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DA expects food prices to ease soon as supply, production recover

BY DEXTER BARRO II

Jan 19, 2025 01:55 PM

AT A GLANCE

- The Department of Agriculture (DA) expressed optimism that consumers would see lower food prices in the coming months, following the anticipated return of food production and supply to normal levels.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) expressed optimism that consumers would see lower food prices in the coming months, following the anticipated return of food production and supply to normal levels.

During a news forum on Saturday, Jan. 18, DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said the agency is forecasting a drop in prices of pork, fish, vegetables, and rice.

For pork, De Mesa said the recent surge in prices is a “continuing effect” of the African Swine Fever (ASF) and the huge demand for the commodity in the last quarter of 2024.

Lower prices, however, are expected by February as hog raisers recover their livestock numbers.

De Mesa said the reopening of the country’s fishing season would likewise lead to a drop in the prices of fishery goods.

“Inaasahan natin itong huling bahagi ng January, February magbubukas na uli iyong ilang areas na nagkaroon ng closed fishing season,” he stated. (We expect that by the latter part of January or February, some areas that had a closed fishing season will reopen.)

Meanwhile, retail prices of vegetables will likely dip as well in the coming months as agricultural fields recover.

Last year, the agriculture sector was heavily devastated by the effects of the El Niño phenomenon during the early part of 2024, followed by successive typhoons that ravaged the country as the year ended.

Based on reports, the El Niño caused P15 billion in losses to the agriculture sector, while the recent string of storms resulted in damages exceeding P10 billion.

De Mesa pointed out that the downpour in the Bicol region, Calabarzon, Cagayan Valley, and Central Luzon affected vegetable production, leading to a reduced supply and higher prices.

“So, ngayon naman na tag-init na, ito na iyong panahon na ini-expect natin na sobrang dadami naman uli iyong ating produksiyon,” he added. (So, now that it's dry season, this is the time we expect our production to significantly increase again.)

Lastly, for rice, the decline in prices in the world market and the imminent declaration of a “food security emergency” are projected to yield lower prices.

“In fact, nitong December ay na-inflation report ng PSA (Philippine Statistics Authority) hindi na masyadong malaki iyong cost sa food inflation, in particular iyong bigas kumpara noong previous month,” noted De Mesa. (In fact, in the December inflation report of the PSA, the cost of food inflation, particularly rice, was not as high compared to the previous month.)

The DA is set to declare a “food security emergency” to help stabilize rice prices in the country by allowing the National Food Authority (NFA) to release buffer stock.

Potential price reductions, as forecasted, are within the P3 to P5 range.

Harnessing Kadiwa

In a bid to lower rice prices even further for consumers, the DA is pushing for the establishment of Kadiwa centers in public and private markets across Metro Manila.

According to De Mesa, the agency recently urged the Metro Manila Council to authorize the development of new Kadiwa stores.

“There are about 150 public and private markets within Metro Manila. So, gusto ni secretary, sa lahat ng 150 na pamilihan, i-allow ang Kadiwa doon (So, the secretary wants Kadiwa to be allowed in all 150 markets),” he said.

“Hinihikayat namin ang mga mayors na payagan na magbenta sa Kadiwa (We are encouraging the mayors to allow selling through Kadiwa),” added De Mesa, noting that Kadiwa stores are only present in 20 markets in Metro Manila.

The Kadiwa program, implemented by the DA, provides the public with affordable goods through farmers’ direct selling of goods to consumers.

Last year, the agency introduced a program offering rice at only P29 per kilo in Kadiwa centers, exclusively sold to the country’s vulnerable sectors.

President Marcos has since ordered the establishment of Kadiwa centers in 300 markets nationwide by the second quarter of 2025.

Address profiteering, not ‘manipulate’ rice law

The government should crack down on profiteering in the rice supply chain rather than “manipulate” laws to justify releasing National Food Authority (NFA) stocks, farmers’ groups said on Saturday, Jan. 18.

Raul Montemayor, the national manager of the Federation of Free Farmers (FFF), said there is no national food security emergency for rice, noting that there is no supply shortage or calamity, harvests will resume in March, and prices, though still high, are gradually decreasing.

“What we have is a failure of the government agencies to run after and discipline profiteering importers, wholesalers, and retailers,” Montemayor said.

