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MANILA BULLETIN:

'Duterte-era rice price manipulation scandal' tackled by House super-committee; P88.6-B loss cited

BY [ELLSON QUISMORIO](#)

Nov 26, 2024 08:49 PM

The newly-formed Murang Pagkain Super-committee in the House of Representatives has traced the “biggest agricultural price manipulation case” involving rice--the Filipino staple food--to the previous Duterte administration.

The newly-formed Murang Pagkain Super-committee in the House of Representatives has traced the “biggest agricultural price manipulation case” involving rice--the Filipino staple food--to the previous Duterte administration.

Albay 2nd district Rep. Joey Salceda, overall chairman of the five-way panel, said on Tuesday, Nov. 26 this case involved alleged rice importation anomalies that cost Filipino consumers billions.

What's worse is that Salceda considers it "unresolved", and has thus allowed cartels to exploit the country's food supply.

“The biggest case of price manipulation in the agricultural sector remains to be the cornering of import permits in 2016-2018,” Salceda said during the super-committee's first formal hearing Tuesday.

Rodrigo Duterte was Philippine president from 2016 to 2022.

Salceda noted how private sector control over rice importation and the manipulation of import permits during the period led to a significant spike in rice prices in 2018, with consumers paying up to P8 more per kilo.

P88.6-b loss

Salceda estimated the total economic loss at P88.6 billion.

He said that the issue only eased after the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL) abolished in 2019 the permit system administered by the National Food Authority (NFA).

Salceda said it remains to be known who in the private sector were granted rice importation permits by the NFA during the two-year period.

Bicolano also inquired about the status of alleged P2-billion bribery issue within the NFA in 2018, where certain officials were identified in previous Senate hearings as being involved in the cornering of import permits.

The officials named include Marlon Barillo, Marigold De Castro, Richie Carpio, Mercedes Yacapin, Rocky Valdez, and Judy Carol Dansal, who was later appointed NFA administrator by then-President Rodrigo Duterte.

Nobody was jailed

Salceda said that cartels also took advantage of the NFA's diversion of palay (unhusked rice) procurement funds from supporting farmers to paying off loans.

"No one has gone to jail for allegations of bribery in obtaining import permits, or for the NFA's failure to undercut cartels by diverting palay procurement funds to loan payments," Salceda pointed out.

"What happened to the charges that then-presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque said the government was going to file in September 2018?" the veteran congressman wondered.

During the Tuesday hearing, Salceda requested the committee secretariat to send letters to the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Office of the Ombudsman to determine whether any cases have been filed against government officials implicated in the Duterte-era rice price manipulation scandal.

He also requested a letter to the DOJ to confirm if a formal investigation was ever initiated into former NFA Administrator Jason Aquino.

In addition, Salceda called for letters to the NFA requesting a list of individuals and corporations granted rice import permits from 2016 to 2018, and to the Bureau of Customs (BOC) for a detailed record of all rice import arrivals during the same period.

"We reserve the right to invoke subpoena powers to secure these documents," he underscored.

The Murang Pagkain Super-committee was created through House Resolution (HR) No. 254, introduced by Speaker Martin Romualdez. It is meant to address critical issues in the country's food supply chain, including price manipulation, smuggling, and hunger.

It brings together five House committees—Ways and Means, Trade and Industry, Agriculture and Food, Social Services, and the Special Committee on Food Security—to craft solutions aimed at ensuring affordable and accessible food for all Filipinos.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/26/duterte-era-rice-price-manipulation-scandal>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Bulacan farmers receive aid from UAE

BY [FREDDIE VELEZ](#)

Nov 26, 2024 09:55 AM

Bulacan's agricultural communities received significant assistance from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to help them recover from the impacts of Tropical Storm Kristine.



Governor Daniel R. Fernando and Vice Governor Alexis C. Castro together with some of the 3,000 Bulakenyo farmers who received the 3,000 boxes of goods from the United Arab Emirates led by (beside Fernando) Mr. Obaid Ahmed Alshehhi, First Secretary of UAE Embassy in Manila, and (top row, left) Mr. Motaz Mohamed Salih Mustafa Mohamed Salih, Program Leader of the Emirates Red Crescent, during the Distribution of Goods from United Arab Emirates to Farmers of Bulacan after the recent onslaught of Tropical Storm Kristine held at the Bulacan Capitol Gymnasium, City of Malolos, Bulacan. Also in the photo are representatives from the Department of Social Welfare and Development headed by DSWD Undersecretary for Disaster Response Management Group (DRMG) Diana Rose S. Cajipe; DSWD Field Office 3 Regional Director Venus F. Rebuldela; Provincial Agriculturist Ma. Gloria SF. Carrillo; and (2nd row, left) Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer Rowena J. Tiongson. (Photo courtesy of PPAO)

In collaboration with the UAE Embassy in Manila and the Emirates Red Crescent, 3,000 boxes of essential goods were distributed on Saturday, Nov. 23, at the Bulacan Capitol Gymnasium in Malolos City.

Each box contained five kilograms of rice, food supplies, hygiene products, and other necessities and was distributed to pre-identified farming communities in various municipalities and cities in Bulacan.

First Secretary of UAE Embassy in Manila Obaid Ahmed Alshehhi and Program Leader of the Emirates Red Crescent Motaz Mohamed Salih Mustafa Mohamed Salih personally delivered the goods.

Bulacan Governor Daniel Fernando expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the UAE government for giving aid to Bulakenyo farmers.

“This generous donation from the United Arab Emirates reflects the strong international partnerships we continue to foster for the welfare of our people. These goods symbolize hope and encouragement for our farmers who tirelessly work to ensure our food security. On behalf of the Bulakenyos, we are truly grateful,” he said.

He also shared plans to further enhance the province’s agricultural sector by establishing facilities such as a Productivity Center, Breeding Center, and Multiplying Center in Doña Remedios Trinidad.

These initiatives aim to boost farmers’ productivity by providing free fertilizers, seedlings, and livestock.

The Provincial Agricultural Office reported that Tropical Storm Kristine caused an estimated P561,695,711.45 in damages to agriculture, affecting 3,388 farmers and fisherfolk.

