

## **CLIPPINGS FOR TODAY DECEMBER 25, 2024**

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**Cheaper bananas coming soon to South Korea thanks to Philippine trade deal**

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**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# **Cheaper bananas coming soon to South Korea thanks to Philippine trade deal**

**BY DERCO ROSAL**

Dec 25, 2024 05:41 PM

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## **FOR THURSDAY ISSUE**

The Philippines' banana exports to South Korea will enjoy zero tariffs over the next five years, following the bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) taking effect in January next year.

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Maria Cristina A. Roque said at a press briefing last week that the current 30 percent tariff on bananas will gradually decrease to zero starting Jan. 1, 2025.

Roque noted strong interest in Philippine products such as coconut, mangoes, and especially bananas, under the new FTA with South Korea.

"Starting next year, the banana tariff will decrease by six percent annually, which will significantly lower banana prices for [South] Korea," Roque said.

"This is particularly promising for banana exports, as [South] Korea is a major importer of bananas. It's a development we're excited about, as it will benefit both the export market and our trade with [South] Korea,"

Roque, who also chairs the Board of Investments (BOI), said the agency is prioritizing trade missions and discussions to target specific countries and industries.

"Recently, we talked about the countries we want to focus on and the key sectors to target, such as manufacturing," Roque said. "We need to assess sales and identify potential investments that could come in."

Roque also reported ongoing discussions with Japanese, Israeli, and Indian officials regarding potential investments in agriculture, healthcare, and pharmaceuticals.

### **Economic partnership deal**

In a related development, Negotiations for the Middle East Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) are in their final stages, with a few details remaining to ensure a mutually beneficial agreement.

"We are almost there and should be able to finalize everything soon," Roque explained. "However, negotiations require a back-and-forth process to ensure a win-win outcome for both countries."

When asked about the CEPA's timeline, Roque confirmed it would not be finalized this year. While unable to provide an exact date, she confirmed the CEPA is nearing completion, with just a few details being "ironed out" since negotiations began four months ago.

"Negotiations take time, sometimes years," Roque asserted, while assuring the public of swift action.

Roque hopes negotiations will be completed by next year, but it depends on ongoing discussions.

"There is no delay," she explained. "Many products are involved. We want to export to them, especially with the large Filipino community there. They are also interested in exporting to us; our population of 115 million makes the Philippines an attractive market."

Roque noted that while a CEPA can attract investments, it is not the only factor. Investors are also drawn to incentives like the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises (CREATE) law.

"Investment is not solely dependent on the FTA or the CEPA," Roque stressed.

The Philippines and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed the CEPA during the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) in December last year.

According to DTI, the CEPA with the UAE aligns with the Philippines' trade strategy to expand into new markets, as outlined in its six-year development and export plans.

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<https://mb.com.ph/2024/12/25/ph-bananas-go-zero-tariff-in-south-korea>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# **Bird flu: Health officials warn against feeding pets raw food**

The warning follows pet food recall due to detection of H5 bird flu virus in product samples

[INQUIRER.net US Bureau](#) / 03:18 PM December 25, 2024

FILE -This colorized electron microscope image released by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases on March 26, 2024, shows avian influenza A H5N1 virus particles (yellow), grown in Madin-Darby Canine Kidney (MDCK) epithelial cells (blue). (CDC/NIAID via AP, File)

LOS ANGELES – Los Angeles County health officials warned residents Wednesday not to feed their pets raw food following a voluntary recall of Northwest Naturals Brand 2lb Feline Turkey Recipe Raw & Frozen Pet Food due to detection of H5 bird flu virus in product samples.

According to the county [Department of Public Health](#), the recalled products are packaged 2-pound plastic bags with “Best if used by” dates of May 21, 2026, B10 and June 23, 2026, B1. Pet owners were urged to immediately dispose of those products.

