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MANILA BULLETIN:

BPI flags misdeclaration of frozen mackerel imports

BY DEXTER BARRO II

Feb 14, 2025 02:35 PM

The Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) has alerted the Bureau of Customs (BOC) to withhold the release of 19 container vans unloaded at Manila's South Harbor after a spot inspection revealed a misdeclaration involving imported frozen mackerel.

BPI Director Gerald Glenn Panganiban said the shipments were declared to contain 550 metric tons (MT) of frozen fried taro sticks, taro sweet potato balls, and assorted frozen food products.

The inspection, however, revealed that the cargo contained mackerel, which is in violation of importation regulations.

The shipment, which arrived on Jan. 21, has since been seized and detained.

"While these processed plant-based foods fall outside our mandate, our vigilant staff at Manila's ports flagged the shipments due to the large volume of imports of a particular frozen product of plant origin," said Panganiban.

The BPI, an agency attached to the Department of Agriculture (DA), is limited to overseeing plant products.

The frozen mackerel falls under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), also under the DA, as well as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which is attached to the Department of Health (DOH).

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel said this misdeclaration, if proven to be deliberate, is a blatant case of smuggling.

"This is a clear message to those who think they can get away with trifling with the law—we are watching you closely," Laurel said in a statement.

"We are fully committed to enforcing the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act to protect consumers, safeguard our farmers, and preserve government revenues," he added.

Signed in September last year, the law classifies smuggling, hoarding, profiteering, cartel operations, and other crimes involving agricultural and fishery products as economic sabotage.

Violators will face a fine of up to five times the value of the products involved in the crime and a penalty of life imprisonment.

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/2/14/bpi-flags-misdeclaration-of-frozen-mackerel-imports>

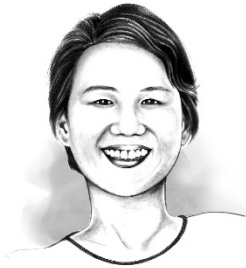
MANILA BULLETIN:

Cooperatives banding together for a better nation

BY YVETTE TAN

Feb 14, 2025 09:17 AM

AVANT GARDENER



A lot of farms in the Philippines are made up of small plots of land, which is why the government encourages the formation of cooperatives, to take advantage of economies of scale.

The Philippine Chamber of Cooperatives was created to further increase the opportunities that cooperatives afford its members. “The Philippine Chamber of Cooperatives (Coop Chamber) was created to have more focus [on] cooperative development, especially related to advocacy,” said Coop Chamber President Noel Dalang Raboy, a member of CLIMBS Life and General Insurance Cooperative, who sat down for the interview alongside Coop Chamber Executive Director Edwin Phi Bustillos.

“We don’t have that advocacy group that’s really the voice of the cooperative movement, especially for the rural areas... so it’s so timely that the Philippine Chamber of Coops were able to set up our 16 regional presence,” Raboy added. “We intend to register it to the Securities and Exchange Commission because we want to [be] more liberal in terms of our approach on how we support our cooperative movement.”

Cooperatives are very important in the agriculture industry as they allow small farmers the opportunity to group together for better market leverage. The Coop Chamber hopes to use this principle to unite all the coops in the country with the possibility of advocating for the sector in the legislative arena.

“We really need the support of the agricultural sector and the support of foreign investors in our agri but there are some issues and concerns that no one [talks about]... of that is when you talk about agricultural cooperatives on the ownership of the product of the land is very limited, only to five hectares per farmer. So, so how we can support that?” Raboy said in Taglish.

“We want to cooperate [with] the agricultural sector... but to be attractive [to] government support, there’s really a need for the amendments on [Republic Act] 9520 that is the Cooperative Development Authority of the Philippines.

“So our advocacy is supporting the government [so] that it can be... open. We allow foreign investors or cooperatives to give capital... to coops, but we advise that since the government wants to use the 40 percent ownership of foreigners, we’re concerned about the voting because their voting is share voting.”

The organization advocates for the one coop one vote system. “In the concept of one coop one vote, this is the principle that no matter how big your capital, it should be one vote per organization so nobody can monopolize the decisions and there’s democratic control,” Raboy said.

