

CLIPPING FOR TODAY NOVEMBER 04, 2024

A. THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA urged to implement price control on fish

Analysts expect inflation to pick up pace in October

Nearly 750,000 people displaced due to Kristine, Leon

DA cuts red tape on chicken deliveries

DA: P666.86 million released for 86,066 farmers affected by Kristine

B. BUSINESS WORLD:

Farm output in third quarter likely fell on impact of storms

Crop insurance payouts for victims of 'Kristine' to total P666.5 million

China pivot from US farm imports bolsters it against trade war risks

C. MANILA STANDARD:

DA W. Visayas harvest saline-resistant rice

D. THE MANILA TIMES:

Gov't tallying crop insurance payouts

Inflation forecast to have hit 2.3%

E. BUSINESS MIRROR:

'Kristine' farm damage hits ₱5.75B, and counting: DA

NIA to complete Davao irrigation projects by yearend

Groups condemn coal barge accident in Zambales fish sanctuary, disastrous coal spill in Sorsogon

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA urged to implement price control on fish

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

November 4, 2024 | 12:00am



File photo of galunggong

The STAR / Michael Varcas, File

MANILA, Philippines — A fishers' group has asked the Department of Agriculture (DA) to implement a price control amid the spike in the retail cost of fish in various markets.

Based on the latest price monitoring of Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya), fish products have increased significantly following successive typhoons.

Round scad or galunggong ranged between P220 and P240 per kilo; tilapia, between P160 and P180 per kilo and milkfish or bangus, P180 per kilo, Pamalakaya vice chairperson Ronnel Arambulo noted.

“The spike was not due to typhoons and the fisherfolk, but the traders who took advantage of the calamity to manipulate the retail prices of fish,” Arambulo said.

The farmgate price of fish remains low despite the retail cost increase in markets, he added.

Tilapia's farmgate price only ranged between P50 and P60, but the retail price has tripled, he noted.

“The DA should be obligated to implement concrete action to ensure that traders do not take advantage of the situation through the imposition of price control,” he said.

Under Republic Act 7581 or the Price Act, Arambulo said the government can implement automatic price control to address the illegal manipulation of prices and profiteering.

The government should buy fishermen's produce, he said.

Based on DA's monitoring of Metro Manila markets, the retail price of round scad ranged between P200 and P360 per kilo; tilapia, between P110 and P180 per kilo and milkfish, between P150 and P220 per kilo.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/11/04/2397449/da-urged-implement-price-control-fish>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Analysts expect inflation to pick up pace in October

[Keisha Ta-Asan](#) - The Philippine Star

November 4, 2024 | 12:00am



However, this would still be lower than the 4.9 percent inflation print in October 2023.

MANILA, Philippines — Economists are anticipating a faster increase in prices of essential goods and services for October amid fading base effects, unfavorable weather conditions and fuel price hikes.

Patrick Ella, an economist at Sun Life Investment Management and Trust Corp. said inflation may have picked up to 2.3 percent in October from 1.9 percent in September.

However, this would still be lower than the 4.9 percent inflation print in October 2023.

He also said there is no possibility of inflation exceeding the two to four percent target of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in October. It would also hit the BSP's two to 2.8 percent month-ahead forecast.

The Philippine Statistics Authority is scheduled to release the October inflation data this Nov. 5.

“As for monetary policy, I think it’s on auto-pilot and I see very little factors to interrupt a 25-basis-point cut on Dec. 19,” Ella added.

The BSP's Monetary Board delivered a 25-basis-point cut last Oct. 16 as the within-target inflation outlook and well-anchored inflation expectations continue to support the central bank's shift toward a less restrictive monetary policy.

The central bank has lowered borrowing costs by a total of 50 basis points so far or since it began its easing cycle in August. Prior to the cuts, the BSP kept its policy rate steady for six straight meetings since November 2023. From May 2022 to October 2023, it hiked rates by 450 basis points to tame inflation.

For his part, UnionBank chief economist Ruben Carlo Asuncion said inflation went up to 2.5 percent in October due to slightly higher electricity charges compared to a year ago.

"Higher fuel prices for October also contributed, along with an uptick of prices in various food items. Note that the impact of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine may still have to be felt this November round," he said.

In October, pump price adjustments resulted in a net increase of P2.80 per liter for gasoline and P4.60 per liter for diesel as well as P3.25 per liter for kerosene.

Bank of the Philippine Islands lead economist Jun Neri also sees October inflation at 2.5 percent, equivalent to a 0.4 percent month-on-month increase.

"The previous month's headline print was likely the lowest for this year due to fading base effects. Unfavorable weather conditions in October may have affected the price of some food items, especially vegetables and fruits," he said.

Based on the latest bulletin from the Department of Agriculture, agricultural damage caused by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine amounted to P5.75 billion, displacing 131,661 farmers and fisherfolk and destroying over 100,000 hectares of farmlands.

The peso depreciation may have also fueled the increase in food costs, Neri said. Even though rice prices fell in October amid improving supply, the decline has not been significant enough as there are legal challenges in implementing the rice tariff cuts.

"Despite this anticipated uptick, we expect inflation to remain manageable in the next 12 months, barring new supply shocks," he said.

Neri flagged upside risks to the inflation outlook such as the possibility of La Niña and African swine fever. Inflation also remains sensitive to climate conditions, but stable commodity prices amid China's economic slowdown may offset these risks.

The BPI economist said that a rate cut from the BSP could happen in December as inflation is expected to remain manageable. However, external developments may also affect the central bank's decision.

“The recent depreciation of the peso reflects the market's concerns over the pace of the Federal Reserve's rate cuts and the possibility that the Fed could pause,” he said.

He said that the peso could weaken further in the coming months driven by a stronger-than-expected US jobs report or a Republican victory in the upcoming US elections.

“The BSP may consider a pause in its rate cuts if the Fed doesn't cut as anticipated,” Neri said. “The recent volatility in the markets highlights the need for prudence when it comes to rate cuts.”

“While inflation forecasts allow room for a cut, aggressive action may not be prudent in the current climate. Global and domestic supply shocks can alter the outlook for inflation quickly, making a cautious approach to rate cuts more suitable to maintain stability,” he added.

Michael Ricafort, chief economist at Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., said inflation likely rose to 2.4 percent in October. This could bring full-year inflation to an average of 3.2 percent this year.

