

CLIPPINGS FOR TODAY NOVEMBER 08, 2024

A. MANILA BULLETIN:

DA: 'Kristine', 'Leon' damage to agriculture now at P7-B; over 171,000 farmers affected

Beyond Donald and Kamala

Pangandaman assures public on disaster relief funds

NIA eyes shift in planting season to lessen typhoon damage to ricefields

P24.4-M insurance payments distributed to 'Kristine'-hit farmers in Bicol—DA

B. THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Kristine damage to agriculture rises to P6.83 billion

P24.4M worth of 'insurance payments' given to farmers hit by 'Kristine'

C. PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

P32-M worth of farm machinery distributed in Zambales

PH GDP growth slowed sharply to 5.2% in Q3

D. BUSINESS MIRROR:

Climate risks to agri, infra to hurt growth

Loans for rural development, farms hit ₱1.7 trillion in first sem—BSP

E. REMATE:

Cagayan bird-flu free na – DA

DA: Agri output Q3 bumaba sa sama ng panahon, ASF

MANILA BULLETIN:

DA: 'Kristine', 'Leon' damage to agriculture now at P7-B; over 171,000 farmers affected

BY JEL SANTOS

Nov 7, 2024 06:40 PM



The damage wrought by Typhoons “Kristine” and “Leon” has hit nearly ₱7 billion, the Department of Agriculture (DA) reported on Thursday, Nov. 7.

Based on the DA’s Bulletin No. 14, it said the weather disturbances also affected 171,080 farmers and fisherfolk.

The areas covered in the damage estimate of the agriculture department were the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, Bicol Region, Western, Central, and Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, SOCCSKSARGEN and Caraga Region.

“Damage and losses have been reported in rice, corn, cassava, high-value crops, livestock & poultry, fisheries, machinery and equipment, and agricultural infrastructures,” the DA noted.

According to DA, the typhoons affected a total of 141,971 hectares (ha) of agricultural areas, leading to a volume of production loss at 317,316 metric tons (MT).

The agency, meanwhile, said the production losses for fisheries were at 1,780 MT.

The DA said that rice production losses have reached ₱5.05 billion, impacting 131,168 hectares and amounting to 271,464 metric tons, which is 1.34 percent of the total annual target of 20.19 million metric tons.

Corn production losses amount to ₱107.95 million, impacting 3,197 hectares with a volume loss of 4,714 metric tons, representing 0.05 percent of the yearly production target of 8.86 million metric tons, the department stated.

Aid for farmers, fishers

To cushion the effects of the two typhoons, the DA provided ₱549.64 million worth of agricultural inputs such as rice, corn, vegetable seeds, drugs, and biologics for livestock and poultry.

The agency said 15,697 bags of rice stocks from the National Food Authority (NFA) have been issued to local government units (LGUs), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and legislators in Regions I, III, IV, V, VIII, and XII.

It also provided ₱1 billion Quick Response Fund (QRF) was made available for the rehabilitation and recovery of affected areas.

As such, ₱500 million was made available to farmers and fishers under the Survival and Recovery (SURE) Loan Program of the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) with up to ₱25,000 loanable amount, payable in three years at zero interest.

The Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) has also indemnified insured affected farmers.

KADIWA stores were also opened in affected areas to provide affordable agricultural products.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/7/kristine-leon-agri-damage-reaches-p7-b>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Beyond Donald and Kamala

BY DIWA C. GUINIGUNDO

Nov 7, 2024 02:03 PM

OF SUBSTANCE AND SPIRIT



As we wrote this piece, the election in the US was likened into a woman in travail, laboring in child birth. In a few hours, the world will know whether it's a Donald or a Kamala. The market believes it could be problematic if the US pivots back to narrow economic nationalism which involves bringing goods and services production back to the United States, or putting up barriers to immigration. Yet, CNN's initial exit polls indicate that only about a third of voters thought the economy is in good or excellent shape, down from about half who said the same in 2020. This is not good for Kamala. This seems to confirm Donald's claim throughout the campaign that the Americans are not getting a fair deal.

True, if the IMF's World Economic Outlook for October 2024 is to be a lead, the projected US growth was actually revised up to 2.8 percent from July's forecast of 2.6 percent this year. But some emerging risks could be higher. For instance, US inflation is expected to persist and keep the US Fed cautious with its easing mode. Indeed, it is about to hold its monetary policy meeting this week and the bet is on a controlled easing if not an altogether steady stance. Interest rate expectations could remain elevated and the US dollar firm. These are not actually growth-positive.

Funding-wise, if the US Fed decides to be more cautious — perhaps in anticipation of the potential fallout from the election — emerging markets' ability to borrow and service their loans in the US capital markets may be at risk. As Fitch Ratings recently reported, the

Philippines is among a few sovereigns who issued foreign-currency debt in the third quarter. The country's external debt is now at an all-time high of \$130.2 billion.