“But there’s a substitute bill that wants them to act like corporations, which is a violation of the cooperative principle. Because if it becomes law, it could become a loophole for big businesses to put up their own cooperatives, invest in them, and gain tax exemptions... They aren’t true cooperatives... We want to maintain the structure that, no matter how big a cooperative is, it just has one vote.”

Cooperatives are important and they are underutilized in the Philippine context. “Cooperatives are owned by ordinary people. It’s the chance of ordinary Filipinos to own a bank, insurance, [or] an enterprise with the intention of supporting their membership,” Raboy said.

Members can also borrow money at lower interest rates. “For small and medium enterprises, this is what drives our economy. We want to [encourage] coop members to become entrepreneurs to uplift their [standard of living]... It can also help the government in terms of economic activity and taxation [as] most of the biggest cooperatives are credit cooperatives.”

That said, Filipinos are famous for not getting along. Raboy offered tips on fostering a harmonious relationship within a cooperative. “The key is education. [It’s] one of seven components of the principles of a cooperative [alongside] training and information... [Potential members] have to be educated on what a real coop is. What is the intention of the coop? Why should I join?”

He added that the Coop Chamber wants to correct the impression that one should put up a cooperative simply because there are funds available without the proper education on what a cooperative is and what values and principles it should hold for its members.

The Coop Chamber has a long list of items to tackle, but its members, who come from all over the Philippines, are up for the task. “We plan to include cooperatives in policy making. We want to show people that cooperatives are able to help,” Raboy said.

Cooperatives who want to join the Coop Chamber can contact them through their website, <http://coopchamberph.org/>.

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/2/14/cooperatives-banding-together-for-a-better-nation>

Solon bats for 3-month food security emergency

BY JOSEPH PEDRAJAS

Feb 15, 2025 01:06 PM

AT A GLANCE

- A congressman has called on the Department of Agriculture (DA) to implement a food security emergency for up to three months only and to prioritize the purchase of rice from local farmers.

A congressman has called on the Department of Agriculture (DA) to implement a food security emergency for up to three months only and to prioritize the purchase of rice from local farmers.

While AGRI Party-list Rep. Wilbert T. Lee supported the government's announcement of a food security emergency, he said such a move should only be a short-term solution.

"Maganda ang layunin nitong food security emergency para mapababa ang presyo ng bigas sa merkado. Pero dapat mailatag dito ang malinaw na timeline kung paano matutulungan ang mga lokal na magsasaka (Food security serves a good purpose to lower the price of rice in the market. But we also need to set a timeline on how we can help the local farmers)," he said.

According to Lee, food security emergency would be ineffective "unless the government takes decisive action against cartels and individuals artificially inflating rice prices".

"Kailangan nang may masampolan at maipakulong. Balewala itong mga short-term solution ng gobyerno kung sa huli, namamayagpag pa rin ang mga demonyo at kriminal na pumapatay sa kabuhayan ng ating mga magsasaka (We need to set an example and hold those responsible behind cartels accountable. This short-term solution would be nothing, if in the end, there are still demons and criminals who kill the livelihood of our farmers)," he said.

Lee also said the government must purchase from local farmers to replenish the National Food Authority (NFA)'s buffer stock.

"Kawawa ang ating mga magsasaka kung mas iaasa na naman sa importasyon ang pag-replenish sa mga stock ng bigas. Dapat bilhin ng gobyerno ang palay ng mga lokal na magsasaka sa presyong tiyak ang kanilang kita, para ma-engganyo silang taasan ang produksyon, na magpapababa ng presyo sa merkado (Our local farmers will suffer if the government will depend on imports to replenish our stocks. The government must buy from our farmers at a price that will also give them income, so they will be encouraged to boost their production, and consequently lower the price of rice across the country)," he added.

Seeking reelection, AGRI Party-list has been pushing for the protection of livelihood and more support to farmers, fisherfolk and local food producers whom it considers "food security soldiers" to boost local production, achieve food security and cheaper basic commodities.

The party-list suggested that the DA and NFA must work closely with farmers' groups, cooperatives, and other stakeholders to effectively address their needs and concerns.

It said "there is a need for comprehensive strategies and long-term solutions that address both supply chain inefficiencies and market manipulations to achieve sustainable food security".

