sector has high production costs. Increasing the productivity of our rice sector has been the claimed objective of the DA for decades, for which billions of pesos have been poured into farm mechanization and the use of advanced technology like hybrid seeds... but with little discernible gains.



The government has also paid lip service to providing good post-harvest facilities for farmers from dryers to storage. A farmers group claims that almost 95 percent of farmers cannot meet the NFA's quality specifications due to the lack of drying and other post-harvest facilities. DA says 15 percent of rice harvest worth P8 billion is lost yearly due to lack of post-harvest facilities. The real figure is probably a lot more.

The agrarian reform law has also fragmented land ownership that makes it difficult to introduce economies of scale in rice production.

And farmers are dependent on the traders for credit to get the planting season started. They are resigned to being screwed by the traders than having to deal with the paperwork in borrowing from government facilities. The commercial banks, on the other hand, would rather pay the fine than lend to farmers.

The country's rice self-sufficiency ratio, or the percentage to which the country's domestic production can meet its domestic requirement, was at 85 percent in 2020. It was down to 81.5 percent in 2021 and fell further to 77 percent in 2022, the lowest in nearly a quarter of a century. BBM wants a 97-percent self-sufficiency by the end of his term in 2028, another aspiration in BBM's list that includes P20 per kilo rice.

Some say we should recognize our geographic and natural limitations and stop dreaming of 100-percent rice self-sufficiency. But rice is a political commodity. And we have more and more mouths to feed each year. Depending on imports puts us at the mercy of rice exporters who can jack up prices or even withhold exports.

Is the Agriculture Secretary on a mission impossible? Sec. Tiu Laurel's nightmares continue.

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<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/11/20/2401421/nightmare>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Government keen on keeping rice tariff at 15%

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

November 20, 2024 | 12:00am



Workers are seen unloading sacks of rice in Tondo, Manila on November 19, 2024

STAR / Ryan Baldemor

## To offset impact of weaker peso

MANILA, Philippines — The government is looking at retaining the 15 percent tariff on imported rice until the first review period in 2025 to offset the possible detrimental effects of a weakening peso on the retail prices of the commodity.

Sen. Cynthia Villar said the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) is recommending to keep the present rice tariff rate because of foreign exchange concerns.

Villar discussed the matter during the Senate plenary deliberations on the proposed 2025 budget of the Department of Agriculture late Monday evening. Villar is the sponsor of the DA's budget.

The recommendation, she said, was the result of the consultations conducted by the NEDA as required under President Marcos' Executive Order (EO) 62. Under the EO, the tariff rate shall be subjected to a review every four months, with the NEDA submitting its findings and recommendations to the President through the Office of the Executive Secretary.

“NEDA already conducted the review and they want to maintain (the lower tariff) until the next review, which is in February,” Villar said.

“NEDA's reason was the exchange rate. Before, it was 55 (to a dollar), but today it is now 58 to 59, which could impact rice prices. That is why they want to continue with the lower tariff,” Villar said. The average exchange rate applied on imported rice from January to October reached 56.95 to \$1, about 2.4 percent weaker than the 55.62 average exchange rate in the same period last year. The peso closed at 58.8 to \$1 on Nov. 18.

EO 62 slashed the country's rice tariff rate to a historic low of 15 percent from the previous 35 percent rate.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. told The STAR that he supports the position of the NEDA against modifying the tariff rates at this point, as more time is needed to realize the benefits of the economic measure.

“Yes, I share the same opinion since to see the real results, we need about six months since a lot bought palay at a high price of P35 (per kilo) from July to August of this year,” Tiu Laurel said.

“They will incur losses if they will sell now. So they are trying to reduce losses as much as possible. That is why the decline in rice prices is slow,” he said.

Raul Montemayor of the Federation of Free Farmers said they are not aware of any consultations that were done in relation to the review of the 15 percent rice tariff implementation.

Montemayor pointed out that the only consultation done by NEDA with private stakeholders was last month with the goal of establishing the parameters and triggers in determining whether to adjust the rice tariff rate or not.

“There was no decision yet at that time whether to continue the lower tariff rate or not,” he told The STAR.

Montemayor urged the NEDA disclose to the public how they arrived with the recommendation of keeping the present rice tariff rate. He maintained that rice prices should have gone down already with the softening of global rice prices coupled by the tariff reduction.

“Somebody in the value chain is pocketing the P6 to P7 in savings,” he said.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/11/20/2401435/government-keen-keeping-rice-tariff-15>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# PAWS: Include farm animals in National Disaster Preparedness Plan

[Evelyn Macairan](#) - The Philippine Star

November 20, 2024 | 12:00am



Stock image of cows.

Image by Liam Ortiz from Pixabay

MANILA, Philippines — Amid reports that cows were casualties of Super Typhoon Pepito in Nueva Vizcaya, the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) believes that farm animals should also be part of the National Disaster Preparedness Plan.

In its official Facebook page, PAWS on Monday reiterated its call that the safety of farm animals should also be considered during times of calamities.

“PAWS has long called for the inclusion of farmed animals in the National Disaster Preparedness Plan. The reality is, many of them can be saved if they are simply considered in response and evacuation protocols,” the animal rights group said.

