

CLIPPINGS FOR TODAY FEBRUARY 21, 2025

A. MANILA BULLETIN:

Cotabato kicks off Rice Revolution Program

Anitu Forest Farm: Cacao farm and reforestation effort

B. THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Maximum farmgate pork price mulled

DA to Comelec: Exempt NFA rice sale from spending ban

Philippines ships first frozen durian to China

Subsidize ASF vaccine, government urged

C. PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

PH makes first frozen durian shipment to China

PH marks first frozen durian export in China

DA halts poultry importation from 4 US states

Lower tariff for pork imports eyed to cut prices

D. BUSINESS WORLD:

Durian exporter ships P8.2-M order to China

E. MANILA STANDARD:

Rice granary

F. THE MANILA TIMES:

Why MSRP protects rice cartels

G. BUSINESS MIRROR:

DA lists 12 regions with sharp rice price hikes

Alyansa vows fair prices to sugar farmers

Ex-senator: Institutionalize Kadiwa

H. ABANTE TONITE:

Ping Lacson: `Agriculture sector pinapatay ng import quota!'

I. REMATE:

Poultry importation mula sa 4 US states ipinagbawal ng DA

National Food Security Emergency

Pagbebenta ng NFA rice pinae-exempt ng DA sa election ban

J. ABANTE:

Agri importation tuwing anihan ibabawal ng mga pambato ni PBBM sa Senado

Sotto pinush presyong magsasaka sa mga produktong agrikultura

MANILA BULLETIN:

Cotabato kicks off Rice Revolution Program

BY KEITH BACONGCO

Feb 20, 2025 12:35 PM

KIDAPAWAN CITY – The provincial government of Cotabato is gearing up to boost rice production through a newly crafted initiative known as Rice Revolution Program (RRP).



FARMERS carry newly harvested palay in Barangay Ugalingan, Carmen, Cotabato. (Keith Bacongco)

This intervention was formulated to help farmers address the rising cost of rice production as well as to temper the fluctuating buying price of palay.

Gov. Emmylou Taliño-Mendoza said the program aims to maximize the yield per hectare of farmers in selected pilot areas in 16 towns of the province.

Data from the Philippine Rice Institute (PhilRice) showed that in 2024, the average rice production in the province was 3.8 tons per hectare. The national average was at 4.11 tons per hectare, according to PhilRice.

With a coverage area of over 126,000 hectares, Cotabato is the top rice-producing province in Region 12 followed by South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, and Sarangani.

Through the program, Mendoza said the provincial government aims to increase the farmer's production to at least four tons per hectare. "Even if the buying price is low, it would be tempered because the farmers have maximized their rice production. With this, the farmers can compete in the local market." To help farmers boost their production, they will receive six sacks of fertilizer for every hectare of rice farm, the provincial government said – two each from the provincial government, the municipal government, and the Department of Agriculture.

The pilot program will cover an initial 2,000 to 3,000 hectares of rice farms in the province. This initiative is based on the 3Cs concept: Convergence, collaboration, and cooperation.

The RRP will be implemented through conventional and diversified approaches.

Under the conventional scheme, six bags of fertilizers shall be provided by the provincial government, LGU, and DA. Under the diversified approach, the provincial government and DA will only provide four bags of fertilizer if the LGU does not have the resources to provide their counterpart.

However, the farmer-beneficiary will shoulder the additional two bags of fertilizer. “We cannot force the mayor if they don’t have a budget,” the governor said.

Mendoza said local irrigators associations and local government units will select the pilot farms regardless of organic or non-organic rice production.

The Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPAg) is conducting orientation programs in target areas along with the Department of Agriculture Regional Office-12, PhilRice, National Irrigation Administration, National Food Authority, and the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp.

Mendoza has urged the Municipal Agriculturist’s Office in the LGUs to ensure that the allotted fertilizers are properly used.

She added that the OPAg will also monitor farmers to make sure that they follow proper procedures from planting rice to fertilizer application to achieve the province’s goal of increasing rice production.

https://mb.com.ph/2025/2/20/cotabato-kicks-off-rice-revolution-program#google_vignette

MANILA BULLETIN:

Anitu Forest Farm: Cacao farm and reforestation effort

BY YVETTE TAN

Feb 21, 2025 00:02 AM

AVANT GARDENER



Last week, I wrote about Anitu Forest Food Processing, a small chocolate brand from New Kidapawan City, Bukidnon. Now, I'm writing about the Anitu Forest Farm, the syntropic farm that produces the cacao that goes into the handcrafted chocolates.

Anitu Forest Farm is run by Marvi Montecillo, a fourth generation farmer. His wife, Rogén Montecillo, is the chocolatier behind the Anitu brand. Agriculture magazine featured their farm some time ago but now's a good time to see what the couple have been up to and how the farm has grown. The farm is named after anitos, deities worshipped by ancient Filipinos. "[We grow cacao], which is the food of the gods," Marvi explained in Taglish. "We're growing food in the forest," Rogén added.