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/2/15/solon-bats-for-3-month-food-security-emergency>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Marcos plays Cupid at Tagum City job fair

BY ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS

Feb 15, 2025 05:55 PM

AT A GLANCE

- In his speech, the President hoped the people had a romantic Valentine's Day celebration. Marcos also used love-related acronyms to wish love for those who are single.

Valentine's Day was extended for President Marcos as he spread the spirit of the day of love to those who attended the Trabaho sa Bagong Pilipinas job fair in Tagum City on Saturday, Feb. 15.



RTVM/Canva

In his speech, the President hoped the people had a romantic Valentine's Day celebration.

"Base sa inyong ngiti at sa inyong masiglang pagsalubong sa akin ay mukhang maligaya naman ang inyong Araw ng Puso (Based on your smiles and warm greetings, it appears you had a happy Valentine's Day)," he said.

Marcos also used love-related acronyms to wish love for those who are single.

"Para naman sa mga NBSB o NBSG (NGSB), alam nyo ba ibig sabihin nun (Do you know what they mean)? No boyfriend, no girlfriend since birth," he said.

"Malay po ninyo, sa libo-libong tao na nandito sa job fair ngayon, baka nandito na yung The One. Baka sya na ay andyan na (Who knows? You might just meet The One among the thousands in this job fair)," he added.

He extended the same wishes to the TOTGAs — The One That Got Away.

"Baka nandito dito rin po ang inyong hinahanap kaya lingon-lingon din, baka naman swertehin pa (Perhaps the ones for you are here so look around and you might just find your luck)," the President said.

The Trabaho sa Bagong Pilipinas, organized by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), had over 28 participating employers.

It likewise attracted around 4,000 job seekers, mostly beneficiaries of the DSWD's Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) and DOLE's Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) Program.

In his speech, President Marcos vowed to replicate the job fair in different parts of the country.

"Gagawin ko po lahat para itong programa na ito ay magkalat sa buong bansa (I will do everything so this program will reach the entire country)," he said.

"Hangad ko po ang inyong tagumpay. Kakambal nito ay ang aking panawagan na sana po ay mapalawig pa ninyo ang mga pagkakataon at oportunidad na nasa inyong harapan (I wish your success. I also call on you to expand the opportunities and chances that lie before you)," he added.

Government agencies such as the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Pag-IBIG Fund, and Social Security System (SSS) also provided pre-employment documentation and advisory services.

Another highlight was the Kadiwa ng Pangulo where the President toured the booths and interacted with around 38 participating sellers and buyers. The Department of Agriculture (DA) initiative aims to provide affordable basic commodities and agricultural products to local communities.

As part of the program, the DOLE distributed cash assistance to 1,000 TUPAD workers, while the DSWD assisted 3,000 graduating Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) beneficiaries.

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/2/15/marcos-plays-cupid-job-fair>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Bukidnon is top contributor to Philippines agriculture, fishing output

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

February 15, 2025 | 12:00am



The PSA said Bukidnon remained the largest contributor to the national AFF gross value added with a 7.1-percent share. The province bested 81 other provinces and 33 highly urbanized cities (HUCs) nationwide.

BW / File

MANILA, Philippines — Bukidnon emerged as the top contributor to the country’s P1.8 trillion worth of agriculture, forestry and fishing (AFF) output in 2023, the Philippine Statistics Authority said.

The PSA said Bukidnon remained the largest contributor to the national AFF gross value added with a 7.1-percent share. The province bested 81 other provinces and 33 highly urbanized cities (HUCs) nationwide.

The province contributed nearly P129 billion to the GVA of the country’s AFF in 2023, according to the PSA.

“Moreover, other provinces which comprised the top 10 were: Nueva Ecija (4.6 percent); Pangasinan (3.8 percent); Pampanga (3.7 percent); Isabela (3.3 percent); Negros Occidental (3.1 percent); Davao del Norte (2.8 percent); Batangas (2.8 percent); Iloilo (2.7 percent) and Quezon (2.5 percent),” the PSA said.

“Collectively, these provinces accounted for more than a third or about 36.5 percent of the national GVA of AFF,” it said.

The GVA of AFF in 2023 rose by 1.2 percent from P1.78 trillion in 2022, the PSA said.