The National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC), he said, has yet to establish the formula mandated under Republic Act No. 12708, the Revised Agricultural Tariffication Act, to determine whether a rice shortage or extraordinary price increase exists.

“Has such a formula been devised? If so, why only now when the price spike started way earlier in the latter part of 2023 and peaked in early 2024?” he asked.

The NFA is reportedly considering releasing 500,000 bags of rice, equivalent to about 25,000 metric tons or two-thirds of the country’s daily rice consumption. However, Montemayor said the move would have minimal impact on market prices, even if concentrated in Metro Manila and its nearby areas.

Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) Chairperson Danilo Ramos echoed this concern, urging the government to focus on long-term solutions rather than short-term fixes.

“With or without any declaration of a national food security emergency, the government and the DA further cement the Philippines’ dependence on foreign rice instead of bolstering local rice production and granting immediate relief for consumers,” Ramos said.

The KMP proposed increasing farmgate prices for locally produced palay (unmilled rice), strengthening post-harvest facilities, and exacting punitive measures against unscrupulous rice traders, importers, and hoarders.

“To the DA and Malacañang, enough with the band-aid solutions. The government must overhaul its failed agricultural policies and put Filipino farmers, consumers, and productive sectors at the center of its economic agenda,” Ramos added.

Montemayor also warned of potential losses and unintended consequences if the NFA sells rice to local government units (LGUs) at lower prices. Selling rice at ₱36 per kilo, he explained, would result in a ₱150-million loss for the agency, while selling at ₱32 per kilo would incur a ₱250-million loss.

The FFF and KMP underscored the need to repeal the Rice Liberalization Law, which they said has exacerbated the struggles of Filipino farmers and consumers. Ramos said the law has worsened the country's dependence on rice imports and displaced local farmers, leaving them unable to compete. (With a report from Jel Santos)

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/1/19/da-expects-food-prices-to-ease-soon>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA exec sees food emergency declared on January 22

[Christine Boton](#) - The Philippine Star

January 19, 2025 | 12:00am



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 is set to declare a food security emergency on Jan. 22, to address persistently high rice prices.

“The expectation is that by Monday, the DA will receive a copy of the resolution approving the recommendation to declare a food security emergency,” DA Assistant Secretary and spokesperson Arnel de Mesa said during a news forum yesterday.

De Mesa further stated that the resolution is expected to be reviewed from Monday to Tuesday, with the expectation that by Wednesday, the secretary will take action, most likely leading to the declaration of a food security emergency.

On Thursday, the National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC) approved a resolution calling the DA to declare the emergency amid persistently high prices, despite declining global rice costs and presidentially mandated tariff cuts.

Trade and Industry Secretary Ma. Cristina Roque, chair of the NPCC, stated that the declaration would allow the National Food Authority to release 300,000 metric tons of rice from buffer stocks to stabilize prices while replenishing these reserves with locally produced rice to support Filipino farmers.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the declaration is “justified” due to supporting data, and under Republic Act 12078, he has the authority to act in such crises.

De Mesa explained that the proposed food security emergency declaration is a response to the extraordinary increase in rice prices. He argued that despite reducing the tariff on imported rice, the cost of the staple has not decreased significantly.

The DA aims to expand its “Rice-for-All” program by February or March. De Mesa clarified that the initiative, which sells rice mixed with broken grains at P38 per kilo, will initially be launched in metro areas outside Metro Manila, such as Cebu, Davao, Cagayan de Oro and Iloilo.

Starting tomorrow, the DA will implement a maximum suggested retail price (SRP) system for rice regardless of class.

For five percent broken rice, the SRP will be set at P58 per kilo, with periodic reviews every two weeks. Prices are expected to decrease to P55 within two weeks and further down to P50-P52 over time.

De Mesa assured the public that 25 percent broken rice prices will follow a similar downward trend, reaching the P40-plus range.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2025/01/19/2415285/da-exec-sees-food-emergency-declared-january-22>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Commercial vessels could deplete fish stocks in municipal waters — NGO

January 19, 2025 | 8:30 pm



PHILIPINE STAR/ RYAN BALDEMOR

OCEANA Philippines warned of the potential depletion of fish stocks after a Supreme Court (SC) resolution allowing commercial fishing operations in municipal waters.