Fernando said the act of solidarity from the UAE offers much-needed relief and underscores the value of international partnerships in supporting communities in times of need.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/26/bulacan-farmers-receive-aid-from-uae>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

The ‘correct solution’

[CTALK](#) - [Cito Beltran](#) - The Philippine Star
November 27, 2024 | 12:00am

After years of living with the mistake and not wanting “to rock the boat,” we finally have government officials who are brave enough to point out the mistake and offer “the Correct Solution.”

Among them are the newly appointed secretary of DILG Jonvic Remulla, Senate President Francis Escudero and DepEd, Secretary Sonny Angara.

While his appointment as Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government turned peoples’ head in disbelief, it may be that DILG Secretary Jonvic Remulla could bring a dose of logic and pragmatism to the DILG.

For starters, the DILG secretary called out the fact that the Philippine National Police has far too many “generals,” approximately 130 of them, and that the number was far too much than what was needed. Remulla suggested that the number should be reduced to 25 instead.

This is not the first time that mushroom colony of “generals” in the PNP has become an issue. Several years back some people or legislators actually questioned the logic and propriety of having the rank of general in the country’s police force. If the PNP is a civilian peace keeping force, then it should not have leaders holding what is traditionally a military rank.

At the very least, it diminishes if not disrespects the title and honor that has always been military in nature. As for the police, there are existing ranks that have served police forces all over the world which are distinctly for the police. The practice also makes the PNP look like wannabe soldiers trying to look like their military counterparts.

Consequently, we now have police and coast guard units dressing up like they operate in an actual combat zone or military field of operations, armed to the teeth with assault rifles and equipment generally utilized for military operations. No wonder people are asking for the “demilitarization” of the PNP.

The best argument was posted by Sec. Jonvic himself when he pointed out that several police directorships or departments have two generals. Unfortunately, PBBM has suggested that the reduction should be limited to 30 instead of 105. It seems that PBBM does not want to rock the boat, even if it costs the republic millions upon millions now and in the future, does not promote competition and meritocracy.

Right sizing in this administration apparently comes with a lot of political considerations. With all due respect, PBBM should let his appointees conduct the science and research and let them decide. That is why he got them in the first place.

* * *

Another “correction” that has long been delayed is the re-nationalization of “farm extension workers.” In the days of FM Sr., the Department of Agriculture had “farm extension workers.” These are schooled, trained or experienced individuals in various sciences and technology related to agriculture, livestock and fisheries.

Long before Google and the internet, the farm extension workers served as advisers, lecturers, allies, co-workers, data gatherers, resource providers to the many stakeholders of Philippine agriculture. Even with all the digitalization that has entered agriculture, many farmers, fisherfolk, etc., still prefer to consult face-to-face with government farm extension workers.

Unfortunately, when the Local Government Code and devolution was implemented by law, instead of having actual programs, priorities and funding, many local officials treated the matter as an optional concern or minimized agricultural support, except during elections or disasters when Malacañang tended to be on the ground.

The truth is many local officials are promoting the urbanization and commercialization of their towns, barangays or coastal barangays even if their areas play a vital role in our supply chain and food security. To make matters worse, the series of very destructive typhoons has ruined the productivity of the agricultural sector so much that they now need all hands on deck.

In response, Senate President Francis Escudero has called for the “re-nationalization” or return of farm extension workers under the Department of Agriculture. It seems that SP Escudero has been pushing for the return to DA since he was just a congressman but did not gain the support needed primarily because most politicians don’t want to ruffle the feathers or power of LGUs.

But decades under the Local Government Code has proven that many LGU officials are ignorant, indifferent or unsupportive of agriculture. They don’t like being labeled or branded as an agricultural LGU since the income generated is lower than urban LGUs.

SP Escudero’s timing is perfect, given the natural disasters, LGU indifference and the serious food inflation that is seriously affecting the entire economy. I hope SP Escudero delivers on this item.

* * *

According to my one and only source at the DepEd, Secretary Sonny Angara has quietly been “correcting” things. Angara has been so busy reviewing, analyzing matters at the DepEd and has been very focused on getting projects off the ground and forming teams or assigning people to address various concerns, especially those affecting teachers and DepEd officials.

From what I’ve gathered, the secretary has slowly formed Team Angara from volunteers or “Volun-tolds” from the private sector that has conducted an audit of facilities, properties and programs that are under-utilized. There are many unused

buildings that could benefit from NGO-volunteer educators, trainers or foundations who could lift up the knowledge of parents as well.

One program that Sec. Angara might revisit from the time of FM Sr. is the school-based gardening and livestock projects involving the entire school, PTA and student body. This would teach people to plant, understand biology and botany and provide organic foods to reduce hunger and malnutrition. There is hope!

* * *

Email: utalk2ctalk@gmail.com

<https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2024/11/27/2403203/correct-solution>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Duterte-era rice price manipulation remains unresolved – lawmaker

[Jose Rodel Clapano](#) - The Philippine Star
November 27, 2024 | 12:00am



Individuals line up for affordable rice sold at P29 per kilo at the Kadiwa store inside the National Irrigation Administration Office in Quezon City on July 5, 2024.

The STAR / Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — The “biggest agricultural price manipulation case” involving alleged rice importation anomalies during the Duterte administration that cost Filipino consumers billions has remained unresolved, Albay Rep. Joey Salceda said yesterday.

Speaking at the super committee’s inaugural hearing on Tuesday, Salceda stressed the need for accountability, citing failures that let cartels exploit the country’s food supply.

“The biggest case of price manipulation in the agricultural sector remains to be the cornering of import permits in 2016-2018,” said Salceda, chair of the newly formed Murang Pagkain super committee, composed of the

committees on ways and means, trade and industry, agriculture and food, social services and the special committee on food security.

The super committee's probe will focus on creating policies to stabilize food prices, curb smuggling and uplift the agricultural sector.

Salceda noted how private sector control over rice importation and the manipulation of import permits during the period led to a significant spike in rice prices in 2018, with consumers paying up to P8 more per kilo.

He estimated the total economic loss at P88.6 billion, noting that the issue only eased after the Rice Tariffication Law abolished in 2019 the permit system administered by the National Food Authority (NFA).

Salceda said it remains to be known who in the private sector were granted rice importation permits by the NFA during the two-year period.

He also inquired about the status of the alleged P2-billion bribery issue within the NFA in 2018, where certain officials were identified in previous Senate hearings as being involved in the cornering of import permits.