It said the majority of the provinces and HUCs posted annual growth in their AFF contributions in 2023 with Rizal registering the fastest growth at 19.9 percent. It was followed by Negros Oriental and Batanes with 15.8 percent growth and 14.7 percent growth, respectively, according to the PSA.

Meanwhile, the PSA added that 39 provinces nationwide saw AFF contributing the most in their respective economies.

“AFF’s share to the GDP was highest in Maguindanao del Sur, accounting for more than half or about 53.4 percent of the province’s total economy,” the PSA said.

“This was followed by Sulu and Bukidnon with AFF share of 53.2 percent and 49.8 percent to their respective GDP,” it added.

Completing the top 10 provinces with the largest share of AFF to their economies were Basilan (41.1 percent), Tawi-Tawi (37.9 percent), Sultan Kudarat (37.6 percent), Lanao del Norte (34.9 percent), Sarangani (33.4 percent), Quirino (29.83 percent) and Isabela (29.8 percent).

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2025/02/15/2421550/bukidnon-top-contributor-philippines-agriculture-fishing-output>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Misdeclaration of imported frozen food caught in Manila's South Harbor

By: [Jordeene B. Lagare](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)
[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 08:39 AM February 15, 2025



South Harbor in Manila

Local authorities have discovered misdeclared imports in one of the shipments that arrived at Manila's South Harbor recently, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Friday.

The DA said its attached bureau, the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), had requested the Bureau of Customs (BOC) to hold the release of 19 container vans while further inspections are conducted.

"Instead of frozen taro sticks as declared in the shipping manifest, the van contained frozen mackerel," the agency said in a statement.

The shipments consigned to Stradava Household Products Trading, which arrived on Jan. 21, contained 550 metric tons of frozen fried taro sticks, taro sweet potato balls and assorted frozen food products.

However, the spot inspection revealed the cargo held mackerel, as opposed to taro products which were stipulated in the shipping manifest.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has instructed the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and the BPI to immediately inspect all the shipments in cooperation with the BOC.

Henrick Exconde, OIC and area manager of the BPI's Plant Quarantine Service in Manila's South Harbor, said that other shipments, which have not yet been divulged, were requested alert orders and will also undergo a full inspection.

Local authorities immediately seized and detained the shipment of Stradava, which holds a license to import until July 13, 2028, based on the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) portal.

“While these processed plant-based foods fall outside our mandate, our vigilant staff at Manila’s ports flagged the shipments due to the large volume of imports of a particular frozen product of plant origin,” BPI director Gerald Glenn Panganiban said.

The BPI regulates imports of all plant products including live plants, fruits and vegetables.

On the other hand, the FDA oversees processed food imports.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said he has informed FDA Director General Samuel Zacate of the smuggling case to ensure coordination among government agencies.

“This is a clear message to those who think they can get away with trifling with the law—we are watching you closely,” Tiu Laurel said.

“We are fully committed to enforcing the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act to protect consumers, safeguard our farmers, and preserve government revenues,” he added.

The law classifies smuggling, hoarding and cartel operations involving agricultural products as economic sabotage.

Likewise, the smuggling and hoarding of agricultural products is considered economic sabotage when the value of the goods exceeds P10 million.

<https://business.inquirer.net/506791/misdeclaration-of-imported-frozen-food-caught-in-manilas-south-harbor>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Coconut, IP bodies boost ancestral lands

By: [Jordeene B. Lagare @jordeenelagare](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)
[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 12:21 PM February 14, 2025



MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) are working together to boost coconut farming in ancestral areas.

In a statement, the PCA said they have signed a memorandum of agreement to establish a framework for empowering indigenous cultural communities and indigenous peoples (ICCs/IPs) engaged in coconut farming.

“For centuries, our indigenous peoples have been the silent guardians of our lands. With this MOA, we ensure that our ICCs/IPs are no longer at the margins of progress but at its very heart,” PCA administrator Dexter Buted said.

Both parties will implement socio-economic programs, livelihood projects and support mechanisms to improve the livelihood and well-being of indigenous coconut farmers and improve their productivity.

“The agreement solidifies the commitment of both institutions to ensure that indigenous coconut farmers are integrated into national agricultural programs and benefit directly from coconut industry development initiatives,” the PCA said.

