

## CLIPPINGS FOR TODAY JANUARY 18, 2025

### A. MANILA BULLETIN:

No rice supply shortage despite food security emergency, DA assures

Mobile Kadiwa Stores: Mayor Francis proposes hybrid KNP setup

PBBM on food security emergency: We have to force the price of rice down

Grocery sales may surge to \$12.8 billion this year, but Filipino shoppers seek value, quality

Progressive groups slam price hikes, aging rice sale as 'anti-poor' gov't policies

### B. THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

FAO-led project aids farming, fishing households in Mindanao

DA chief concerned over SC ruling on commercial fishing

Food security emergency likely to be declared on January 22

P1.25 billion allotted for hog industry's recovery from ASF

President Marcos justifies food emergency declaration

### C. PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

No rice shortage amid plans to declare food security emergency

Domestic fish haul dropped 12% in December

300K TONS OF RICE: Marcos: Nat'l food emergency seen to lower rice prices

DA creates new logistics unit to lower retail prices

Zubiri: Marcos should 'curse out' due to high prices of agri commodities

NPCC food security emergency reco expected next week – Marcos

### D. THE MANILA TIMES:

DA appeals SC fishing ruling

**E. BUSINESS MIRROR:**

**PBBM backs food security emergency declaration**

**F. REMATE:**

**Deklarasyon ng food security emergency nakaamba sa Enero 22 – DA**

**Deklarasyon ng ‘food security emergency’ suportado ni PBBM**

**Food security emergency sa Pinas idedeklara ni PBBM sa sunod na linggo**

**DA umapela sa pagpayag ng SC sa commercial fishing sa municipal waters**

**Food security emergency sa Pinas idedeklara ni PBBM sa sunod na linggo**

**DA: Pagrekober ng suplay ng baboy posible sa 2-3 linggo**

**P36/kilo ng bigas ibebenta ng NFA sa LGUs sa Pebrero 2025**

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# No rice supply shortage despite food security emergency, DA assures

BY RAYMUND ANTONIO

Jan 18, 2025 02:38 PM

The Department of Agriculture (DA) maintained that there is no rice supply shortage in the country despite the recommendation to declare a food security emergency.



*President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. (Photos from the Presidential Communications Office)*

DA spokesperson Assistant Secretary Arnel De Mesa explained during the Quezon City media forum on Saturday, Feb. 18, that the National Price Coordinating Council recommended to the DA the declaration of food security emergency because rice prices continue to be “elevated” in the market.

“But then again, we just would like reiterate: Wala pong kakulangan na supply ng bigas sa ating bansa (There is no rice supply shortage in our country),” he said.

He explained that there are two markers for the food security emergency declaration—the shortage of rice supply and the extraordinary increase in its prices.

Insisting that the first marker “does not exist,” De Mesa stressed that there is more than enough supply in the domestic market despite the lower production of 19.3 million metric tons compared to 20 million metric tons in 2023.

The local production, however, was being supported by the importation of almost 4.8 million metric tons of rice.

“Alam natin na ang dami nang ginawang hakbangin ng pamahalaan, ng DA ng DTI (Department of Trade and Industry), para bumaba ang presyo (We know that our government, the DA and DTI, have been taking steps to bring the prices down),” the DA official said.

These steps include the lowering of tariff from 35 percent to 15 percent and the “Kadiwa ng Pangulo” program.

“Despite all of these ay nananatiling elevated bagama’t mayroon tayong nararamdamang pagbaba (the prices remain elevated and though we are experiencing a reduction), but not to the level that we are expecting it to decrease,” De Mesa added.

He also disclosed that the DA is expected to declare a food security emergency on Jan. 22 after it received the copy of the resolution of the approval of the recommendation from the NPCC.

The DA would need to review the recommendation, which the official said would probably last until Tuesday, in time for the expected declaration on Wednesday.

The move to declare a food security emergency would allow the NFA to release buffer stock of rice to stabilize current prices.

Meanwhile, the spokesperson revealed that DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. is currently looking into removing the “premium/special” rice labeling in markets and is also asking Congress to bring back the National Food Authority’s (NFA) mandates on regulation and market intervention.

He explained that sellers would normally label a 25-percent broken rice as premium or special to be able to sell them at a higher price.

“Iyon ang gustong tanggalin ni Secretary Kiko na alisin iyong premium at special at igaya doon sa standards ng ating importation iyong mga imported na bigas (That’s what Secretary Kiko wants to remove, the premium and special, and just make imported rice similar to our standards of importation),” De Mesa furthered.

Consumer should instead be able to choose rice varieties based on the countries where they were imported from, the percentage of broken, and the classification.

Broken rice is defined as damaged white rice. The lower the percentage of a rice being broken, the higher its quality is.

The DA official admitted that allowing premium or special rice labels in the markets result in abuse because “it will command a higher price which is not necessarily the case.”

He also lamented that some rice sellers mix up well-milled rice and regular rice with broken rice so they can sell them at higher prices.

This is why Laurel had been asking Congress to allow NFA to regulate and do market intervention.

“Para iyon nga, magkaroon ng regulasyon sa merkado, sa pamilihan at pangalawa, maka-intervene sa market without declaring an emergency (This way, there will be regulation in the market and secondly, it can intervene in the market without declaring an emergency),” De Mesa added.

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/1/18/no-rice-supply-shortage-despite-food-security-emergency-da-assures>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Mobile Kadiwa Stores: Mayor Francis proposes hybrid KNP setup

BY PATRICK GARCIA

Jan 18, 2025 10:08 AM



**MMC President and San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora, MMDA Chairman Romando Artes, and DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel**

Metro Manila Council (MMC) President and San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora proposed a hybrid setup of the President's Kadiwa ng Pangulo (KNP) program to ensure its accessibility to other individuals and local government units (LGUs) that doesn't have the space to setup physical stores in their respective areas.

Zamora made the suggestion during a recent MMC meeting attended by Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairman Romando Artes, Pasay City Mayor Emi Calixto-Rubiano, Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel, and other officials.

"We were joined by Department of Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel to discuss the PBBM Administration's initiative of providing affordable rice through the Kadiwa ng Pangulo pop-up stores. This program aims to support Filipino families by ensuring access to low-cost, high-quality rice while empowering local farmers," Zamora said.

"As Metro Manila Council President, I suggested to Secretary Laurel the idea of a hybrid setup, such as mobile stores, to cater to areas that lack sufficient space for a physical store.

This approach would help ensure that all communities can benefit from this program, regardless of space limitations," he added.

In response, Tiu Laurel said the DA plans to launch mobile KNP, saying the Food Terminal Incorporated (FTI) has already procured 24 trucks, with plans to rent additional units soon.

As of January this year, there are more than 20 KNP centers and kiosks in Metro Manila, while there are 150 public and private markets in the National Capital Region (NCR).

The secretary explained that the KNP has also lowered the price of under the Rice for All (RFA) program from P40/kg to P38/kg. This price change took effect on Friday, Jan. 17.

Other affordable options available in KNP sites include RFA 5 which is 5 percent broken selling for P45/kg; RFA 100, also known as Sulit rice, is 100 percent broken at P36/kg; and P29, or the aging but good quality rice stock of the National Food Authority (NFA) sold to vulnerable sectors at P29/kg.

Tiu Laurel also shared some of the agency's proposals and suggestions to the MMC which include the target expansion of KNP kiosks and stores in all public and private markets in Metro Manila; review of market rental rates which affect retailers' sale of rice; labeling requirements on retail rice; setting the maximum suggested retail price (MSRP) starting at P58/kg for 5 percent broken imported rice on Jan. 20, with a two-week review for lowering of MSRP; and the sale of NFA rice in all local government units at P36/kg in February.

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/1/18/mobile-kadiwa-stores-mayor-francis-proposes-hybrid-knp-setup>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# **PBBM on food security emergency: We have to force the price of rice down**

**BY ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS & DEXTER BARRO II**

Jan 17, 2025 01:08 PM

---

## **AT A GLANCE**

- A food security emergency will enable the National Food Authority (NFA) to sell rice stocks to local government units (LGUs) and other government agencies at a lower price.

---

President Marcos said yesterday that the impending declaration of a food security emergency in the country by the end of the month would be a last resort to bring the price of retail rice down despite government efforts to alleviate the situation.