The officials named include Marlon Barillo, Marigold De Castro, Richie Carpio, Mercedes Yacapin, Rocky Valdez and Judy Carol Dansal, who was later appointed NFA administrator by then-president Rodrigo Duterte.

Salceda said that cartels also took advantage of the NFA's diversion of palay procurement funds from supporting farmers to paying off loans.

Salceda requested the committee secretariat to send letters to the Department of Justice and the Office of the Ombudsman to determine whether any cases have been filed against government officials implicated in the Duterte-era rice price manipulation scandal.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/11/27/2403232/duterte-era-rice-price-manipulation-remains-unresolved-lawmaker>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA OKs additional 8,280 metric tons fish imports

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

November 27, 2024 | 12:00am



File photo of a galunggong in a fish tank.
The STAR / Michael Varcas, File

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) said it approved the additional importation of 8,280 metric tons (MT) of frozen small pelagic fish to plug the domestic supply that has been affected by recent typhoons and ensure stable retail prices in the market.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. adjusted the previous certificate of necessity to import that he issued earlier for the importation of 30,000 MT of small pelagic fish to accommodate the additional import stocks and to augment the domestic stocks as the government implements closed fishing seasons nationwide.

The closed fishing season began this month, with some areas ending it by the middle of March next year.

The adjustment, the agriculture chief noted, is also meant to address the combined effects of tropical cyclones Kristine, Leon, Marce, Nika, Ofel and Pepito on the country's fish supply, especially during the remaining months of the year.

The decision to allow additional imports was made after a meeting of the National Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council, the highest policy-making advisory and recommendatory body on the country's fisheries industry.

Under the rules governing the additional import volume, the imports must arrive in the country before February next year, when some of the closed fishing season is scheduled to be lifted.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources will issue the corresponding sanitary and phytosanitary import clearance for the additional imports only until Dec. 16.

Tiu Laurel allocated the 8,000 MT for the eligible importers without prejudice to the previously allocated maximum importable volume. The remaining 280 MT would be allocated for the Kadiwa ng Pangulo centers.

"The frozen fish intended for the Kadiwa ng Pangulo centers were meant to provide those who belong to the vulnerable sectors such as indigents, persons with disabilities and senior citizens with an affordable source of protein," the DA said yesterday.

Aside from fish, Tiu Laurel also ordered the importation of an additional 1,000 MT of yellow onions to prevent price spikes in the retail market. — **Romina Cabrera**

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/11/27/2403257/da-oks-additional-8280-metric-tons-fish-imports>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA greenlights 8,280 MT frozen fish import

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

November 26, 2024 | 6:57pm



The photo shows a crate of freshly caught galunggong being transferred to a plastic bag.

The Philippine STAR / Michael Varcas, file

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture approved the importation of 8,280 metric tons of small pelagic fish on Tuesday, November 26, following supply disruptions caused by serial typhoons in October and November.

The 8,280 metric tons are on top of the 30,000 metric tons of frozen round scads (galunggong), mackerels, sardines and other small pelagic fish approved in April for the fourth quarter of 2024. The plan to import was revealed on [November 19](#).

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said in a statement that certifying the additional import of fish was necessary to compensate for the

decrease in fish catch due to tropical cyclones Kristine, Leon, Marce, Nika, Ofel and Pepito.

Considering that the Philippines is observing a closed fishing season, Tiu Laurel said that the “initial fish import volume” to keep wet markets stocked may not suffice after the typhoons, justifying the additional imports.

A closed fishing season is a period when fishing is prohibited in key spawning areas to allow fish populations to replenish. In the country, this occurs from November to mid-March the following year.

The DA said that the imported fish is expected to arrive by January 30, 2025, following the issuance of the sanitary and phytosanitary import clearance on December 16.

Tiu Laurel said that the extra 280 metric tons of small pelagic fish will be allocated for KADIWA ng Pangulo centers. He added that the 8,000 metric tons will not affect the Maximum Importable Volume.

The fish to be distributed to KADIWA ng Pangulo centers will be sold to vulnerable sectors such as indigents, persons with disabilities and senior citizens.

These fish will cost 20 percent less than those sold in wet public markets to “ensure that essential goods remain accessible.”

As of November 25, the DA’s monitoring shows galunggong priced at P240 per kilogram in Metro Manila markets, and mackerel ranging from P260 to P380 per kilogram. Sardines increased by P30 from last week, ranging from P100 to P260 per kilogram.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/11/26/2403105/da-greenlights-8280-mt-frozen-fish-import>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Quimbo: Tariff cut didn't lower rice prices, only revenue losses

By: [John Eric Mendoza](#) - Reporter / [@JEMendozaINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 01:16 PM November 26, 2024

MANILA, Philippines — A lawmaker noted that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s policy of cutting tariffs on imported rice did not significantly lower the staple's market price while also causing considerable revenue losses.

Marikina Rep. Stella Quimbo, during the House joint committee on Tuesday, noted that Marcos' Executive Order No. 62 mandating the rice levy reduction from 35 percent to 15 percent—which took effect in July—did not have the intended effect of significantly reducing its market prices.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) said the price reduction would be felt starting in October.

However, Quimbo noted that the average quarter local rice prices only went down from P51.12 to only P50.68 in the next quarter after Marcos' EO took place.

This is far from the projected price drop of DA, citing economic managers who said it could lead to P5 to P7 decrease.

Also, the tariff cut even led to the loss of government revenue, according to Vincent Philip Maronilla, assistant commissioner of the Bureau of Customs.

Responding to Quimbo's query as to how much the government loses in revenues, Maronilla said: "Per the records of Bureau of Customs, the foregone revenue is about P12 billion from the time the law was implemented."

The tariff cut also led to a volume increase of imports, but Maronilla could not yet provide the exact data.

"There is more incentive to import," Maronilla noted.

Quimbo noted that the volume increase of imports should have led to a significant price reduction.

“In short,” Quimbo said, “it really doesn’t make sense, right?”

At one point, she also said: “Bakit hindi masyadong malaki ang effect on the [price] levels?” (Why does it not have a significant effect on price levels?)