For emerging markets like the Philippines, monetary policy could be most appropriate, measured as necessary, but they could also be driven by geopolitical factors like the US election's collateral impact on their trade, migration and macroeconomic policy. Beyond these, there are pressing domestic issues that could downgrade their growth prospects.

In this country, climate change is causing devastation to both agriculture and industry. The Department of Agriculture recently estimated that El Niño and the series of typhoons and tropical storms reduced palay supply by more than one million metric tons (MT) for the last 10 months of 2024. Historical losses averaged only 500-600,000 MT. In terms of milled rice, it means we need to import an additional 670,000 MT. If imports foul up, inflation could definitely run up and weaken personal consumption and therefore growth.

These weather shocks also underpin the deceleration in manufacturing activity in October. The country's purchasing managers' index (PMI) fell from 53.7 to 52.9, still showing an expansion but at a slower rate. A lower reading indicates lower increase in new business orders and output. Although the highest in the ASEAN, the Philippines' PMI reflects some slight deterioration in any of the following: new orders, output, employment, suppliers' delivery times and stocks of purchases.

The other risk is fiscal space. National government (NG) cash operations continue to bleed with a deficit reaching ₱970 billion for the first three quarters of the year which could tip at between five to six percent of GDP. With taxation relegated to the backburner, NG has ramped up public debt now at ₱15.9 trillion, about three years of the country's annual budget. For debt servicing, NG spent ₱751 billion last year, and for the first eight months of 2024, ₱915 billion or around 15 percent of the annual budget.

If the Supreme Court decides to invalidate the Department of Finance's directive to turn over PhilHealth's "idle, unused and excess funds" that means NG would have less ₱89.9 billion from its funding side, unless this is matched by a higher borrowing. This is hardly growth-positive.

With poor allocation of the budget — pork barrel, intelligence and confidential funds, and weak monitoring of flood control projects, and all that — we doubt whether the basic issues of human capital development and infrastructure could be given sufficient support.

Human capital is developed when we spend enough for education and health, and when we spend more for innovation through higher levels of research and development. Our own National Innovation Council, in charge of formulating the development of the National Innovation Agenda and Strategy Document or NIASD, is just beginning. The secretariat housed in NEDA has little institutional character and funding. No government can overemphasize enough the enormous value added of education, training, skills set, innovation

and digital transformation in elevating and maintaining both the growth momentum and the quality of growth.

Infrastructure, on the other hand, as represented by the government's 13 flagship projects aimed at establishing physical connectivity, water resources, digital connectivity and health, has barely taken off the ground. As of March 2024, only two have been completed. The government should assure the civil society of the higher likelihood of the other 11 being completed this year even as the August 2024 infrastructure spending actually declined by 11 percent. To be sure, good and quality infrastructure increases the sustainability of growth. Whatever shortfall in domestic investment can be very well complemented by foreign investment which would not need additional incentive to come and invest in the Philippines. With good infra backbone and people, we have what it takes to host successful business ventures.

Already, some observers of the Philippine growth story have begun to forecast lower growth for the country. For instance, the Fund at the conclusion of the 2024 Article IV consultation announced forecast below-target growth rates of 5.8 percent and 6.1 percent for 2024 and 2025, respectively, on account of the expected slowdown in major economies and potential increases in commodity prices. The Fund, however, places some confidence that if properly harnessed, the country's abundant natural resources, untapped blue economy and its demographic advantage could by all means secure for the Philippines a more vigorous, more resilient economy.

Moody's Analytics broadly shares this view in its assessment of the growth prospect for the third quarter of 5.7 percent. It is not too sanguine about the impact of the BSP's rate cuts because of the lag time, while exports may "lose some shine" due to soft external demand and slowdown in world tourist arrivals.

While the issue between Donald and Kamala could be existential for some countries, our hands are quite full with household problems and challenges. Good governance could not be more pressing than now

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/7/beyond-donald-and-kamala>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Pangandaman assures public on disaster relief funds

BY MANILA BULLETIN

Nov 7, 2024 01:58 PM

Despite concerns over depleted Quick Response Funds (QRF) in some government agencies, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has assured the public that sufficient funds are available to support areas ravaged by recent natural disasters.

In a statement on Thursday, Nov. 7, Budget Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman clarified that the QRF is not a single fund but is instead distributed among various agencies.

These include the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Education, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, and the Philippine National Police.

Also included are the Bureau of Fire Protection, the Office of Civil Defense, the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Department of Health, and the Department of Transportation, including the Philippine Coast Guard.

"As of October 24, they had a combined P30 billion in QRF funds. Of that amount, they have already obligated roughly P15 billion for disaster response," Pangandaman said.

The country faced a series of typhoons and other calamities in recent months, putting a strain on government resources dedicated to disaster relief.