*File photo*

Marcos said this after the Department of Agriculture (DA) announced that it would declare a food security emergency by the end of January to address the spiking retail price of rice despite the declining global rice costs and tariff reductions.

In an interview in Burauen, Leyte, on Friday morning, Jan. 17, the President explained why the government opted to declare a food security emergency.



“Ginawa na natin ang lahat upang ibaba ang presyo ng bigas (We did everything to bring the price of rice down), but the market is not being allowed to work properly,” he lamented.

“Hanggang ngayon, kahit ibaba mo ang lahat ng input, ang pagbenta pa rin, mataas pa rin (Until now, even if you bring down all inputs, the selling price is still high). So, we have forced that price down and we have to make sure that the market works properly,” he added.

DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel said this week that a food security emergency will enable the National Food Authority (NFA) to sell rice stocks to local government units (LGUs) and other government agencies at a lower price. It will also free up space in NFA warehouses and help local farmers through palay procurement for the upcoming harvest season.

NFA rice may also be sold to the Philippine National Police (PNP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and other government agencies and government-owned and controlled corporations (GOCC).

The NFA currently holds 300,000 metric tons of rice in buffer stocks.

According to the NPCC, releasing these reserves would help decongest warehouses in preparation for the upcoming February harvest.

As a result, the NFA would replace the disbursed stocks with locally-produced rice.

### **NPCC Resolution**

The NPCC approved a resolution on Thursday, Jan. 16, urging the DA to declare a “food security emergency” for rice as prices for the commodity remain high.

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Ma. Cristina Roque, chairperson of the NPCC, said this move is crucial given that rice prices continue to soar amid declining global rice costs and tariff reductions ordered by President Marcos.

The declaration would allow the NFA to release buffer stock rice to stabilize local prices.

Under this, Roque said the NFA will be allowed to sell rice through Kadiwa centers, local government units (LGI), and other government agencies.

"This declaration empowers the DTI to take decisive action in protecting consumer welfare while strengthening our nation's agricultural backbone," said Roque in a statement.

“By prioritizing the produce of hardworking Filipino farmers, we are fostering a resilient and self-reliant Bagong Pilipinas (New Philippines)—one that ensures stability, sustainability, and shared prosperity for both consumers and the agricultural sector," added Roque.

Under the Rice Tariffication Law enacted in 2019, NFA’s role has been curtailed to only procuring palay (unhusked rice) from local farmers and maintaining buffer stocks. The law removed the agency’s prior authority to regulate rice trading and sell directly to the public.

As such, declaring a food security emergency would temporarily expand its capabilities.

Laurel approved the NPCC’s resolution. He explained that this is a “critical move” in addressing rice affordability.

Laurel said he has yet to discuss the matter with the President, noting that he is still waiting to receive the full resolution.

The decision to declare an emergency stems from the unyielding high prices of rice, which have not responded as expected to government interventions such as tariff reductions.

Tiu-Laurel expressed concerns about potential profiteering within the rice market, indicating that some sellers may be taking advantage of the situation to inflate prices.

Notwithstanding, if the DA approves the declaration before the end of January, he said this would help lower rice prices by the first week of February.

“It’s additional supply to the market. To the laws of supply and demand, it’s only logical na bababa ng kaunti ang bigas (that rice prices will decrease a bit),” added Laurel.

The DA chief pointed out that affordable rice prices possess broader economic benefits for the country, given its impact on inflation and interest rate policies.

“Even if you don’t eat rice, lower rice prices help stabilize our economy,” he said.

Based on government data, rice accounts for nearly 10 percent of Filipino household budgets. For poorer families, this is doubled to 20 percent.

The declaration of a food security emergency is anticipated to bring some relief to consumers, with potential price reductions of P3 to P5. However, the government is not solely relying on this measure and is actively exploring other avenues to address the crisis.

These include expanding the capacity of NFA warehouses and implementing revised labeling requirements to ensure consumers are well-informed and protected from deceptive practices.

The DA and the DTI are collaborating closely to monitor and enforce measures aimed at controlling rice prices. The government is also considering a hybrid approach to tariff rates, potentially increasing them for specific types of rice to further manage the situation.

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/1/17/pbbm-on-food-security-emergency>

# **Grocery sales may surge to \$12.8 billion this year, but Filipino shoppers seek value, quality**

**BY DEXTER BARRO II**

Jan 17, 2025 11:54 AM

---

## **AT A GLANCE**

- \$896 million is expected to come from private label products.

---

The Philippines' private label retail sector is projected to see greater growth in 2025, driven by the projected five-percent increase in grocery food and beverage sales, according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In its report issued on Jan. 15, the USDA-Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Manila office forecasts that the country's overall grocery sales would reach \$12.8 billion, or P749.6 billion, this year.

Of this amount, \$896 million, or P52.5 billion, is expected to come from private label products, which are dominated by the country's three major conglomerates—SM Markets, Puregold Price Club, and Robinsons Retail.

“In the past five years, private label products have made up an average of seven to ten percent of grocery food and beverage sales in the Philippines, higher than the Asia Pacific average of six percent,” the report read.

Under SM Markets, its private label brand is the SM Bonus which is available across the firms' umbrella of grocery brands.

Puregold Price Club, meanwhile, utilizes two private label brands: Pure Basics for Puregold stores and S&R, Member's Value, and Fresh Pick brands for S&R stores.

Robinsons Retail offers the traditional Robinsons and SureBuy brands, alongside the Healthy You brand which targets health and wellness themes.

The FAS Manila identified that these private label brands place heavy emphasis on fresh produce, frozen meats, oils, condiments, and spices, with growth in gourmet, free-from, and ready-to-eat products.

With an industry that is expected to gain a stronger foothold, the FAS Manila noted that American exporters may take advantage of this situation by leveraging their products' place of origin.

“U.S. food and beverage products have a reputation for good quality among Filipino consumers. Notably, grocers leverage the origin when describing U.S. fresh and dried fruit...often using terms like 'USA,' 'Washington,' and 'California' under their own private label brands,” it said.

The agency explained that Filipino consumers are drawn to these products as they perceive them as a “balance of quality and affordability”.

Citing trade interviews, the FAS Manila said American exporters' ideal trade products include baby food, gourmet products, baked goods, dairy products, specialty coffee, cocktail mixes, and ready-to-eat foods.

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/1/17/ph-private-label-retailers-projected-to-grow-in-2025-usda>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Progressive groups slam price hikes, aging rice sale as ‘anti-poor’ gov’t policies

BY JEL SANTOS

Jan 17, 2025 05:37 PM



(MB FILE PHOTO)

Government policies, including price increases and the sale of aging rice, have drawn sharp criticism from progressive groups, who argued that such moves deepen the economic burdens of poor households.

In separate statements, farmers’ group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) and Amihan National Federation of Peasant Women warned that the said policies will worsen the economic crisis faced by millions of households.

Recently, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has approved price increases for 63 basic goods, with adjustments ranging from 5 percent to 10 percent. Items such as canned sardines, candles, batteries, and powdered milk will see higher prices starting next month.

“Ang pagtaas ng presyo ng mga pangunahing bilihan ay dagdag-pasakit sa milyun-milyong mamimili, lalo na sa mga manggagawa at magsasaka na kulang na ang kinakain dahil sa kakarampot na sahod at kita. Sa halip na pumanig sa mamamayan, mas pinapaboran ng DTI ang malalaking negosyante (The increase in the prices of essential goods adds to the burden of millions of consumers, especially workers and farmers who are already struggling to meet

their basic needs due to meager wages and income. Instead of siding with the people, the DTI favors big businesses),” Danilo Ramos, chairperson of KMP, said.

The move, according to the KMP, comes as inflation continues to erode the purchasing power of ordinary Filipinos.

Per the data of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the price of rice has risen to ₱52 ₱61 per kilo, while vegetables such as tomatoes have skyrocketed from ₱65 to ₱213 per kilo in the last year.

As such, electricity and water costs are also straining household budgets, with utility rates reaching as high as ₱140 per cubic meter in some urban poor communities. Oil prices remain volatile, further burdening Filipino consumers.

### **‘Token’ rice sale sparks outrage**

The Department of Agriculture’s (DA) plan to sell 300,000 metric tons of aging rice at ₱36 per kilo has also drawn ire from farmers and peasant groups. The groups said the rice, limited to five kilos per family, is being touted by the government as part of its food security efforts.