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2009346/quimbo-tariff-cut-didnt-lower-rice-prices-only-revenue-losses>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Marcos signs laws to enhance fish, marine hatcheries in Mindanao

By: [Luisa Cabato](#) - Reporter / [@luisacabatoINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 08:45 PM November 26, 2024

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has enacted laws establishing a freshwater fish hatchery in Agusan del Sur and an aquaculture marine hatchery in Zamboanga City.

Republic Act (RA) No. 12074, known as the Act Establishing a Freshwater Fish Hatchery in Talacogon, Agusan del Sur, and RA No. 12075, the Act Establishing a Multi-Species Marine Hatchery in Zamboanga City, were both signed on November 12 and published in the Official Gazette on Tuesday.

Under RA No. 12074, the Department of Agriculture—Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) is required to conduct a full-scale feasibility study prior to the construction of the fish hatchery in Talacogon.

This study must comply with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) requirements.

“Within two (2) years after the construction of the freshwater fish hatchery, the DA-BFAR, through a memorandum of agreement, shall transfer its management to the local government of the Municipality of Talacogon. It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel on the management and operation of the hatchery,” it read.

Meanwhile, RA No. 12075 also requires the DA-BFAR to conduct a feasibility study on the multi-species marine hatchery project in compliance with DBM requirements.

The transfer of the management of the multi-species marine hatchery to the local government of Zamboanga must also occur within two years after its construction.

“The DA-BFAR shall conduct continuing research and experimentation on the breeding and production of marine species, especially as they apply to local conditions, to discover new methods and technology that shall benefit the fisheries industry,” the law further specifies.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2009476/marcos-signs-laws-to-enhance-fish-marine-hatcheries-in-mindanao>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DA: Rice price should be P30/kg due to tariff cut, lower global prices

By: [John Eric Mendoza](#) - Reporter / [@JEMendozaINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 04:11 PM November 26, 2024



Department of Agriculture (DA) logo with rice and some high-value crops.
INQUIRER FILES

MANILA, Philippines — The average price of rice should now be at around P30 per kilogram due to a tariff cut and lower international prices, a Department of Agriculture (DA) official said on Tuesday.

Asis Perez, DA undersecretary for policy, planning, and regulations, admitted before the House joint committee that this failed to materialize despite these factors.

In June, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. signed Executive Order (EO) No. 62, mandating a [rice tariff reduction](#) from 35 percent to 15 percent, which took effect in July.

However, Marikina Rep. Stella Quimbo noted that the average quarter local rice prices only went down from P51.12 to only P50.68 in the next quarter after the EO took effect.

For his part, Perez said in Filipino: “We observed that not only did the tariff go down but also the price of rice in the international market in previous months. And we also noticed that the committee’s conclusion is right: The lower price in the international market and our reduced tariff did not reflect the current price of the rice in our market.”

Considering this, ACT-CIS Rep. Erwin Tulfo wondered why the price range of rice remained at P50 per kilogram.

“If the price went down in the international market and our tariff also went down, the price should have plummeted very much. In our computation, the highest price of rice should be P30 per kilo for broken rice and not for well-milled. Otherwise, it should be ranging from P30 to 35 [for well-milled]. But why is it still at P50 per kilo?” Tulfo said in Filipino.

Tulfo noted that, based on his observation during inspections with House Speaker Martin Romualdez, the lowest price of rice was P44 per kilogram, but there was a limit as to how many kilograms a customer could buy.

“You are correct in saying that, looking at the international process plus the reduced tariff, the lowest price of rice should not be at P44 per kilo. We should see around P30 per kilo range, but that is not what’s happening,” Perez said.

Tulfo then asked Perez if the DA would recommend retaining the 35 percent rice tariff as the government was losing billions of pesos in revenue without consumers reaping the benefits.

Vincent Philip Maronilla, assistant commissioner of the Bureau of Customs, said the government had lost P12 billion in revenue since July.

In response to Tulfo's question, Perez said that the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) recommended that the tariff cut should only last until February.

"It appears in news reports that the current 15 percent tariff will only last until February, and it is proper because March is the [beginning] of the harvest season," Perez said.

<https://business.inquirer.net/492449/da-rice-price-should-be-p30-kg-due-to-tariff-cut-lower-global-prices>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Landbank enhances farmer-friendly loan program

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 03:44 PM November 26, 2024

The Land Bank of the Philippines (Landbank) has unveiled the P11.47-billion its Agrisenso Plus Program, designed to offer lower interest rates and simplify the loan process for the agriculture sector.

An enhanced version of Landbank's existing initiative called Agrisenso, the new lending program rolled out in Candaba, in cooperation with the state-run financial institution's partners from both the public and private sectors.

"Through strategic collaborations with public and private partners, we are complementing accessible credit with insurance benefits, capacity-building and other interventions to boost productivity, enhance income, drive sustainable growth and contribute to national food security," Landbank president and CEO Lynette Ortiz said in a statement over the weekend.

Of the P11.47 billion allocated for this loan program, P1.47 billion was raised from the penalties paid by other banks for noncompliance with The Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development Financing Enhancement Act of 2022.

Landbank said Agrisenso Plus is aimed at 10,000 small farmers, fishers and agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs).

The loan program expanded its scope to cover many beneficiaries such as small fishers; micro, small and medium enterprises involved in the agricultural value chain; and agriculture graduates from a government-sponsored or endorsed program within three years after graduation.

The program offers a fixed interest rate of 4 percent per year for small farmers, fishers and ARBs while setting an interest rate of between 6.5 percent and 7.5 percent for other borrowers.

Also, large enterprises and anchor firms lending to their partner small farmers and fishers and their cooperatives and associations, as well as ARBs and agrarian reform beneficiary organizations may enjoy a concessional interest rate with a 0.5-percent discount.

Not required

Further, Agrisenso Plus reduced the documentary requirements. Now, individual farmers no longer need to present purchase orders.

Farmers in irrigated areas will no longer be required to secure endorsements from irrigators' associations.

ARBs who are also rice farmers can obtain endorsements from either the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) or the National Irrigation Administration.

The lending program also provides free life and credit life insurance to small farmers, fishers and ARB borrowers, along with training and capacity-building programs for eligible borrowers.