The PCA will help the NCIP identify ancestral lands with existing coconut plantations, register IP coconut farmers in the National Coconut Farmers Registry System and facilitate their participation in different PCA programs.

For its part, the NCIP will expedite the processing of the free, prior and informed consent (FCIP), a document stating IPs’ consent for any activities or projects undertaken on their land as well as identify ancestral domains and assist in the registration of IP farmers.

<https://business.inquirer.net/506560/coconut-ip-bodies-boost-ancestral-lands>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Japan to release emergency rice reserves as prices soar

Agence France-Presse / 01:01 PM February 14, 2025



(FILES) This file photo taken on November 22, 2024 shows bags of rice stacked in a supermarket in central Tokyo. The Japanese government said on February 14, 2025 it will release its stockpile of rice — the nation’s cherished staple food — reserved for emergency use in response to soaring prices. (Photo by Richard A. Brooks / AFP)

Tokyo, Japan — The Japanese government said Friday it will release its stockpile of rice — the nation’s cherished staple food — reserved for emergency use in response to soaring prices.

The government has tapped into its rice reserves in the past during emergencies such as major earthquakes, but this will be the first time to do so because of disruption to distribution.

The price of rice has continued to surge after it jumped last summer as a shortage triggered by extreme hot weather in 2023 sent demand into overdrive.

Japan has continued to confront soaring temperatures, registering the hottest year on record in 2024, as extreme heatwaves fuelled by climate change engulfed many parts of the globe.

Agriculture Minister Taku Eto told reporters the government will release 210,000 tonnes of rice from its one million tonnes of stockpile.

“We want to improve the situation of stagnant distribution at all costs,” he said.

The government had hoped the price would stabilise when newly harvested rice hit the shelves in the autumn, but the increase continued.

The latest average retail price of a five-kilogram (11-pound) bag was 3,688 yen (\$24) according to a government survey in February, up from 2,023 yen last year.

In an unprecedented move, the agriculture ministry decided last month to allow the sale of the government's stockpile of rice under a new rule.

Previously, stockpiled rice could be released only in the event of a serious crop failure or disaster, but a change in regulations allows a release when rice distribution is deemed stagnant.

The ministry has to buy back the same amount of rice from distributors within a year.

The government enacted a law to stockpile rice in 1995 after a major rice crop failure two years earlier sent shoppers scrambling to buy the staple.

<https://business.inquirer.net/506579/japan-to-release-emergency-rice-reserves-as-prices-soar>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Bakers group optimistic for industry in 2025

By: [Alden M. Monzon @AldenMonzonINQ](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)
[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 02:57 PM February 14, 2025

MANILA, Philippines — The head of an association of Filipino-Chinese bakers on Thursday expressed optimism for the bakery industry in 2025, signaling confidence from stakeholders in a sector facing a number of challenges to their businesses this year.

“We are optimistic, we are okay as long as the government supports us and if the whole baking industry helps each other,” Filipino Chinese Bakery Association (FCBAI) President Chris Ah told reporters when asked for their general outlook for the year.

He said this despite the rising prices of eggs, sugar, and cooking oil, all of which are main ingredients in their bread and other pastry products.

As of February 12, the price of a medium sized egg ranges from P7 to P9 in Metro Manila markets, according to the price monitoring program of the Department of Agriculture.

These prices are considerably higher compared with the P5.70 to P8.50 range observed in the same day back in 2024.

Meanwhile, the price of a kilogram of washed sugar ranged from P75 per kilogram (kg) to P90 per kg as of February 12, higher than the P65 per kg to P85 per kg price tag from a year ago.

FCBAI president Chris Ah, when asked about plans from lawmakers to legislate a P200 wage hike, said that he thinks this should be “gradually” implemented if it pushes through.

He said that implementing it in tranches will help the industry cope better with this additional labor cost.

In line with this, Ah said that they are set to hold their “Bakery Fair 2025” event from March 6 to 8 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

Ah said that various baking groups would bring together key players from the industry and showcase the latest products and technologies for their businesses.

He added that there will also be a town hall meeting where they would discuss the challenges and planned solutions to the issues facing the industry.

“This event is more than just a showcase. It’s a catalyst for unity and progress, bringing together pioneers and communities to create a sweeter, brighter future for all.