Ricafort said flood damage in hard-hit areas caused by Kristine could cause some temporary spike in inflation. However, this could be mitigated by the price freeze for 60 days in areas declared under state of calamity.

“Inflation could still remain at the two percent levels for the rest of 2024, though some seasonal pickup in prices is expected toward the Christmas holiday season amid increased demand/spending, but only to eventually go down upon crossing the new year,” he said.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/11/04/2397365/analysts-expect-inflation-pick-pace-october>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Nearly 750,000 people displaced due to Kristine, Leon

[Evelyn Macairan](#), [Mayen Jaymalin](#), [Pia Lee-Brago](#) - The Philippine Star

November 4, 2024 | 12:00am



Due to the onslaught of the #KristinePH, Wawa Park in Paete, Laguna, remains affected by flooding on November 1, 2024.

Ryan Baldemor / The Philippine STAR

MANILA, Philippines — Nearly 750,000 people remain displaced due to the combined effects of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine and Super Typhoon Leon, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said yesterday.

In a situational report, the NDRRMC said a total of 227,133 people or 56,396 families sought shelter in 1,467 evacuation centers, while 521,858 people or 108,941 families stayed outside evacuation centers.

The tropical cyclones affected a total of 2,200,731 families or 8,630,663 people.

The death toll remained at 146, with 126 still for validation and 20 people still missing as of yesterday.

Of the 130 reported injured, 120 are being validated.

Damage to agriculture was estimated at P4,526,481,853.51 while a total of 106,715 farmers and fisherfolk were affected.

The NDRRMC said 105 irrigation facilities were also damaged with an estimated amount of P1,031,418,000.

Damage to infrastructure reached P7,212,262,651.45 with 946 structures affected.

Workers get cash aid

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) has distributed an initial amount of P30.8 million cash-for-work wages for typhoon-affected workers in Bicol.

DOLE-Bicol regional director Imelda Gatinao led the initial payouts to 7,249 beneficiaries of assistance under the government's Tulong Panghanapbuhay Para sa Ating Displaced Workers (TUPAD) program in the Bicol Region.

The beneficiaries came from different municipalities in Albay, Camarines Sur, Masbate, Sorsogon and Catanduanes.

Each beneficiary received a daily salary of P395 doing various community development projects, including cleanup drives, community-based farming initiatives, planting of disaster-resilient crops and relief goods repacking.

Gatinao said the government would continue to extend necessary assistance to help workers and their families recover from the impact of any disaster or calamity.

The TUPAD Program provides temporary wage employment to workers for 10 to 30 days of community work, particularly in times of disaster and calamities, enabling them to contribute to improving and rehabilitating their respective communities.

Relief goods to Bicol

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) on Saturday sent three ships to deliver relief goods to flood victims in the Bicol region affected by Kristine.

The PCG's BRP Cabra departed from Katawhan Plaza, Cebu City, while the BRP Malabrigo and BRP Malapascua departed from Pier 2, Quezon Boulevard, Cebu City, going to Pasacao Port, Camarines Sur.

The three ships carried 9,000 relief boxes from the Department of Social Welfare and Development to families in Bicol.

Since Kristine flooded and caused massive landslides in several parts of the Bicol region, the PCG actively participated in search and rescue operations, and later shifted its operations to the delivery of food and other relief supplies to affected families.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/11/04/2397426/nearly-750000-people-displaced-due-kristine-leon>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA cuts red tape on chicken deliveries

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

November 4, 2024 | 12:00am



Tiu Laurel issued Administrative Circular No. 9, amending Administrative Order No. 05, on the guidelines on the local shipment of animals, animal products and by-products, including broilers.

AFP, file

MANILA, Philippines — Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has ordered the Bureau of Animal Industry to simplify the procedures in the delivery of chicken in markets amid complaints from broilers' groups.

Tiu Laurel issued Administrative Circular No. 9, amending Administrative Order No. 05, on the guidelines on the local shipment of animals, animal products and by-products, including broilers.

He said that a petition was submitted by stakeholders seeking to exempt broiler chicken from the veterinary health certificate being required by the local government units and regional field offices for the local shipment of broilers.

“The current requirement for veterinary health certificate concurrence by local government unit or DA regional field offices poses an undue burden on the poultry

industry, adding regulatory hurdles and costs that may not align with the principles of balanced regulation and streamlined processes, particularly in the absence of any poultry disease outbreak,” Tiu Laurel noted.

Under AC No. 9, in areas without ongoing cases or declared outbreaks of high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI), a veterinary health certificate issued by a licensed veterinarian is sufficient to certify that the broilers have been inspected and found free from transmissible diseases.

He added that transport of broilers from farms or establishments without ongoing HPAI will be permitted upon presentation of a valid local shipping permit.

Tiu Laurel said that the broilers must be transported directly from the source farm to the designated location as specified in the local shipping permit.

“Loading and unloading of broilers during transit is strictly prohibited. Broilers shall not be permitted to be returned to their point of origin if they have already been transported to areas with confirmed cases of HPAI,” Tiu Laurel added.

The demand for chicken is expected to increase amid the holidays.

Based on monitoring of the DA in Metro Manila markets, the retail price of whole chicken ranged between P150 and P220 per kilo.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/11/04/2397443/da-cuts-red-tape-chicken-deliveries>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA: P666.86 million released for 86,066 farmers affected by Kristine

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

November 4, 2024 | 12:00am



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

The Philippine STAR / Noel B. Pabaleta

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (PCIC) has released at least P666.86 million to indemnify 86,066 insured farmers affected by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said yesterday.

Tiu Laurel cited the report of PCIC president JB Jovy Bernabe who said that the rapid assessment on insured farms affected by Kristine from Oct. 22 to 25 covered 10 regions in the country, with more than half coming from Central Luzon, the Bicol region and Mimaropa.

Bernabe said the insurance payments include P413.5 million for rice, P167.9 million for high-value crops and P27.7 million for fisheries.

“We have set aside an initial amount of P667 million for insurance payments to around 86,066 farmers,” Bernabe said.

The DA operations center said that the damage from Kristine has reached P5.75 billion, with 74 percent or P4.25 billion from rice, P847.48 million from high-value crops and P446.22 million from fisheries.

At the same time, Tiu Laurel asked the PCIC to expedite the processing of insurance claims and to provide all possible assistance to help farmers quickly recover from the disaster.