<https://business.inquirer.net/492439/landbank-enhances-farmer-friendly-loan-program>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DA set to vaccinate pigs in ASF-free areas

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 12:01 PM November 26, 2024



PHOTO FROM AFP/INQUIRER FILES

The Department of Agriculture (DA) will begin inoculating pigs in areas free from African swine fever (ASF) to address low participation in the vaccination drive.

Per Administrative Circular No. 13, the DA said the vaccination program would now include hogs in barangays with no active ASF cases for at least 40 days and in areas previously tagged as red or pink zones but currently with no active ASF cases.

Red zones refer to areas infected with ASF, while pink zones are areas with no ASF but are adjacent to an infected zone.

Vaccines will only be administered to weanling or grower pigs that are at least four weeks of age and must be healthy or have tested negative for ASF.

“There is no minimum number of pigs required for vaccination and pigs do not need to be in the same age group for vaccination,” it said.

Vaccinated pigs will be allowed to be transported for slaughter purposes only if they appear healthy and test negative for ASF viral antigen during a 30-day post-vaccination monitoring period.

Adhering to regulations

A test will be conducted within seven days prior to slaughter if the monitoring period exceeds 30 days.

Clearing vaccinated pigs for transportation must adhere to current regulations, including obtaining a certification from local authorities that ASF is not present in the area where the pigs are coming from.

Pigs that test positive for ASF viral antigen and exhibit clinical signs consistent with ASF must be depopulated.

Pigs that test positive but do not show any clinical signs will undergo additional monitoring and testing. Shipment, however, will be suspended and the pigs will be subject to a seven-day observation period.

If pigs test negative, they can be delivered for slaughter. However, pigs that remain positive after additional tests will be depopulated based on existing guidelines.

Slowdown

In August, the DA commenced the government-controlled vaccination of infected hogs in Lobo town in Batangas, ground zero of the ASF resurgence.

The agency then expanded its coverage to include commercial farms and swine herds to fast-track the fight against ASF.

Despite these developments, the DA still observed a slowdown in the vaccination program due to various factors.

“There is a need to address low participation rate and gaps on the existing implementation protocol particularly on the utilization, administration and monitoring of vaccinated pigs,” the DA said.

“To effectively increase the participation of farms in the ASF vaccination, achieve the desired coverage and facilitate the assessment of the vaccine’s safety and efficacy, there is an urgent need to fast-track the implementation of the ASF vaccination program,” it added.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said last week the DA had already distributed the first 10,000 doses of AVAC live vaccines from Vietnam and would use next 150,000 doses, which have yet to arrive in the country.

<https://business.inquirer.net/492402/da-set-to-vaccinate-pigs-in-asf-free-areas>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DA seeks \$2-B fund for key agri projects

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 09:48 AM November 26, 2024



Department of Agriculture (DA) logo with rice and some high-value crops.
INQUIRER FILES

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is looking to secure more than \$2 billion or approximately P117.9 billion from multilateral lenders World Bank and Asian Development Bank and France to bankroll various projects for the agriculture sector.

Among the 12 to 14 projects lined up for the farm sector, the Philippine Sustainable Agriculture Transformation Project may secure the largest funding of \$1 billion if approved by the World Bank.

“This will become the single largest project within the department,” Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said in a press briefing on Monday.

De Mesa, also the DA's spokesperson, said the big-ticket project will prioritize the implementation of agriculture infrastructure projects to address the lack of significant investments in such undertakings over the last three decades.

“The goal of this project is to create disbursement-linked indicators wherein the department will commit to certain policy reforms within the government, within the [DA]. In return, there will be disbursement on the fund that can be used for priority projects of the president and the [agriculture] secretary,” he said in Filipino.

De Mesa said the Philippine Sustainable Agriculture Transformation Project will be the first project in the country that will be under the World Bank's Program-for-Results (PforR) financing, wherein it focuses on the outcome of implementing the government's programs or policy reforms.

The DA is expecting the loan agreement for this project to be signed by June next year and its effectivity a month later. De Mesa said the World Bank will conduct the pre-appraisal mission next week.

The agriculture official also said the World Bank has begun the scoping mission on another undertaking, the \$300-million project called the MSME Access to Finance and Climate Resiliency Project, also for five years.

It seeks to aid communities affected by calamities, especially micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The DA is partnering with the Department of Finance, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp., the Insurance Commission and the Philippine Guarantee Corp.

De Mesa also said the Asian Development Bank (ADB) recently approved a \$250 million in funding for a solar-powered irrigation project for next year, targeting areas for planting rice, corn and vegetables.

“Our priority is to ensure first that the water will be sustainable because we do not want it to be stagnant [or] unusable,” he said.

The technical board of the National Economic and Development Authority's Investment Coordination Committee approved this project and is anticipated to begin by next year.

Likewise, the ADB approved a \$140-million grant for the preparation of three infrastructure projects—installation of 18 ports nationwide, the pipe irrigation system and an aquaculture project for the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

<https://business.inquirer.net/492359/da-seeks-2-b-fund-for-key-agri-projects>

THE MANILA TIMES:

DA okays additional imports of frozen fish

[By Janine Alexis Miguel](#)

November 27, 2024

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) has approved additional imports of frozen small pelagic fish to augment domestic supplies following a series of typhoons.

Memorandum Order 51, signed by Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., allows the importation of 8,280 metric tons (MT) of pelagic fish species such as round scad and mackerel.

This will be on top of a 30,000-MT volume earlier approved by the department, which Tiu Laurel said needed to be adjusted "to address the effects of typhoons Kristine, Leon, Marce, Nika, Ofel and Pepito on the fish supply for the fourth quarter of 2024."

The 30,000-MT importation, approved in April, was in anticipation of a shortfall due to the closed fishing season, which started this month and will end in March.

The DA said the bulk of the additional imports, or 8,000, will not affect the previously allocated maximum importable volume while the 280 MT will go to Kadiwa ng Pangulo centers.

Selling via the Kadiwa centers would provide "those who belong to the vulnerable sectors such as indigents, persons with disabilities and senior citizens with [an] affordable source of protein," it added.

Food sold in Kadiwa centers is typically priced 20 percent lower than in public markets, the department noted.

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Sanitary and phytosanitary import clearances for the additional fish import volume will be issued until Dec. 16 and the imports must arrive in the country by Jan. 30 next year.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/27/business/top-business/da-okays-additional-imports-of-frozen-fish/2011723>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

PHL hiking imports of fish, onions to augment supply

Ada Pelonia
November 27, 2024



Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.