<https://business.inquirer.net/506601/bakers-group-optimistic-for-industry-in-2025>

REMATE:

‘Misdeclared’ imported mackerel naharang sa Manila port

February 15, 2025 16:24



MANILA, Philippines- Iniulat ng Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Plant Industry (DA-BPI) nitong Biyernes ang pagkakaharang sa shipment ng imported mackerel na idineklarang frozen goods.

Natuklasan ang shipment, naka-consign sa Straradava, na may 19 container vans sa Manila’s South Harbor noong Jan. 21, base sa news release mula sa DA.

Sa spot inspection, natagpuang naglalaman ang isa sa mga van ng mackerel, sa halip na frozen fried taro sticks, taro sweet potato balls at assorted frozen food products.

Ang mackerel ay nasa ilalim ng hurisdiksyon ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

“This is a clear message to those who think they can get away with trifling with the law, we are watching you closely. We are fully committed to enforcing the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act to protect consumers, safeguard our farmers, and preserve government revenues,” pahayag ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.

Sinabi naman ni BPI Director Gerald Glenn Panganiban na bagama’t labas sa mandato nila ang processed plant-based foods, nasaita ng alertong staff ng bureau sa pantalan ng Maynila ang shipments “due to the large volume of imports of a particular frozen product of plant origin.” **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/misdeclared-imported-mackerel-naharang-sa-manila-port/>

REMATE:

Abot-kayang NFA rice ibebenta sa Kadiwa stores sa sunod na linggo

February 15, 2025 16:12



MANILA, Philippines- Magbebenta ng bigas mula sa National Food Authority (NFA) warehouses sa Kadiwa stores at piling retailers simula sa susunod na linggo.

Ayon sa ulat nitong Biyernes, mananatiling “well-stocked” ang NFA warehouses sa Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Western Visayas, at SOCCKSARGEN.

Upang maglaan ng espasyo bago ang darating na anihan, sisimulan ng NFA na magbenta ng bigas sa ilalim ng Rice for All Program sa P35 kada kilo, ayon sa ulat.

Binigyang-daan ng food security emergency declaration ng pamahalaan na makapaglabas ang NFA ng buffer stocks upang mapatatag ang presyo ng bigas.

“Puwede ‘yan under the food security emergency. Puwede namin i-release kasi inatasan kami ni DA, i-release niyo ang stocks niyo,” pahayag ni NFA Administrator Larry Lacson.

Gayundin, simula sa susunod na linggo, ibebenta ang aging rice stocks sa mas mababang presyo na P29 kada kilo, eksklusibo para sa senior citizens, persons with disabilities (PWDs), solo parents, at mga benepisyaryo ng Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps). **RNT/SA**

<https://remate.ph/abot-kayang-nfa-rice-ibebenta-sa-kadiwa-stores-sa-sunod-na-linggo/>

REMATE:

Habambuhay na kulong sa sumasabotahe ng ekonomiya hirit ng solon

February 14, 2025 15:55



MANILA, Philippines – Matapos ang ginagawang pagsalakay at masampolan ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) at Department of Agriculture (DA) ang ilang sangkot sa pag-iimbak ng bigas sa Bocaue, Bulacan, nagpahayag naman ng kagalakan ang sektor ng magsasaka sa mabilis na aksyon at hakbang ng isa sa ahensya na miyembro ng Task Force laban sa agricultural economic sabotage act.

Sa pahayag ni Agricultural Sector Alliance of the Philippines, Inc. (AGAP) Partylist Rep. Nicanor ‘Nick Briones’ nang hingan ng reaksiyon sa matagumpay na operasyon ng NBI, sinabi niya na dapat masampulan din ang may-ari ng warehouse sa ilalim ng Republic Act (RA) No. 12022 o mas kilala bilang Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act, na may parusang life time imprisonment at nonbailable.

Aniya, hindi sapat na ang warehouse manager, dalawang kahera, at isang inventory officer ng bodega lamang ang masasampahan ng kasong hoarding, adulteration, profiteering, untruthful labeling, at economic sabotage.