Marvi's interest in syntropic farming started in 2013, though the land he farms on has been passed down since his great great grandfather, who helped establish New Kidapawan City. "My mother's and father's side all stated farming here."

He established Anitu Forest Farm in 2016, though as a BS Biology major, he was clueless when he started and underwent about a decade of trial and error before he began to see results. He attributes his success to his online community of syntropic farmers who continue to support each other.

ADVERTISEMENT

The farm started on two hectares of sandy loam that used to be planted conventionally to various crops such as sugarcane, bananas, and coconuts. Most of their farmland is still farmed conventionally, though Marvi is trying to convince his siblings to shift to syntropic farming.

Now expanded to six hectares, the farm holds a mix of mostly cacao (totalling about 3.5 hectares) with banana, native and various fruit trees as shade. “We grow cacao under the bananas,” Marvi explained. “Our long-term goal is full cacao production for chocolate making.”

Since both cacao and banana plants take more than a year to mature, the Montecillos don’t have complete numbers on their annual yields yet. “I would say that [our cacao production] is very competitive,” Marvi said.

Marvi, who’s tried both conventional and syntropic farming, said he prefers the latter, even though it can be more labor-intensive.

“In terms of our bananas, the yield is the same even if you applied chemicals. The difference with monocropping is you can plant, let’s say, 3,000 banana trees per hectare and in syntropic farming you can only plant half of that or maybe even less because your goal is to continually harvest and continually increase soil fertility, so [you have to make] certain sacrifices in the early stages. But we’re playing a very long game.”

“[Our bananas] have about 20+ bunches from one tree, which doesn’t happen often, especially since we’ve just come from El Niño,” Rogen said in Tagalog.

“Our focus is on the soil. Our farm did okay during El Niño, and when the rain came, we had a huge harvest,” Marvi added. “We started planting the banana at ₱40 per kilo and right now the price is ₱50 per kilo farm gate. It’s also calculated because aside from farming, I do [cost] analysis. It seems like the price of fertilizer... continues to increase, and when it continues to increase, there will be lesser farmers growing. I really think that for us, it’s very important that we really think of [this as] the future of farming, [which is] regenerative farming.”

Marvi stresses that despite their many successes, there is always room for improvement. He’s hoping to acquire machinery to offset the intensive labor required to maintain a syntropic farm.

“You have to climb the trees and prune them,” he explained. “Bananas [are] very laborious because we brush cut every month but with machinery, I think we can really cut down on the cost of labor. With more technology applied to this type of farming, I think it’s going to be very good,” he said.

The Montecillos also aim to turn their farm into a research center. “[We want to open our farm to] anyone who wants to try syntropic farming and make it economically impactful. We want to make syntropic farming mainstream. Unfortunately, it will require research,” Marvi said. “We’re always at the same time growing cacao and bananas, which is a sure strategy. I also want to try many things like growing vegetables and dairy cattle, small experiments. We want to be a learning site... If the farm continues to grow, it [may] become [an] ecotourism destination. Whatever is the opportunity.”

Anitu Forest Farm isn’t just a cacao and banana farm. It’s a food forest that represents the Montecillo’s commitment to conserve the environment. And as Rogen said, “It’s also a gift for our children.”

AVANT GARDENER

Last week, I wrote about Anitu Forest Food Processing, a small chocolate brand from New Kidapawan City, Bukidnon. Now, I'm writing about the Anitu Forest Farm, the syntropic farm that produces the cacao that goes into the handcrafted chocolates.

Anitu Forest Farm is run by Marvi Montecillo, a fourth generation farmer. His wife, Rogan Montecillo, is the chocolatier behind the Anitu brand. Agriculture magazine featured their farm some time ago but now's a good time to see what the couple have been up to and how the farm has grown. The farm is named after anitos, deities worshipped by ancient Filipinos. "[We grow cacao], which is the food of the gods," Marvi explained in Taglish. "We're growing food in the forest," Rogan added.

Marvi's interest in syntropic farming started in 2013, though the land he farms on has been passed down since his great great grandfather, who helped establish New Kidapawan City. "My mother's and father's side all stated farming here."

He established Anitu Forest Farm in 2016, though as a BS Biology major, he was clueless when he started and underwent about a decade of trial and error before he began to see results. He attributes his success to his online community of syntropic farmers who continue to support each other.

The farm started on two hectares of sandy loam that used to be planted conventionally to various crops such as sugarcane, bananas, and coconuts. Most of their farmland is still farmed conventionally, though Marvi is trying to convince his siblings to shift to syntropic farming.