Amihan Secretary General Cathy Estavillo dismissed the move of the DA as performative.

“Ang dineklara nilang food emergency ay tokenism lang dahil nananatili ang Rice Liberalization Law. Ito ang pinakaugat ng krisis at sila mismo ang promotor dito (Their declared food emergency is merely tokenism because the Rice Liberalization Law remains in place. This law is the root cause of the crisis, and they themselves are its proponents),” she said.

Estavillo noted that the rice supply would only last two to three days and would not reach the broader population.

“Dalhin na lang nila sa mga palengke at gawin ₱25 kada kilo ang presyo ng bigas. Hindi dapat aging rice ang ibenta (They should bring it to the markets and set the price of rice at ₱25 per kilo. It should not be aging rice being sold),” she said.

The groups emphasized that the continued dependence of the Philippines on rice imports, which reached 4.78 million metric tons in 2024, and price manipulation by large private traders, importers, and smugglers, further undermine the local rice industry.

As of December 31, 2024, the DA reported that the Philippines imported 4.78 million metric tons (MT) of rice, marking a nearly 30 percent increase from the 3.61 million MT imported in 2023.

### **Calls for reform**

Both KMP and Amihan reiterated their demand to repeal the Rice Liberalization Law and Executive Order No. 62, which they claim are the root causes of the country's rice crisis.

Instead, they called for stronger support for local farmers and producers to achieve rice self-sufficiency and food security.

They also urged the Marcos administration to take immediate action to address the growing economic burden on Filipinos.

Among their demands are the implementation of a nationwide living wage of ₱1,200 for workers across all sectors, the provision of free land distribution and production subsidies, and the dismantling of cartels in the rice industry. Additionally, they called for the removal of Value Added Tax (VAT) on essential goods such as fuel, electricity, water, and medicines to lower costs for consumers.

Ramos warned that the government's failure to act would deepen poverty and hunger in the country.

“Sa halip na ibaba ang presyo, itinaas pa ng gobyerno. Kailangan sama-samang manawagan ang mamamayan upang maibsan ang kalbaryo at magbigay ng kagyat na ginhawa sa harap ng tuloy-tuloy na krisis sa ekonomiya (Instead of lowering prices, the government has raised them. The people must unite in calling for relief to ease the suffering and provide immediate relief amid the ongoing economic crisis),”he said.

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/1/17/progressive-groups-slam-price-hikes-aging-rice-sale-as-anti-poor-gov-t-policies>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# FAO-led project aids farming, fishing households in Mindanao

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

January 18, 2025 | 12:00am



The FAO said the beneficiaries of the Support to Agriculture and Agribusiness in Mindanao for Sustainable Development project were from 11 municipalities in Maguindanao del Norte, Maguindanao del Sur and North Cotabato.

Edd Gumban, file

MANILA, Philippines — At least 12,000 farming and fishing households in Mindanao have benefited from a nearly \$6-million project that seeks to uplift livelihoods and welfare, according to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization.

The FAO said the beneficiaries of the Support to Agriculture and Agribusiness in Mindanao for Sustainable Development project were from 11 municipalities in Maguindanao del Norte, Maguindanao del Sur and North Cotabato.

The project costs \$5.97 million. Funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency, it is being jointly implemented by the FAO and the Bangsamoro Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform.

“It targeted communities previously marred by conflict and violence, as well as those impacted by flooding and extreme climate conditions,” the FAO said.

“With the goal of attaining sustainable peace and development through inclusive growth, the project is the single largest project of FAO in Mindanao,” it added.

The project involved various capacity-building initiatives, technical assistance, climate resilience programs and the construction of warehouses and feedlots.

One of the projects supported 68 cooperatives in the region to promote sustainable and climate-resilient aquaculture.

One of the cooperatives, Tereken Aquaculture Producers Cooperative, suffered damage and losses due to typhoons. The cooperative lost 13,000 tilapia and hito or catfish that were swept from fish cages into the lake.

“With disaster preparedness as the cornerstone of the cooperative’s operations, they adapted to the use of floating fish cages to protect their fish stocks during flooding,” the FAO said.

“They have also developed business continuity plans to ensure quick recovery from climate extremes,” the FAO added.

The cooperatives also received training in fish processing, water management, fish feeding and cage design, according to the FAO.

Beyond fisheries, the project also included the construction of drying pavements, warehouses and a feedlot, the FAO said.

Some of the projects included a solar-powered warehouse in Barangay Looy, South Upi, Maguindanao del Sur, which expanded the storage and processing capabilities of the Looy Farmers Service Cooperative.

“We believe that investing in people is key to strengthening food security in the Bangsamoro region,” the FAO said.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2025/01/18/2414964/fao-led-project-aids-farming-fishing-households-mindanao>



**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# DA chief concerned over SC ruling on commercial fishing

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

January 18, 2025 | 12:00am



**Tiu Laurel warned of the high tribunal decision’s potential adverse effects on the livelihood of small fishers and its impact on marine ecosystems.**

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. on Friday expressed concern over the decision of the Supreme Court allowing commercial fishing vessels access to municipal waters, previously reserved for small-scale fishers under the Fisheries Code.

Tiu Laurel warned of the high tribunal decision’s potential adverse effects on the livelihood of small fishers and its impact on marine ecosystems.

“At a depth of seven fathoms or 12 meters, corals are at risk and our scarce marine resources could face further depletion,” Tiu Laurel said.

Tiu Laurel met with various organizations, including the Federation of Free Farmers, Oceana Philippines, Magsasaka Partylist, the National Anti-Poverty Commission and the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice, to discuss the ruling's implications.

According to him, the DA, through the Office of the Solicitor General, has filed a motion for reconsideration with the SC to overturn its decision allowing commercial fishing vessels access to municipal waters.

The SC's First Division had upheld a Malabon Regional Trial Court decision declaring the Fisheries Code's preferential access provisions unconstitutional.

The petition was filed by Mercidar Fishing Corp.

Tiu Laurel, whose family operates one of the biggest commercial fishing enterprises in the country, cited the DA's efforts to support small fishers.

He also stressed the importance of sustainable fishing practices, including standardizing net sizes to prevent overfishing.

For her part, Oceana Philippines vice president Gloria Estenzo-Ramos warned that the ruling could devastate marine resources, since commercial vessels would be allowed to fish in nearly 90 percent of coastal waters.

"Tracking devices, such as the Vessel Monitoring System, would become irrelevant," she said, referring to the system designed to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2025/01/18/2415057/da-chief-concerned-over-sc-ruling-commercial-fishing>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Food security emergency likely to be declared on January 22

[Kristine Daguno-Bersamina](#) - Philstar.com

January 18, 2025 | 4:43pm

A vendor arranges rice for sale at a market in Paco, Manila on March 13, 2024.

The STAR / Ryan Baldemor

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) is expected to declare a food security emergency on rice on January 22 amid surging prices of the staple.

During a news forum on Saturday, January 18, Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said the department is anticipated to receive the resolution approving the recommendation for the declaration by Monday.

The review is expected on Monday and Tuesday, with the declaration likely by midweek, De Mesa added.

Once the declaration is made, the National Food Authority will be authorized to release its buffer stock of 300,000 metric tons of rice to stabilize prices.

The move comes as the National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC) recently approved a resolution urging the DA to declare a food security emergency specifically for rice, citing the continued rise in prices.

Under Republic Act 12078, which amended the Agricultural Tariffication Act, the agriculture chief has the authority to declare a food security emergency in response to significant price hikes or supply shortages of rice.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday said the declaration is intended “to bring rice prices down” after other measures, including tariff adjustments, failed to produce significant results.

"The reason that we are doing this is ginawa na natin lahat upang ibaba ang presyo ng bigas ngunit the market is not being allowed to work properly," Marcos said.

(The reason we are doing this is that we have done everything to lower the price of rice but the market is not being allowed to work properly.)

"And so, we have to force that price down and we have to make sure that the market works properly na walang friction cost na nangyayari dahil sa iba't ibang bagay," he added.

(And so, we have to force that price down and we have to make sure that the market works properly without friction costs caused by various factors.)

The DA faced a challenging year in 2024, as the sector struggled with the impact of the El Niño phenomenon, followed by a series of typhoons and the onset of La Niña.