Nitong Huwebes, sumalang na sa inquest proceedings sa DoJ ang 4 kataong naaresto ng NBI, at bukod sa kanila kabilang din sa sinampahan ng reklamo ang pinoy na may-ari ng bodega pero nananatili pa rin itong at large.

Di umano, ang rehistradong nagmamay-ari ng bodega ang Rice Milling at Rice Retailing sa Golden City, Taal, Bocaue, Bulacan na si Elizabeth Pineda base sa nakuha ng NBI at DA sa sanitary permit at certification of annual inspection na inisyu ng munisipalidad ng Bocaue.

Ayon kay Briones, patuloy pa rin ang pananamantala sa mga consumer dahil patuloy pang rin mataas ang presyo ng bigas, na dapat bumaba na ng P14 per kilo dahil sa pagbaba ng 20% ng taripa at pagbababa a world market price buhat \$600-\$400 per metric ton.

“Tama lamang na inspeksiyunin ang lahat ng mga bodega na posibleng nagho-hoard at nagtatago ng bigas kaya hindi bumababa ang presyo nito,” wika ni Briones.

Sinasabing ang nadiskubreng tone-toneladang bigas mga pinaghalo-halong luma at ibang klase bigas para maibenta sa merkado ng mas mataas na presyo.

Kasabay nito, nanawagan si Briones sa pamahalaan na magpatupad muna ng maximum suggested retail price (MSRP) sa mga imported na karne ng baboy bago sa lokal na baboy at iyon ang maghahatak pababa sa presyo ng lokal na karne ng baboy.

Paliwanag ng solon, na sa ganitong paraan makakabawi ang mga local hog raiser na mga nalugi dahil na rin sa tumamang African Swine Fever (ASF) sa kanilang mga alagang baboy.

Samantala, kabilang sa mga nakikitang dahilan ni Briones kung bakit tumataas ang halaga ng karneng baboy dahil sa ASF na tumama noong mga nakaraang taon, pagkakaroon ng maraming fiesta at dahil election period kung saan maraming aktibidad at umiikot na pera na nagpapataas ng demand nito.

Patuloy ang panawagn ni #117 AGAP Partylist na tuluyang ma-enforce ng council ang batas na nasa ilalim ng office of the president at kung may enforcement group maipatupad kaagad ang anti-economic sabotage act at mahuhuli ang mga nananamantala at makasuhan ang mga smugglers, hoarders at profitters.

Hinikayat ni Rep. Briones ang mamamayan na muling pagkatiwalaan at tangkilikin ang #117 AGAP Partylist na tunay na may sektor ng agrikultura at may adbokasiya.na ipaglaban ang kapakanan at hanapbuhay ng mga magsasaka. Kailangan natin ng maunlad na magsasaka para sa mura, de kalidad at sapat na pagkain ng pamilyang Pilipino. **RNT**

<https://remate.ph/habambuhay-na-kulong-sa-sumasabotahe-ng-ekonomiya-hirit-ng-solon/>

ABANTE:

DA kinalampag BOC sa 19 container van ng frozen fish sa South Harbor

Abante News

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Kinalampag ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang Bureau of Customs (BOC) para huwag ipalabas ang 19 na container van na ibinaba sa South Harbor sa Maynila noong Enero 21.

Sabi ng Department of Agriculture, natuklasan nitong frozen mackerel ang laman ng shipment at hindi frozen fried taro sticks tulad ng idineklara ng consignee na Straradava.

Ayon sa DA, tinimbrehan ni Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) Director Gerald Glenn Panganiban ang BOC na frozen fish ang mga idineklarang 550 toneladang frozen fried taro sticks, taro sweet potato balls, at iba pa.

Babala ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.: “This is a clear message to those who think they can get away with trifling with the law— we are watching you closely. We are fully committed to enforcing the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act to protect consumers, safeguard our farmers, and preserve government revenues.”

Ayon kay Henrick Exconde, officer-in-charge ng Plant Quarantine Service at area manager ng South Harbor sa Maynila, kinumpiska ang isa sa mga van ng Straradava matapos matuklasan sa spot inspection na frozen fish ang laman nito imbes na frozen taro kaya nag-isyu na rin ng alert order sa iba pang mga shipment na isasailalim sa masusing inspeksiyon.