Pangandaman acknowledged that the recent surge in natural disasters has led to some agencies exhausting their initial QRF allocations.

"We are now in November, and we have seen that agencies like DSWD and DPWH have used up their QRF and are requesting replenishment," she said.

While the 2024 General Appropriations Act allows agencies to request replenishment from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (NDRRMF) once they have utilized at least 50 percent of their QRF, the DBM chief noted that other funding sources are also available.

"The good news is we have around P7 billion remaining in the Contingent Fund," Pangandaman noted. "That's the primary source we can use to immediately address any funding gaps."

In addition to the Contingent Fund, the DBM can also tap into Unprogrammed Appropriations to further bolster disaster relief efforts. Furthermore, the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF) is available to provide financial assistance to local government units (LGUs) impacted by disasters.

Pangandaman said that the LGSF can be used for a range of disaster-related needs, including response, rehabilitation, recovery, and the procurement of essential equipment. This is detailed in Local Budget Circular No. 155.

Recognizing the urgent need to support affected communities, Pangandaman also said that agencies can utilize funds from their existing programs and projects to aid in disaster relief.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/7/pangandaman-assures-public-on-disaster-relief-funds>

MANILA BULLETIN:

NIA eyes shift in planting season to lessen typhoon damage to ricefields

BY RAYMUND ANTONIO

Nov 7, 2024 09:41 AM

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) has plans to shift the agricultural sector's cropping calendar as a long-term solution to the devastating impact of typhoons to the country's low-lying ricefields and harvest season.



(Keith Bacongco/MB file photo)
ADVERTISEMENT

NIA Administrator Engr. Eduardo Guillen said this as he lamented the 350,000 metric tons of rice that were damaged by Typhoon “Kristine” recently. This equated to around P6 billion of loss in rice and P300 million worth of damages for agricultural infrastructure.

Such losses, which he said were impacts of climate change, fueled President Marcos to direct the NIA to put in place long-term solutions that will address future impacts of typhoons on farmlands.

“Mayroon po tayong move ngayon, para pangmatagalang solusyon na ito, nililipat na po natin iyong ating cropping calendar ng dalawang—gusto natin, mag-dalawang dry cropping tayo eh (We have a move now, for a long-term solution, we will shift our cropping calendar to two—we want two dry cropping),” he explained during the Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon on Wednesday, Nov. 6.

The dry cropping calendar would be set from October to July, wherein February and July would be the harvest season.

“Kapag na-secure po natin iyong dalawang ani natin ng dalawang dry cropping season, okay na po tayo eh (Once we secure those two harvests during the two dry cropping season, we

will be okay),” Guillen said.

“At saka kapag sa dry season kasi tayo magtanim, mas mataas ang yield. So, inaasahan po natin na itong move na ito ay makakapagpataas ng ating production (And when we plant in the dry season, the yield is higher. So, we are expecting this move to increase the production),” the official added.

Marcos’ instructions came amid fears that the country will experience a shortage in rice because of the damages caused by the typhoons.

But the NIA administrator was quick to dispel such concerns and said the Department of Agriculture (DA) is “on top of the situation” in terms of how much rice to import in the coming months.

“Hindi naman po. Iyong pag-uusap namin ni Sec. Kiko, kahapon, ay okay naman po tayo. So, iyong supply ay tinitingnan naman po ng Department of Agriculture iyan para po mapunan, iyong hindi tayo magkulang ng bigas (Not really. When Sec. Kiko [DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. and I talked yesterday, we are okay. So, the Department of Agriculture is looking at the supply to augment and make sure we won’t be lacking),” Guillen furthered.

In the past, the official shared that the cropping season was set from June to March, which meant the two harvest seasons fall every November and March or April.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) has plans to shift the agricultural sector’s cropping calendar as a long-term solution to the devastating impact of typhoons to the country’s low-lying ricefields and harvest season.

NIA Administrator Engr. Eduardo Guillen said this as he lamented the 350,000 metric tons of rice that were damaged by Typhoon “Kristine” recently. This equated to around P6 billion of loss in rice and P300 million worth of damages for agricultural infrastructure.

Such losses, which he said were impacts of climate change, fueled President Marcos to direct the NIA to put in place long-term solutions that will address future impacts of typhoons on farmlands.

“Mayroon po tayong move ngayon, para pangmatagalang solusyon na ito, nililipat na po natin iyong ating cropping calendar ng dalawang—gusto natin, mag-dalawang dry cropping tayo eh (We have a move now, for a long-term solution, we will shift our cropping calendar to two—we want two dry cropping),” he explained during the Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon on Wednesday, Nov. 6.

The dry cropping calendar would be set from October to July, wherein February and July would be the harvest season.

“Kapag na-secure po natin iyong dalawang ani natin ng dalawang dry cropping season, okay na po tayo eh (Once we secure those two harvests during the two dry cropping season, we will be okay),” Guillen said.

