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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Bohol: P625M farm-to-market road project breaks ground

By: CDN Digital January 26, 2025 - 07:24 AM



Bohol Governor Erico Aris Aumentado delivers his message during the ground breaking ceremony of the Desamparados- Tabuan farm-to-market road project held last January 23. | Contributed photo

The Bohol Provincial Government officially started on Thursday, January 23, the rehabilitation and upgrade of the Desamparados- Tabuan farm-to-market road project.

Considered as the “largest project” in the history of the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP), the 12.676-kilometer road project estimated to cost P625 million, will be funded through a World Bank loan accounted to the national government, with Bohol province as the grant recipient.

Governor Erico Aris Aumentado said that when completed, the project is expected to boost agricultural production, enhance food security, improve accessibility and spur economic growth in their province and the rest of Central Visayas.

“Masanagon ang atong panglantaw nga pinaagi sa pagdugtong ning agianan tali sa Antequera ug Calape, mag-abri kini alang sa daghang kahigayonan sa kalamboan sa atong mga mag-uuma, diha sa agrikultura, ug uban pang kaayuhan alang sa atong komunidad,” Aumentado said in an advisory.

Aumentado said it took 10 years or since 2015 before the project was able to finally break ground on January 23.

Farm-to market road

The project that connects Desamparados in Calape town to Tabunan in Anteuqera town, will include the construction of four major bridges that will be situated in Desamparados, Labuon, Binogawan, and Cabayugan. The road network would pass through seven barangays in the two neighboring towns, covering an area of 4,060-hectare.

With accessibility, at least 525 hectares of idle land are expected to be cultivated in the next 20 years, transforming underutilized areas into productive agricultural zones.

Moreover, the project aims to enhance transportation in the area. Upon completion, it is expected to reduce the average travel time from 24.29 minutes to just 10.34 minutes.

Centers of agriculture

The Desamparados–Tabuan farm-to-market road aims to transform Calape and Antequera towns into centers of agricultural and economic activity.

Aumentado has expressed his gratitude to President Bongbong Marcos and Agriculture Secretary Francis Tiu Laurel for their support in making the road project a reality.

“Dako kini nga oportunidad alang kanatong mga Bol-anon kay kining grasya gikan sa atong Nasudnong Pangagamhanan usa ka grant,” the Governor said.

“Sa pagkakaran, kining proyekto nga nagkantidad og P625,314,092.92 mao ang pinakadako sa atong nasod sa natad sa agrikultura pinaagi sa World Bank, DA, ug PRDP,” he added.

<https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/619493/bohol-p625m-farm-to-market-road-project-breaks-ground>

REMATE:

DA walang-silbi sa food security crisis – KMP

January 26, 2025 16:24



MANILA, Philippines – Binatikos ng Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) ang Department of Agriculture (DA) at administrasyong Marcos sa kabiguang lutasin ang lumalalang krisis sa seguridad sa pagkain ng bansa.

Ayon kay Danilo Ramos, tagapangulo ng KMP, ang mga patakaran ng DA sa ilalim ni Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. ay nagdulot ng matinding pinsala sa mga magsasaka at mamimili.

Kinondena ni Ramos ang Executive Order 62 na naglalayong pababain ang presyo ng bigas sa pamamagitan ng pagbawas ng taripa sa imported na bigas.

Sa halip, nagresulta ito sa P9.1 bilyong lugi sa kita ng gobyerno mula sa taripa at 8.4% na pagbagsak ng presyo ng lokal na palay, na sumira sa kita ng mga magsasaka.

Aniya, ang polisiya ay pabor lamang sa mga negosyante, kung saan ang mga importer at trader ay kumita ng P7.265 bilyon nang hindi ibinababa ang presyo para sa mga mamimili.

Kinuwestyon din ng grupo ang kawalan ng bisa ng maximum suggested retail price scheme para sa bigas, na anila'y pumapabor sa malalaking negosyante habang pinapabayaang ang mga magsasaka.