They further argued that livestock animals should not be reduced to mere financial figures in the Quick Response Fund during disasters.

Last Monday, there were reports on social media that said Magat Dam overflowed because of heavy rains triggered by Pepito, which reportedly resulted in the drowning of cows.

PAWS said that during calamities, people are ushered to evacuation sites for safety, but farmers are forced to leave their large animals behind to suffer the wrath of typhoons, which could lead to their deaths.

“In times of disaster, the government’s current approach is to just ‘compensate’ farmers for a portion of their lost animals through what is referred to as ‘Restocking Assistance’ in the Department of Agriculture (DA)’s Quick Response Fund,” the group said.

PAWS added that “the policy does nothing to protect the animals themselves and large animals are automatically considered ‘collateral damage’ – their value reduced only to how they can financially be replaced after they’ve suffered and perished in the floods.”

“With the right policies, proper planning and a collective effort, we can save the lives of farmed animals in disasters,” it also said.

PAWS recalled that during the Taal Volcano eruption in 2020, it partnered with the Lipa City Veterinarian’s Office and DA-Regional Field Office 4A and rescued 55 horses from Taal Volcano Island. Also rescued were cows, buffaloes, goats and pigs.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/11/20/2401472/paws-include-farm-animals-national-disaster-preparedness-plan>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# DA to import additional 8,000 MT of fish

**Bella Cariaso** - The Philippine Star

November 20, 2024 | 12:00am



File photo of a galunggong in a fish tank.

The STAR / Michael Varcas, File

MANILA, Philippines — The government will import an additional 8,000 metric tons (MT) of fish amid the closed fishing season and the P1-billion damage to the fisheries sector due to successive typhoons, a ranking Department of Agriculture (DA) official said on Tuesday.

At a press conference, Agriculture Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa said the importation of an additional 8,000 MT of fish was discussed during the meeting of DA officials on Monday.

“Yesterday (Monday) there was discussion on the possible additional importation of fish. The volume is at 8,000 MT and this (additional fish imports) needs to arrive before the end of the year,” de Mesa said.

De Mesa added that this will bring the total volume of imported fish for this year to 38,000 MT after Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. previously approved the importation of 30,000 MT of fish amid the start of closed fishing season on Nov. 1.

“We know the problems brought by the successive typhoons, Kristine, Leon, Marce, Nika, Ofel up to Pepito and one of the affected is the fisheries (sector),” de Mesa added.

De Mesa maintained that there is still no shortage of fish despite the elevated retail price in the markets, adding that the DA has no plan to implement price control.

He said the additional 8,000 MT of imported fish should arrive in the first two weeks of December.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/11/20/2401485/da-import-additional-8000-mt-fish>



**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Marcos provides P50 million aid for Catanduanes typhoon victims

[Helen Flores](#) - The Philippine Star

November 20, 2024 | 12:00am



President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. spearheaded the distribution of government aid at the Virac Sports Complex in Virac, Catanduanes, following the severe damage caused by Super Typhoon #PepitoPH in the province.

Photos courtesy of PCO

MANILA, Philippines — Days after Super Typhoon Pepito battered Catanduanes, President Marcos visited the province yesterday to assess the extent of damage caused by the calamity and distribute aid to affected communities.

Marcos turned over P50 million in assistance to the provincial government and assured residents that Malacañang is exhausting all means to provide their needs.

Upon arrival, Marcos, accompanied by Gov. Joseph Cua, conducted an aerial inspection of the areas hit by the typhoon.

Marcos directed the immediate provision of relief goods, shelter assistance and restoration of communication and power systems in affected areas.

He said the relief assistance would continue until the people recover from the impact of Pepito.

“There is no deadline to this (aid). As long as you need food packs, we will send these to you,” the President said during his visit to an evacuation center in Virac.

Marcos witnessed the distribution of food packs worth P633,000 and cash assistance amounting to P2.5 million from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Up to 1,000 family food packs were distributed by the DSWD in several barangays in Virac.

The food packs were on top of the P5,000 cash assistance extended by the agency to 500 families.

Marcos said the Department of Agriculture (DA) is assessing the damage caused by Pepito to the local abaca industry.

Abaca production is a major industry in Catanduanes, particularly in its capital Virac.

The President ordered the DA and the Department of Labor and Employment to coordinate recovery initiatives such as the cash-for-work program.

Eleven of 16 municipalities in Catanduanes were severely affected by Pepito.

Marcos presided over a briefing with local government officials and concerned agencies on the extent of damage caused by Pepito in the province.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/11/20/2401509/marcos-provides-p50-million-aid-catanduanes-typhoon-victims>



**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# DA seeks to import extra 8,000 MT of galunggong, mackerel

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

November 19, 2024 | 4:07pm



File photo ng galunggong sa banyera ng isda.

The STAR / Michael Varcas, File

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MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture plans to import an additional 8,000 metric tons of small pelagic fish to compensate for the fish supply lost due to the damage caused by the past six cyclones.

Small pelagic fish include sardines, round scads (galunggong), anchovies and mackerels.