Now expanded to six hectares, the farm holds a mix of mostly cacao (totalling about 3.5 hectares) with banana, native and various fruit trees as shade. "We grow cacao under the bananas," Marvi explained. "Our long-term goal is full cacao production for chocolate making."

Since both cacao and banana plants take more than a year to mature, the Montecillos don't have complete numbers on their annual yields yet. "I would say that [our cacao production] is very competitive," Marvi said.

Marvi, who's tried both conventional and syntropic farming, said he prefers the latter, even though it can be more labor-intensive.

"In terms of our bananas, the yield is the same even if you applied chemicals. The difference with monocropping is you can plant, let's say, 3,000 banana trees per hectare and in syntropic farming you can only plant half of that or maybe even less because your goal is to continually harvest and continually increase soil fertility, so [you have to make] certain sacrifices in the early stages. But we're playing a very long game."

"[Our bananas] have about 20+ bunches from one tree, which doesn't happen often, especially since we've just come from El Niño," Rogan said in Tagalog.

"Our focus is on the soil. Our farm did okay during El Niño, and when the rain came, we had a huge harvest," Marvi added. "We started planting the banana at ₱40 per kilo and right now the price is ₱50 per kilo farm gate. It's also calculated because aside from farming, I do [cost] analysis. It seems like the price of fertilizer... continues to increase, and when it continues to

increase, there will be lesser farmers growing. I really think that for us, it's very important that we really think of [this as] the future of farming, [which is] regenerative farming.”

Marvi stresses that despite their many successes, there is always room for improvement. He's hoping to acquire machinery to offset the intensive labor required to maintain a syntropic farm.

“You have to climb the trees and prune them,” he explained. “Bananas [are] very laborious because we brush cut every month but with machinery, I think we can really cut down on the cost of labor. With more technology applied to this type of farming, I think it's going to be very good,” he said.

The Montecillos also aim to turn their farm into a research center. “[We want to open our farm to] anyone who wants to try syntropic farming and make it economically impactful. We want to make syntropic farming mainstream. Unfortunately, it will require research,” Marvi said. “We're always at the same time growing cacao and bananas, which is a sure strategy. I also want to try many things like growing vegetables and dairy cattle, small experiments. We want to be a learning site... If the farm continues to grow, it [may] become [an] ecotourism destination. Whatever is the opportunity.”

Anitu Forest Farm isn't just a cacao and banana farm. It's a food forest that represents the Montecillo's commitment to conserve the environment. And as Rogen said, “It's also a gift for our children.”

https://mb.com.ph/2025/2/21/anitu-forest-farm-cacao-farm-and-reforestation-effort#google_vignette

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Maximum farmgate pork price mulled

Bella Cariaso - The Philippine Star

February 21, 2025 | 12:00am



In an interview with The STAR, DA spokesman Arnel de Mesa said the proposal surfaced after both retailers and pork producers expressed opposition to the imposition of maximum SRP during consultations, citing concerns over market dynamics and supply chain expenses.

Cesar Ramirez / The Philippine STAR

MANILA, Philippines — In response to the continuous rise in pork prices, the Department of Agriculture (DA) is weighing the implementation of a maximum farmgate price for pork as a potential alternative to the imposition of a maximum suggested retail price, an agency official revealed yesterday. In an interview with The STAR, DA spokesman Arnel de Mesa said the proposal surfaced after both retailers and pork producers expressed opposition to the imposition of maximum SRP during consultations, citing concerns over market dynamics and supply chain expenses.

Based on data from the hog producers, the cost of pork production has reached P180 per kilo, while the farmgate price stands between P230 to P250 per kilo, yielding a P70-per-kilo profit and a 38-percent increase from their production cost.

De Mesa noted that farmgate prices have started to decline as cases of African swine fever decrease and production improves.

Traders, or biyaheros, on the other hand, reportedly spend at least P80 per kilo on transportation and logistics, while retailers incur an additional P50 per kilo in costs.

Based on these figures, De Mesa estimates that pork should retail at P380 per kilo.

Maximum farmgate pork price mulled

Bella Cariaso

MANILA, Philippines — In response to the continuous rise in pork prices, the Department of Agriculture (DA) is weighing the implementation of a maximum farmgate price for pork as a potential alternative to the imposition of a maximum suggested retail price, an agency official revealed yesterday. In an interview with The STAR, DA spokesman Arnel de Mesa said the proposal surfaced after both retailers and pork producers expressed opposition to the imposition of maximum SRP during consultations, citing concerns over market dynamics and supply chain expenses.

Based on data from the hog producers, the cost of pork production has reached P180 per kilo, while the farmgate price stands between P230 to P250 per kilo, yielding a P70-per-kilo profit and a 38-percent increase from their production cost.