Binanggit ni Ramos na patuloy ang sobrang pagdepende ng Pilipinas sa imported na bigas, na umabot sa 4.78 milyong metric tons noong 2024, kung saan 75% ay galing sa Vietnam.

Nanawagan siya sa agarang pagbasura ng Rice Liberalization Law (RA 11203) at EO 62, na lalong nagpabigat sa krisis sa bigas at nagdulot ng paghihirap sa mga magsasaka at mamamayan.

Hinikayat ng KMP ang gobyerno na palakasin ang lokal na produksyon ng bigas at magpatupad ng tunay na repormang agraryo. Balak nilang sumama sa mga protesta sa Enero 31 upang panagutin ang administrasyong Marcos sa anila'y "kahirapan, korapsyon, at kawalan ng katarungan." **RNT**

<https://remate.ph/da-walang-silbi-sa-food-security-crisis-kmp/>

REMATE:

P49/kg price cap ng imported rice target ng DA sa Marso

January 26, 2025 11:07



MANILA, Philippines – Target ng Department of Agriculture (DA) na ibaba ang suggested retail price (MSRP) ng imported na bigas sa ₱49 kada kilo pagsapit ng Marso, kung mananatili ang mababang presyo sa pandaigdigang merkado.

Ayon kay Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., ang presyo ay unti-unting bababaan simula sa ₱55 kada kilo sa Pebrero 1, ₱52 sa Pebrero 15, at ₱49 pagsapit ng Marso 1, kung magpapatuloy ang kasalukuyang presyo sa pagitan ng \$530 at \$550 kada metriko tonelada para sa 5% broken rice.

Layunin ng unti-unting pagbaba ng presyo na maiwasan ang gulo sa merkado at bigyan ng sapat na panahon ang mga trader at importer upang mag-adjust.

Nauna nang nagpatupad ng ₱58 MSRP ang DA noong Enero 20 upang tugunan ang mataas na presyo ng bigas kahit na binawasan ang import tariffs at bumaba ang presyo sa pandaigdigang merkado.

Bukod dito, plano rin ng DA na magdeklara ng food security emergency sa bigas upang masigurong matugunan ang kakulangan ng suplay.

Naghihintay pa ang DA ng pinal na resolusyon mula sa National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC). Kasabay nito, nakikipag-usap na ang ahensya sa mga lokal na pamahalaan at mga retail chain upang ipamahagi ang halos 300,000 metriko toneladang bigas mula sa National Food Authority (NFA).

Target din ng DA na ilunsad ang Kadiwa rice program sa mga supermarket at convenience store pagsapit ng Pebrero 15 o Marso 1.

Sa ilalim ng programang ito, ibebenta ang dekalidad na bigas sa ₱29 kada kilo para sa mga senior citizen, mahihirap, at iba pang nangangailangan. Kasama rin sa programa ang discounted prices para sa iba't ibang klase ng bigas. Kabilang sa mga retail partner ng programa ang SM, Robinsons, at Puregold. (*Santi Celario*)

<https://remate.ph/p49-kg-price-cap-ng-imported-rice-target-ng-da-sa-marso/>

ABANTE:

DA Chief hinarang sa emergency werpa

Abante News

• January 25, 2025



Mahihirapan ang Department of Agriculture (DA) na maipagtanggol ang food security emergency sakaling irekomenda ito ng National Price Coordinating Council, ayon kay Federation of Free Farmers Chairman Leonardo Montemayor.

Sa interview ng programang ‘Saktong Tapatan’ sa Abante Radyo nitong Sabado, sinabi ni Montemayor na malabong makuha ang dalawang ground para sa deklarasyon ng food security emergency.

ng bigas at pangalawa, dapat mapatunayan na may extraordinary na pagtaas sa presyo ng bigas.

“Ang dapat pag-aralan ngayon ni Secretary (Francisco Tiu) Laurel, may kakulangan ba sa supply? Ang sinasabi naman niya wala namang kakulangan sa supply,” paliwanag ni Montemayor.