“At saka kapag sa dry season kasi tayo magtanim, mas mataas ang yield. So, inaasahan po natin na itong move na ito ay makakapagpataas ng ating production (And when we plant in

the dry season, the yield is higher. So, we are expecting this move to increase the production),” the official added.

Marcos’ instructions came amid fears that the country will experience a shortage in rice because of the damages caused by the typhoons.

But the NIA administrator was quick to dispel such concerns and said the Department of Agriculture (DA) is “on top of the situation” in terms of how much rice to import in the coming months.

“Hindi naman po. Iyong pag-uusap namin ni Sec. Kiko, kahapon, ay okay naman po tayo. So, iyong supply ay tinitingnan naman po ng Department of Agriculture iyan para po mapunan, iyong hindi tayo magkulang ng bigas (Not really. When Sec. Kiko [DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. and I talked yesterday, we are okay. So, the Department of Agriculture is looking at the supply to augment and make sure we won’t be lacking),” Guillen furthered.

In the past, the official shared that the cropping season was set from June to March, which meant the two harvest seasons fall every November and March or April.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/7/nia-eyes-shift-in-planting-season-to-lesser-typhoon-damage>

MANILA BULLETIN:

P24.4-M insurance payments distributed to 'Kristine'-hit farmers in Bicol—DA

BY TRIXEE ROSEL

Nov 7, 2024 09:04 AM

The Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (PCIC) has released an initial P24.4 million in indemnification checks to thousands of farmers in the Bicol region affected by intense flooding caused by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said.

PCIC President JB Jovy Bernabe said the agency provided insurance payments to 2,644 farmers across the provinces of Albay, Catanduanes, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Masbate, and Sorsogon.

Bernabe said the indemnification reflects the government's commitment to supporting rural farmers through insurance and financial aid, aiming to help them recover from natural disasters and sustain the nation's food security and economic stability.

DA Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. personally handed out the checks during President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr.'s visit to the Bicol Region on Wednesday, where he assessed relief and recovery efforts in typhoon-hit areas.

Laurel had previously directed PCIC to expedite insurance payments, stressing the need for swift support to enable farmers to recover from the devastation brought by Kristine.

“We need to equip our farmers and fishermen with financial resources to help them quickly get back on their feet to recover from this disaster brought about by climate change,” he said.

Bernabe noted that preliminary assessments indicate total indemnification payments could reach at least P666.5 million.

Additionally, the DA's Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Operations Center reported that the department is providing P541.02 million in recovery inputs, such as seeds and fertilizers, to assist affected farmers.

As of Tuesday, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported that combined damages from Severe Tropical Storm Kristine and Super Typhoon Leon have reached P4.8 billion, with the Bicol Region's agricultural sector suffering approximately P2.9 billion in losses.

https://mb.com.ph/2024/11/7/p24-4-m-agri-insurance-payments-in-bicol#google_vignette

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Kristine damage to agriculture rises to P6.83 billion

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

November 8, 2024 | 12:00am



Severe Tropical Storm Kristine damages and floods rice fields in Barangay Causip, Bula, Camarines Sur on Oct. 26, 2024.

The Philippine STAR / Noel B. Pabaleta

MANILA, Philippines — The damage that Severe Tropical Storm Kristine brought to the agriculture sector in 12 regions in the country has increased to P6.83 billion, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said yesterday.

Damage and losses in rice, corn, cassava, high-value crops, livestock and poultry, fisheries, machinery and equipment as well as agricultural infrastructure were recorded in the Cordillera Administrative Region, Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol Region, Zamboanga Peninsula, Soccsksargen, Caraga Region and in Western, Central and Eastern Visayas.

The DA said that the damage covered 141,971 hectares of agricultural areas with production loss of 317,316 metric tons.

At least 171,080 farmers and fisherfolk in the 12 regions were affected.

Up to 74 percent of the damage was recorded in rice production – totaling P5.05 billion and covering 131,168 hectares of land.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2024/11/08/2398501/kristine-damage-agriculture-rises-p683-billion>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

P24.4M worth of ‘insurance payments’ given to farmers hit by ‘Kristine’

[Ian Laqui](#) - Philstar.com

November 7, 2024 | 4:42pm



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

The Philippine STAR / Noel B. Pabaleta

MANILA, Philippines — Department of Agriculture’s government insurance company, the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp. (PCIC), on Wednesday, November 6, said that it distributed P24.4 million worth of indemnity checks to farmers affected by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name: Trami) in Bicol Region.

The checks were handed out by Agriculture Secretary Francisco Laurel to affected farmers during the visit of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to the Bicol Region.

Secretary Tiu Laurel had earlier directed PCIC to expedite the release of indemnity payments to enable farmers to quickly recover from the storm's impacts.