THE Philippines will increase its fish and yellow onion imports to augment supply, according to Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) said the additional importation of 8,280 metric tons (MT) of frozen small pelagic fish was approved to address the impact of recent typhoons on domestic supply.

He noted that the additional fish import should arrive in the country by January 30 next year.

“[This is because] our closed fishing season in Palawan is until January 30, while the closed fishing season in Zamboanga is until the end of February,” Laurel told

reporters, speaking in Filipino during the Kadiwa ng Pangulo Expo in Pasay City on Tuesday.

The agriculture chief noted that the earlier approval to import 30,000 MT of fish “needed to be adjusted” following the gravity of recent successive typhoons on the country’s fish supply for the last quarter of the year.

He also said that the allocation of 8,000 MT will not affect the previously allocated maximum importable volume (MIV) while the 280 MT will be allocated for the Kadiwa ng Pangulo (KNP) centers.

The agency said the imported fish intended for the KNP centers were meant to provide those in the vulnerable sectors with affordable sources of protein.

It added that food sold in KNP centers tends to be priced 20 percent lower than in public markets, which helps ensure that essential goods remain accessible to those in need.

Meanwhile, Laurel also said he is keen on expanding the imports of yellow onion, noting that the current supply is not enough.

“It seems we’re short on yellow onion. So, I have given an order to add just 1,000 tons,” he said, adding that the order might be released today.

In August, Laurel approved the purchase of 16,000 MT of imported yellow onions owing to depleted domestic supply. If approved, the total imports for the crop will settle at 17,000 MT.

“Pero may must-arrive date yung [1,000 MT]. It cannot arrive after December 30 kasi tingin ko sapat na ‘yun dahil magha-harvest na siguro by February,” he said.

Data from the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) showed that the country’s yellow onion inventory as of November 22 was at 1,796.90 MT.

‘No veggie imports’

Laurel also said the importation of vegetables, which was earlier floated to stabilize the spike in prices of some highland and lowland vegetables after the damage from typhoons, is off the table.

“There’s a chance we won’t import [vegetables],” he said.

Laurel explained that during his and President Marcos Jr.’s recent visit to Nueva Vizcaya, they found out that trucks were stranded for three days due to damaged roads from the onslaught of tropical storms, which led to delays in delivery, triggering the hike in prices.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/27/phl-hiking-imports-of-fish-onions-to-augment-supply/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

Storms shrink expected rice harvest to 19.3MMT

Ada Pelonia
November 26, 2024

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Tuesday that the series of storms that hit the country this month could further shrink paddy rice output by the end of the year.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the agency now expects palay production to settle at 19.3 MMT by yearend, lower than its forecast of 19.41 MMT.

“Ang latest estimate namin ngayon is 19.3 million na lang and baka bumaba pa dahil sa mga bagyo,” Laurel told reporters during the Kadiwa ng Pangulo Expo in Pasay City on Tuesday.

The agency earlier said the Philippines may end 2024 with a palay output of 19.41 MMT, lower than the record 20.06 MMT the country produced last year. This projected figure is equivalent to 12.69 MMT in milled rice.

“Medyo [tinamaan] talaga tayo sa maraming bagyong dumaan,” Laurel said.

The country has been grappling with successive typhoons that devastated agricultural farmlands and fisheries, with damage reaching over P10 billion so far.

The DA said in its latest bulletin that the agriculture and infrastructure damage from tropical storms Nika, Ofel, and Pepito stood at P785.68 million while losses from typhoon Kristine hit P9.81 billion.

Meanwhile, the agriculture chief noted that the country’s rice imports will reach 4.5 MMT, noting that “there is quite a lot of rice.”

“My estimate is we will hit 4.5 million tons this year for rice,” Laurel said, speaking partly in Filipino.

Data from the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) showed that rice arrivals have reached 4.16 MMT as of November 21. This volume exceeded the 3.606 MM of rice the Philippines bought last year.

Of the volume that arrived in the country, figures from BPI indicated that over 3.21 MMT came from Vietnam. Thailand was the second-largest supplier, accounting for 530,888.42 metric tons (MT).

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently adjusted upward its initial estimate for the country’s imported rice purchases this year to 5.0 MMT from 4.7 MMT.

The international agency’s report noted a surge in shipments from Vietnam as the country grappled with the impact of El Niño and storms. This will be driven by population growth and reduced import tariffs.

The USDA also raised its rice imports forecast for the Philippines in 2025 to 5.1 MMT on higher consumption of the staple.

Earlier, former Agriculture Undersecretary Leocadio Sebastian said the country will “continue to be a good market for exporters” from Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, India, and Pakistan next year.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/26/storms-shrink-expected-rice-harvest-to-19-3mmt/>

ABANTE TONITE:

Kamara binuhay 2018 rice cartel scandal

November 26, 2024

Ikinalungkot ni Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, ang chairperson ng Murang Pagkain super committee ng Kamara de Representantes na hindi pa rin nareresolba ang ‘biggest agricultural price manipulation case’ kaugnay ng importasyon ng bigas noong administrasyong Duterte.

Sa pagdinig ng super committee nitong Martes, iginiit ni Salceda ang pangangailangan na magkaroon ng pananagutan sa kabiguan na mapigilan ang mga kartel na pagsamantalahan ang food supply ng bansa.

“The biggest case of price manipulation in the agricultural sector remains to be the cornering of import permits in 2016-2018,” sabi ni Salceda.

Ayon kay Salceda kinontrol ng pribadong sektor ang importasyon ng bigas at minanipula ang import permit na nagdulot ng pagtaas sa presyo ng bigas noong 2018 na umabot sa P8 kada kilo.

Sa pagtataya ni Salceda umabot umano sa P88.6 bilyon ang economic loss dahil dito. Natigil lamang umano ito matapos na maisabatas ang Rice Tariffication Law noong 2019 kaya hindi na kailangan ng permit para makapag-angkat ng bigas.

Sinabi ni Salceda na hindi pa rin malinaw kung sino ang nakinabang sa rice importation permit na ibinigay ng NFA sa nabanggit na dalawang taon.