“We are worried that this court decision will result in the depletion of our fish stocks with the unabated fishing operations of commercial fishers, displacement of our small, municipal fisherfolk, and destruction of marine habitats and spawning grounds of juvenile fish needed to restore our fisheries,” Oceana Vice-President Gloria E. Ramos said in a statement.

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

Under the Republic Act No. 10654, or the Amended Fisheries Code of the Philippines, commercial fishing vessels are only allowed to operate outside a 15-kilometer zone designated as municipal waters.

Oceana said 533 out of 884 coastal towns in the Philippines will now have to open up 90% of their municipal waters to commercial fishing vessels.

“All these will push back the reforms for science-based fishery management areas system now in place, rendering irrelevant the vessel monitoring requirement for commercial fishing vessels,” Ms. Ramos added.

She said that the move could also lead to “deeper hunger and poverty” among small-scale fisherfolk due to more intense competition.

In a statement over the weekend, the Department of Agriculture said that it was urging the High Court to reconsider its decision.

“At a depth of seven fathoms, or 12 meters, corals are at risk, and our scarce marine resources could face further depletion,” Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. said during a meeting with fishing industry representatives.

The volume of fish catch delivered to regional ports declined by 11.5% to 42,445.26 metric tons in December, according to the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2025/01/19/647621/commercial-vessels-could-deplete-fish-stocks-in-municipal-waters-ngo/>

MANILA STANDARD:

DA names key execs on rice, livestock plans



Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel, Jr.

January 18, 2025, 10:20 pm

Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has appointed key officials to lead programs designed to strengthen the country's rice, livestock, and agricultural sectors.

In a statement released on Saturday, the DA announced the appointment of Glenn Estrada as officer-in-charge of the Office of the Executive Director at the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority. Estrada will oversee the regulation of fertilizer and pesticide trade to ensure farmers have access to essential resources that enhance productivity.

Senior Agriculturist Ralph Alan Ceniza has been appointed Deputy Program Director of the National Rice Program. Dr. Jonathan Sabiniano has been named Program Director of the National Livestock Program.

Emerson Yago will serve as Director-Designate for Rice Clustering and Consolidation under the Masagana Rice Industry Development Program. Yago's efforts will focus on fostering farmer collaboration and promoting modern practices to optimize rice production.

Dr. Ronnie Ernst Duque, currently serving as Director II at the DA, has been appointed officer-in-charge of the Deputy Executive Director's office at the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS).

Arnold Atienza has been named Executive Director of the Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA). Atienza will lead efforts to revitalize the fiber industry, particularly by boosting demand for high-value products like abaca.

<https://manilastandard.net/news/314548262/department-of-agriculture-names-key-execs-on-rice-livestock-plans.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawH6h6tleHRuA2F1bQIxMAABHWuqIZbHYfb9izCXf44Y3zqfDEyFt44CZ1b-uNyHFtt1l fuGE-m01durQ aem v163HvnQ5pMtUESWfOm9Rw>

MANILA STANDARD:

DA body files rap vs. trading firm for food safety lapses



January 19, 2025, 7:15 pm

The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) said it filed a complaint against Betron Consumer Goods Trading for alleged smuggling of fresh carrots and yellow onions through the Port of Subic and alleged violations of the Food Safety Act and the 1978 Plant Quarantine Law.

The complaint, submitted to the Olongapo City Prosecutor's Office, alleged that five shipping containers originally declared as containing frozen fish egg balls were found to have 56,998 kilograms of carrots and 85,626 kg. of yellow onions in August 2024, valued at about P20.8 million.

Subic Port's National Plant Quarantine Services Division area manager Carmela Rivera said the mis-declared agricultural goods were immediately confiscated to safeguard public health.

Subsequent analysis revealed the presence of E. coli and unregistered pesticide residues on the seized produce and lacked the necessary sanitary and phytosanitary import clearances.

The DA-BPI said despite a show-cause order being issued to Betron and Manalang, they failed to respond, prompting the agency to escalate the matter.

The DA-BPI filed a formal complaint on Dec. 9, 2024, revoking Betron's importation license. The trading company was blacklisted and barred from future operations in the agricultural sector.

The DA-BPI said the deliberate misdeclaration and fraudulent documentation endangered public health and defrauded the government.