According to De Mesa, El Niño alone caused a significant decline in palay production, resulting in a loss of over 800,000 metric tons.

The agricultural sector's difficulties were further compounded by the damage from successive typhoons, which left the country with more than P30 billion in agricultural losses.

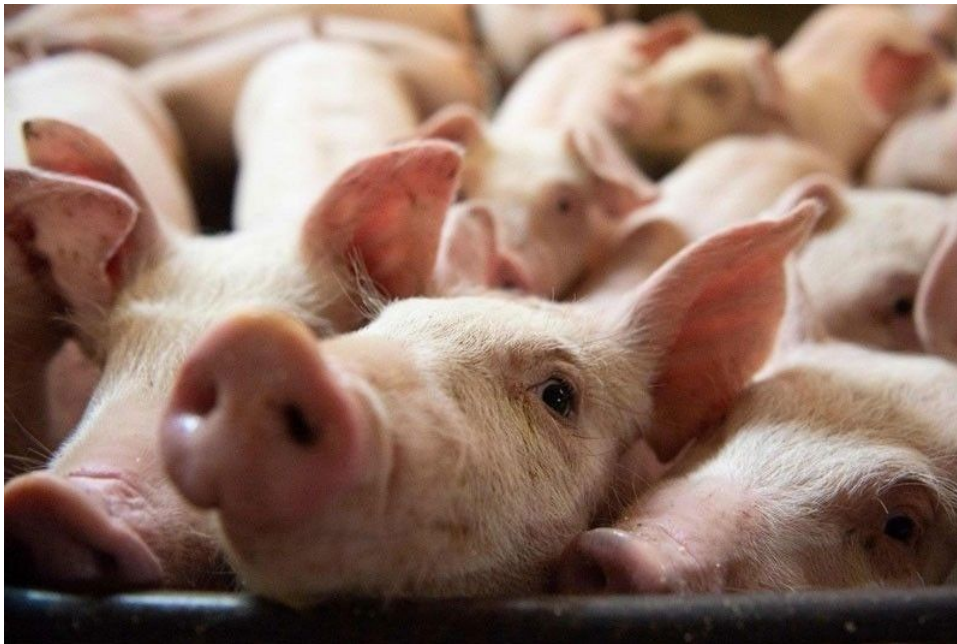
<https://www.philstar.com/business/2025/01/18/2415171/food-security-emergency-likely-be-declared-january-22>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# **P1.25 billion allotted for hog industry's recovery from ASF**

**Bella Cariaso** - The Philippine Star

January 18, 2025 | 12:00am



Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel issued Memorandum Circular No. 2, implementing the swine industry recovery project (SIRP) to modernize the country's swine industry.

AFP / File

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) has allocated P1.25 billion to help the hog industry recover from African swine fever (ASF) as retail prices of pork remain high due to supply shortage.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel issued Memorandum Circular No. 2, implementing the swine industry recovery project (SIRP) to modernize the country's swine industry.

“The SIRP aims to restore and revive the swine industry in the Philippines, which has been severely hit by ASF and other difficulties,” Tiu Laurel said in the circular.

He said the SIRP aims to fortify the industry by enhancing biosecurity, modernizing farm infrastructure, improving genetic quality and expanding market access.

“This effort aims to engage various stakeholders, including small farmers, cooperatives, commercial breeders and at-risk agricultural communities offering customized assistance to restore, modernize and maintain the swine production nationwide,” Tiu Laurel said.

He said the ASF virus has caused significant losses to the swine industry and undermined a crucial sector of the nation’s agricultural and food security since 2019.

“The outbreak also compelled small farmers to slaughter their herds, resulting in significant financial hardships for a majority of families. The reduction in pork output has resulted in elevated prices and shortage, affecting consumers and the entire food supply chain,” Tiu Laurel said.

He said the ASF problem has revealed several weaknesses of the Philippine swine industry, especially in biosecurity and disease control.

“A majority of small and backyard farmers who are integral to the local pig supply lack finances and expertise to establish appropriate biosecurity measures. This made them vulnerable to viral transmission,” he said.

Tiu Laurel said efforts exerted by the government and the private sector to contain the outbreak through quarantines, movement restrictions and surveillance did not stop the spread of ASF.

He said a more comprehensive and coordinated strategy is required to control the disease and recover the industry.

Tiu Laurel said the SIRP seeks to mitigate the effects of ASF, avert future outbreaks and assist farmers in reconstructing and modernizing their operations.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2025/01/18/2415017/p125-billion-allotted-hog-industrys-recovery-asf>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# President Marcos justifies food emergency declaration

[Helen Flores](#) - The Philippine Star

January 18, 2025 | 12:00am



**President Ferdinand Marcos Jr**

Bongbong Marcos / Facebook Page

MANILA, Philippines — To “force” the prices of rice down, President Marcos justified on Friday the impending declaration of a food security emergency by the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Marcos said rice prices remain high in local markets despite the various interventions made by the government.

“The reason that we are doing this is we have done everything to lower the price of rice, but the market is not being allowed to work properly,” Marcos said in an interview in Leyte.

He said the normal supply and demand curves are so disrupted that “even if we lower (the prices of) all inputs, the selling (prices) remain high.”

“And so, we have to force that price down, and we have to make sure that the market works properly, that there’s no friction cost happening because of so many things,” the President said. “Some of these are illegal. That’s what Congress is investigating now.”

Marcos said the DA is expected to receive the formal recommendation of the National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC) for the declaration of a food security emergency by next week.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. on Thursday said there is sufficient basis to declare a food security emergency as rice prices remain high despite the imposition of lower tariffs on imported rice.

Asked why rice prices did not decrease despite the tariff cut and the lower global prices, Tiu Laurel replied: “In my opinion, there was some profiteering.”

Rice prices remain high despite declining global rice costs and tariff reductions ordered by Marcos through Executive Order 62 in June last year.

Under the newly enacted Republic Act 12078 or the Agricultural Tariffication Act, the DA – upon the recommendation of the NPCC – may declare a food security emergency to address supply shortages or extraordinary increases in rice prices.

The declaration of food security emergency will allow the National Food Authority (NFA) to sell rice stocks to local government units and other government agencies at a lower price, free up space in NFA warehouses and help local farmers through palay procurement in the upcoming harvest season.

Tiu Laurel earlier said the NFA Council, which he chairs, is initially eyeing to sell the NFA rice stocks to LGUs, government-owned and controlled corporations, Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police for P36 per kilo. At this price, the LGUs and the other government agencies would be able to retail rice for P38 per kilo, he said.

“But by March we want to sell the NFA rice stocks at P33 per kilo so the LGUs and other participating government units can sell it to the market at P35 per kilo,” Tiu Laurel added.

Meanwhile, the maximum suggested retail price of P58 per kilo for imported rice will start on Jan. 20, initially in Metro Manila markets.

Based on monitoring by the DA of Metro Manila markets, imported special rice was still being retailed for P65 per kilo; imported premium rice, as high as P58; imported well-milled rice, P54 per kilo and imported regular milled rice, P48 per kilo.

“Even if you don’t eat rice, lower rice prices help stabilize our economy,” Tiu Laurel had said.

### **Imports arrive**

Imported rice has started to arrive anew this year, with at least 39,261 metric tons of the grains in the first nine days of 2025 as the country recorded an “all-time high” of outsourced grains of 4.87 million MT in 2024.

According to the latest data from the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), as of Jan. 9, the bulk or 79 percent came from Vietnam with 30,554 MT, followed by Thailand, 4,725 MT; Pakistan, 3,150 MT; Myanmar, 520 MT and India, 312 MT.



In 2024, Vietnam also topped the total rice imports with 3.6 million MT.

In 2023, total imported rice reached 3.6 million MT; 3.83 million MT in 2022; 2.77 million MT in 2021; 2.1 million MT in 2020 and 1.86 million MT in 2019.

The extraordinary increase in the retail prices of rice warrants the impending declaration of the food security emergency on the staple, DA Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa said on Friday.

“RA 12708 has two conditions which would warrant the declaration of a food security emergency. In terms of supply, we have no problem as the country is flooded with rice. What we saw was the extraordinary increase in price. We know that the DA has made many efforts to bring down the prices (of the staple) but there are markets that really sell too high,” De Mesa said.

De Mesa said the NFA has lost its power to sell its stocks to the market to help bring down the high price of rice.