“We need to equip our farmers and fisherfolk with financial resources to help them quickly get back on their feet, to recover from this disaster brought about by climate change,” the Agriculture chief said in a statement.

Beyond insurance payouts, the Department of Agriculture also provided additional aid, including farm inputs like seeds and fertilizers, to support the recovery of farmers in the region.

The PCIC's initial round of indemnity payments reached 2,644 farmers across the provinces of Albay, Catanduanes, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Masbate and Sorsogon.

These areas are known for producing key agricultural products such as rice, corn, vegetables, pili, pineapple, cacao, coconut and livestock.

The Agriculture department's insurance agency said that it continues to process additional claims from affected farmers, with initial assessments indicating that total indemnification payments may reach at least P666.5 million.

“Providing insurance protection and financial assistance through indemnities helps farmers recover from setbacks, allowing them to continue contributing to the country's food security and economic growth,” PCIC President JB Bernabe said.

In the latest situational report from the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council on Tuesday, Kristine, together with Super Typhoon Leon (international name: Kong Rey), caused an estimated P6,368,052,277.8 worth of damage to the agricultural sector.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/11/07/2398105/p244m-worth-insurance-payments-given-farmers-hit-kristine>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

P32-M worth of farm machinery distributed in Zambales

By: [Joanna Rose Aglibot](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Inquirer Central Luzon](#) / 06:12 PM November 07, 2024



Five four-wheel tractors and additional agricultural machinery are distributed to Zambales farmers through the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund Mechanization Program. (Photo courtesy of DA-PHilMech)

SAN ANTONIO, Zambales – The local government is encouraging farmers in Zambales to maximize the use of new agricultural machinery provided by the government to boost production and sustain the province’s agricultural industry.

In a statement on Thursday (Nov. 7), Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said that mechanization is essential for improving farming efficiency and addressing gaps in agricultural production and farmer income.

On Tuesday, agricultural equipment worth P32 million was distributed to 24 farmer groups across Zambales.

These tools were provided through the Department of Agriculture's Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Mechanization Program, implemented in partnership with the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech).

The distributed machinery includes five units of four-wheel tractors, eight levee makers, five power take-off disc plows, three rice combine harvesters, two precision rice seeders, a single-pass rice mill, and a multi-stage rice mill with a milling capacity of 1.5 tons per hour.

"This should be a game-changer for our farmers. Mechanization has shown to attract the younger generation to farming, which remains the biggest industry in Zambales," Ebdane said.

The RCEF Mechanization Program aims to boost local rice farmers' productivity and income by providing machinery and equipment, as well as support for rice seed development, credit assistance, and rice extension services.

Since 2019, Zambales has received 354 agricultural machines valued at P283 million, benefiting 188 farmer groups and local government units.

The province, the second largest in Central Luzon, remains a largely agricultural region. Its palay production has grown from over 90,000 metric tons (MT) in 2003 to nearly 160,000 MT in 2020.

Santa Cruz, the northernmost town in the province, led in rice production with 23,559 MT in 2023, followed by San Narciso with 19,515 MT, and Palauig with 13,290 MT.

However, Leocadio Sebastian, a member of the DA's technical advisory group, noted during the International World Rice Conference in Manila on Wednesday that the country may need to import up to 4.2 million MT of rice by year-end due to production shortfalls caused by recent typhoons.

Cathy Estavillo, secretary-general of Amihan and spokesperson for Bantay Bigas, highlighted the need for government support to help affected farmers recover, warning that without compensation for losses, food security and self-sufficiency would be at risk.

“The government’s response is always importation instead of supporting local farmers and boosting production,” Estavillo said.

She added: “We’ve repeatedly called on authorities not to use disasters as a reason to import, but to invest in local agricultural development instead.”

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2002309/p32-m-worth-of-farm-machinery-distributed-in-zambales>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

PH GDP growth slowed sharply to 5.2% in Q3

By: [Mariedel Irish U. Catilogo](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 02:30 AM November 08, 2024

Philippine economic growth slowed sharply to 5.2 percent in the third quarter, from the [revised 6.4 percent](#) in the previous quarter and 6 percent last year, as typhoons took their toll on agricultural output and infrastructure development.

This was the most tepid expansion in more than a year or since the 4.3-percent growth in the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in the second quarter of 2023, according to data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

The third quarter performance brought the average GDP growth for the first three quarters to 5.8 percent, short of the government's 2024 target of 6 to 7 percent.

But despite the below-consensus GDP growth for the third quarter, National Economic and Development Authority Secretary Arsenio Balisacan remained optimistic that the full-year GDP growth target would be met.

"We anticipate increases in holiday spending, more stable commodity prices, even low inflation, lower interest rates and a robust labor market," Balisacan said.

Balisacan also stressed that the Philippines remained one of the fastest-growing economies in Asia.