Violations of the Food Safety Act carry significant penalties, including imprisonment and substantial fines.

https://manilastandard.net/business/314548505/da-body-files-rap-vs-trading-firm-for-food-safety-lapses.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawH6h4VleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHfcpMI69edwVfUtYuEHNtEE7yOCrBhrUc4qlasR7J-r-dy7K8NYVZrRfEQ_aem_qhYgSKq5SmLXI8aZlqE3nQ

MANILA STANDARD:

Food security emergency declaration likely on Jan. 22—Agri exec

By Charles Dantes

January 19, 2025, 12:50 am

The declaration of a food security emergency will likely happen as early as Wednesday, January 22, an official of the Department of Agriculture said.

“We expect to receive the copy of the National Price Coordinating Council resolution approving the recommendation to declare a food security emergency by Monday,” DA spokesperson Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said.

- Advertisement -

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel will review the recommendation “Monday through Tuesday,” before taking action on Wednesday, De Mesa added.

The NPCC earlier approved a resolution urging the DA to declare the emergency, citing the need to address the surge in retail rice prices despite declining global costs and recent tariff reductions.

Tiu Laurel said the declaration would enable the National Food Authority to release rice stocks to local government units and other agencies at lower prices, thereby freeing up warehouse space and supporting local farmers through increased palay procurement ahead of the upcoming harvest season.

Earlier, President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. backed the emergency declaration to reduce rice prices and combat market manipulation and profiteering.

“The reason that we are doing this is because we have done everything to bring down rice prices but the market is not being allowed to work properly,” the President said.

Meanwhile, agricultural groups were split on the emergency declaration proposal.

Federation of Free Farmers national manager Raul Montemayor told ABS-CBN News the declaration will not solve profiteering, which he said is the root cause of high rice prices.

“Prices remain high because of importers, wholesalers and retailers who are taking advantage of the market. (The declaration) is like saying, okay, we will let the profiteers be. Let’s just do something else to bring down prices. Let’s sell NFA rice,” Montemayor said.

The Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura or SINAG, on the other hand, backed the emergency declaration but said the President's previous order to bring down tariff on imported rice should be recalled.

"We urge the NPCC to recommend to NEDA the repeal of EO 62 and revert rice and pork tariffs to 35 percent," SINAG executive director Jayson Cainglet said, noting that this would provide additional revenues that the government can use to support local rice farmers.

https://manilastandard.net/news/314548290/food-security-emergency-declaration-likely-on-jan-22-agri-exec.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawH6h4pleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHdUCh8OdJ5rHZvWHy9oWLLiFijqw09f6XIVOx73Ff_p3RZPuFjJ1YBPbZA_aem_7fhYMMcuDPsbUIiiU8lhEw

THE MANILA TIMES:

Food emergency OK seen this week

By Catherine S. Valente

January 19, 2025

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) on Saturday said that it was likely that a food security emergency, a measure that is being taken to lower the price of rice, would be declared on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2025.

In a news forum on Saturday, Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said the proposed food security emergency declaration was due to the "extraordinary increase in rice," noting that despite slashing the tariff rate for imported rice, the price of grain staple has not gone down significantly.



Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. and Trade Secretary Cristina Roque inspect the Mutyang Pasig Mega Market in Pasig City on Jan. 16, 2025. Laurel announced that the P40/kilo of rice under the DA's Rice-For-All program will be reduced to P38/kilo. PHOTOS BY ISMAEL DE JUAN



One of the Kadiwa Centers in Manila sells well-milled rice at P38 per kilogram from P40/kilo on Jan. 17, 2025. The Kadiwa ng Pangulo (KNP) lowered the price under the government's Rice for All (RFA) program. PHOTOS BY RENE H. DILAN

"The expectation is that by Monday, the DA will receive a copy of the resolution approving the recommendation to declare a food security emergency," de Mesa said.

"It is expected to be reviewed by Monday until Tuesday, and by Wednesday, the secretary will have an action on that and most likely again the declaration of a food security emergency," he added.

The National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC) recently approved a resolution urging the DA to declare a "food security emergency for rice" as the prices of the commodity remained high.

The president on Friday said that the declaration of a food security emergency was meant "to force the price down," after the government has done everything to do so.