De Mesa noted that farmgate prices have started to decline as cases of African swine fever decrease and production improves.

Traders, or biyaheros, on the other hand, reportedly spend at least P80 per kilo on transportation and logistics, while retailers incur an additional P50 per kilo in costs.

Based on these figures, De Mesa estimates that pork should retail at P380 per kilo.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2025/02/21/2423086/maximum-farmgate-pork-price-mulled>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA to Comelec: Exempt NFA rice sale from spending ban

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

February 21, 2025 | 12:00am



Newly delivered sacks of rice from Regions II and III are being organized inside the National Food Authority (NFA) warehouse in Valenzuela on January 20, 2025.

STAR / Michael Varcas

MANILA, Philippines — With the declaration of a food security emergency in the light of the election spending ban, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. will ask the Commission on Elections to exempt the sale of National Food Authority (NFA) rice stocks to local government units (LGUs).

“We are releasing a letter to the Comelec officially informing them that we have this kind of program and we asked the help of the LGUs (to resell NFA rice). Those who will apply should be given an exemption,” Tiu Laurel said.

Former agriculture secretary Leonardo Montemayor has said the election spending prohibition covers the selling of NFA rice stocks to LGUs and the reselling by mayors to constituents.

He cited Article 261 Paragraph V of the Omnibus Election Code, which provides that 45 days before election day until the election itself, the LGUs cannot release or spend public money for any purpose unless they get a specific exemption or authorization from the Comelec.

After allocating at least 625,600 bags of NFA rice to LGUs, the NFA on Wednesday started releasing rice stocks under the food security emergency, as measures set in place by the government to pull down rice prices have failed

In Department Circular No. 4, Metro Manila gets an allocation of 150,000 bags; Cavite and Rizal, 143,000; Region 4, 47,000; Region 5, 38,600; Region 6, 58,000; Region 7, 50,000 and Region 8, 18,000.

Other allocations include Region 9, 21,000 bags; Region 10, 20,000; Region 9, 21,000; Region 10, 20,000; Region 11, 19,000; Region 13, 36,000; BARMM, 5,000 and Caraga, 20,000.

Metro Manila Council president and San Juan Mayor Francis Zamora said he would consult his legal team and election lawyers on the issue.

For his part, Camarines Sur Rep. Lray Villafuerte said he already applied for an exemption before the Comelec.

Under the arrangement between the DA and LGUs, the NFA will sell rice at P33 per kilo and the local executives can resell them at P35 per kilo.

Arnel de Mesa, DA spokesman, said LGUs can request for additional stocks from the NFA.

Meanwhile, the Office of the President has tasked National Economic and Development Authority Secretary Arsenio Balisacan and Trade Secretary Ma. Cristina Roque to make a recommendation after farmers' group Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura wrote a letter to President Marcos asking him to repeal Executive Order 62, which lowered the tariff on imported rice to 15 percent from the previous 35 percent.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2025/02/21/2423089/da-comelec-exempt-nfa-rice-sale-spending-ban>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Philippines ships first frozen durian to China

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

February 21, 2025 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — The country has exported its first-ever shipment of frozen durian meat and paste to China, marking the start of trade of the frozen commodity in the world's top durian buyer. The Department of Agriculture (DA) said Davao-based Maylong Enterprises Corp. shipped 1,050 boxes of frozen durian meat and 300 boxes of durian paste to Nansha District in Guangzhou, China earlier this month.

The shipment is valued at P8.2 million, becoming the first frozen durian products to be exported by the country to China, the world's top durian importer.

“From the fertile soils of Davao Region to China's bustling markets, our frozen durian represents the hopes and dreams of countless farmers. This achievement showcases what we can accomplish through shared vision and purpose,” DA regional field office XI executive director Macario Gonzaga said.

Maylong's chief operating officer May Li said the company is committed to helping Filipino farmers, especially durian growers in Davao, to access the international markets.

“Our goal is to bridge the gap between local farmers and the global stage, ensuring that Philippine durian earns the recognition it truly deserves,” she said.

The DA said the landmark shipment was made possible through the collaboration of various government agencies, including its regional field office XI and the Bureau of Plant Industry. The government worked to ensure that the country's products would comply with China's strict import regulations, the DA added.

“This historic shipment strengthens the Philippines' presence in international markets, opening the door to future growth and solidifying the country's reputation as a leading producer of world-class durian,” the DA said.

Durian has been one of the fastest growing exports of the country. Last year, the Philippines exported a record volume of 16,072 metric tons of fresh durians worth \$30.78 million.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2025/02/21/2422961/philippines-ships-first-frozen-durian-china>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Subsidize ASF vaccine, government urged

Bella Cariaso - The Philippine Star

February 21, 2025 | 12:00am



Rep. Nicanor Briones of the Agricultural Sector Alliance of the Philippines party-list yesterday welcomed the announcement of the Department of Agriculture that the ASF vaccine will be sold in the market by the second quarter of 2025.