Tiu Laurel also instructed the PCIC to prepare for potential damage that might be inflicted on the agriculture sector by Super Typhoon Leon.

He added that although the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) projected that Leon would not make landfall in any part of the country, the super typhoon’s gale-force winds extended over 600 kilometers from its center, potentially generating storm surges of up to 12 meters high, which may cause significant damage to the farming and fishery sectors.

“The pace of recovery for agriculture after a disaster like this will be determined by how quickly the government can provide inputs and financial assistance to farmers and fisherfolk. That is why I have ordered all agencies of the Department of Agriculture, including attached corporations such as the NFA (National Food Authority) and PCIC, to conduct quick needs assessments so that help can be provided immediately,” Tiu Laurel said.

Luzon dams still releasing water

At least two Luzon dams continue to release water, as the reservoirs are set to reach normal high water levels, amid the rains brought by the Leon and Kristine, according to the Hydrometeorology Division of PAGASA.

As of 8 a.m. yesterday, one gate of Ambuklao Dam in Benguet remains open at 0.3 meters and releasing water at 60.97 cubic meters per second (cms) after it reached 751.47 or barely 0.64 meters below its normal high water level of 752 meters.

One gate of Binga Dam in Benguet is also releasing water at 53.79 cms, with an opening of 0.3 meters as it reached 574.23 meters or just 0.77 meters below its normal high water level of 575 meters.

Meanwhile, all the gates of Magat Dam in Isabela were already closed since Friday. The water level of the dam reached 184.48 meters or 8.52 meters below its normal high water level of 193 meters.

On the other hand, the water level of Angat Dam dropped by 0.10 meters after it reached 202.41 meters, or 7.59 meters below its normal high water level of 210 meters.

Ipo Dam in Bulacan reached 100.31 meters or 0.79 meters below its normal high water level of 101.1 meters.

La Mesa Dam in Quezon City reached 79.55 meters or 0.60 meters below its spilling level of 80.15 meters.

San Roque Dam in Pangasinan reached 277.96 meters, after it increased by 0.30 meters, compared to its previous level of 277.66 meters. It is 2.04 meters below its normal high water level of 280 meters.

Pantabangan Dam in Nueva Ecija reached 208.93 meters, or 12.07 meters below its normal high water level of 221 meters.

Caliraya Dam in Laguna dropped by 0.17 meters after it reached 286.9 meters compared to its previous level of 287.07 meters.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/11/04/2397433/da-p66686-million-released-86066-farmers-affected-kristine>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Farm output in third quarter likely fell on impact of storms

November 4, 2024 | 12:03 am



PHILIPPINE STAR/MICHAEL VARCAS

By **Adrian H. Halili**, *Reporter*

AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT in the third quarter likely fell due to the impact of tropical cyclones on crops and livestock, analysts said.

Former Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar gave an estimate for the third quarter of a 3% decline, citing the unfavorable weather and the continued effects of African Swine Fever (ASF).

The value of farm and fisheries production fell 0.3% in the third quarter of 2023. Output in the second quarter of 2024 had declined 3.3%.

“The onset of tropical cyclones has badly affected third quarter output... La Niña with its heavy rainfall and flooding coupled with African Swine Fever will affect greatly Philippines agricultural output in the third quarter,” Mr. Dar said via Viber.

“Regions had been reporting increasing yield per hectare but due to typhoons and floods they have been (damaged). This also includes vegetable areas in Northern Luzon,” Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food, Inc. President Danilo V. Fausto said via telephone.

La Niña, which has not formally been declared but could persist until early 2025, increases the likelihood of tropical cyclones, low-pressure areas, and the intensification of the Southwest Monsoon, according to the government weather service, known as PAGASA.

University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) Center for Food and Agribusiness Executive Director Marie Annette Galvez-Dacul said via Viber that disease outbreaks, rising farm input prices, and weather disturbances continue to dampen agricultural output.

On the other hand, she said output could be buoyed by increased food consumption and the growth of the food services sector.

The continued likelihood of strong typhoons will affect livestock, Alfred Ng, vice-chairman of the National Federation of Hog Farmers, Inc. (Nat Fed) said via Viber, particularly in terms of crops that serve as animal feed.

“Corn has suffered losses in typhoon-hit provinces,” Mr. Ng added.

According to a Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) report released on Oct. 15, output of palay (unmilled rice) likely declined 12% to 3.35 million metric tons (MT) during the third quarter compared with actual output a year earlier.

The corn harvest is believed to have increased 2% to 2.53 million MT compared with actual output a year earlier.

Federation of Free Farmers National Manager Raul Q. Montemayor said via Viber that delayed planting of rice due to the late onset of rains is a factor in the quarter, pushing back the main harvest to the fourth quarter, “but now even fourth quarter crop will be affected by typhoons and floods.”

Palay production is estimated to drop to a four year low of 19.41 million MT in 2024. If realized, this would be equivalent to a 3.24% decline from 2023. The current 2024 forecast had been downgraded from the 20.1 million MT estimate the DA issued in August.

The forecast suggests that the rice industry could be in for its worst production totals since 2020, during which output of the grain totaled 19.29 million MT.

The hog federation’s Mr. Ng said that respiratory diseases are likely to spread in such conditions, affecting mortality rates and animal growth.

He added that increased likelihood of flooding could potentially spread the ASF disease in unaffected areas.

Floods can also be a threat to the swine sector as ASF could bypass the biosecurity measures of otherwise clean farms, he added.

There are 108 municipalities across 25 provinces with active ASF cases as of Oct. 18, the Bureau of Animal Industry reported. The ASF virus was first detected in the Philippines in 2019.

Mr. Ng said that due to renewed outbreak of ASF cases starting August, “many farms will repopulate cautiously, but the impact on may show up sometime first quarter of next year.”

In August, the DA began a limited rollout of the ASF vaccine to smallholder farmers. The department has since included commercial hog farms enrolled into the DA’s Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery and Expansion Program.

So far, only the AVAC ASF Live vaccine from Vietnam has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the controlled rollout. About P350 million was allocated by the DA to procure 600,000 doses.