Under Republic Act 12078, or the law amending the Agricultural Tariffication Act, the agriculture secretary has the power to declare

a food security emergency on rice due to a supply shortage or extraordinary increase in prices.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. earlier said that the possibility of declaring a "food security emergency for rice" was justified, saying that there was sufficient data to support this action.

Trade Secretary Ma. Cristina Roque, who chairs the NPCC, said the move would allow the National Food Authority (NFA) to release buffer stock of rice to stabilize prices, replacing released stocks with locally produced rice to support Filipino farmers.

In the same briefing on Saturday, de Mesa urged legislators to restore the regulatory functions of the NFA to help lower rice prices in local markets.

He said that once the previous regulatory mandates were reinstated, declaring a food security emergency would no longer be necessary.

Despite the latest moves, de Mesa said there was no shortage of rice.

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, does not exist because we have a lot of supply. So, the only basis is your extraordinary increase in price," de Mesa said.

"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.

As of Jan. 16, the price of imported and local regular and well-milled rice ranges from P37 to P53 per kilo in Metro Manila, while imported and local premium and special rice range from P48 to P65 per kilo, according to the DA Bantay-Presyo (price watch).

De Mesa said the high rice price was also one of the reasons the DA was 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.

Meanwhile, the DA will continue its programs offering affordable rice, such as the "Rice for All" that sells P38 per kilo of rice, which is mixed with broken rice grains.

De Mesa said the agency was expected to expand the Rice-for-All initiative to other provinces by February or March.

"We will prioritize Metro areas outside of Metro Manila, such as Cebu, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Iloilo. So we will prioritize these areas," he said.

Also on Saturday, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) said it intends to increase the number of prepositioned family food packs to 2.5 million boxes across the country.

Assistant Secretary Irene Dumlao said while the DSWD has already set a record with its 2.1 million food packs already pre-positioned throughout agency storage facilities nationwide, the department plans to generate more to better stabilize its supply chain.

"We really need to reach 2.5 million because we're taking advantage of the fact that there aren't many major disasters happening or affecting our country, so DSWD can prepare," Dumlao said.

WITH MOISES CRUZ AND PNA

https://www.manilatimes.net/2025/01/19/news/national/food-emergency-ok-seen-this-week/2041074?fbclid=IwY2xjawH6h3tleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHc1-pJbV12Qjqm4-PGLWovc8_iKNqfshIeqEpR7ebDkhUOcB-Va_HUey2g_aem_IK6YMWtA4k6SLyqWeVUUrQ

BUSINESS MIRROR:

Georgia halts poultry sales in state after bird flu found

Bloomberg News

January 19, 2025

Georgia officials suspended the sale of poultry in the state after confirming a positive case of bird flu in a commercial operation, threatening one of the state's prime industries.

The case, found Friday in Elbert County, northeast of Atlanta, is the first confirmed instance of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), or bird flu, detected in a commercial poultry operation in Georgia, and the fifth in the state since a nationwide outbreak began in 2022, Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tyler Harper said in a statement.

Later Saturday, Harper issued a follow-up statement reassuring Georgians that the poultry products in stores and restaurants was "safe and wholesome."

"The recent detection of HPAI in a commercial poultry flock in Elbert County will not impact Georgians' ability to purchase poultry products like meat or eggs at the local grocery store or restaurant nor will it impact retailers' ability to offer these products for sale," he said.

No humans have been infected in the state, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said.

"This is a serious threat to Georgia's #1 industry and the livelihoods of thousands of Georgians who make their living in our state's poultry industry," the statement from Harper said. "We are working around the clock to mitigate any further spread of the disease and ensure that normal poultry activities in Georgia can resume as quickly as possible."

The affected poultry operation had about 45,000 broiler breeders, the kind of hens that lay eggs for future meat production, when the disease was detected. State

officials were working over the weekend to disinfect, clean and remove diseased birds.

All commercial poultry operations within a 6.2-mile (10 km) radius of the affected property have been placed under quarantine and will undergo surveillance testing for at least two weeks.

Vaccine

Moderna Inc. was awarded an additional \$590 million from the US government to help the company develop a vaccine aimed at protecting people from bird flu.

The funding will support late-stage development and licensing of pre-pandemic vaccines and expansion of human studies for up to five additional subtypes of pandemic influenza, according to a statement Friday.