AFP / File

MANILA, Philippines — A hog farmers' group has asked the government to subsidize the vaccine against African swine fever (ASF), which is expected to be commercially available in April.

Rep. Nicanor Briones of the Agricultural Sector Alliance of the Philippines party-list yesterday welcomed the announcement of the Department of Agriculture that the ASF vaccine will be sold in the market by the second quarter of 2025.

Briones said the vaccine would protect hogs and help hog raisers recover their losses from ASF outbreaks.

He said there is a need to subsidize the vaccine especially for small or backyard hog raisers.

"Small hog raisers will not be able to afford the vaccine, which costs P12,500 a bottle," Briones said, noting that a bottle contains 50 doses.

"If the government can't subsidize the vaccine, a majority of the hogs will remain unvaccinated and ASF will still spread," Briones said.

Up to 6.3 million hogs need to be inoculated if the government wants to stop the spread of ASF, he said.

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2025/02/21/2423038/subsidize-asf-vaccine-government-urged>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

PH makes first frozen durian shipment to China

BY JORDEENE B. LAGARE
FEBRUARY 21, 2025



INQUIRER PHOTO

The Philippines expanded its presence in the global market by making its first frozen durian shipment to China valued at P8.2 million.

In a statement on Thursday, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said Davao City-based company Maylong Enterprises Corp. delivered 1,050 boxes of frozen durian meat and 300 boxes of durian paste to Nansha District in Guangzhou.

Maylong Enterprises became the first Philippine enterprise that secure the approval of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China to supply frozen durian meat and paste to its country.

A previous report from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations noted that China has been the main driver of global durian exports, as the East Asian country consumes more than 90 percent of durian supply worldwide.

The DA said the shipment of durian, also known as king of fruits marked a "key moment" for the agriculture sector. It was shipped on Feb. 11 and is expected to arrive on Feb. 18.

"This historic shipment strengthens the Philippines' presence in international markets, opening the door to future growth and solidifying the country's reputation as a leading producer of world-class durian," the DA said.

The Davao Region is the leading domestic producer of durian and accounts for more than two-thirds of total production based on the latest government data available.

"From the fertile soils of Davao Region to China's bustling markets, our frozen durian represents the hopes and dreams of countless farmers," said Macario Gonzaga, DA Region XI executive director.

<https://plus.inquirer.net/news/ph-makes-first-frozen-durian-shipment-to-china/>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

PH marks first frozen durian export in China

By: [John Eric Mendoza](#) - Reporter / [@JEMendozaINQ](#)
INQUIRER.net / 01:56 PM February 20, 2025



CONSUMER SPENDING A growing population and increasing tourist arrivals combined to boost demand for consumer goods in Davao, such as traditional fruits mangosteen and durian and meat products.

—PHOTOS BY BING GONZALES

MANILA, Philippines — The country has officially started exporting frozen [durian products](#) to China, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Thursday.

Maylong Enterprises Corp., a Davao City-based company, shipped 1,050 boxes of frozen durian meat and 300 boxes of durian paste worth P8.2 million, to Nansha District, Guangzhou, China, according to DA.

The DA said the shipment's delivery from Davao Region began on February 11 and it arrived in China on February 18.

Macario Gonzaga, regional executive director of DA in the Davao Region, said: "From the fertile soils of Davao Region to China's bustling markets, our frozen durian represents the hopes and dreams of countless farmers."

"This achievement showcases what we can accomplish through shared vision and purpose," he added.

More than two-thirds of the durian production in the country occurs in Davao region.

According to the DA, Maylong made history as the first Philippine enterprise to be approved by Chinese authorities to export frozen durian meat and paste.

Maylong's Chief Operating Officer, May Li, said their company is "to bridge the gap between local farmers and the global stage, ensuring that Philippine durian earns the recognition it truly deserves."

In 2023, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. announced that durian can now be exported to China, the world's biggest importer of durian.

<https://business.inquirer.net/507395/ph-marks-first-frozen-durian-export-in-china>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DA halts poultry importation from 4 US states

By: [Jordeene B. Lagare @jordeenelagare](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)
Philippine Daily Inquirer / 01:17 PM February 20, 2025



INQUIRER FILES

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) has halted the importation of poultry from four American states to prevent the spread of bird flu in the Philippines.

The DA ordered the import ban via Memorandum Order No. 11 covering domestic and wild birds and their products, including poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs and semen from Illinois, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

It promulgated the memo as the United States reported several outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza on Feb. 3 this year affecting domestic birds.

The agency imposed the ban to prevent the entry of avian influenza “and protect the health of the local poultry population,” according to the directive signed by Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. on Feb. 18.