Ipinag-utos na ni Laurel sa Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources at BPI na agad makipag-ugnayan sa BOC para mainspeksyon na ang natitirang mga kargamento. (Eileen Mencias)

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2025/02/14/da-kinalampag-boc-sa-19-container-van-ng-frozen-fish-sa-south-harbor/>

MANILA STANDARD:

Public-private partnership in agriculture

By Melandrew T. Velasco
February 15, 2025, 12:00 am

“The synergy of the public and private sectors should impact positively on agriculture”

THE country’s economy maintained a steady gross domestic product growth in 2024. Prospects for 2025 remains bullish. Both are welcome news.

But I’m concerned industry and services were the primary growth drivers. What happened to agriculture? Despite advances in information, technology and rapid urbanization, the country still is an agricultural one.

The agriculture, forestry and fishery sector, which accounts for four in every 10 jobs nationwide, posted a decline of 1.6 percent in 2024 attributed to the ill effects of unfavorable weather, pests and diseases.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, from January to December 2024, volume of crops production was estimated at 80.41 million metric tons, 6.3 percent lower than the previous year’s 85.83 million metric tons.

Re-read some books I’ve authored for former President Fidel V. Ramos, and came across his statement 34 years ago: “Philippine agriculture clearly needs a shot in the arm, for on it depends much of our population for their livelihood.”

A robust agriculture sector means more employment, better standard of living for farmers, more food for the population and more raw materials for industries.

It will also help arrest inflation and lessen importation of agricultural products aside from contributing to the growth of the economy.

Last month, regional agricultural and fisheries councils presented recommendations to Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel, Jr. to address issues affecting the production of rice, fish and other aquatic resources, poultry and livestock, corn and feed crops, high value crops as well as domestic trade and mechanization.

They recommended the construction of farm-to-market roads or other modes for faster movement of agricultural products.

Another development is the forging of a partnership between the Department of Agriculture and San Miguel Corporation subsidiary San Miguel Food, Inc. aiming to improve market access and boost incomes of farmers particularly those cultivating corn with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.

Corn is among traditional crops cultivated in most agricultural areas along with palay and coconut.

This is the first nationwide public-private partnership in agriculture between them and an MOU was signed, led by Agriculture Undersecretary Roger Navarro and San Miguel Foods Group General Manager Emmanuel Macalalag.

SMC will establish and manage buying stations for crops like corn, cassava, sorghum, and soybeans. Farmers will have direct access to an institutional buyer to ensure a stable and fair market.

Strategies to modernize and streamline agricultural supply chains are incorporated to promote long-term growth and sustainability which will benefit not only the farmers but also consumers.

Under the partnership, SMC will share laboratory procedures for crop acceptance and conduct capacity-building seminars for DA-recognized farmer cooperatives and associations. San Miguel food products will also be offered to cooperatives, creating opportunities for additional income.

“This partnership allows us to invest directly in our farmers and the future of Philippine agriculture,” SMC Chairman and CEO Ramon S. Ang said. “By offering fair prices and consistent support, we help farmers improve their livelihoods and make agriculture a more sustainable and rewarding industry.”

The DA will introduce advanced technologies to improve crop monitoring and harvest volume projections. It will also provide technical assistance to SMC farmer partners, particularly those in DA-recognized FCAs.

Secretary Tiu Laurel Jr. said “This partnership will not only benefit the farmers, but also the broader society as a whole. By sourcing quality local ingredients for feed production, we can significantly reduce import costs which will in turn lower prices of meat in the market, eggs, and several other meat (products) for consumers — creating a win-win scenario for both producers and households by ensuring that only high-quality raw materials are used.

“Let us continue to harness this partnership to create a more sustainable and resilient local agriculture industry that will empower our farmers and ensure food security, and drive economic growth in the country.”

SMC’s support to agriculture is evident with the signing of the MOU. Already in place is its corn buying program launched in 2020 providing corn farmers with ready market.

It also has a Cassava Assembler Program providing guaranteed market to cassava cultivators.

The synergy of the public and private sectors should impact positively on agriculture.

(MTV book author/publisher, is president/executive director of the Million Trees Foundation Inc., a non-government outfit advocating tree-planting and environmental protection.)

<https://manilastandard.net/opinion/314557736/public-private-partnership-in-agriculture.html>