First discovered in 1996 in geese bred in southern China, the H5N1 strain has caused hundreds deaths in people over the years, mainly via exposure to infected animals. The version of the virus spreading in North America right now has led to only a few serious cases, but concerns have been rising since a death was linked to the virus in Louisiana earlier this month.

Since 2023, Moderna has been studying a vaccine to keep people from getting infected with H5N1, which has been decimating flocks of birds throughout the nation. It has also run rampant in herds of dairy cows and occasionally spread to farm workers.

In July, the company received \$176 million from the US government to speed development of the vaccine, which uses messenger RNA, the same technology that allowed quick development of Covid shots. Based on positive preliminary data, Moderna is preparing to advance the vaccine into a late-stage study.

Meanwhile, US public health officials are stepping up efforts to detect and contain the ongoing bird flu outbreak. On Thursday, officials pushed for faster bird flu testing in hospitalized patients, adding urgency to their efforts to identify human cases.

Moderna shares rose 4.2 percent after US markets closed. They've lost two-thirds of their value over the past 12 months.

The company said it plans to share results from its early-stage bird flu vaccine trial at an upcoming scientific meeting.

https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/01/19/georgia-halts-poultry-sales-in-state-after-bird-flu-found/?fbclid=IwY2xjawH6h3FleHRuA2F1bQIxMAABHfcpMI69edwVfUtYuEHNtEE7yOCrBhrUc4qlasR7J-r-dy7K8NYVZrRfEQ_aem_qhYgSKq5SmLXI8aZlqE3nQ

ABANTE TONITE:

Kongreso hiniritan ibalik NFA werpa kontra taas-presyo ng bigas

January 18, 2025

Hindi na kailangang ipatupad ang food security emergency kung mayroong regulatory functions ang National Food Authority (NFA), ayon sa isang opisyal ng Department of Agriculture (DA).

Inihayag ito ni DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa sa isang news forum nitong Sabado, Enero 18, kung saan muling nanawagan ang opisyal sa Kongreso para ibalik ang regulatory functions ng NFA para makatulong na ibaba ang presyo ng bigas sa mga palengke.

“Si Secretary (Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.) Kiko, is also asking ang ating Kongreso na ibalik iyong mandato ng National Food Authority, especially on two things. Una, doon sa regulasyon. Pangalawa, doon sa market intervention ” ayon kay De Mesa.

“Hindi na si Secretary humihingi ng permiso sa Kongreso, in relation doon sa importation capacity ng NFA, but rather on these two aspects. Magkaroon ng regulasyon sa merkado sa pamilihan at pangalawa, maka-intervene sa market without declaring an emergency,” dagdag pa niya.

Sa inamiyendahang Rice Tariffication Law na nilagdaan ni Pangulong Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. noong Disyembre 2024, binigyan ng kapangyarihan ang DA para magdeklara ng food security emergency sa bigas kapag mayroong supply shortage o extraordinary increase sa presyo ng bigas. Pero, kailangan ang rekomendasyon ng National Price Coordinating Council para ipatupad ang food security emergency.

Samantala, nilinaw ng DA na walang kakulangan sa suplay ng bigas ang bansa.

Ayon kay De Mesa, maraming suplay ng bigas ang bansa subalit mayroong “extraordinary increase” sa presyo nito na isa sa mga batayan kung bakit ipatutupad ang food security emergency.

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2025/01/18/kongreso-hiniritan-ibalik-nfa-werpa-kontra-taas-presyo-ng-bigas/>

REMATE:

Walang rice shortage sa deklarasyon ng food security emergency – DA

January 19, 2025 13:26



MANILA, Philippines – Nilinaw ng Department of Agriculture (DA) nitong Sabado, Enero 18 na walang shortage sa suplay ng bigas sa kabila ng planong ideklara ang food security emergency.

“We just would like reiterate: There is no shortage in the supply of rice in the country,” giit ni DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa sa isang forum.

Sinabi niya na sa Republic Act 12078, na nag-amyenda sa Rice Tariffication Law, tinukoy ang dalawang pangunahing grounds para magdeklara ang DA Secretary ng food security emergency: Una ay ang shortage sa supply at kakaibang pagtaas sa presyo ng bigas.

“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,” paliwanag ni De Mesa.