Ayon sa mambabatas, sinamantala rin ng kartel ang ginawang paglipat ng NFA ng pondo para sa pagbili ng palay sa pagbibigay ng suporta sa mga magsasaka at mabayaran ang utang ng mga ito.

“No one has gone to jail for allegations of bribery in obtaining import permits, or for the NFA’s failure to undercut cartels by diverting palay procurement funds to loan payments,” punto ni Salceda.

Inatasan ni Salceda ang Committee Secretariat na sumulat sa Department of Justice (DOJ) at Office of the Ombudsman upang matukoy kung mayroong naisampung kaso sa Duterte-era rice price manipulation scandal gayundin

kung may naisampang kaso laban kay dating NFA Administrator Jason Aquino. (Billy Begas)

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/11/26/kamara-binuhay-2018-rice-cartel-scandal/>

ABANTE TONITE:

DA binoldyak sa P60 per kilo bigas

November 26, 2024

Kinuwestiyon ni House Deputy Majority Leader at ACT-CIS partylist Rep. Erwin Tulfo ang Department of Agriculture (DA) dahil umano sa kawalan ng aksyon ng ahensya para mapababa ang presyo ng bigas sa kabila ng umiiral na mababang taripa sa bigas at pagbaba ng presyo nito sa world market.

Sa pagdinig sa Murang Pagkain Supercommittee ng House of Representatives na binuo sa pamamagitan ng House Resolution No. 254 ni House Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, kinwestiyon ni Tulfo ang DA kung bakit hindi bumababa ang presyo kahit na ayon sa monitoring ay mababa ang presyo nito sa world market. Bukod pa rito ang mas mababang taripa sa bigas na 15 porsyento mula sa 35 percent base na rin sa utos ni Pangulong Marcos.

“Ang tanong po sa inyo, what are you doing, Department of Agriculture? Kaya nga, binabaan ang taripa ng Pangulo para makabili ang mga Pilipino ng bigas. Bakit hindi pa rin sila makabili? Bakit P50 pa rin ang bigas? You tell me that. You tell that to the Filipino people,” giit ni Tulfo. Sa kasalukuyan, nasa P50-P60 ang per kilo ng bigas

Kinumpirma naman ni Usec Asis Perez, ng DA na mababa na nga ang presyo sa world market ng bigas at maging sila ay nagtatataka kung bakit hindi bumababa ang presyo ng bigas sa merkado.

“Kahit po kasi kami, nakikita namin na tama po yung sinasabi ninyo na looking at the international prices, that’s the reduced tariff, dapat po hindi na P44 yung presyo po ng pinakamurang bigas. Dapat po malapit na sa P30. Pero hindi nga po nangyayari. We understand that we are very thankful to this committee na binibigyan po natin ng pansin so that we can resolve this,” tugon ng opisyal ng DA.

Pero hindi nagustuhan ni Tulfo ang sagot ng opisyal dahil tila wala umanong ginagawa ang ahensya para tugunan ang problema.

“Three months na ho bumaba ang taripa. It’s already November, wala pa rin ginagawa. At sasabihin nyo, pasalamat sa committee na ito, hindi ho namin trabaho yun. Trabaho ninyo, magsama-sama kayo (ng iba pang mga ahensya). Ang importante, makabili si Juan, Maria, ng murang bigas,” giit ni Tulfo.

Binatikos din ni Tulfo ang mga ahensya ng gobyerno matapos nilang aminin sa kumite na mga importer lamang ang nakikinabang sa pagbaba ng taripa sa bigas at hindi ang consumer o publiko.

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/11/26/da-binoldyak-sa-p60-per-kilo-bigas/>

PILIPINO STAR NGAYON:

Mga magsasaka tulungan sa malaking pagkalugi

Malou Escudero

November 27, 2024 | 12:00am



Farmers thresh their newly-harvested palay on October 6, 2024 afternoon at Barangay Naguelguel in Lingayen, Pangasinan.

The Philippine STAR / Cesar Ramirez, file

MANILA, Philippines — Umapela si Senate Majority Leader Francis 'TOL' Tolentino na kailangang gumawa ng agarang hakbang ang pamahalaan upang matulungan ang mga magsasaka ng palay, kasunod ng malaking pagkalugi dahil sa sunud-sunod na bagyo na nanalasa sa bansa.

Sa kanyang regular na programa sa radyo na 'Usapang TOL,' sinabi ni Tolentino na ang agrikultura ay dumanas ng P786 milyong pinsala sa mga nagdaang bagyo, partikular mula sa Bagyong Kristine hanggang Pepito. Sa

mga ito, 53 porsyento, o P414 milyon, ang natamo lamang ng sektor ng bigas.

Sinabi ni Tolentino na ang kritikal na pagkalugi sa sektor ng palay ay makaaapekto sa suplay at presyo sa susunod na taon, at malaking epekto sa seguridad ng pagkain.

Sinabi ni Rosendo So, tagapangulo ng Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura (SINAG), matapos makapanayam sa programa ni Tolentino, na maaaring mas malaki pa ang pagkalugi, kung isasaalang-alang na maraming apektadong sakahan ng palay ang nasa yugto ng pagpapalawak, at maaaring magbunga ng higit pa.

Ang tagapangulo ng Sinag, gayunpaman, ay nag-ulat kay Tolentino na ang pagbabawas ng taripa ay hindi humantong sa pagbaba ng presyo ng bigas sa mahabang panahon, nagpapahiwatig na ang mga mangangalakal lamang ng bigas ang makikinabang sa pagbabayad ng mas mababang taripa sa kanilang inaangkat.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2024/11/27/2403297/mga-magsasaka-tulongan-sa-malaking-pagkalugi>

REMATE:

Pagtapyas sa taripa ‘wa epek’ sa pagpapababa ng presyo ng bigas – solon

November 26, 2024 18:24

MANILA, Philippines- Binanggit ng isang mambabatas na hindi napababa ng polisiya ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. na pagtapyas sa taripa sa imported na bigas ang presyo nito at nagdulot din umano ng pagkalugi.

Sinabi ni Marikina Rep. Stella Quimbo sa House joint committee nitong Martes na hindi nakamit ng Executive Order No. 62 ni Marcos na nag-aatas ng rice levy reduction mula 35 porsyento sa 15 porsyento—na umiral noong Hulyo—ang ninanais nitong epekto na pagpapababa ng market prices nito.