Binanggit din ni Montemayor, dating kalihim ng DA, wala ring extraordinary na pagtaas ng presyo ng bigas sa nakalipas na anim na buwan.

“Yung presyong umiiral noon eh ‘yun pa rin ang presyo hanggang ngayon. Actually, sa ngayon nga medyo pababa na rin ang presyo nang kaunti. Nasaan ang extraordinary increase or pambihirang pagtaas sa presyo ng bigas?” diin pa niya.

“Kapag nagkaroon ng declaration of emergency tapos nag-release ng bigas ang NFA sa merkado, Hindi kaya magpapababa ito sa presyo ng palay?” babala pa niya.

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2025/01/25/da-chief-hinarang-sa-emergency-werpa/>

MANILA STANDARD:

BFAR team suspends research off Pagasa due to Chinese harassment



HARASSMENT A Chinese military helicopter buzzed Filipino researchers and scientists on rigid hull inflatable boats of Sandy Cay near Pag-asa Island while a Chinese coast guard boat follows a Bureau of Fisheries vessel near the Cay. PCG

By **Rex Espiritu**

January 26, 2025, 1:00 am

The Philippine Coast Guard said Saturday it had suspended a scientific survey in the contested West Philippine Sea due to “dangerous” harassment by Chinese navy and coast guard vessels and aircraft.

Three Chinese coast guard vessels and four smaller boats made “aggressive maneuvers” toward two Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources ships and their inflatable boats on Friday near Pagasa (Thitu) island, according to Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) Spokesperson Commodore Jay Tarriela.

The vessels were transporting scientists intending to conduct a “marine scientific survey and sand sampling” at a sandbar off Pagasa, the largest Philippine-occupied island in the disputed Spratly chain, he said.

Pagasa lies about 430 kilometers from the major Philippine island of Palawan and more than 900 kilometers from China’s nearest major landmass of Hainan Island. Chinese forces garrison the Subi Reef near Pagasa.

Tarriela also said a Chinese navy helicopter “hovered at an unsafe altitude” above the fisheries agency’s inflatable boats on Friday, “creating hazardous conditions due to the propeller wash.”

“As a result of this continuous harassment and the disregard for safety exhibited by the Chinese maritime forces”, the Coast Guard said it and the fisheries agency “regrettably suspended their survey operations and were unable to collect sand samples” from the unoccupied sandbars of Sandy Cay off Pagasa.

Despite the “dangerous confrontations,” no accidents occurred, the coast guard added.

The incident happened on the same day that Philippine forces resupplied and rotated without incident troops manning a derelict navy vessel grounded on the Ayungin Shoal (Second Thomas Shoal), the foreign affairs department said.

The government had deliberately grounded the vessel on the reef to assert its claim over the area.

This was the fifth rotation and reprovisioning (RORE) mission conducted under the ambit of the understanding reached between the Philippines and the People’s Republic of China on principles and approaches for conducting RORE missions in Ayungin Shoal to avoid misunderstandings and miscalculations, without prejudice to national positions.

“It demonstrates that effective diplomacy plays a leading role in West Philippine Sea issues and creates pathways to innovative approaches that help manage the situation, without compromising the Philippine national interest,” the DFA said.

The government raised the alarm this month over Chinese coast guard ships patrolling closer to the main island of Luzon, calling it an “intimidation tactic” by Beijing to discourage Filipino fishing.

China rejected the allegation, with a foreign ministry spokesman saying the patrols were “in accordance with the law.”

China claims nearly all of the disputed waterway, brushing off rival claims from other countries — including the Philippines — and an international arbitration tribunal ruling that its assertion has no legal basis.