In an interview on Tuesday, November 19, Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said the 8,000 metric tons of fish would be in addition to the 30,000 metric tons of imported fish approved in April to ensure supply during the last quarter of 2024 amid the closed fishing season.

“Kahapon may discussion na posible magdagdag ng additional importation for fish. Yung volume possible nasa mga 8,000 metric tons, additional na kailangang makarating before the end of the year,” he said.

(Yesterday, there was a discussion about the possibility of adding an additional fish importation. The volume is expected to be around 8,000 metric tons, which needs to arrive before the end of the year.)

If the importation is approved, De Mesa said the additional 8,000 metric tons of fish are expected to arrive within the first two weeks of December.

He explained that the requested additional supply is only “minimal” and is also meant to ensure price stability for small pelagic fishes like galunggong.

“Kung posible magdagdag, maliit lang naman at gusto lang natin yung stability ng presyo of course ng ating mga specially galunggong or small pelagic fishes na kadalasan nakikita natin sa pamilihan,” De Mesa said in an interview with DZBB Super Radyo 594.

(If an addition is possible, it will be minimal, as we mainly aim to stabilize the prices, particularly of galunggong or small pelagic fish, which are commonly found in markets.)

De Mesa added that the country is currently observing a closed fishing season, which is a period when fishing is prohibited in designated Philippine waters, as defined by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

“Yung nakita kasi natin bukod sa malaking pinsala ng sunod sunod na bagyo start na rin kasi yung closed fishing season natin,” he said.

(What we’ve observed is that, aside from the significant damage caused by consecutive typhoons, the closed fishing season has also begun.)

Asked whether the fishing ban could be lifted to utilize domestic supply, De Mesa explained the ban is actually a “long-term solution” to ensure sustainable fish supply.

“Actually, mas long term yung solusyon ng pagbaban binibigyan natin ng pagkakataon yung ating mga isda na makapanganak na magpalaki ng mga isda, kumbaga yung pagresupply,” he said.

(Actually, the solution of imposing a fishing ban is more long-term, as it gives fish a chance to reproduce and grow, essentially allowing for the natural replenishment of supply.)

If the country allows activities in areas under closed fishing seasons, De Mesa warned it could hinder recovery efforts by disrupting the natural replenishment of fish stocks.

According to the latest reports from the DA’s Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Operations Center, Severe Tropical Storm “Kristine” and Typhoon “Leon” caused the loss of approximately 1,781 metric tons of fresh fish.

Meanwhile, around 0.17 metric tons of fish were damaged during Typhoons “Nika” and “Ofel.” The agency noted that these figures are still undergoing field validation and may increase.

As of November 18, DA's monitoring shows that galunggong is priced between P240 and P320 per kilogram in Metro Manila markets, while mackerel ranges from P260 to P400 a kilo. Meanwhile, sardines cost around P100 to P230 per kilogram.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/11/19/2401383/da-seeks-import-extra-8000-mt-galunggong-mackerel>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

## DA eyes importation of fish, vegetables

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:22 AM November 20, 2024



Inquirer file photo/Grig C. Montegrando

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) is considering importing small pelagic fish such as round scad (galunggong) and vegetables to ease the impact of consecutive typhoons on local supply.

In a news briefing on Tuesday, Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said the proposed importation was aimed at preventing a hike in prices and ensure a stable food supply.

De Mesa, also the DA spokesperson, said the agency was studying the proposal to import 8,000 metric tons (MT) of small pelagic fish including round scad, mackerel, moonfish and bonito which, if approved, could arrive in the first two weeks of December.

This would complement the importation of 30,000 MT of fish authorized by Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. earlier this year to augment the country's stockpile during the temporary fishing ban.

Implemented annually, the closed fishing season aims to protect target fish species during their peak spawning period and address other concerns such as overfishing and climate change.

De Mesa, however, said there was no shortage of fish and vegetables.

“We want to make sure that we won’t encounter any problems later on because, first, it’s closed fishing season. Second, there are a lot of typhoons. We are seeing some problems to arise,” he said.

As for vegetables, Tiu Laurel instructed the Bureau of Plant Industry and concerned DA personnel on high-value crops to look into the persistent high prices of both highland and lowland vegetables.

In particular, they were tasked with determining the volume, supply and prevailing prices, and to submit a recommendation to the agriculture chief on possible strategies that could be adopted within the week.

“The priority is to source vegetables from other vegetable-producing areas and regions if that would be enough to temper the prices so that there is no need to import. But if there’s a necessity to import, we will do that,” De Mesa said.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2007087/da-eyes-importation-of-fish-vegetables>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# **Binay wants automatic loan moratorium for residents in typhoon-hit areas**

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

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 04:57 PM November 19, 2024

MANILA, Philippines — Makati City Mayor Abigail “Abby” Binay has called for the automatic suspension of loan repayments in areas affected by calamities after consecutive typhoons hit the country.

In a statement on Tuesday, Binay said, “Granting automatic moratorium on government loan repayments in calamity-hit areas would provide much-needed respite to affected residents, especially farmers and fisherfolk whose sources of livelihood have been wiped out.”

She argued that a loan moratorium, a period when a borrower is not required to make repayments for a certain time, would help borrowers “avoid penalties and stabilize finances.”