"We follow Vietnam, which posted a 7.4-percent growth rate and are ahead of Indonesia with 4.9 percent, China [with] 4.6 percent and Singapore [with] 4.1 percent," Balisacan said during a press briefing.

Balisacan attributed the slower growth to the adverse impact of the El Niño weather pattern during planting season, as well as the destruction caused by seven typhoons and the habagat (southwest monsoon) during the harvest season, which strained the agriculture sector.

The total agricultural damage and losses from the typhoons in the third quarter amounted to P15.8 billion, while damage to infrastructure, homes and other assets was estimated at P9.6 billion.

Consumption

In terms of demand, household consumption increased by 5.1 percent, the same growth as last year but faster than the 4.7-percent growth in the second quarter.

Balisacan said that the growth in consumption was supported by slower consumer prices.

Meanwhile, state spending fell by 5 percent, a sharp decline from the double-digit growth of 11.9 percent in the previous quarter and 6.7 percent a year ago, also due to weather disruptions.

On the other hand, the country's gross capital formation, the investment component of the economy, grew by 13.1 percent during the quarter, better than the 11.6-percent growth in the April-to-June period and a turnaround from the 0.3-percent decline last year. In a separate statement, Finance Secretary Ralph Recto said the Department of Finance would "intensify whole-of-government efforts, including intensive monitoring and mitigation of price increases on food and nonfood items, to keep inflation within the target range," thus boosting consumption. Meanwhile, the Makati Business Club (MBC) emphasized the importance of using farming methods that can withstand climate disruption and help ensure a stable food supply.

"MBC advocates for partnerships between the government and private entities that are vital to improve rural infrastructure, such as cold storage, logistics and transportation networks, which reduce postharvest losses and improve access to markets," MBC said in a report.

<https://business.inquirer.net/488863/ph-gdp-growth-slowed-sharply-to-5-2-in-q3>

BUSINESSMIRROR:

Climate risks to agri, infra to hurt growth

Cai U. Ordinario

November 8, 2024



File photo: In Cavite, an industrial landscape looms in the background as a rice farmer walks across a nearly dried-up rice paddy, illustrating the challenges posed by industrial encroachment and climate change on agriculture. Efforts are under way to develop an El Niño mitigation strategy to address these challenges.

SEVERE weather disturbances brought by climate change are threatening not only agriculture but also government infrastructure projects which could affect the country's economic performance, according to local economists.

On Thursday, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said the economy slowed to 5.2 percent, the slowest since the second quarter of 2023. The data also showed government spending for projects slowed to 3.7 percent in the third quarter, lower than the 27.3 percent in third quarter of 2023 and 21.7 percent in the second quarter of 2024.

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan noted that the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) forecasts two to eight tropical cyclones from November 2024 to April 2025. Economists said this could disrupt the implementation of key infrastructure projects.

“If these forecasted weather disturbances eventually develop into destructive ones, then, these may challenge growth output in the first half of 2025,” Unionbank Chief Economist Ruben Carlo O. Asuncion told BusinessMirror.

Asuncion said past tropical cyclones frequent Philippine shores in July and November. This year the country experienced seven typhoons and monsoon rains which disrupted project implementation, contributing to the slowdown in GDP growth.

Canlas: Threat to growth

Former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas agreed that Pagasa’s forecast will be a threat to the country’s economic growth. He said the level of destruction was observed through the recent typhoons which significantly affected roads, bridges, and ports, among others.

“The need to ‘build up better’ following destruction of the existing infrastructure system impinges on the tight fiscal space faced by the government. The country needs, for example, typhoon-resistant school buildings & hospitals,” Canlas told BusinessMirror.

Ateneo de Manila University economist Leonardo Lanzona Jr. said this is why the government cannot rely on just public infrastructure spending to boost the country’s economic growth.

The unfortunate end that this could lead to, Lanzona said, is increased loans and or more taxes, which is largely unpopular and something that the government wants to avoid.

“More importantly, funds for flood control projects should be categorized differently from other expenditures to guarantee consistent allocation, since these projects should have been prioritized. Apart from financial costs that these delays will cause, production will be destroyed as a result of the typhoons,” Lanzona told this newspaper.

For De La Salle University economist Maria Ella Oplas, the government should improve project management in order to prevent the significant impact on the country’s economic growth.

Oplas told BusinessMirror project management efforts should be evidence-based and that climate change should be covered in disaster reduction management.

She said the national government should also double-time on their construction activities when the weather is favorable.

Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Development Associate Director Ser Peña-Reyes said the national government must be proactive rather than reactive when it comes to infrastructure projects.

Peña-Reyes said the government must also be more cognizant of its spending, particularly for infrastructure. The government cannot afford to spend funds for the sake of pump-priming the economy.

He stressed that projects should have a significant impact on the economy or alleviate everyday concerns of Filipinos such as those that address bad roads, among others.