“If there will be a declaration of food security emergency, the NFA can now sell rice to LGUs outside the calamity relief operations,” De Mesa added.

He noted that the warehouses of NFA are currently full of rice stocks, and that as of now the NFA needs to dispose of at least 300,000 metric tons of rice or six million bags of the staple.

“The primary objective is to dispose of the stocks of NFA and eventually help bring down the retail prices of rice,” he said.

At the same time, De Mesa said the food security emergency, once implemented, will only be temporary. “If we can address the stocks of NFA and there will be a reasonable reduction in the retail price of rice, we can lift it ,” he added. — **Marc Jayson Cayabyab, Bella Cariaso**

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2025/01/18/2415043/president-marcos-justifies-food-emergency-declaration>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# No rice shortage amid plans to declare food security emergency

By: [Ferdinand Patinio](#) -

[Philippine News Agency](#) / 04:45 PM January 18, 2025



(INQUIRER PHOTO / NINO JESUS ORBETA)

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Saturday clarified that there is no rice supply shortage amid [plans to declare a food security emergency](#).

“We just would like reiterate: There is no shortage in the supply of rice in the country,” DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa stressed at the Saturday News Forum in Quezon City.

He noted that Republic Act 12078, which amended the Rice Tariffication Law, cites two main grounds for the DA Secretary to declare a food security emergency: Shortage in supply and extraordinary increase in the price of rice.

“The first main basis, lack of supply, it does not exist because we have a lot of supply. So, the only basis is your extraordinary increase in price,” De Mesa explained.

“We know that many initiatives have been taken by the government, the DA and the DTI (Department of Trade and Industry), to lower the price. First of all, the imposition of EO

(Executive Order) 62 which reduces the tariff from 35 percent to 15 percent, there is also our program in Kadiwa and what else has been mentioned by our President. Despite all of these, rice prices remain elevated although we feel a decrease, but not to the level that we are expecting it to decrease,” he said.

Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. earlier said the [DA will declare a “food security emergency for rice”](#) before the end of January to address the spiking retail prices.

This came after the National Price Coordinating Council approved a resolution urging the DA to declare the emergency as prices remain high despite declining global rice costs and tariff reductions ordered by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

As of Jan. 16, the price of imported and local regular and well-milled rice ranges from PHP37 to PHP53 per kilo in Metro Manila; while imported and local premium and special rice range from PHP48 to PHP65 per kilo, according to the DA Bantay-Presyo (price watch).

De Mesa said high rice price is also one of the reasons why the DA is asking Congress to return the mandate on importation to the National Food Authority (NFA), “especially on two things: first, regarding regulation; second, the market intervention.”

“The secretary is no longer asking Congress for permission in relation to the importation capacity of the NFA, but rather on these two aspects. For that, to have regulation in the market and secondly, to intervene in the market without declaring an emergency,” he said.

De Mesa said the DA is also looking at classifying rice importation.

“We are looking at it but if you really look at your classification, at least for the imported rice, there is no premium or special. It is based on the degree of brokenness of the rice we import, again, 5 percent, 25 percent, 100 percent. In between you have 15 percent from time to time. So, your price when you get rice from Thailand, Vietnam, India, Pakistan or wherever, you always base it on percent of brokenness,” he said.

Laurel previously said he would propose the imposition of hybrid tariff on rice as part of efforts to lower prices.

[https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2025994/no-rice-shortage-amid-plans-to-declare-food-security-emergency?utm\\_source=\(direct\)&utm\\_medium=gallery](https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2025994/no-rice-shortage-amid-plans-to-declare-food-security-emergency?utm_source=(direct)&utm_medium=gallery)

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Domestic fish haul dropped 12% in December

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

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 02:12 AM January 18, 2025

The volume of fish products delivered to regional ports decreased by 11.5 percent amid a temporary fishing ban in key fishing areas, data from the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) show.

For the month of December, the PFDA observed fish unloading volume slide to 42,445.26 metric tons (MT) last year from 47,952.79 MT in the same month of 2023.

The December volume, however, was 14.7 percent higher than the 37,018.50 MT recorded a month earlier in November.

Among the major fishing ports, the General Santos Fish Port Complex recorded the highest unloading volume with 25,559.04 MT. This represented an increase of 2.2 percent year-on-year and was equivalent to 60.2 percent of total haul.

The Navotas Fish Port Complex posted the second-highest fish unloading volume at 11,804.55 MT. This meant a decline of 28.5 percent and accounted for 27.8 percent of total.

The Iloilo Fish Port Complex registered a 13.9 percent increase in shipments, bringing in 1,963.57 MT of fish.

The fish ports of Lucena in Quezon and Bulan in Sorsogon fish ports received 1,405.80 MT and 767.70 MT of fish, respectively.

In Zambales, 653.59 MT of fish was unloaded at the fish port, as were 289.469 MT in Davao. Accounting for the remainder is the Camaligan Fish Port in Camarines Sur with 1.531 MT.

According to the PFDA, smaller volumes were unloaded as the three-month closed fishing season was implemented in major fishing grounds as a conservative measure intended to help replenish fish stocks.

The government introduced this measure to protect target fish species—such as sardines, mackerel and round scad spawn—during their peak spawning period and address other concerns such as overfishing and climate change.

The closed fishing season in the Visayan Sea and Zamboanga Peninsula runs from Nov. 15 to Feb. 15 each year and Nov. 1 to Jan. 31 in northern Palawan.

Amid criticisms over the temporary fishing ban earlier, the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources backed this science-based policy meant to ensure sustainable fish production in the country.

“Importation addresses temporary supply gaps caused by the closed-fishing season or events like typhoons. It complements, not replaces, local fish production to keep prices stable,” Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said in December.

<https://business.inquirer.net/501814/domestic-fish-haul-dropped-12-in-december>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

300K TONS OF RICE

# Marcos: Nat'l food emergency seen to lower rice prices

By: [Julie M. Aurelio](#) - Reporter / [@JMAurelioINQ](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 05:48 AM January 18, 2025



President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. — SCREENGRAB FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE FACEBOOK PAGE

MANILA, Philippines — The looming declaration of a national food emergency will “force” the high prices of rice down and will help the market work properly, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. said on Friday.

Mr. Marcos said the Department of Agriculture (DA) may declare a national food emergency on rice by next week once it receives the formal recommendation of the interagency National Price Coordinating Council.

“Next week, the DA might receive the recommendation, and I believe it is going to be, to declare an emergency. The reason that we are doing this is, we already did everything we could to lower the price of rice, but the market is not being allowed to work properly,” the President said in an interview in Burauen, Leyte.

He stressed the supply-and-demand curve is not being followed because rice is still being sold at high prices even if the government has done its part to lower the cost of inputs in rice production.

Mr. Marcos was referring to efforts to bring down rice prices, such as Executive Order No. 62 issued in June 2024 that slashed the tariff on imported rice from 35 percent to 15 percent until 2028.

Two months after EO 62's issuance, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the full impact of the rice tariff cut, which is lower rice prices, may be felt in January 2025.

According to the DA's price monitoring report for Jan. 15, the price of imported commercial rice was between P44 per kilogram to P65 per kilogram, while local commercial rice ranged from P37 to P63 per kilogram, way above the P29 per kilogram of rice the government expected.

“So we have to force that price down and we have to make sure the market works properly, that there's no friction cost that will happen because of many things. Some of these things are illegal in nature and that's why Congress is investigating that,” Mr. Marcos said.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2025873/marcos-natl-food-emergency-seen-to-lower-rice-prices>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# DA creates new logistics unit to lower retail prices

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

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 01:35 PM January 17, 2025



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

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is establishing the Agricultural and Fisheries Logistics Office (AFLO), which will be tasked with developing long-term plans to lower retail prices while reducing post-harvest losses.

The DA ordered the creation of the AFLO via Department Order No. 1, which will address critical challenges in the sector such as post-harvest losses, elevated market prices and farm-to-market inefficiencies.

According to the DA, this office will integrate logistics operations within the agency to oversee and streamline the movement of agricultural commodities.



“It will also implement a logistics coordination and monitoring system to enable real-time tracking, enhance transparency, and ensure traceability throughout the supply chain, effectively addressing issues such as smuggling and other logistical inefficiencies within the sector,” the Jan. 15 order said.