Binay specifically urged the Department of Agriculture and loan-issuing state-owned corporations such as the Land Bank of the Philippines, the Development Bank of the Philippines, the Social Security System, the Government Service Insurance System, and the Pag-IBIG Fund to grant the moratorium.

“By giving them reprieve from their financial obligation, they can focus on the day-to-day needs of their families and rebuilding their homes,” she said.

The Makati City mayor, who is running for Senate in 2025, added that the loan moratorium could be extended to local government units to help them “recover from the impact of these calamities on the local economy and public services.”

Binay's proposal comes after the recent string of typhoons to hit the Philippines.

As of 8 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 18, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) tallied 1,368,551 individuals affected by the combined effects of Typhoon Nika (International name: Toraji), Super Typhoon Ofel (Usagi) and Super Typhoon Pepito (Man-yi).

NDRRMC's data also showed the three consecutive cyclones caused damage worth P8,640,199.46 in agriculture and P469,847,274.36 in infrastructure.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2006979/automatic-loan-moratorium-proposed-for-typhoon-hit-areas>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Marcos vows to rebuild homes, gov't buildings in Pepito-hit Catanduanes

By: [Michael B. Jaucian](#), [Zacarian Sarao](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Inquirer Luzon](#), [INQUIRER.net](#) / 02:16 PM November 19, 2024

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said on Tuesday that the government will focus on rebuilding damaged houses and public buildings in Catanduanes after the onslaught of Super Typhoon Pepito (international name: Man-yi).

Marcos made the pronouncement during his visit to Virac, Catanduanes, where he led the distribution of assistance to affected residents. He was welcomed by Governor Joseph Cua, Talino at Galing ng Pilipino (TGP) partylist Representative Jose Teves Jr., Virac Mayor Samuel Laynes, and several other mayors of the province.

“Reconstruction ang ating bibigyan ng pansin... magbibigay kami ng building materials, yero, dos por dos, martilyo at pako, para kahit papaano masimulan ang pagpapaayos ng inyong mga bahay ‘yung mga damaged na mga bahay at ‘yung tinitignan namin partially damaged homes and fully damaged homes,” said Marcos in a speech.

(Reconstruction is what we will focus on... we will provide building materials, galvanized iron sheets, wood, hammers, and nails so that you can start repairing your houses, the damaged houses, and the ones we are looking at, partially damaged homes and fully damaged homes.)

“Meron din tayong binibigay na cash para makabili ng iba’t ibang gamit at pangangailangan for reconstruction and rebuilding,” he added.

(We are also giving out cash for various items and needs for reconstruction and rebuilding.)

Furthermore, Marcos said the government will also address the damage sustained in regional government offices.

“Para naman ang serbisyo ng pamahalaan local government at national meron tayong headquarters meron tayong magamit. Titiyakin namin na ‘yung services na binibigay sa taong bayan ay tuloy tuloy lang po,” said Marcos.

(So that the services of the government, both local and national, have a proper headquarters and facilities to use, we will ensure that the services provided to the public continue without interruption.)

He then instructed national agencies to expedite relief operations and rehabilitation efforts, emphasizing that both immediate and long-term needs are being prioritized.

During the distribution, Marcos handed P50 million from the Office of the President to the provincial government of Catanduanes.

He added that the aid package from the Department of Social Welfare and Development will be given, including cash assistance for the province, enabling them to purchase essentials like milk for the children, medicines for the sick, and other immediate needs.

**Marcos also directed the Department of Agriculture to focus on helping farmers recover and restore their livelihoods. “We are thankful to our beloved President for personally coming to deliver aid from the national government. Your presence is a testament to your dedication to providing immediate assistance and genuine care for us. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you,” Cua said in his reply to the President. The P50 million fund is expected to address the urgent needs of affected communities, including shelter construction and the provision of essential supplies.**

Before the distribution, Marcos conducted an aerial inspection of the province to assess the damage caused by Pepito.

Pepito ravaged parts of the province over the weekend before exiting the Philippine area of responsibility on Monday.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2006931/marcos-vows-to-rebuild-homes-govt-buildings-in-pepito-hit-catanduanes>

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## BUSINESS WORLD:

# SRA rejects claims of sugar oversupply

November 19, 2024 | 9:10 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR/MIGUEL DE GUZMAN

THE Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) rejected claims of an oversupply of sugar, which has been blamed for a decline in millgate prices.

“For both raw and refined sugar, we are currently 35-37% below the levels recorded last year,” SRA Administrator Pablo Luis S. Azcona said in a statement.

The Sugar Council, a confederation of three sugar associations, has said demand for domestically milled sugar has weakened due to the entry of imports and the increased use of artificial sweeteners by the beverage industry.

The SRA has authorized imports of 240,000 metric tons (MT) of refined sugar, citing the need to shore up supply before the start of the 2024-2025 milling season.

According to the SRA, as of Oct. 20, raw sugar stocks amounted to 148,255 MT, while refined sugar inventory amounted to 323,983 MT.

Mr. Azcona added that inventories have remained at “proper levels, maintaining the needed buffers.”