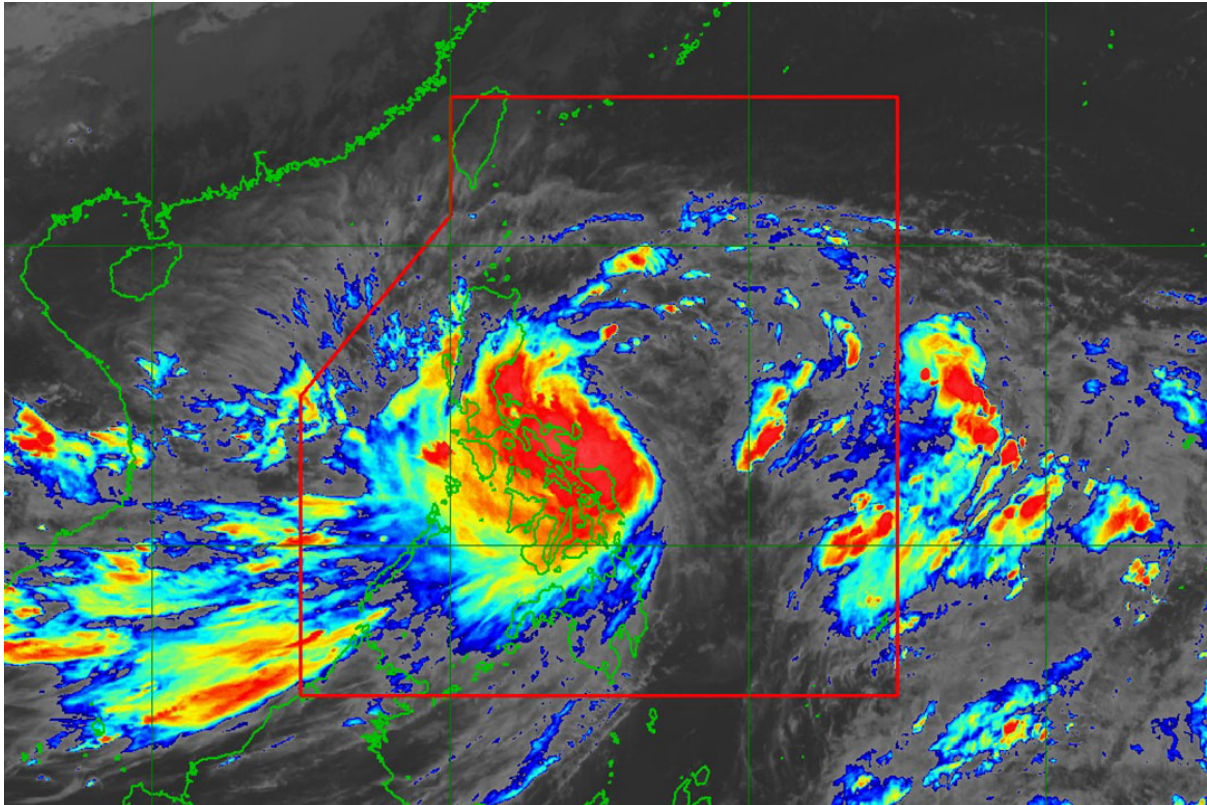
The PSA is scheduled to release third-quarter data on farm output on Nov. 6, Wednesday. The agriculture industry accounts for about a 10th of gross domestic product and around a quarter of all jobs.

<https://www.bworldonline.com/agribusiness/2024/11/04/632326/farm-output-in-third-quarter-likely-fell-on-impact-of-storms/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Crop insurance payouts for victims of ‘Kristine’ to total P666.5 million

November 4, 2024 | 12:02 am



PAGASA.DOST.GOV.PH

TROPICAL DEPRESSION Kristine could trigger indemnification payments for farmers of at least P666.5 million, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said.

In a statement, the DA said that the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (PCIC) estimated that 86,066 farmers across 10 regions were affected by the storm.

More than half of the affected PCIC-insured farms are from Central Luzon, the Bicol Region, and Mimaropa.

“The damage was primarily in rice, high-value crops, and fisheries. Expected insurance payments were estimated at P413.6 million for rice, P167.9 million for high-value crops, and P27.7 million for fisheries, PCIC President Jovy C. Bernabe said.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. instructed the PCIC to expedite the processing of the insurance claims to help farmers recover.

“The pace of recovery for agriculture after a disaster like this will be determined by how quickly the government can provide inputs and financial assistance to farmers and fisherfolk,” Mr. Laurel said.

Mr. Laurel also called on the PCIC to prepare for potential damage that might be inflicted on by Super Typhoon Leon.

In a bulletin posted on Nov. 1, the government weather service, known as the PAGASA, said Leon has weakened into a severe tropical storm and exited the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).

“Although the weather bureau projects that Leon will not make landfall in any part of the country, it had gale-force winds extending over 600 kilometers from its center and could generate storm surges of up to 12 meters high, which may cause significant damage to the farming and fishery sectors,” DA said.

The Philippines experiences about 20 tropical cyclones each year.

PAGASA has logged about 12 tropical cyclones entering the Philippine Area of Responsibility. Two are expected to enter PAR this month. — **Justine Irish D. Tabile**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/agribusiness/2024/11/04/632325/crop-insurance-payouts-for-victims-of-kristine-to-total-p666-5-million/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

China pivot from US farm imports bolsters it against trade war risks

November 4, 2024 | 12:01 am



REUTERS

BEIJING/SINGAPORE — China's push to shift its food import sources since 2018 has put it in a better position to impose tit-for-tat tariffs on US farm goods with less harm to its food security if trade friction with Washington flares after the US presidential election.

The threat of a trade war looms for China, the world's top importer of farm products such as soybeans and corn, with Republican candidate Donald Trump floating blanket 60% tariffs on Chinese goods in a bid to boost US manufacturing.

His opponent Kamala Harris, a Democrat, is also expected to confront China on trade.

Since Mr. Trump was in the White House, China has slashed its dependence on US farm goods in a concerted effort to beef up national security, including food self-sufficiency.

The pivot began in 2018, when Beijing slapped 25% tariffs on imports of US soybeans, beef, pork, wheat, corn, and sorghum, retaliating against duties imposed by the Trump administration on \$300 billion worth of Chinese goods.

The move led to a reshaping of global agriculture trade flows, despite Mr. Trump and then-Chinese Vice-Premier Liu He signing a pact in January 2020 under which Beijing promised to boost purchases of US goods and services, including farm products.

Instead, China has decreased US purchases, buying more grain from Brazil, Argentina, Ukraine, and Australia, even as it boosts domestic production.