The AFLO will create a strategic plan to implement logistical strategies aimed at attaining national food security by optimizing agricultural supply chains, reducing post-harvest losses and enhancing market linkages.

All these will be spelled out in the Agri-Fisheries Logistics Program Plan, which includes policies, technologies, smart logistics using artificial intelligence (AI) tools and machines to maximize supply chains.

The office is responsible for overseeing the construction and maintenance of cold storage warehouses, food hubs, distribution centers and other key facilities to improve the accessibility of consumers to affordable food items.

It will also promote investments in various facilities, such as cold storage facilities, warehouses, processing plants, terminals, and port development, to strengthen the food supply chain.

The AFLO will monitor all logistics-related activities to ensure their alignment with the agency’s strategic goals and efficient implementation of relevant projects and programs.

It will provide comprehensive guidelines and support to streamline the process of issuing permits and licenses required for storing and transporting agricultural products.

Aside from beefing up anti-smuggling measures, the AFLO should come up with quality control measures to maintain product integrity and safety during transportation and storage.

Furthermore, the office will design an emergency response to resolve supply chain disruptions caused by natural disasters, pandemics or other crises.

The AFLO will facilitate the collaboration and linkages between the DA, relevant stakeholders and other concerned government bodies to ensure seamless logistics operations across the sector.

“This role is crucial in promoting public-private partnerships, which are essential for identifying and implementing appropriate interventions in strategic locations,” it added

<https://business.inquirer.net/501740/da-creates-new-logistics-unit-to-lower-retail-prices>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

## **Zubiri: Marcos should ‘curse out’ due to high prices of agri commodities**

By: [Charie Abarca](#) - Reporter / [@charieabarcaINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 11:29 PM January 17, 2025



Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri. Photo from Senate Public Relations and Information Bureau

MANILA, Philippines — Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri on Friday said President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. should “curse out” due to the skyrocketing prices of agricultural commodities.

Speaking to reporters in a press conference, the former Senate president said there is no longer a need for the country to create new laws to eradicate smuggling as the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act signed by Marcos is already good.

He also said that the law only needs “political will” to be implemented.

“Dapat magmura na ang presidente natin, lalong lalo na sa presyo ng agricultural commodities, dahil sa pang aabuso nitong mga cartel na ito — whether it’s a tomato cartel, rice cartel, vegetable cartel — kailangan magalit na po ang ating pangulo,” Zubiri said.

(Our president must curse out, especially the price of agricultural commodities, because of the abuse of these cartels — whether it’s a tomato cartel, rice cartel, vegetable cartel — our president must be angry.)

“I hope he doesn’t get too forgiving and I hope he takes out the fang that we put in the Anti-Agricultural Smuggling law,” he added.

However, Zubiri said anger alone could not suffice. He said the president can decide to replace his people if they are not performing their sworn duties well.

Earlier, Marcos ordered the Bureau of Customs and the Department of Agriculture to strictly implement the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act.

According to Marcos, the chain enabling smugglers to continue profiting from people must be broken.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2025863/zubiri-marcos-should-curse-out-due-to-high-prices-of-agri-commodities>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# NPCC food security emergency reco expected next week – Marcos

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

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 03:53 PM January 17, 2025



(INQUIRER FILE PHOTO)

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos Jr. said on Friday that the National Price Coordinating Council’s (NPCC) recommendation to the Department of Agriculture (DA) declare a [food security emergency](#) for rice will likely be received next week. In an ambush interview in Leyte, Marcos was asked to comment on the DA’s proposed food crisis declaration.

“Well, they [DA] are still waiting for the recommendation of the [National] Price Coordinating Council (NPCC),” Marcos said.

“But siguro next week formally na matatanggap na ng DA ‘yung kanilang rekomendasyon, and the recommendation, I believe, is going to be to declare an emergency,” he said.

(But maybe next week, the DA will formally receive their recommendation, and I believe it will be to declare an emergency.)



In a Palace briefing on Thursday, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said they are now awaiting the full recommendation from the NPCC, which urges the declaration of a food security emergency for rice before granting it a go signal.

While Laurel noted that it is the DA that will approve or deny the recommendation, he will present it to Marcos once he receives it.

“The reason that we are doing this is that we have done everything to lower the price of rice, but the market is not being allowed to work properly. Hindi nasusundan ang demand and supply curve dahil hanggang ngayon kahit ibaba mo lahat ng inputs, ang pagbenta pa rin mataas pa rin,” Marcos said.

(We are doing this because we have done everything to lower the price of rice, but the market is not being allowed to function properly. The demand and supply curve is not being followed because, even if you reduce all inputs, the selling price remains high.)

The National Food Authority warehouses currently store 300,000 metric tons of rice buffer stocks.

The DA's food security emergency would authorize the release of these stocks to Kadiwa stores and local government units, making room for the expected new harvest in February.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2025764/fwd-marcos-on-food-security-emergency>

**THE MANILA TIMES:**

# **DA appeals SC fishing ruling**

**By Giselle P. Jordan**

**January 18, 2025**

THE Agriculture department on Friday said that it had asked the Supreme Court to reconsider a decision allowing commercial fishing in municipal waters.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. was said to have made the announcement during a meeting with concerned groups such as Oceana Philippines, Magsasaka Partylist, Federation of Free Farmers, Philippine Movement for Climate Justice and the National Anti-Poverty Commission.

It was not immediately clear if the department had filed its own appeal as its attached agency, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, earlier this month said that it had already sought a review of the ruling.

**The high court's decision, issued in August last year, will have an adverse impact on the livelihood of small fishermen and the country's marine ecosystems, Tiu Laurel said.**

The Supreme Court's First Division declared parts of the Fisheries Code unconstitutional, particularly a 15-kilometer restriction on commercial fishing in municipal waters.

The court upheld a 2023 ruling by the Malabon Regional Trial Court in favor of Mercidar Fishing Corp, which challenged the grant of exclusive rights to municipal fishermen.

It also noted that the regional court's decision had become final as the Agriculture department had failed to file an appeal on time.



Tiu Laurel said that by allowing commercial fishing "at a depth of 7 fathoms, or 12 meters, corals are at risk and our scarce marine resources could face further depletion."

He highlighted the importance of sustainable fishing practices, particularly the standardization of net sizes, and said that the Agriculture department was also helping small fishermen through the provision of solar-powered ice plants and fish processing facilities.

Oceana Philippines Vice President Gloria Estenzo-Ramos also said that the Supreme Court ruling would lead to the destruction of marine resources as it gives commercial fishers access to almost 90 percent of the country's coastal waters.

**Systems established to combat unregulated fishing will also become irrelevant, she added.**

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2025/01/18/business/top-business/da-appeals-sc-fishing-ruling/2040746?fbclid=IwY2xjawH6h7RleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHWuqIZbHYfb9izCXf44Y3zqfDEyFt44CZ1b-uNyHFtt1l fuGE-m01durQ aem v163HvnQ5pMtUESWfQm9Rw>

**BUSINESS MIRROR:**

# **PBBM backs food security emergency declaration**

BusinessMirror  
January 17, 2025

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Friday expressed support for the declaration of food security emergency to bring down the prices of rice.

In a media interview in Burauen, Leyte, Marcos said declaring a food security emergency is needed because the market is “not being allowed to work properly,” despite the government’s relentless efforts to lower the rice prices.

*“Hindi nasusunod ang demand and supply curve dahil hanggang ngayon kahit ibaba mo lahat ng inputs, ang pagbenta pa rin, mataas pa rin [The demand and supply curve is not followed because until now, even if you lower all inputs, prices remain high],”* Marcos said.

“And so, we have to force that price down and we have to make sure that the market works properly *na walang* (without) friction cost *na nangyayari dahil sa sari-sari, iba’t ibang bagay at ‘yung iba doon ilegal kaya’t iyan ang iniimbestigahan ngayon ng Kongreso* (because of a lot of things, some of which are illegal and are being investigated by Congress),” he added.

Marcos said the National Price Coordinating Council’s (NPCC) recommendation would be formally transmitted to the DA by next week.

Agriculture Francisco Tiu-Laurel Jr. on Thursday announced that upon the NPCC’s recommendation, a food security emergency would be declared before the end of January to address the surge in retail prices of rice.