Ayon sa Department of Agriculture (DA), mararamdaman ang price reduction simula Oktubre.

Subalit, ayon kay Quimbo, bumaba lamang ang average quarter local rice prices mula P51.12 sa P50.68 sa sumunod na quarter matapos paitalin ang EO ni Marcos.

Malayo ito sa projected price drop ng DA, binanggit ang economic managers na sinabing magreresulta ito sa P5 hanggang P7 na kabawasan.

Gayundin, nagresulta umano ang tariff cut sa pagbaba ng government revenue, batay kay Vincent Philip Maronilla, assistant commissioner ng Bureau of Customs.

Bilang tugon sa tanong ni Quimbo kung magkano ang nalugi sa kita ng gobyerno, sinabi ni Maronilla: “Per the records of

Bureau of Customs, the foregone revenue is about P12 billion from the time the law was implemented.”

Bukod dito umakyat din ang volume ng imports, subalit hindi pa matukoy ni Maronilla ang eksaktong datos.

“There is more incentive to import,” wika ni Maronilla.

“In short,” ani Quimbo, “it really doesn’t make sense, right?”

Aniya pa: “Bakit hindi masyadong malaki ang effect on the [price] levels?” RNT/SA

<https://remate.ph/pagtapvas-sa-taripa-wa-epek-sa-pagpapababa-ng-presyo-ng-bigas-solon/>

REMATE:

Mga baboy sa ASF-free areas babakunahan ng DA

November 26, 2024 14:57

MANILA, Philippines- Magsisimula na ang Department of Agriculture (DA) na bakunahan ang mga baboy sa mga lugar na walang aktibong kaso ng African swine fever (ASF) para tugunan ang mababang partisipasyon sa vaccination drive.

Nakasaad sa Administrative Circular No. 13, sinabi ng DA na isasama na sa vaccination program ang mga baboy sa mga barangay na 'no active ASF cases' sa loob ng 40 araw at mga lugar na dati nang nabansagan bilang red o pink zones subalit ngayon ay 'no active ASF cases' na.

Ang Red zones ay tumutukoy sa mga lugar na sapul ng ASF, habang ng pink zones ay mga lugar na "no ASF but are adjacent to an infected zone."

Ang pagbabakuna ay gagawin lamang sa mga inihawalay na baboy o lumalaking baboy na nasa apat na linggo na ang edad at kailangang malusog o nasuri na negatibo sa ASF.

"There is no minimum number of pigs required for vaccination and pigs do not need to be in the same age group for vaccination," ayon sa DA.

Papayagan naman ang mga bakunadong baboy na ibiyahe para katayin lamang kapag lumabas na malusog ang mga ito at nasuri na negatibo sa ASF viral antigen sa loob ng 30-day post-vaccination monitoring period.

Isasagawa naman ang pagsusuri sa loob ng pitonh araw bago pa katayin kung ang monitoring period ay lumampas ng 30 araw.

“Clearing vaccinated pigs for transportation must adhere to current regulations, including obtaining a certification from local authorities that ASF is not present in the area where the pigs are coming from,” batay sa DA.

“Pigs that test positive for ASF viral antigen and exhibit clinical signs consistent with ASF must be depopulated. Pigs that test positive but do not show any clinical signs will undergo additional monitoring and testing. Shipment, however, will be suspended and the pigs will be subject to a seven-day observation period.”

“If pigs test negative, they can be delivered for slaughter. However, pigs that remain positive after additional tests will be depopulated based on existing guidelines,” wika pa ng departamento.

Samantala, nauna nang sinabi ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. na namahagi na ang DA ng unang 10,000 doses ng AVAC live vaccines mula Vietnam at sa susunod ay gagamit naman ng 150,000 doses, na hanggang sa ngayon ay hindi pa rin dumarating sa bansa.

Hanggang nitong Nobyembre 8, ang aktibong ASF cases ang naitala sa anim na rehiyon at 20 lalawigan, ayon sa Bureau of Animal Industry.

Sinasabing tumama ang ASF sa 76 lalawigan simula ng naitala ng Pilipinas ang unang outbreak noong 2019. **Kris Jose**

<https://remate.ph/mga-baboy-sa-asf-free-areas-babakunahan-ng-da/>

REMATE:

Pag-import ng karagdagang 8,280 MT ng frozen na isda aprub sa DA

November 26, 2024 18:12

MANILA, Philippines- Inaprubahan ng Department of Agriculture ang karagdagang importasyon ng 8,280 metric tons ng frozen small pelagic fish upang matugunan ang epekto sa domestic supply ng mga nagdaang bagyo.

Sinabi ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. na kailangang ayusin ang certificate of necessity to import 30,000 metric tons ng frozen small pelagic species tulad ng round scad at mackerel “upang matugunan ang epekto ng Bagyong Kristine, Leon, Marce, Nika, Ofel at Pepito sa suplay ng isda para sa ikaapat na quarter ng 2024.”

Ayon sa DA, ang desisyon na payagan ang mga karagdagang pag-import ay napagpasyahan pagkatapos ng isang pulong ng National Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council.

Ang paunang dami ng pag-import ng isda ay nilayon upang madagdagan ang suplay sa mga wet market sa panahon ng closed-fishing season sa mga pangunahing lugar ng pangangitlog ng isda sa bansa. Ang closed-fishing season ay nagsisimula sa Nobyembre at umaabot hanggang kalagitnaan ng Marso.

Ang sanitary at phytosanitary import clearance para sa karagdagang dami ng pag-import ng isda ay ibibigay hanggang Disyembre 16, at ang mga isda na inaangkat sa

panahon ng mga SPSIC na ito ay dapat dumating sa bansa sa Enero 30 sa susunod na taon.

Sinabi ni Secretary Tiu Laurel na ang alokasyon ng 8,000 metric tons ay hindi makakaapekto sa dating inilaan na Maximum Importable Volume habang ang 280 metric tons ay ilalaan para sa KADIWA ng Pangulo centers.

Ang frozen na isda na inilaan para sa mga sentro ng KADIWA ng Pangulo ay nilayon upang mabigyan ang mga kabilang sa mga mahihinang sektor tulad ng mga indigents, persons with disabilities at senior citizens ng abot-kayang mapagkukunan ng protina. **Santi Celario**