“Beijing feels much safer knowing the US has less leverage over China’s food security in the event of a major conflict,” said Even Pay, agriculture analyst at Beijing-based consultancy Trivium China.

“That reduction is by design,” she said.

This year, the share of China’s soybean imports from the US has dropped to 18%, from 40% in 2016, while Brazil’s share has grown to 76% from 46%, according to Chinese customs data.

For corn, Brazil overtook the US as China’s top supplier in 2023, just one year after Beijing approved purchases from the South American agricultural powerhouse.

Meanwhile, Chinese livestock companies have been reducing use of soymeal in feed — a move to ease reliance on imported soybeans — while Beijing has approved genetically modified soybean and corn varieties to boost output.

China’s agriculture ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

A spokesperson for Mr. Trump did not directly comment on the drop in China’s reliance on US farm exports, but pointed to Trump’s comments that tariff is “a beautiful word” and “we will take in hundreds of billions of dollars into our treasury and use that money to benefit the American citizens.”

Ms. Harris’ campaign website says the Democratic candidate “will not tolerate unfair trade practices from China or any competitor that undermines American workers.”

In anticipation of post-election tensions, Chinese buyers have boosted agricultural imports, including American soybeans and corn, traders and analysts say.

Imports of soybeans, used mainly for animal feed, are up 8% in the first nine months of the year, with barley purchases increasing 63% and sorghum shipments climbing 86%.

“This time is different. China is well stocked up on most of its needs,” said a trader at an international trading company in Singapore which sells grains and oilseeds to China and declined to be named as they were not authorized to speak with media.

“There won’t be any supply shock immediately and it will give China time to plan and redirect purchases,” he said.

US soybean export premiums are at their highest in 14 months, as grain merchants race to ship a record harvest ahead of the election.

While Beijing would prefer to avoid targeting food staples in a tit-for-tat trade war, it may be forced to do so, said Wendong Zhang, an assistant professor and agricultural economist at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

“China’s retaliation would be proportional in terms of trade value and with the goal to inflict economic and political cost, which tends to lead to retaliation on agricultural products.”

China's overall trade surplus with the US totaled \$33.33 billion in September alone, limiting its options to retaliate.

"China... can reduce its exposure to US goods only to some extent. There are only limited places where you can get these products from," Dennis Voznesenski, an analyst at Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

Polls show Ms. Harris and Mr. Trump to be neck and neck, although Mr. Trump leads in most agricultural heartland states even though the last trade war was a blow to US farmers and led Mr. Trump's administration to pay them about \$23 billion in compensation, according to the Government Accountability Office.

About half of American soybeans, the top US export to China, are shipped to the country, accounting for \$15.2 billion of trade in 2023, according to the US Census Bureau.

Soybean and corn prices are trading near four-year lows amid ample world supplies, fueling worry among US farmers.

"We are very concerned. We are not the only soybean producer in the world. South America is producing an awful lot of soybeans," said Mark Tuttle, a soybean farmer in northern Illinois. "If we were to institute more tariffs, that would be very detrimental to our situation." — **Reuters**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/agribusiness/2024/11/04/632261/china-pivot-from-us-farm-imports-bolsters-it-against-trade-war-risks/>

MANILA STANDARD:

DA W. Visayas harvest saline-resistant rice

By Caloy Lozada

November 3, 2024, 11:10 pm

ILOILO CITY—The Department of Agriculture (DA) in Western Visayas has harvested 12.4 metric tons of a saline-resistant rice variety, marking a breakthrough for resilient rice production in high-salinity areas.

This harvest, part of a research initiative by the DA's Integrated Agricultural Research Center (WESVIARC) in the Jaro district, yielded 252 bags of NSIC Rc 604 rice, each weighing 49 kilograms.

According to Science Research Specialist Engr. Florida Demamay, the variety was developed under WESVIARC's program to test and refine rice strains that can thrive in saline and lowland-irrigated soils.

The harvest reflects the DA's commitment to enhancing crop performance in challenging conditions and is part of the Masagana Rice Industry Development Program, which aims to boost the country's rice output. Caloy Lozada

Supported by the PalayCheck and Rice Crop Management Advisory Service, the initiative also aims to optimize rice yield and productivity. The rice, planted on July 28, reached maturity and was harvested on October 7.

This milestone is expected to pave the way for more sustainable rice farming practices in regions facing soil salinity issues.

<https://manilastandard.net/news/national/314518772/da-w-visayas-harvest-saline-resistant-rice.html>

THE MANILA TIMES:

Gov't tallying crop insurance payouts

By Janine Alexis Miguel

November 4, 2024

CROP insurance payments to farmers affected by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine will cost the government at least P666.5 million, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said.

An initial report from state-owned Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (PCIC) showed that 86,066 farmers from 10 regions had their crops damaged or wiped out by the storm, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said.

PCIC President JB Jovy Bernabe said the damage was primarily in rice, high-value crops, and fisheries, adding that an "initial amount of P667 million for insurance payments" had been set aside.

In particular, expected insurance payments were estimated to be at P413.6 million for rice, P167.9 million for high-value crops and P27.7 million for fisheries.

Tiu Laurel called for expedited releases of the insurance payments and also told the PCIC to provide all possible assistance to help farmers quickly recover.

"The pace of recovery for agriculture after a disaster like this will be determined by how quickly the government can provide inputs and financial assistance to farmers and fisherfolk," he added.

The Agriculture chief also ordered all DA-attached agencies such as the National Food Authority and the PCIC to conduct quick needs assessments and accordingly provide assistance.

Latest assessments made by the department showed that agricultural damage due to Kristine had climbed to P5.75 billion as of

November 2. The affected farmers and fisherfolk were said to be in the Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, the Cordilleras, Bicol, Mimaropa, Eastern and Western Visayas, Soccsksargen, and Caraga.

The production loss was estimated to be 557,851 metric tons (MT) covering 109,871 hectares (ha) planted to rice, corn and high value crops.

The palay or unmilled rice damage comprised 516,438 MT or P4.25 billion. High-value crops recorded a loss of P847.48 million; fisheries, P446.22 million; corn, P72.15 million; and livestock and poultry. P12.52 million.

The damage to agricultural infrastructure was estimated at P77.41 million.

Tiu Laurel also instructed the PCIC to prepare for potential damage that might have been inflicted on the agriculture sector by Super Typhoon Leon, which followed in the wake of Kristine.