In recent months, China has deployed navy and coast guard vessels in a bid to bar the Philippines from strategically important reefs and islands in the disputed area. **With AFP**

Editor’s Note: This is an updated article. Originally posted with the headline “Chinese vessels, helicopter harass BFAR ships conducting scientific survey.”

https://manilastandard.net/news/314550573/bfar-team-suspends-research-off-pagasa-due-to-chinese-harassment.html?fbclid=IwY2xjawIDvBhleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHXEAzT1cep8ldEzR2D-rDh_WKsTnceyttung6TTgVnOx3OLNaJU7naPf7w_aem_ZZ9KHTVTH0t94Xt_PMTSJg

THE MANILA TIMES:

Salilig named new BFAR chief

By [Kristina Maralit](#)

January 26, 2025

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has appointed Elizer Salilig as the new national director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

A veteran public servant with over 34 years of experience, Salilig's appointment became official last January 15.

"My top priority is to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of BFAR's programs, with a steadfast commitment to advancing food security and supporting our fisherfolk," he said in a statement.

He vowed to work hard in order to help the Department of Agriculture's thrust of ensuring food security.

A native of Magpet, North Cotabato, Salilig rose from the ranks, starting as a Fishery Technician for the Department of Agriculture in Region XII.

He later held managerial roles, including Aquaculturist I and Concurrent Planning and Budget Officer, where he oversaw the planning, monitoring, and evaluation of programs aimed at developing the fisheries sector.

Salilig's leadership extended to the Fisheries Scholarship Program, where he implemented initiatives to cultivate the next generation of fisheries professionals.

In 2016, he was appointed regional director of BFAR MIMAROPA where he led initiatives such as the Tilapia Intensive Hatchery Production program, which produced millions of fingerlings weekly, and the establishment of the country's first shrimp hatchery in Oriental Mindoro.

He also facilitated the construction of a modern BFAR regional office, underscoring his commitment to improving infrastructure and services.

Recognizing the importance of addressing emerging challenges, Salilig pledged to prioritize sustainability.

"Amid the growing challenges posed by climate change, I am determined to focus on strengthening the aquaculture industry and transitioning toward sustainable fisheries practices," he said.

"To achieve this, we will actively collaborate with other government agencies and academic institutions to enhance research and development efforts," he added.

"Ultimately, my goal is to lead the agency in fulfilling its mission to ensure fish sufficiency, improve the quality of life of our fisherfolk, and align with the President's vision of boosting productivity and yields, thereby uplifting their standard of living," the official said.



**BFAR National Director Elizer Salilig takes his oath before Agriculture Secretary Herman Tiu-Laurel.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2025/01/26/news/salilig-named-new-bfar-chief/2044698>

PILIPINO STAR NGAYON:

BANSA

P49/kilo ng imported rice posible sa Marso - DA

Angie dela Cruz - Pilipino Star Ngayon

January 26, 2025 | 12:00am



Rice retailers manage their stalls at Marikina Public Market on January 7, 2025.

MANILA, Philippines — Inihayag ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. na ang ahensiya ay unti-unting magpapatupad ng mas mababa sa maximum suggested retail price para sa mga imported rice sa mga susunod na linggo.

Ito anya ay mas mababa sa 50 kada kilo sa buwan ng Marso kung magiging stable ang presyuhan nito sa merkado.

Una nang nagtakda ang DA ng MSRP na ipinatulad sa Metro Manila na P58 ang kada kilo ng imported rice makaraan ang utos ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. na bawasan ang taripa sa bigas nang may 15 percent mula sa dating 35 percent.

Exempted naman sa MSRP ang Japanese black rice, red rice, basmati, imported malagkit at bigas na ani ng mga Pinoy farmers.

“By February 5, the MSRP on imported rice will be brought down to P55. Then, by February 15, we will lower it further to P52. By March 1, hopefully, we will break P50 per kilo, with the MSRP at P49, as long as world prices remain as they are today—a maximum landed cost of USD530 to USD550 per metric ton for 5 percent broken rice.”

https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2025/01/26/2416947/p49kilo-ng-imported-rice-possible-sa-marso-da?fbclid=IwY2xjawIDvCdleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHdWCfZ4m2BpT0zarCChGB6cvzQ0W6YGk4i5ZF5Iy_qRUMAs-ARkB0L3S0A_aem_tGQ8486hLiVqblazf717GQ