Residents who fed their pets the recalled products or other raw meat or dairy products and notice their pet experiencing symptoms should immediately contact their veterinarian.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture confirmed that a house cat contracted H5 bird flu and died after consuming the recalled rawfrozen pet food, officials said. The products are also sold in [California](#).

[All-in-one Ticket For Travel Switzerland](#)

[Two Filipino nursing aides in New Jersey face charges for alleged patient ...](#)

A listing of retailers can be found on the [product's website](#).

Additionally, the DPH recently confirmed H5 bird blue in four house cats that consumed [recalled milk](#) and later became sick and died, officials said.

That investigation is ongoing.

Cats infected with the virus can develop severe illness, and may show the following: neurological signs, respiratory signs or liver disease that can rapidly progress to death.

The department is also investigating an additional possible case of bird flu in three cats from a different household.

One cat tested positive for Influenza A, a rare result in cats that indicates possible bird flu. Two other cats, who died from respiratory illness, are presumed to have also been positive for Influenza A. The DPH is awaiting the results of those tests.

These cats were not known to be exposed to raw milk, but the department is investigating other means of infection, such as the consumption of raw meat.

The county advises residents to avoid consuming all raw milk and raw meat products, and not to feed their pets those items.

Raw dairy, meat and poultry products can harbor harmful bacteria and viruses, including bird flu, which can pose serious risks to a person's health and the health of their pets.

According to the DPH, the overall risk of H5 bird flu to the public remains low. There is currently no evidence of person-to-person spread of the virus, county officials said.

On Monday, the department confirmed the first case of bird flu in a human resident of LA County, who was exposed to livestock infected with the virus at a worksite.

For questions or to find a nearby clinic or doctor, residents can call the department's InfoLine at 833-540-0473, which is open every day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (CNS)

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<https://usa.inquirer.net/162806/bird-flu-health-officials-warn-against-feeding-pets-raw-food>

**REMATE:**

## **Inflation rate ngayong Disyembre posibleng umabot sa 2.6% – ekonomista**

December 25, 2024 15:45



MANILA, Philippines – Inaasahan ng ekonomista na si Michael Ricafort ang inflation rate sa Disyembre 2024 na tumama sa 2.6%, na umaayon sa target na hanay ng gobyerno na 2% hanggang 4%.

Ang projection na ito ay dahil sa pagbaba ng presyo ng bigas at pagbaba ng presyo ng mga bilingin sa buong mundo.

Ang bigas, na bumubuo sa 9% ng basket ng consumer price index (CPI), ay nakakita ng pagbaba ng presyo kasunod ng pagpapatupad ng Executive Order (EO) 62. Nilagdaan ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., ang EO ay nagbawas ng mga taripa sa inangat na bigas mula sa 35% hanggang 15%, na humahantong sa makabuluhang pagbaba ng rice inflation—mula 22.5% noong Hunyo hanggang 5.1% noong Nobyembre.

Napansin din ni Ricafort, ang punong ekonomista sa Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., ang pagbaba sa pandaigdigang krudo at iba pang mga pangunahing presyo ng mga bilingin, na

hinimok ng mas mahinang data ng ekonomiya mula sa China. Ang mga salik na ito ay nag-aambag sa isang medyo benign na inflation outlook sa loob ng bansa at sa buong mundo.

Gayunpaman, nagbabala si Ricafort na ang pana-panahong pagtaas ng demand sa panahon ng Pasko ay maaaring bahagyang magtaas ng mga presyo. Sa kabila nito, inaasahan niyang tatatag ang inflation sa paligid ng 2% na antas hanggang sa unang bahagi ng 2025, na mananatili sa loob ng target range ng Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Ilalabas ng Philippine Statistics Authority ang opisyal na data ng inflation noong Disyembre sa unang linggo ng Enero 2025. *RNT*

<https://remate.ph/inflation-rate-ngayong-disyembre-posibleng-umabot-sa-2-6-ekonomista/>