“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,” dagdag pa niya.

Nauna nang sinabi ni Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. na ang DA ay magdedeklara ng “food security emergency for rice” bago matapos ang Enero para tugunan ang tumataas na retail prices ng bigas.

Ito ay kasunod ng pag-apruba ng National Price Coordinating Council sa resolusyon na humihimok sa DA na magdeklara ng emergency dahil sa patuloy na pagiging mataas ng presyo ng bigas sa kabila ng pagbaba ng global rice costs at tariff reductions na ipinag-utos ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. *RNT/JGC*

<https://remate.ph/walang-rice-shortage-sa-deklarasyon-ng-food-security-emergency-da/>

REMATE:

Ilang opisyal ng DA itinalaga sa pangangasiwa, pagmonitor sa rice, livestock sectors

January 19, 2025 10:23



MANILA, Philippines – Itinalaga ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. ang ilang opisyal ng Department of Agriculture (DA) para pangasiwaan ang mga kritikal na programa na layong palakasin ang rice, livestock at agricultural sectors ng bansa.

Sa pahayag nitong Sabado, Enero 18, sinabi ng DA na itinalaga si Glenn Estrada bilang officer-in-charge ng Office of the Executive Director sa Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority.

Si Estrada ay mangangasiwa sa regulasyon ng fertilizer at pesticide trade para masiguro na ang mga magsasaka ay mayroong access sa essential inputs para mapabuti ang kanilang produksyon.

Samantala, inilagay naman si Senior Agriculturist Ralph Alan Ceniza bilang Deputy Program Director ng National Rice Program.

Tutulungan ni Ceniza ang pamahalaan sa hakbang nitong mapalakas pa ang rice production at maabot ang self-sufficiency sa bigas.

Para matugunan naman ang mga suliranin sa livestock industry, katulad ng disease outbreaks at market instability, sinabi ng Agriculture Department na itinalaga nila si Dr. Jonathan Sabiniano bilang program director ng National Livestock Program.

Susuportahan si Sabiniano ni Alvin Paul Dirain bilang deputy program.

Dagdag pa, si Emerson Yago na ang Director-Designate for Rice Clustering and Consolidation sa ilalim ng Masagana Rice Industry Development Program.

Tututukan ni Yago ang pagpapalakas sa kolaborasyon sa mga magsasaka at pagpromote ng modern practices para mapalakas ang rice production.

Ilan din sa mga bagong opisyal ay sina Dr. Ronnie Ernst Duque, bilang officer-in-charge ng Deputy Executive Director's office sa National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS), at Arnold Atienza bilang Executive Director ng Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA).

“These designations underscore DA’s commitment to strengthen key agricultural sectors to support farmers, enhance food security, and drive economic growth,” ani Tiu Laurel. *RNT/JGC*

<https://remate.ph/ilang-opisyal-ng-da-itinalaga-sa-pangangasiwa-pagmonitor-sa-rice-livestock-sectors/>

ABANTE:

DA inekis smuggler ng sibuyas, carrot

Abante News

• January 19, 2025



Pormal nang inireklamo ng Department of Agriculture sa Olongapo Prosecutors Office ang Betron Consumer Goods Trading at ang may-ari nito dahil sa diumano'y pagpupuslit nito ng mga carrot at puting sibuyas sa Subic.

Sabi ng DA, blacklisted na ang Betron at ang owner sa lahat ng operations ng DA. Inakusahan ng DA ang Betron Trading ng paglabag ng Food Safety Act at ng 1978 Plant Quarantine Law.

Ayon sa DA, nagpasok ng 5 shipping containers ang Betron sa bansa noong Agosto 2024.

Diniklarang diumano na frozen fish egg balls ang shipment ngunit 56,998 na kilong carrots at 85,626 na kilong sibuyas ang tumambad sa mga nag-inspeksiyon ng kargamento.

Sabi ng DA, nagkakahalagang P20.8 milyon ang sibuyas at carrots na naharang.

Agad kinumpiska ng National Plant Quarantine Service Division ng Subic ang carrots at onions. Nang in-examine pa nang mas mabuti ito, natagpuang may mga traces ng E. coli at pestisidyo ang kargamento. (Eileen Mencias)

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2025/01/19/da-inekis-smuggler-ng-sibuyas-carrot/>