“We must aggressively push for the sustained implementation of our infrastructure drive, ensuring that we provide adequate fiscal support to our flagship projects and expedite the processes necessary for the timely rollout of public and private investments,” Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan, however, said.

“In this regard, it is imperative that we intensify our efforts to improve the ease of doing business and elevate our competitiveness to further strengthen investor interest and confidence,” he added.

Third-quarter performance

The growth of the economy slowed to 5.2 percent, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

This is slower than the 6.4-percent growth in the second quarter and the 6-percent growth recorded in the third quarter of last year.

This is the slowest growth of the Philippine economy since the 4.3 percent growth posted in the second quarter last year.

Balisacan said this placed the country's GDP growth at 5.8 percent in the first three quarters of 2024. This is "slightly below" the government's full year target of 6 percent this year.

He said the economy needs to grow by 6.5 percent to attain the government's targets this year. But the government is confident that holiday spending, among others, will help boost the country's economic performance.

"The economy needs to grow by at least 6.5 percent to meet the government's target for the last quarter 2024. We remain optimistic that this growth target is attainable," Balisacan said.

"We anticipate increases in holiday spending, more stable commodity prices (given low inflation), lower interest rates, and a robust labor market. In the areas affected by typhoons, recovery efforts will drive economic activity and, hopefully, build back better," he added.

Among the major economic sectors, Industry and Services posted year-on-year growths in the third quarter of 2024 with 5 percent and 6.3 percent, respectively. Meanwhile, the Agriculture, forestry, and fishing sector posted a year-on-year decline of 2.8 percent.

On the demand side, Household Final Consumption Expenditure was the top contributor to the increase in the country's GDP, which grew year-on-year by 5.1 percent in the third quarter of 2024.

The following items also recorded year-on-year growths: Government Final Consumption Expenditure, 5 percent; Gross capital formation, 13.1 percent; and Imports of goods and services, 6.4 percent.

Meanwhile, exports of goods and services recorded a year-on-year decline of 1 percent.

Image credits: [Nonie Reyes](#)

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/08/climate-risks-to-agri-infra-to-hurt-growth/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

Loans for rural development, farms hit ₱1.7 trillion in first sem–BSP

Cai U. Ordinario
November 8, 2024



This BusinessMirror file photo shows a farmer using a hand tractor to plow a rice field before planting seedlings in Tanay, Rizal.

LOANS extended to agriculture, fisheries and rural development (AFRD) reached P1.7 trillion in the first semester of 2024, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

In its 2024 “Philippine Financial System for the First Semester” report, the BSP said the amount covered 192.4 percent of their total loanable funds amounting to P912.7 billion.

However, compared to the P3.1 trillion AFRD allocation, this represented a 45.16 percent contraction. Nonetheless, as a percentage of loanable funds, the allocation was higher for 2024.

“The law mandates banks to allocate 25 percent of their total loanable funds to AFRD-related financing. The AFRD financing refers to loans and investments that will increase (the) income of an agricultural and fisheries household, thereby promoting agricultural sector productivity and competitiveness, as well as sustainable development of rural communities,” the BSP said.

In terms percentage of its total loanable funds, the allocation for the first semester this year was higher than the 36.4 percent or P3.1 trillion AFRD compliance rate recorded in June 2023. Total loanable funds in the same period last year was P8.4 trillion.

The loans were extended to farmers, fishermen, agrarian reform beneficiaries, agrarian reform communities, settlers, agricultural lessees and amortizing owners.

Other recipients were farmworkers, fish workers, owner cultivators, compact farmers, tenant farmers and members of their household and their micro-sized, small-scale and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

The list also included agriculture cooperatives and farmers and fishermen organizations and associations in good standing.

“The banking system provided strong credit support to marginalized and priority sectors in the country, contributing to the continued promotion of inclusive growth for all Filipinos,” the BSP said.

Meanwhile, the report marked the sustained growth in assets, loans, deposits and earnings, along with strong capital and liquidity positions of Philippine banks.

This was mainly due to an improved macroeconomic environment and BSP’s steady pursuit of progressive financial sector reforms.

“Banks remain the pillar of the Philippine financial system. The BSP’s financial reforms help sustain the resilience of the banking sector, enabling banks to take a bigger role in the domestic economy through continued financial services to their clients, ultimately improving the financial future of every Filipino,” BSP Governor Eli M. Remolona, Jr. said.

The report, likewise, presents the satisfactory performance of foreign currency deposit units of banks and trust entities and features thematic box articles on BSP’s strategic priorities.

Moving forward, the BSP said it will continue to pursue prudential policy reforms aimed at promoting institutional stability, digitalization and inclusive sustainable finance.