Leon did not make landfall but its gale-force winds extended for over 600 kilometers from its center, which could have caused significant damage to the farming and fishery sectors.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/04/business/top-business/govt-tallying-crop-insurance-payouts/1996629>

THE MANILA TIMES:

Inflation forecast to have hit 2.3%

By Niña Myka Pauline Arceo

November 4, 2024

HIGHER fuel and food prices coupled with base effects could have pushed inflation up in October, analysts said.

The median forecast in a Manila Times poll of economists was 2.3 percent, higher than the September result of 1.9 percent but within the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' (BSP) 2.0- to 2.8-percent estimate for the month.

The BSP, which has a 2.0- to 4.0-percent target for the year, last month lowered its risk-adjusted forecast for 2024 to 3.1 percent from 3.3 percent.

Official October inflation data will be released by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) on Nov. 5.

ANZ Research, with the lowest forecast of 2.0 percent, said that while both food and fuel prices likely picked up, the increase would have been minimal.

"Food inflation is expected to increase but will remain subdued as rice prices fell sharply in October in international markets," it said, adding that lower electricity prices would have softened utilities inflation.

ANZ Research said that the inflation outlook for this year remained "benign, and we expect the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to cut rates by another 25 basis points to 5.75 percent at its next meeting in December."

Emmanuel Lopez from the University of Santo Tomas Graduate School, meanwhile, said that inflation could have hit 2.2 percent

last month, while Moody's Analytics economist Sarah Tan, Sun Life Investment Management and Trust Corp. economist Patrick Ella, and Chinabank Research all expect an increase to 2.3 percent.

Tan and Ella both said that base effects would have driven inflation higher.

"The slight reacceleration is partly contributed by a lower base effect from a year earlier. Overall, October's inflation print will see mixed price movements in the heavily-weighted food basket," Tan said.

She added that prices likely rose faster for certain key agricultural commodities like eggs, milkfish and tomatoes, while price growth likely slowed for rice as retailers passed on lower import tariffs.

Chinabank Research, meanwhile, said that increased domestic fuel prices and upward adjustments to Metro Manila water rates likely contributed to an increase.

"However, these upward price pressures were partly tempered by reductions in electricity rates in many parts of the country," it added.

For both Metrobank Research and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. chief economist Michael Ricafort, inflation could have gone higher to 2.4 percent.

While food prices are expected to increase, low tariffs and the harvest season would have helped lower rice prices in Metro Manila.

"We expect annual rice inflation to be positive in October, though it should remain in the single digits due to a high base from a year ago," Metrobank Research said.

Ricafort said that the increase would be largely due to base effects and a weaker peso.

"Inflation could still remain at the 2-percent levels for the rest of 2024, though some seasonal pick up in prices [is] expected toward the Christmas holiday season amid increased demand, but only to eventually seasonally go down upon crossing the new year after the holiday season," he added.

Bank of the Philippine Islands senior economist Emilio Neri and Union Bank of the Philippines chief economist Ruben Carlo Asuncion had the highest forecasts of 2.5 percent.

"[The] uptick comes from slightly higher electricity charges compared to a year ago," Asuncion said, adding that "higher fuel prices for October also contributed along with uptick of prices in various food items."

Neri, meanwhile, said that unfavorable weather conditions in October may have affected the price of some food items, especially vegetables and fruits.

"Oil price hikes, along with peso depreciation, may have also fueled the increase in food costs," he added.

"The price of rice fell based on PSA data as supply prospects continued to improve, although the decline has not been meaningful as legal challenges surrounding the implementation of the rice tariff cut persist."

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/11/04/business/top-business/inflation-forecast-to-have-hit-23/1996634>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

‘Kristine’ farm damage hits ₱5.75B, and counting: DA

Ada Pelonia
November 4, 2024

TROPICAL storm Kristine destroyed agricultural commodities and infrastructure worth P5.75 billion in its wake, the Department of Agriculture (DA) reported over the weekend.

In its latest bulletin, the DA said the volume of production losses in Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol Region, Western and Eastern Visayas, Soccsksargen and Caraga Region reached 557,851 metric tons (MT).

Broken down, rice suffered most of Kristine’s typhoon impact at 516,438 MT; followed by damage of 35,616 MT for high-value crops; 3,334 MT for corn; and 2,047 MT for cassava and 416 MT for fisheries.

The report also indicated that the production losses were equivalent to P4.25 billion for rice, P847.48 million for high-value crops, P72.15 million for corn, and P38.89 million for cassava.

According to DA, most of the damage and losses incurred by corn and rice were in the reproductive and maturity stages.

The livestock and poultry sector lost 6,112 heads of swine, chicken, cattle, carabao, goat, sheep, ducks, and turkey among others. The value of damage reached P12.52 million, according to the DA.

It valued the damage sustained by the fisheries sector at P446.22 million.

The irrigation facilities and other farm structure also suffered damage valued at P27 million and P50.41 million, respectively. The damage to machinery and equipment was assessed at P300,000.

It noted that damaged farm structures include rain shelter, greenhouses, animal houses, and administrative buildings.

According to DA, tropical storm Kristine affected 131,661 farmers and fisherfolk, with 109,871 hectares (ha) of farmlands. Of this, 71,405 hectares have a chance of recovery.

The DA said it had allocated interventions such as P541.02 million worth of agricultural inputs like rice, corn, and vegetable seeds; as well as drugs and biologics for livestock and poultry.

It added that 5,292 bags of rice stocks from the National Food Authority (NFA) were distributed to local government units (LGUs) in Ilocos Region and Bicol for distribution.

The DA said the available funds from the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) will also be disbursed to indemnify affected farmers.

At least P500 million for the Survival and Recovery (SURE) Loan Program from the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC), with a loanable amount of up to P25,000 payable in three years without interest, was also included.

“As affected areas become accessible, further damage and losses are expected with the conduct of field validation by DA Regional Field Offices [RFOs].”

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/04/kristine-farm-damage-hits-%e2%82%b15-75b-and-counting-da/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

Govt to push ratooning, use of inbred rice seeds

Ada Pelonia
November 4, 2024

The government will encourage planters to use inbred seeds for their third crop or tap other production methods under a rice industry roadmap which aims to significantly raise the output of the staple.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. also said the Department of Agriculture (DA) will release the Philippine Rice Industry Roadmap (PRIR) by yearend.