In a joint statement last week, the Department of Agriculture and the SRA said they intended to postpone imports of refined sugar until May or June next year with sugar inventories expected to remain stable.

“As of Nov. 10, 2024, our production of sugar is down by 61%, and we have prepared for this with the proper buffer supply,” he said. The regulator earlier estimated that raw sugar production during the current crop year would decline 7.2% from a year earlier due to crop damage sustained during the dry conditions brought about by El Niño.

The SRA said the crop damage will outweigh the increase in the area planted to sugar to 389,461 hectares, from 388,378 hectares in the previous crop year. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/11/19/636075/sra-rejects-claims-of-sugar-oversupply/>

## BUSINESS WORLD:

# New round of fish imports due by December being studied after typhoons diminish catch

November 19, 2024 | 9:05 pm



PHILSTAR FILE PHOTO

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Tuesday that it is considering additional imports of small pelagic fish following the damage from consecutive typhoons sustained by Philippine fisheries.

“There was a discussion of possibly allowing the import of an additional 8,000 metric tons (MT), set to arrive before the end of the year,” Agriculture Assistant Secretary and Spokesperson Arnel V. de Mesa said in a briefing.

The new shipments, if approved, follow the 30,000 MT authorized earlier, and are for delivery in December. The DA said the imports will also ensure adequate supply during the closed fishing season.

Under Republic Act No. 8550 or the Fisheries Code, closed fishing seasons are declared over certain fishing grounds to help stocks regenerate. These closures typically lasts for three months.

Among the fish species the DA is seeking to authorize imports for are round scad (*galunggong*), mackerel, bonito, and moonfish.

Mr. De Mesa added that the six typhoons in November have affected the fish catch.

The latest storm to hit the country was Super Typhoon Man-Yi (Philippine name: Pepito).

Separately, he said the DA is looking for alternative sources for vegetables to head off a rise in market prices.

The DA has said that vegetable prices are expected to remain elevated due to the impact of the typhoons on vegetable-producing areas.

“The Bureau of Plant Industry and High Value Crop (office) were tasked to check on the volume, the supply and the prices and recommend to the Secretary within the week possible strategies,” Mr. De Mesa said.

“One is to check other supplies from other regions, and second, the possible import of key commodities,” he said, adding that the DA has yet to determine the vegetables that will be imported.

He said the priority for now is to source from parts of the country not hit by the typhoons if supply is available, like Bukidnon or Cebu. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2024/11/19/636069/new-round-of-fish-imports-due-by-december-being-studied-after-typhoons-diminish-catch/>

**REMATE:**

# **P42 kada kilo na bigas sapat sa pangangailangan ng mga consumer, magsasaka – DA**

November 19, 2024 08:05



MANILA, Philippines – Sapat ang P42 kada kilo na presyo ng bigas para magbigay ng “happy balance” sa pagitan ng pangangailangang kita ng mga magsasaka at abot-kayang bilihin ng mga consumer, sinabi ng Department of Agriculture nitong Lunes, Nobyembre 18.

“I think well-milled rice around the P42 per kilo will provide a happy balance between our goal of ensuring our farmers get a decent return for their hard work and consumers have access to affordably-price food, especially rice,” saad sa pahayag ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.

“While we aim to drive down food costs, we are also mindful of the needs of our primary stakeholders—our farmers and their families, who work tirelessly in the fields but have not fully reaped the benefits of their labor,” dagdag pa niya.

Sinabi ng DA na ang retail prices ng well-milled na bigas sa Pilipinas ay mas mura na kumpara sa bigas mula Thailand at China.

Sa monitoring noong nakaraang linggo, sinabi ng DA na nasa P45 hanggang P52 ang presyo sa kada kilo ng well-milled rice sa bansa.

Ayon sa DA, ang kada kilo sa presyo ng bigas mula Thailand ay P51.95 hanggang P132.7, habang ang kaparehong kalidad ng bigas mula China ay P44.47 hanggang P88.86.

Kamakailan ay ipinag-utos ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. sa Department of Budget and Management (DBM) na palawakin ang Rice-for-All at P29 kada kilo na rice programs sa ilalim ng Kadiwa ng Pangulo Program “to bring affordable rice within reach for more communities across the country.” *RNT/JGC*

<https://remate.ph/p42-kada-kilo-na-bigas-sapat-sa-pangangailangan-ng-mga-consumer-magsasaka-da/>

**MANILA STANDARD:**

# Party-list group gives away rice, fertilizers

By Vito Barcelo

November 19, 2024, 10:00 pm

THE ATEACHER party-list led by Virginia Rodriguez has distributed rice and organic fertilizers free of charge to hundreds of farmers in Valencia City, Bukidnon, in a bid to help boost the province's rice production.

Rodriguez, who was joined by Valencia City Mayor Azucena Huervas, expressed optimism that the distribution of organic fertilizers, including her book entitled "Leave Nobody Hungry" will aid farmers in arming themselves with knowledge on sustainable agriculture practices and new planting technologies to increase production.

During the "Meet and Greet" program with the theme "Paglilingkod na May Dangal at Puso para sa Sambayanang Pilipino," Rodriguez said her advocacy was meant to help empower local farmers attain self-sufficient and good quality of life.