Tiu-Laurel said the declaration would enable the National Food Authority (NFA) to sell rice stocks to local government units (LGUs) and other government agencies at a lower price, free up space in NFA warehouses, and help local farmers through palay procurement for the upcoming harvest season.

Tiu-Laurel said he would also recommend the implementation of “hybrid” tariff on rice, as part of the efforts to lower the price of the staple.

Under Executive Order 62 issued by Marcos in June 2024, the tariff on rice was reduced from 35 percent to 15 percent.

To date, the NFA has nearly 300,000 metric tons of rice stocks, which can be sold to LGUs and other government agencies.

Under the Rice Tariffication Law, the NFA’s function has been limited to palay procurement from local farmers to secure the national rice buffer stock in times of calamities.

Amended provisions, however, have increased the target procurement volume of national rice buffer stocks to 15 days from the previous nine days. *PNA*

[https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/01/17/pbbm-backs-food-security-emergency-declaration/?fbclid=IwY2xjawH6h7lleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHccIgR6GnGK4gnJ9RjGRYI9hrwt7UvJOruPdGy1urJuvGfjJjQ8ucQphtA\\_aem\\_hb8C2FNxts\\_0bROW6R-Ikw](https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/01/17/pbbm-backs-food-security-emergency-declaration/?fbclid=IwY2xjawH6h7lleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHccIgR6GnGK4gnJ9RjGRYI9hrwt7UvJOruPdGy1urJuvGfjJjQ8ucQphtA_aem_hb8C2FNxts_0bROW6R-Ikw)

**REMATE:**

# **Deklarasyon ng food security emergency nakaamba sa Enero 22 – DA**

January 18, 2025 15:48



MANILA, Philippines- Inaasahang idedeklara ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang food security emergency sa Enero 22, ng taong kasalukuyan, araw ng Miyerkules.

“Ang expectation by Monday, mare-receive na ng DA ‘yung kopya ng resolution ng approval ng recommendation na mag-declare nga ng food security emergency,” ang sinabi ni DA spokesperson Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa sa mga mamamahayag sa sidelines ng isang news forum, araw ng Sabado.

“So ine-expect na ma-review ‘yan ng Monday din hanggang Tuesday at ang expectation by Wednesday ay meron ng aksyon ang ating kalihim and most likely again the declaration of food security emergency,” ang dagdag na pahayag ni de Mesa.

Sa kabilang dako, kamakailan lamang ay inaprubahan ng National Price Coordinating Council ang isang resolusyon na hinihikayat ang Department of Agriculture na magdeklara ng “food security emergency for rice” dahil sa patuloy an pagtaas ng presyo ng mga pangunahing bilingin.

Sa ilalim ng Republic Act 12078 o batas na nag-aamyenda sa Agricultural Tariffication Act, ang Agriculture Secretary ay may kapangyarihang magdeklara ng food security emergency sa bigas bunsod ng supply shortage o extraordinary increase sa presyo ng nasabing produkto.

Nauna rito, sinabi ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. na ang posibilidad na pagdedeklara ng ‘food security emergency for rice’ ay “justified” sabay sabing may sapat na datos para suportahan ang nabanggit na aksyon.

Tinuran naman ni Trade Secretary Ma. Cristina Roque, chairman ng NPCC, ang nasabing hakbang ay magbibigay pahintulot sa National Food Authority (NFA) para ipalabas ang buffer stock ng bigas para maging matatag ang presyo, palitan ang ipinalabas na stocks kasama ang locally produced rice para suportahan ang mga magsasakang Pilipino.

“This will empower the DTI to take decisive action in protecting consumer welfare while strengthening the country’s agricultural backbone,” aniya pa rin.

Sa kasalukuyan, hawak ng NFA ang 300,000 metric tons ng bigas na buffer stocks. “Releasing these reserves will help decongest warehouses in preparation for the February harvest,” ayon sa DA.

Samantala, sinabi ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. na ang deklarasyon ng food security emergency ay naglalayon “to force the price down” matapos na gawin ng gobyerno ang lahat ng magagawa nito.

Winika ni De Mesa na ang panukalang food security emergency declaration ay sanhi ng “extraordinary increase ng rice,” sabay sabing sa kabila ng pagtapyas sa tariff rate para sa imported rice, ang presyo ng pangunahing butil ay bumaba.

Ipagpapatuloy naman ng DA ang mga programa nito na nag-aalok ng ‘affordable rice’ gaya ng “Rice for All” na nagbebenta ng P38 per kilong bigas, inihalo sa mga sirang butil ng bigas.

Inaasahan naman ni De Mesa na palalawakin ng departamento ang Rice-for-All initiative sa ibang lalawigan sa susunod na buwan o Pebrero o Marso.

“Unahin natin yung mga Metro areas outside of Metro Manila kagaya ng Cebu, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Iloilo. So unahin natin yung mga ganitong areas,” aniya pa rin. **Kris Jose**

<https://remate.ph/deklarasyon-ng-food-security-emergency-nakaamba-sa-enero-22-da/>

**REMATE:**

# Deklarasyon ng ‘food security emergency’ suportado ni PBBM

January 18, 2025 10:38



MANILA, Philippines- Suportado ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ang panukalang deklarasyon ng ‘food security emergency’ dahil nananatiling mataas ang presyo ng bigas.

“The reason that we are doing this is ginawa na natin lahat upang ibaba ang presyo ng bigas ngunit the market is not being allowed to work properly,” ang sinabi ni Pangulong Marcos sa mga mamamahayag nang tanungin hinggil sa napipintong food security emergency ng Department of Agriculture (DA).

“Hindi nasusundan ang demand and supply curve dahil hanggang ngayon kahit ibaba mo lahat ng inputs, ang pagbenta mataas pa rin,” ang sinabi ng Pangulo.

“And so, we have to force that price down and we have to make sure that the market works properly na walang friction cost na nangyayari dahil sa iba’t ibang bagay,” ang paliwanag ng Chief Executive.

“At iyong iba doon iligal kaya’t iyan ang iniimbestigahan ngayon ng Kongreso,” dagdag niya.

Samantala, nakatakda namang magdeklara si Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. ng food security emergency bago magtapos ang buwan ng Enero para tugunan ang tumataas na retail price ng bigas at layong paramihin ang murang bigas.

Ang hakbang ay kasunod ng resolusyon ng National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC) na hinihikayat ang DA na magdeklara ng “food security emergency for rice.”

Nananatiling mataas ang presyo ng bigas sa kabila ng pagbaba ng global rice costs at tariff reductions na ipinag-utos ni Pangulong Marcos. **Kris Jose**

<https://remate.ph/deklarasyon-ng-food-security-emergency-suportado-ni-pbbm/>



**REMATE:**

# Food security emergency sa Pinas idedeklara ni PBBM sa sunod na linggo

January 17, 2025 16:55



MANILA, Philippines – Inihayag ni Pangulong Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. ngayong Biyernes na pinag-aaralan ng gobyerno ang pagdedeklara ng food security emergency upang matugunan ang mataas na presyo ng bigas sa bansa.

Sa isang ambush interview, sinabi ni Marcos na naghihintay ang Department of Agriculture (DA) ng pormal na rekomendasyon mula sa National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC) na inaasahang matatanggap sa susunod na linggo.

“Ang rekomendasyon, sa tingin ko, ay magdedeklara ng emergency,” ani Marcos, na binanggit na hindi gumagana nang maayos ang market mechanisms upang mapababa ang presyo ng bigas.

Kamakailan, inaprubahan ng NPCC ang isang resolusyong humihimok sa DA na magdeklara ng food security emergency dahil sa patuloy na mataas na presyo. Sa ilalim ng Republic Act 11203, may kapangyarihan ang Kalihim ng Agrikultura na magdeklara ng ganitong emergency kapag may kakulangan sa suplay o hindi pangkaraniwang pagtaas sa presyo.

Ayon kay DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel, “justified” ang hakbang na ito, batay sa sapat na datos na sumusuporta sa deklarasyon. Ipinaliwanag naman ni DTI Secretary Ma. Cristina Roque, na namumuno sa NPCC, na ang hakbang na ito ay magpapahintulot sa National Food Authority (NFA) na maglabas ng buffer stock na 300,000 metric tons ng bigas upang patatagin ang presyo.

Ang mga inilabas na stock ay papalitan ng lokal na ani upang suportahan ang mga magsasakang Pilipino.