Among the key measures that the roadmap will push include ramping up crop intensity, promoting ratooning and encouraging farmers to plant a third crop.

The International Rice Research Institute said ratoon rice is produced from the second crop growing from the stubble after harvesting the main crop.

“It can be ratooning or the use of inbred [seeds] for the third cropping (to increase output),” Laurel told the BusinessMirror.

Former University of Asia and the Pacific’s Center for Food and Agribusiness (CFA) Executive Director Senen Reyes said the success of the PRIR will largely depend on government support.

“A roadmap is not an assurance of an industry’s success. There are 20 roadmaps in the DA website whose impact needs to be evaluated,” Reyes told the BusinessMirror.

“How crucial would it be will depend on the sustainable funding and support of the [government] as enabler. It should be a roadmap that is stakeholder crafted, industry owned and implemented.”

Under the Rice Tarrification Law (RTL), the government and stakeholders were mandated to formulate and adopt a roadmap to raise the output of the staple.

Among the principles that should govern its development and implementation include strengthening research and development programs, addressing the impact of income loss caused by rice tariffication, and improving productivity and profitability of small rice farmers and landless farmworkers.

Laurel earlier issued Special Order (SO) 1463, which tapped various government agencies, the academe, and the private sector for the reconstructed technical writing team that would finalize the PRIR.

Under SO 1463, the team would have to settle on the overarching goals and objectives to guide the drafting of the PRIR enhancements and improvements and assess the existing draft document to identify any gaps and areas requiring refinement.

They would also collaborate with the National Rice Program (NRP) to arrange activities and establish timelines for finalizing the PRIR.

The writing team was spearheaded by Hazel Tanchuling of Rice Watch Action Network who is also the chairperson of Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries' National Sectoral Committee on Rice and Other Food Staples.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/04/govt-to-push-ratooning-use-of-inbred-rice-seeds/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

NIA to complete Davao irrigation projects by yearend

Manuel Cayon
November 4, 2024

Davao City — The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) is expected to finish P2.5-billion worth of irrigation projects in the Davao Region this year.

NIA said two of these projects would expand irrigated farmlands in the region by 2,000 hectares.

The Philippine Information Agency reported that NIA Davao Region chief Jimmy L. Apostol had disclosed that the budget is spread to 80 projects across the region.

Apostol said his office already completed 41 projects as of the third quarter, or 80 percent of the target.

Two of these projects could add more than 2,000 hectares of irrigated farmlands. The Upper Saug River Irrigation Project covering 1,040 hectares in New Corella, Davao del Norte is targeted to be completed this year and will benefit 300 farmers.

The other one is the Manat National Irrigation Project in Montevista, Davao de Oro which he said would irrigate almost 1,000 hectares and to benefit more than 600 farmers.

Other irrigation projects in Davao Region this year include the construction of the protection dike upstream of Batutu Dam, and river dredging along Batutu River located in Montevista, Davao de Oro, the PIA said in its daily dispatch last week.

It added that the agency completed the rehabilitation of the diversion dam in the Macangao Communal Irrigation System in Lupon, Davao Oriental.

The NIA has also installed the dam automation with trash and log collector in Libuganon River Irrigation System in the Kapalong, Davao del Norte section of the river.

Apostol said the completed projects would cater to the water needs of the farms of 39,608 planters.

“For 2024 as of September, NIA-11 is able to achieve its targets in terms of actual irrigated area for both first and second cropping seasons of this year. That translates to 167.42 percent of cropping intensity for Davao Region,” Apostol said.

He said that as of December 31 last year, irrigation development in the region was pegged at 61.32 percent of total target or a total of 108,869 hectares with irrigation service. These figures already include other government agencies and private irrigation systems.

He said the total potential irrigable area of the whole Region 11 is 177,547 hectares.

“That leaves us an area of 68,678 hectares that remain to be developed in the region.”

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/04/nia-to-complete-davao-irrigation-projects-by-year-end/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

FAO expands data portal on global agrifood systems

BusinessMirror
November 4, 2024

Policymakers, researchers and the public have a new resource to gauge the scale and importance of agrifood systems in providing employment around the world.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has launched five new indicators and overhauled the data available on its FAOSTAT portal, the global go-to resource for those interested in agrifood facts and rural livelihoods.

The expanded data domain now provides, at the country, regional and global levels, information on 23 indicators ranging from employment in agrifood systems, status in employment, divisions of agriculture and hours worked of the people employed in agriculture, forestry and fishing and in rural areas by sex and age whenever possible.

Key indicators refer to agricultural and non-agricultural employment in agrifood systems and break down data by age groups, sex and sectors of agriculture including forestry and logging and fishing and aquaculture as well as hunting and crop and animal production.

“The expanded FAOSTAT responds to a critical need to improve the availability of employment data to inform the transformation of agrifood systems. It offers a better picture of how many people are working in agrifood systems around the world and highlights their key role in feeding the planet,” said José Rosero Moncayo, chief statistician and director, FAO Statistics Division.

The new FAOSTAT offering gives useful insights on what is the world’s largest labor sector, employing close to 1.3 billion people, or 39.2 percent of the global work force. It also sets the stage for more detailed monitoring of trends at a local level going forward.

FAO noted that the global share of employment in agrifood systems (AFS) has decreased significantly, from 52.2 percent in 2000 to 39.2 percent in 2021, indicating a major shift towards other sectors over the past two decades.

Africa leads with 64.5 percent of employment in AFS, highlighting a strong reliance on agrifood systems. Asia follows with 41.5 percent, reflecting both agrarian economies alongside growing industrialization. The Americas hold a 22.4 percent share in total employment, followed by Oceania at 18.7 percent, and Europe at 14.7 percent, indicating more diversified economies with a lower reliance on AFS employment.

Asia recorded the highest number of people—830 million people—working in agrifood systems, with China and India accounting for nearly 60 percent of such employment. Africa followed with an estimated 300 million people. The two continents combined account for 88 percent of global employment in agrifood systems.

Globally, the agricultural sector makes up 67.5 percent of agrifood system employment, though regional differences are substantial. In the Americas, Europe, and Oceania, much of agrifood employment centers on off-farm activities like food processing, services, trade, transportation, and non-food agricultural manufacturing.