"I am also encouraging the youth to venture into agriculture so that moving forward, more people will realize that agriculture is an industry that has sustained us and our needs for years," Rodriguez said.

She said ensuring food security is possible to achieve if stakeholders from different sectors will work together towards a sustainable solution.

<https://manilastandard.net/lgu/314525650/party-list-group-gives-away-rice-fertilizers.html>

**THE MANILA TIMES:**

# Burst dike leaves farmers under water

By Agence France-Presse

November 20, 2024

FARMER Ferdinand Pascua faces financial ruin after heavy rain brought by Typhoon Pepito sent torrents of water down a river near his shanty, bursting through an earthen dike and inundating land he has tilled for a decade.

Pepito was a super typhoon when it slammed into the Philippines over the weekend — the sixth major storm to hit the archipelago nation in the past month.

Pascua's farm in Aliaga municipality, a three-hour drive north of Manila, was not in Pepito's path, but the nearby Talavera River brought the storm right to his door on Sunday.



**CROP DAMAGE** A farmer inspects his rice field after a river dike burst at the height of Super Typhoon Pepito at a farming village in Aliaga, Nueva Ecija province, on Nov. 19, 2024. PHOTO BY TED ALJIBE/AFP

"We heard the water's huge roar and the sound of collapsing earth," Pascua, 38, said on Tuesday as he hauled wet clothes across knee-deep mud in his front yard.

"We were worried and in shock. I took my children to my parents' home and returned to retrieve our stuff."

The Talavera, swollen by heavy rain in the northern mountains of Luzon island where Pepito crossed, took part of Pascua's shanty and destroyed around 200 hectares of farmland that should have been protected by the dike.

While the typhoon is now far away, officials say the flooding will persist for the next three days as brown river water gushes through a 40-meter gap in the remains of the 4-meter tall dike and flows through dozens of houses in Santa Monica village.

"It (typhoon) did not hit us directly. The rain was not heavy. The problem is the rain that fell in Aurora flowed down here," Yolando Santos, the elected village chief, said, referring to the neighboring mountainous province to the east where Pepito made its second landfall on Sunday.

Deeper into debt

While no one was killed or injured when the dike burst, villagers said they worried the farms would be permanently silted with sand and unfit for cultivation.

Many, like Pascua, had borrowed money from loan sharks to finance the rice and corn crops that were wiped out, and they will now have to go deeper into debt.

Santos said about 200 hectares of farmland in the villages of Santa Monica and nearby Santa Lucia were flooded. Corn crops on the other side of the river were also flattened as the waterway doubled in width to 80 meters.

On Tuesday, farmer Eduardo Santos, 53, stood on the edge of the damaged dike about 300 meters from his flooded house and watched the torrent of water go past.

Santos had borrowed P60,000 at 5-percent interest a month to plant 3 hectares of rice and 2 hectares of corn.

He lost it all and now worries if three of his four children still in school will be forced to drop out.

"Getting back up is such a difficult thing. We do not know how to start all over again," Santos said.

"We have no other option but to borrow money because we do not have funds to prepare the land for planting."

Pascua said he was worried about how to find more work now that the farmland had been ruined.

For now, the family could rely on his 39-year-old wife, who works as a babysitter with a Manila family.

"Her pay is low, but we are counting on it at this time until I can find a job," Pascua said.

"Water is a formidable adversary."

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/20/news/national/burst-dike-leaves-farmers-under-water/2007405>



**THE MANILA TIMES:**

# **Nika, Ofel, Pepito leave close to P500M in infrastructure, agriculture damage — NDRRMC**

**By Francis Earl Cueto**  
November 19, 2024

MANILA, Philippines — The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said that the damage to infrastructure and agriculture sustained by the country due to the trio of storms had reached a combined value of P478 million.

According to the latest situation report of the NDRRMC, Typhoons Nika, Ofel, and Pepito caused damage to some P469.8 million in infrastructure in Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, and the Cordilleras.

Meanwhile, the cost of damage to crops, livestock and farm equipment by the cyclones is at P8.6 million.

At least 1.8 million people were affected by the storms.

The NDRRMC said it was still confirming fatalities but that at least 25 people were injured.

Local officials reported that eight people were killed during the onslaught of Pepito.

The government has provided P54 million worth of aid so far, it said.

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced Monday an additional \$1 million in humanitarian aid to the victims of the recent storms.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/19/news/nika-ofel-pepito-leave-close-to-p500m-in-infrastructure-agriculture-damage-ndrrmc/2006952>

**THE MANILA TIMES:**

# **Pepito leaves P760M damage in Pangasinan**

**By Gabriel L. Cardinoza**  
November 20, 2024

**LINGAYEN, Pangasinan** — Super Typhoon Pepito destroyed some P753.6 million worth of roads and public structures and P11.5 million worth of crops and livestock in Pangasinan province, the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) reported on Tuesday.

In his situational report on Typhoon Pepito at 12 p.m. on Nov. 19, PDRRMO chief Rhodyn Luchinvar Oro said that damage to infrastructure reported in 26 towns and two cities consisted of dilapidated asphalt and concrete pavements, eroded road shoulders and blown off roofs of public buildings.