It immediately suspended the processing, evaluation and issuance of sanitary and phytosanitary import clearance for the commodities mentioned above.

All veterinary quarantine officers/inspectors will stop and confiscate poultry deliveries from these American states at all major ports of entry.

However, the import restriction does not apply to shipments from four US states that were in transit, loaded or accepted unto port before the Philippine government transmitted the order to American authorities.

The ban excludes such commodities as long as the products were produced or slaughtered 14 days before the first reported outbreak. Illinois recorded its first outbreak on Nov. 14, 2024, followed by Minnesota on Nov. 26, 2024; Ohio on Dec. 13, 2024 and Wisconsin on Dec. 10, 2024.

Before this, the DA lifted the import ban on poultry products from Ohio in June last year and Minnesota last November.

Veterinary authorities of the US and the Philippines forged an agreement in 2016 stating a state-wide ban would only be imposed if there are three or more counties affected with avian influenza in one state.

“The above-mentioned state has three (3) or more counties affected with HPAI as reflected in their official reports in the WOAHA (World Organization for Animal Health),” the memo said.

The US is one of the major suppliers of meat products to the Philippines, holding an export market share of 15.2 percent in the previous year.

Meat imports rose by 20.8 percent to 1.45 million metric tons (MT) in 2024 from 1.2 million MT a year ago, according to the data from the Bureau of Animal Industry.

<https://business.inquirer.net/507369/da-halts-poultry-importation-from-4-us-states>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Lower tariff for pork imports eyed to cut prices

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

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 09:35 AM February 20, 2025



Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. at the ceremonial turnover of National Food Authority (NFA) stocks to some local government units in Valenzuela City. —Photo by Jordeene B. Lagare | Philippine Daily Inquirer

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) aims to secure a portion of the meat import quota with reduced tariff rates, as it considers selling pork to the public to address elevated retail prices. Although the agency has yet to finalize the minimum access volume (MAV) quotas for this year, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said on Wednesday that the allocation will be “equally distributed” to government outlets and private traders.

The DA plans to release the MAV allocation “before the end of the month,” Tiu Laurel said on the sidelines of the ceremonial turnover of National Food Authority (NFA) rice held in Valenzuela City.

According to the agriculture chief, the “general direction” for the MAV allocation is 30,000 metric tons (MT) for processors, another 15,000 MT for the DA through Food Terminal Inc. (FTI) and Planters Products Inc. (PPI) and the remaining 10,000 MT to traders.

MAV is a trade mechanism that sets the specific quantity of an agricultural product that can be imported into the Philippines at a lower tariff compared to other origins or countries that do not enjoy such access.

This is the import quota committed by the Philippines to the World Trade Organization to help facilitate global trade.

Tiu Laurel said such a move would enable the DA to sell meat directly to Filipino consumers as needed to help reduce retail prices, with the meat sourced either locally or abroad.

“We will have the capability to buy pork from abroad to tame prices if needed using the lower tax of MAV,” he told reporters.

Tiu Laurel disclosed FTI’s plan to purchase pork from local producers and distribute those to retailers, reducing layers of intermediaries to sell agricultural products to the market.

“FTI and PPI are two government agencies, GOCCs (government-owned and controlled corporations) under the DA that can import frozen pork and we want to use that as leverage in the market so that if there is indeed some unreasonable or unfair prices around, we will intervene by importing our own kasim (pork shoulder) and pigue (hind leg) and sell them directly to retailers [and Kadiwa stores],” he added.

The Meat Importers and Traders Association (MITA) recently wrote a letter to Tiu Laurel urging the DA to immediately release the MAV import certificate and distribute the MAV allocations.

MITA earlier said delaying the distribution of MAV quotas for 2024 would result in trade disruptions, the second time it happened.

“If DA wants [to] rein in prices, it should not restrict imports at a time when production is still decreasing. On the other hand, there should be closer collaboration with importers on granting consumers more access to imported product,” MITA president emeritus Jesus Cham said in a Feb. 17 letter, to Tiu Laurel.

MITA also asked the agency to declare MAV plus for pork of at least 500,000 MT and consider MAV plus for chicken which will be declared “when appropriate.”

The group said instituting the MAV plus mechanism—which allows increased imports of agricultural products at reduced import duties—is market-friendly and pro-competition.

“With the shortage of pork and its subsequent high price, one would expect the market to shift consumption to a more affordable protein which would likely be chicken. While local production appears to be comfortable, we would also look closely at what is actually affordable to consumers,” it added.

<https://business.inquirer.net/507339/lower-tariff-for-pork-imports-eyed-to-cut-prices>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Durian exporter ships P8.2-M order to China

February 20, 2025 | 9:07 pm



BW FILE PHOTO/

DAVAO CITY company Maylong Enterprises Corp. completed its first frozen durian shipment to China valued at P8.2 million.