According to the central bank, it will also sustain cooperation and collaboration with industry partners, stakeholders and key government agencies to advocate for necessary legislation towards a resilient, dynamic and inclusive financial system.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2024/11/08/loans-for-rural-development-farms-hit-p1-7-trillion-in-first-sem-bsp/>

REMATE:

Cagayan bird-flu free na – DA

November 7, 2024 18:43\



MANILA – Malaya na sa avian influenza (AI) ang lalawigan ng Cagayan, ayon sa Department of Agriculture (DA) nitong Huwebes.

Sinabi ng DA na ang deklarasyon sa ilalim ng Memorandum Circular No. 46 ay nilagdaan noong Nobyembre 4, kasunod ng mahigit tatlong buwan ng mahigpit na pagsubaybay at pagbabantay sa lalawigan.

Sa nasabing panahon, negatibo ang resulta ng Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) para sa avian influenza tests sa loob ng 1-kilometer hanggang 7-kilometer surveillance zones.

“Tungkulin din natin na protektahan ang lokal na industriya ng manok, na lumilikha ng milyun-milyong trabaho at bumubuo ng bilyun-bilyong pamumuhunan,” sabi ni DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. sa isang pahayag.

Ang huling kaso ng AI sa lalawigan ay nauna nang naiulat sa mga game fowl sa Solana noong Enero 26, 2023.

Binigyang-diin din ni Tiu Laurel ang pangangailangang mapanatili ang katatagan ng suplay at kaligtasan ng pagkain sa buong bansa.

“Ang aming layunin ay upang matiyak na ang bansa ay may sapat na supply ng pagkain na hindi lamang abot-kaya ngunit ligtas para sa pampublikong konsumo,” sabi niya.

Ang Cagayan Valley, na nasa kahabaan ng landas ng paglilipat ng mga ibon, ay kinabibilangan ng mga lalawigang gumagawa ng mga produktong manok, na halos 10 porsiyento ng pambansang produksyon ng manok.

Kabilang sa mga lalawigang ito ang Batanes, Isabel, Nueva Vizcaya, at Quirino. *RNT*

<https://remate.ph/cagayan-bird-flu-free-na-da/>

REMATE:

DA: Agri output Q3 bumaba sa sama ng panahon, ASF

November 7, 2024 10:43



MANILA, Philippines – SINABI ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang pagbaba sa agricultural output para sa ikatlong quarter ng taong ito, na may 3.7 porsiyentong pagbaba na naitala sa value production.

Kaugnay nito iniugnay ni DA Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. ang pagbaba sa masamang epekto ng gulo ng panahon at ang matagal na epekto ng African Swine Fever (ASF) sa produksyon ng baboy.

Ayon kay Laurel, ang halaga ng produksyon ay bumaba ng 3.7 percent year-on-year sa P397.43 billion habang ang fisheries sub sector ay dumanas din ng masamang panahon, kung saan ang halaga ng production contracting ng 5.5 percent year-on-year hanggang P55 .48 bilyon sa ikatlong quarter.

“Hindi maikakaila, ang pinagsamang epekto ng El Niño at La Niña ay nagpabigat sa produksyon ng palay, isang malaking kontribusyon sa sektor ng pananim, na bumubuo ng higit sa kalahati ng halaga ng output ng agrikultura at pangisdaan,” sabi ni Laurel.

Ang datos ng Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) ay nagsiwalat na ang produksyon ng palay sa ikatlong quarter ay bumaba ng 12.3 percent year-on-year, na nag-ambag sa 5.1 percent na pagbaba sa kabuuang crop output, na may kabuuang P211.62 bilyon. Samantala, ang produksyon ng baboy—isang malaking kontribyutor sa subsektor ng hayop—ay bumaba ng 8 porsyento.

Samantala ang mga pananim ay umabot sa 53 porsiyento ng kabuuang halaga ng produksyon, habang ang mga hayop ay nag-ambag ng humigit-kumulang 16 porsiyento. Bumaba ng 6.7 porsiyento ang halaga ng livestock output sa ₱61.67 bilyon,

Bunsod nito, itinuro ni Laurel ang ilang maliwanag na mga spot sa data ng ikatlong quarter, kabilang ang isang 1.3 porsiyento na pagtaas sa halaga ng produksyon ng mais at isang 5.8 porsiyento na pagtaas sa output ng manok.

Ang halaga ng poultry production, ayon sa kanya, ay umabot sa ₱68.66 bilyon noong quarter.

Kaugnay nito binigyang-diin din ng DA chief ang mga pagsisikap ng Bureau of Animal Industry, sa pakikipagtulungan sa Food and Drug Administration, na bumuo ng mabisang bakuna para sa African Swine Fever (ASF)—isang sakit na sumira sa industriya ng baboy mula noong unang pagsiklab noong 2019. (*Santi Celario*)

<https://remate.ph/da-agri-output-q3-bumaba-sa-sama-ng-panahon-asf/>