Some 88 partially and totally damaged houses were reported in the towns of Basista, Laoac, Pozorrubio, San Fabian, Santa Barbara, San Quintin, and Umingan.

Damage to agriculture included large areas of vegetable farms in seven towns and mahgo and other fruits farms in three areas.

A total of 87 villages in 10 towns and Dagupan City were flooded, while landslides were reported in eight areas of the Villaverde Trail in San Nicolas town.

**The Villaverde Trail was opened to light vehicles on Tuesday.**

**Oro also reported that Typhoon Pepito affected a total of 16,257 families and 50,653 individuals in 31 towns of the province.**

Some 265 families and 738 individuals were served inside and outside evacuation centers.

On Tuesday, classes in all levels were suspended "due to the potential effects of flooding in villages coming from high tide, dam releases, and heavy rainfall brought about by Typhoon Pepito."

As of 8 a.m. Tuesday, the San Roque Dam in San Manuel town was no longer spilling water into the Agno River after its spillway gate was closed on Monday.

Ambuklao Dam in the upstream of the Agno River still had five gates open at 0.5 meter high each, releasing a total discharge of 355.27 cubic meters per second (cms).

Its water level was recorded at 751.72 meters above sea level, only 28 centimeters from its normal high water level of 752 masl.

The Binga Dam, which catches the water released by Ambuklao, still had all of its six spillways open at 0.5 meter each, discharging water at 349.60 cms.

The dam's water level was 575 masl, its normal high water level.

In Bolinao town, the town's tourism office announced on Tuesday that swimming at its white-sand Patar Beach is now open to the public.

But it appealed to swimmers to stay close to the shore, saying strong currents and unexpected tides are hazardous, especially in deeper waters.

The tourism office also announced that swimming activities at Bolinao Falls remain temporarily prohibited until further notice.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/20/regions/pepito-leaves-p760m-damage-in-pangasinan/2007404>

**THE MANILA TIMES:**

# **DA considering imports, cites heavy farm losses from storms**

**By Janine Alexis Miguel**

**November 20, 2024**

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) is considering the importation of key agricultural commodities given the substantial damage to domestic production from successive storms.

A decision will be made this week, Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said on Tuesday.

"The impacts of the successive typhoons have been huge," de Mesa said, pointing to storms Kristine, Leon, Marce, Nika, Ofel and Pepito that have battered the country in the past few months.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has also ordered the Bureau of Plant Industry to look into the persistent high prices and "recommend ... within the week, possible strategies," de Mesa added.

"Our priority is to get the vegetables from other vegetable-producing areas and regions. If that would be enough to temper the prices then there's no need to import, but if there's a necessity to import, we will do that."

De Mesa noted the Philippines only imports a minimal volume of vegetables. But with agricultural damage from typhoons already at P10 billion, he said the government was considering all options to ensure sufficient supply.

He also said that discussions had been held regarding additional fish imports. In April, Tiu Laurel issued an order allowing the importation of 30,000 metric tons (MT) of pelagic fish species to augment supply in line with the closed-fishing season.

The DA is now eyeing to import an additional 8,000 MT to temper high market prices.

De Mesa said the high prices could reflect fisheries losses from bad weather but assured that there would be enough supply, especially for the upcoming holidays.

**The DA will also not be imposing price controls as other interventions could help alleviate price concerns.**

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/20/business/top-business/da-considering-imports-cites-heavy-farm-losses-from-storms/2007536>

**THE MANILA TIMES:**

# Regulator says no domestic sugar oversupply

By Janine Alexis Miguel

November 20, 2024

CONTRARY to claims of producers' groups, there is no oversupply of sugar, in fact production in November was lower compared to last year, the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) said in a statement.

SRA administrator Pablo Luis Azcona explained that, as of Nov. 10, domestic production of refined sugar totaled 26,279 metric tons (MT), or 61 percent lower than the 67,053 MT last year.

The agency was prepared for such shortfall with "the proper buffer supply. We are currently 35 to 37 percent below the levels recorded last year," Azcona said, adding that sugar stock levels have been constant in the past couple of months, and claims from certain groups that there is an oversupply "is laced with malice." He denounced the statement by the Sugar Council and the National Congress of Unions in the Sugar Industry (Nacusip) on the recent joint announcement by the SRA and the Department of Agriculture (DA), that there will be no imports until post-harvest, was intended to stop the decrease in mill gate prices.

Last week, the DA and SRA said sugar imports will be delayed until the second half of 2025 since supply of raw and refined remains stable.

"There was no other intention for that announcement, other than to stand by our mandate to be transparent and keep the stakeholders informed," Azcona said. The SRA also noted the country's sugar supply will last until the end of the milling season in May or June 2025.

The sugar producers had raised concerns that there was an oversupply of sugar in the market which led to a decline in prices.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. previously said there is no immediate need for additional imports since domestic supply for the current crop year is sufficient to meet projected needs. "Given the current situation, administrator Azcona and I agreed a decision on sugar importation could be delayed until after May, when the current harvest season ends," Tiu Laurel said. The current crop year ends in August 2025.