In a statement on Thursday, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said the shipment consisted of 1,050 boxes of frozen durian meat and 300 boxes of durian paste, which arrived in Guangzhou on Feb. 18.

Maylong was the first Philippine enterprise to be approved by the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China to export frozen durian meat and paste.

"Our frozen durian represents the hopes and dreams of countless farmers," DA Region XI Executive Director Macario Gonzaga said.

Maylong Chief Operating Officer May Li said that the company commits to helping Davao's durian growers access international markets.

"Our goal is (to ensure) that Philippine durian earns the recognition it truly deserves," she added.

The Philippines started exporting fresh durian to China in April 2023, following the signing of a bilateral agreement governing shipments of fresh durian to China. — **Justine Irish D. Table**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2025/02/20/654742/durian-exporter-ships-p8-2-m-order-to-china/>

MANILA STANDARD:

Rice granary



By Andrew Rabulan

February 20, 2025, 10:50 pm

National Food Authority workers load sacks of rice from a warehouse in Brgy. Malanday, Valenzuela City to delivery trucks for distribution to retail outlets in the metropolis.

<https://manilastandard.net/gallery/news-in-photos/314560126/rice-granary.html>

THE MANILA TIMES:

Why MSRP protects rice cartels

FINER POINTS

By Fermin D. Adriano

February 21, 2025

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) has added a new term to the economic and business lexicography: "maximum suggested retail price" or MSRP. It is obviously a variation of "suggested retail price" (SRP), the recommended amount that a retailer should sell a product for.

SRPs are meant to standardize prices across different stores and locations to protect consumers from abusive retailers. However, retailers are not always required to follow it and can set their own prices based on various factors, such as competition, location, and demand.

The MSRP, on the other hand, puts a ceiling on the price that retailers can impose on buyers. In other words, SRP is tantamount to a "floor price" while MSRP acts as a "ceiling price." But does the MSRP really protect the interest of consumers?

The answer is no. While it puts a cap on prices retailers can charge buyers, it does not do the same for wholesalers when pegging the price of the supply they provide to retailers. It is obvious that if the ultimate goal is to reduce prices, the first step is to ensure that prices at the source (i.e., wholesalers) are low, which the MSRP does not guarantee.

The law of "supply and demand" tells us that when supply is abundant, prices will go down. Conversely, when demand is higher than the supply, prices will rise. In the case of rice, official government data shows there is ample rice supply, yet prices curiously remain high. My past columns in this paper have repeatedly

pointed out that a rice cartel controls the timing of the release of supply from their stocks to maintain high prices.

The problem can be addressed by allowing more market players in the rice importation business. For instance, the government can appeal to big supermarket chains, which have modern and complete logistical facilities, to import as much rice as they can at very low prices from the international market to flood the local rice market.

Alternatively, why can't the Department of Trade and Industry help determine the SRP formula for rice, as it does for prime commodities, based on purchased price and wholesale price? Importers and traders should then be required to indicate the SRP in the bags of local and imported rice.

Most imported rice are now shipped in bags specified by importers. By displaying the SRP, the Bureau of Customs can also determine the right tariff based on the declared purchase cost, wholesale price, and SRP.

Data from the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization indicates that 5 percent of broken Vietnamese rice fetched an average price of \$416 per metric ton (MT) in January (reaching a low price of \$399) compared to more than \$550 per MT in mid-2024.

If the DA pursues the recommendations, these can break up the rice cartel. Otherwise, it is a clear indication of whose interest government officials are trying to protect. This is probably the reason for "MSRP" — to project the image of what pundits refer to "as if doing something" about the problem. In reality, however, it is a backhanded protection of the rice cartel.

I expect repeated application of MSRPs in the coming weeks and months on other agricultural commodities where the country is experiencing shortages, as it is becoming clearer that the Philippine agricultural import policy has become pro-trader and anti-consumer.

ust recently, the DA issued Department Circular 03, Series of 2025, which declared a "food security emergency on rice due to extraordinary increases in prices." At face value, no one can contest the general argument of the order. However, the problem lies in the fact that its "whereas" clauses cite obsolete data, elaborating on the rising rice prices and inflation almost a year ago, but not taking into account the recent declining trend in global rice prices.

Obviously, the food security emergency on rice is meant to trigger the release of stocks held by the National Food Authority (NFA). The Rice Tariffication Law stipulates that the NFA should build a buffer stock for emergency purposes only and that this stock should come from procurement of the harvests of local farmers. It cannot, therefore, release its stock without a declaration of an emergency situation.