By contrast, Africa and Asia primarily rely on farming for agrifood jobs. Agricultural employment within agrifood systems ranges from 74.4 percent in Africa to just 34.8 percent in Europe.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/04/fao-expands-data-portal-on-global-agrifood-systems/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

Crop insurer to release ₱666.5M to aid farmers

Ada Pelonia
November 4, 2024

THOUSANDS of farmers in the country are expected to receive indemnity checks amounting to around P666.5 million from the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (PCIC) as compensation for the damage caused by severe tropical storm Kristine.

In his report to Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., PCIC President Jovy C. Bernabe said 86,066 tillers on farms under PCIC coverage were affected by Typhoon Kristine. From October 22 to 25, the typhoon, internationally labeled Trami, devastated the livelihood of these farmers across 10 regions, with over half coming from Central Luzon, Bicol and Mimaropa.

Bernabe said the damage was primarily noted in rice, high-value crops and fisheries. He added that expected insurance payments were estimated at P413.6 million for rice, P167.9 million for high-value crops and P27.7 million for fisheries.

Bernabe was quoted in a statement as saying that the PCIC has set aside an initial amount of P667 million for insurance payments to these farmers.

Laurel urged the PCIC to expedite the processing of insurance claims and provide every possible assistance to help farmers quickly recover from the disaster. He has also instructed attached agencies and corporations of the Department of Agriculture (DA) to immediately conduct an assessment of the impact of Typhoon Leon (Kong-rey).

While Leon did not make landfall, its gale-force winds could have affected the farming and fishery sectors in the areas where storm signals were raised, read the statement from the DA.

“The pace of recovery for agriculture after a disaster like this will be determined by how quickly the government can provide inputs and financial assistance to farmers and fisherfolk,” Laurel said.

“That is why I have ordered all agencies of the Department of Agriculture [DA], including attached corporations such as the NFA (National Food Authority) and PCIC, to conduct quick needs assessments so that help can be provided immediately,” he added.

According to the DA, the PCIC plays a crucial role in promoting food production by providing insurance protection to farmers, fishermen, and livestock raisers against natural calamities, diseases, pest infestations and other risks.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/04/crop-insurer-to-release-%e2%82%b1666-5m-to-aid-farmers/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

Groups condemn coal barge accident in Zambales fish sanctuary, disastrous coal spill in Sorsogon

BusinessMirror
November 4, 2024

Former ACT Teachers Party-list Rep. Antonio Tinio condemned the recent coal spill disasters in Sorsogon and Zambales, warning of their catastrophic impact on fisher folk communities, marine ecosystem, and public health.

“As we are still conducting relief operation in Bicol in the aftermath of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine, we are now confronted with these environmental disasters that threaten the livelihood of our fisher folk and the integrity of our marine sanctuaries” Tinio said.

The former solon highlighted how the coal spill in Sorsogon has already resulted in fish kills and the death of marine life, while the Zambales incident has endangered the Masinloc-Oyon Bay Protected Seascape and Landscape, a critical marine sanctuary.

A barge that was carrying an unspecified amount of coal capsized in the waters of Barangay Buenavista, Sorsogon City during the onslaught of Severe Tropical Storm “Kristine”.

Lidy Nacpil, coordinator of the Asian Peoples’ Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD), said the running aground of the coal barge in the Zambales fish sanctuary recently is a major disaster imperiling biodiversity and the livelihood of many communities.

“This incident spells another disaster in terms of protecting biodiversity and sustaining livelihoods of communities that depend” on the protected area,” she said.

The barge, carrying over 11,000 metric tons of coal, ran aground at the Masinloc-Oyon Bay Protected Seascape and Landscape, the first marine protected area in Central Luzon and considered one of the key biodiversity areas in the country.

“These incidents expose the inherent dangers of our continued dependence on coal. Not only does coal contribute to climate change when burned for energy, but its transportation also poses severe risks to our communities and environment. Our fish folk, who are already struggling due to recent typhoons, are now faced with the prospect of long term damage to their fishing grounds,” Tinio said.

“We demand immediate action from the DENR, PCG, and other concerned agencies to contain these spills and conduct thorough investigation. The companies responsible must be held accountable and should provide compensation to affected communities,” he added.

Tinio also called for an urgent transition to renewable energy sources. “These disasters underscore the need to phase out coal dependency and shift to sustainable energy alternatives. We cannot continue putting our communities and environment at risk for the sake of dirty energy,” he concluded.

The SMC Shipping and Lighterage Corp. reported the coal barge sinking in Zambales.

A Philippine Coast Guard station head was quoted by the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ) as saying that the barge came from Semirara in Antique and was on its way to La Union.

“At the height of Typhoon #KristinePH, the barge temporarily stopped at San Salvador Island. Masinloc sea patrol chairman reported that the barge bumped into coral reefs, spilling its cargo. San Salvador Island is classified as a marine sanctuary,” PMCJ said.

“It was also around this time last year when a vessel carrying 70,000 liters of diesel oil sank off the coast of Calatagan town in Batangas province and caused an oil spill along another protected area, the Verde Island Passage (VIP),” Nacpil noted.

The latest incident, besides damaging marine resources, “also highlights the dirty costs of transporting coal and the inefficiency of the fossil fuel system. We all know that when coal, the dirtiest fossil fuel, is burned to generate electricity, they release planet-heating emissions. But coal is also dirty to transport. Transporting

coal also causes air pollution and when transport accidents happen, they can lead to coal spills, which is toxic to marine life as well as to water sources and public health,” Nacpil said.

The PMCJ, meanwhile, also weighed in on the matter.

Zambales climate justice groups who live near the protected waters of Oyon Bay have raised alarm to the local and national government demanding accountability, immediate investigation, and prosecution, the PMCJ said Friday

Last October 18, climate justice groups from Zambales, together with the PMCJ, asked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) to oppose the expansion of San Miguel Global Power (SMGP)’s Masinloc coal-fired power plant. They claimed the continued presence of the coal plants will continue to destroy marine biodiversity given that Masinloc-Oyon Bay is a protected seascape.

Masinloc-Oyon Bay was declared a Protected Seascape and Landscape (MOBPLS) under Republic Act No. 7586, or the National Integrated Protected Areas System Act, and became the first marine protected area in Central Luzon.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/04/groups-condemn-coal-barge-accident-in-zambales-fish-sanctuary-disastrous-coal-spill-in-sorsogon/>