Binigyang-diin ni Roque na ang hakbang na ito ay magbibigay-proteksyon sa mga mamimili habang pinapalakas ang sektor ng agrikultura. Ang paglabas ng buffer stocks ay makakatulong din upang ma-decongest ang mga bodega ng NFA bilang paghahanda sa anihan ngayong Pebrero.

Inaasahang magiging mahalagang hakbang ang deklarasyon ng food security emergency upang matiyak ang abot-kayang presyo ng bigas at mapalakas ang kabuhayan ng mga magsasakang Pilipino. *RNT*

<https://remate.ph/food-security-emergency-sa-pinas-idedeklara-ni-pbbm-sa-sunod-na-linggo/>

**REMATE:**

# DA umapela sa pagpayag ng SC sa commercial fishing sa municipal waters

January 18, 2025 10:10



MANILA, Philippines- Pinababaligtad ng Department of Agriculture (DA) sa Supreme Court (SC) ang nauna nitong desisyon na payagan ang mga commercial fishing vessel na mangisda sa municipal waters.

Naghain ng motion for reconsideration ang DA sa pamamagitan ng Office of the Solicitor General na humihiling na ibasura ang naging resolusyon ng SC First Division noong August 2024 na nagpatibay sa desisyon ng Malabon RTC na nagdedeklara sa preferential access provisions ng Fisheries Code na labag sa Konstitusyon.

Partikular na ipinawalang-bisa ng Malabon RTC ang Sec. 16 hinggil sa hurisdiksyon ng municipal government na ikontrol ang commercial fishing sa municipal waters ng hanggang 15 kilometro mula sa baybayin.

Hinihimok ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. ang Korte na isaalang-alang ang naging desisyon nito upang matiyak ang pagpapanatili ng pangangisda sa baybayin ng bansa.

Nababahala ang DA sa posibleng masamang epekto ng desisyon sa kabuhayan ng maliliit na mangingisda at sa magiging epekto nito sa marine ecosystem.

Nanindigan ang DA na poprotektahan ang interes ng maliliit na mangingisda habang pinangangalagaan ang yamang-dagat.

Samantala, inihayag ni Laurel ang mga hakbang ng DA para tulungan ang maliliit na mangingisda gaya ng paglalaan ng solar-powered ice plants at fish processing facilities. **Teresa Tavares**

<https://remate.ph/da-umapela-sa-pagpayag-ng-sc-sa-commercial-fishing-sa-municipal-waters/>

**REMATE:**

# Food security emergency sa Pinas idedeklara ni PBBM sa sunod na linggo

January 17, 2025 16:55



MANILA, Philippines – Inihayag ni Pangulong Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. ngayong Biyernes na pinag-aaralan ng gobyerno ang pagdedeklara ng food security emergency upang matugunan ang mataas na presyo ng bigas sa bansa.

Sa isang ambush interview, sinabi ni Marcos na naghihintay ang Department of Agriculture (DA) ng pormal na rekomendasyon mula sa National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC) na inaasahang matatanggap sa susunod na linggo.

“Ang rekomendasyon, sa tingin ko, ay magdedeklara ng emergency,” ani Marcos, na binanggit na hindi gumagana nang maayos ang market mechanisms upang mapababa ang presyo ng bigas.

Kamakailan, inaprubahan ng NPCC ang isang resolusyong humihimok sa DA na magdeklara ng food security emergency dahil sa patuloy na mataas na presyo. Sa ilalim ng Republic Act 11203, may kapangyarihan ang Kalihim ng Agrikultura na magdeklara ng ganitong emergency kapag may kakulangan sa suplay o hindi pangkaraniwang pagtaas sa presyo.

Ayon kay DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel, “justified” ang hakbang na ito, batay sa sapat na datos na sumusuporta sa deklarasyon. Ipinaliwanag naman ni DTI Secretary Ma. Cristina Roque, na namumuno sa NPCC, na ang hakbang na ito ay magpapahintulot sa National Food

Authority (NFA) na maglabas ng buffer stock na 300,000 metric tons ng bigas upang patatagin ang presyo.

Ang mga inilabas na stock ay papalitan ng lokal na ani upang suportahan ang mga magsasakang Pilipino.

Binigyang-diin ni Roque na ang hakbang na ito ay magbibigay-proteksyon sa mga mamimili habang pinapalakas ang sektor ng agrikultura. Ang paglabas ng buffer stocks ay makakatulong din upang ma-decongest ang mga bodega ng NFA bilang paghahanda sa anihan ngayong Pebrero.

Inaasahang magiging mahalagang hakbang ang deklarasyon ng food security emergency upang matiyak ang abot-kayang presyo ng bigas at mapalakas ang kabuhayan ng mga magsasakang Pilipino. *RNT*

<https://remate.ph/food-security-emergency-sa-pinas-idedeklara-ni-pbbm-sa-sunod-na-linggo/>

**REMATE:**

## **DA: Pagrekober ng suplay ng baboy posible sa 2-3 linggo**

January 17, 2025 15:43



MANILA, Philippines Sinabi ng Department of Agriculture (DA) na maaaring makabangon ang supply ng baboy sa bansa sa susunod na tatlong linggo, sa gitna ng pagtaas ng presyo ng baboy sa Metro Manila.

“Normally *kasi* galing tayo ng Christmas season, ang laki ng consumption. Ngayon, bumagsak ang konsumo, naubos din ang iyong supply ng kaunti” ayon kay DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. sa ambush interview .

Ayon sa DA nitong Miyerkules, ang presyo ng pork liempo sa Metro Manila ay mula PHP370 kada kilo hanggang PHP450/kg; habang ang kasim ay mula PHP330/kg hanggang PHP400/kg, ayon sa DA Bantay Presyo (price watch).

“Sa tingin ko, by two to three weeks, rarami na uli ang supply” ayon pa sa Kalihim.

Tiniyak ng DA chief na walang supply shortage, ngunit kinilala ang epekto ng African swine fever (ASF) sa industriya ng baboy.

“Ang populasyon ng baboy natin dati ay 14 milyon hanggang 15 milyong ulo. Now, it’s down to 7 million heads,” ani Tiu Laurel.

Simula noong Disyembre 27, 2024, ang bilang ng mga red zone o barangay na may aktibong kaso ng ASF ay bumaba sa 225 mula sa 365 noong Disyembre 6. (*Santi Celario*)

<https://remate.ph/da-pagrekober-ng-suplay-ng-baboy-possible-sa-2-3-linggo/>



**REMATE:**

## **P36/kilo ng bigas ibebenta ng NFA sa LGUs sa Pebrero 2025**

January 17, 2025 15:56



MANILA, Philippines – Magsisimula nang magbenta ang National Food Authority (NFA) ng bigas sa mga local government unit sa halagang P36 kada kilo simula Pebrero 2025, sinabi ni Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.

Ayon kay Laurel, ang pagpapalabas ng NFA rice ay ginawa alinsunod sa resolusyon ng National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC) na humihimok sa Department of Agriculture (DA) na magdeklara ng food security emergency dahil sa “extraordinary increase” ng presyo ng bigas.

“Magsisimula na ang NFA sa pagbebenta ng bigas sa mga LGU, sana sa Pebrero sa presyong P36 kada kilo. Ang pag-asa natin ay maibenta ito ng mga LGU at sana ay hindi lumabag sa P38 na price ceiling,” sabi ni Laurel sa pulong ng Metro Manila Council.

Kaugnay nito, binanggit din ng DA secretary na ang price ceiling at ang suggested retail price ng NFA rice ay itatakda sa P35 kada kilo sa Marso.

“Sa Marso, ibaba natin sa 33 piso kada kilo sa Metro Manila at iba pang malalaking lungsod sa buong bansa,” dagdag ni Laurel.

Tiniyak ni Laurel sa publiko ang sapat na suplay ng NFA rice.

“So far, [ito ay] sustainable all year round kasi as of the moment, ang NFA ay may 300,000 tons of stock na ilalabas natin,” ayon pa sa opisyal.

Sinabi rin ng agriculture chief na hindi tumatanda ang stock ng NFA rice, idinagdag na ang bigas ay garantisadong de-kalidad, well-maintained, at kaakit-akit sa paningin. (*Santi Celario*)

<https://remate.ph/p36-kilo-ng-bigas-ibebenta-ng-nfa-sa-lgus-sa-pebrero-2025/>