The SRA estimated this year's sugar production to reach 1.782 million MT, or 7.2 percent lower than the 1.92 million MT in the previous crop year. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Manila office, meanwhile, forecasts a 3.6-percent drop in Philippine raw sugar production for the current crop year at 1.85 million MT. Total domestic raw sugar withdrawal is estimated at

2.20 million MT. To address the deficit, the SRA mandated all sugar produced to be allocated solely for local consumption, with 100 percent of production designated as "B" or domestic market sugar under Sugar Order 1.

The first sugar policy took effect in September in response to expected production gaps due to the prolonged effects of El Niño. Azcona said Sugar Order 1 aims to ensure the domestic sugar market remains stable and fair for both producers and consumers.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/20/business/top-business/regulator-says-no-domestic-sugar-oversupply/2007476>

## **BUSINESS MIRROR:**

# **DA eyes importing veggies, possibly fish, after typhoons**

Ada Pelonia

November 19, 2024

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) is mulling over the importation of vegetables and possibly expand fish imports to stabilize prices following the “historic” damage brought by major typhoons on local plantations.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. directed the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) and the High-Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP) to check the volume and supply of highland and lowland vegetables in the country.

He added that the BPI and HVCDP were tasked to provide the agriculture chief recommendations for possible strategies to augment supply within the week.

“One [possible strategy] is to check [the] supplies from other regions and secondly, possible importation of key agricultural commodities,” De Mesa told reporters in a briefing on Tuesday.

However, he maintained that the agency’s priority is still checking for other sources that could supply highland and lowland vegetables to Luzon from other regions, such as those in Mindanao and Visayas.

“The priority is to get the vegetables from other vegetable-producing areas and regions. If that will be enough to temper the prices, there is no need to import. But if there’s a necessity to import, we will do that,” De Mesa said. The DA official explained that agricultural areas hard hit by the onslaught of successive super typhoons would be hard-pressed to recover.

He described the typhoon damage as severe, adding, “What happened is historical...extraordinary circumstances,” De Mesa said.

He recently said that vegetable prices remained elevated in the markets and might even increase further as the sector struggles to recover.

Fish, too

The DA, meanwhile, is also mulling the additional importation of 8,000 metric tons (MT) of small pelagic fishes as successive typhoons hit the country amid the closed fishing season.

“There was a discussion yesterday on a possible importation for fish. The possible volume is at 8,000 metric tons,” Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa told reporters in a briefing on Tuesday.

The agency earlier authorized the importation of 30,000 MT of pelagic fish to augment supply during the closed fishing season.

However, de Mesa maintained that such import plan was not caused by any shortage. He said the fisheries sector has been affected by the successive typhoons that struck the country. “We just want to ensure that we won’t have a problem later on. Because, one, it’s the closed-fishing season. Two, the series of typhoons,” he explained, partly in Filipino.

The figures indicate that the fisheries sector has lost 1,781 MT from Typhoon Kristine and 0.17 MT from Typhoon Nika so far.

De Mesa noted that if approved, the target arrival of the small pelagic fishes would be during the first two weeks of December. He added that the imports would include galunggong, mackerel, moonfish and bonito. The three-month closed fishing season started in waters northeast of Palawan last November 1 and recently in the Visayan Seas and Zamboanga Peninsula on November 15. All three areas are spawning grounds for small pelagic fishes like sardines and mackerel.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said fisheries output declined by 5.1 percent in the third quarter of the year.

PSA data showed total volume of fisheries production from July to September 2024 was 965,715 metric tons (MT), lower than the 1.02 million metric tons (MMT) recorded in the same quarter of the previous year.

“Decreases in production were noted in all subsectors, namely, commercial, marine municipal fisheries, inland municipal fisheries, and aquaculture,” the PSA said in its latest fisheries situation report.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/19/da-eyes-importing-veggies-possibly-fish-after-typhoons/>



**ABANTE TONITE:**

# DA import pa more ng galunggong, iba pang isda

November 19, 2024

Plano ng Department of Agriculture (DA) na pahintulutan ang importasyon ng karagdagang 8,000 tonelada ng small pelagic fish, upang agad na maideliber sa Disyembre.

Sa press briefing nitong Martes, sinabi ni DA Assistant Secretary at spokesperson Arnel de Mesa, na maaari nilang pahintulutan ang importasyon ng karagdagang galunggong, mackerel, moon fish, at bonito

Nais lang umano nilang makasiguro na sapat ang suplay ng isda upang hindi tumaas ang presyo nito dahil sa sunod-sunod na bagyong tumama sa bansa na sinabayan pa ng pagsasara ng fishing season sa ilang lugar.

“We just want to ensure that there will be no problem later on,” saad ni De Mesa. “Because, first, there’s a closed fishing season. Second, there was a series of consecutive storms... we are just anticipating problems might arise.”

Iaunsiyo ng DA sa susunod na linggo ang desisyon kung aangat ng karagdagang isda.

Noong Oktubre, ina-prubahan ng DA ang importasyon ng 30,000 tonelada ng isda.

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/11/19/da-import-pa-more-ng-galunggong-iba-pang-isda/>