The DA has announced it will sell regular milled rice (25 percent broken) in the government's Kadiwa stores and through the local government units. Given that the NFA's buffer stock is only 300,000 MT, it will meet around nine days of total rice consumption demand if supply is distributed nationwide.

But even if selling is confined to selected urban areas, it will be difficult to sustain it for 30 days. Maybe it will be enough to give some semblance of availability of cheap rice before the May 2025 elections in vote-rich areas. There is no way that the DA can fulfill its announced goal of distributing low-priced rice to poor consumers for six months without bankrupting the government. At a price of P35 per kilo, the government loses around P12 to P15 or more than P4 billion if all the NFA stock is sold.

This leads us to the real reason behind the DA's request to the Office of the President that the NFA's authority to import should be restored during the food security emergency. The DA knows that NFA is not capable of procuring supply from local farmers fast enough to replenish its stock.

The cost of imported rice is also cheaper than local produce considering current international rice prices. The NFA has to resort to importation, which RTL specifically abolished due to reported widespread corruption in past transactions.

Undoubtedly, restoring NFA's authority to import will again grease the palms of wholesalers and big traders and people who handle the logistics of buying, shipping, and distributing rice from Vietnam (where almost 90 percent of Philippine rice imports originate).

Email the author at fdadriano88@gmail.com

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2025/02/21/business/top-business/why-msrp-protects-rice-cartels/2059747>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

DA lists 12 regions with sharp rice price hikes

Ada Pelonia

February 20, 2025

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said 12 regions in the country, including a major rice producer, saw extraordinary price hikes of the staple, with the prices as of December 2024 described as still “elevated.”

The areas with price spikes were given priority in allocations for cheaper rice under the recent declaration of a food emergency.

The resolution justifying the declaration had noted that “the price levels of regular milled rice [RMR] and well-milled rice [WMR] were respectively 19 percent and 20 percent higher compared to the period before the price spikes in July 2023.”

The agency identified areas affected by the surge in rice prices along with their corresponding monthly rice allocations. On the list is Western Visayas, one of the country’s top rice-producing regions.

Under Department Circular (DC) 4, an initial allocation of 625,600 units of 50-kilo bags, or 31,280 metric tons (MT) of rice from the National Food Authority (NFA) could be availed of monthly by local government units (LGUs) from the determined areas.

Broken down, the monthly allocation of the National Capital Region (NCR) stood at 293,000 bags; Western Visayas at 58,000 bags; Region 4 at 47,000 bags; Bicol Region at 38,600 bags; Central Visayas at 50,000 bags; Eastern Visayas at 18,000 bags.

Zamboanga Peninsula will have a monthly allocation of 21,000 bags; Northern Mindanao at 20,000 bags; Davao Region at 19,000 bags; Soccsksargen at 36,000 bags; Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) at 5,000 bags; and Caraga at 20,000 bags.

The LGUs from these affected areas would sell the rice stocks to their respective constituents at P35 per kilo under the food security emergency declaration.

However, the list could still be expanded upon further determination by the DA.

The circular also noted that the monthly allocation would not constitute a guaranteed quantity or volume for issuance by the NFA.

“Any unwithdrawn allocation remaining after the lifting of the food security emergency on rice shall be automatically forfeited, without need of further notice and shall revert to the NFA for buffer stocking or disposition in accordance with existing policies and regulations.”

Meanwhile, the DA recently started to release the grains agency’s rice stocks to LGUs.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. officially handed over rice supplies to San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora in a ceremony at the NFA warehouse in Valenzuela City on Wednesday.

“This is just the beginning. We expect more local government units to participate in this effort, which will benefit not only Filipino consumers but also rice farmers,” Laurel was quoted in the statement as saying.

“With the P9 billion allocated by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. for NFA’s rice procurement this year, and the remaining funds from last year’s record purchases, we aim to buy even more palay from farmers,” he added.

NFA Administrator Larry Lacson told the BusinessMirror that the grains agency is targeting to procure as much as 870,000 MT of palay this year. (See: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/02/20/nfa-to-buy-870k-mt-of-palay-in-2025/>)

Two weeks ago, the DA declared a food security emergency in its bid to stabilize rice prices upon the recommendation of the National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC). Such a declaration allows the agency to release rice buffer stocks held by the NFA.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/02/20/da-lists-12-regions-with-sharp-rice-price-hikes/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

Alyansa vows fair prices to sugar farmers

Jovee Marie N. de la Cruz

February 20, 2025

NEGROS Island—Recognizing the essential role of sugar farmers, the administration-backed Senate slate, Alyansa Para sa Bagong Pilipinas, is pushing for reforms that will secure fair prices for their products and modernize the sugar industry.

The Alyansa slate campaign manager, Navotas Rep. Toby Tiangco, said they will push for policies that will modernize sugar mills.

Tiangco also said the slate is committed to secure fair prices for farmers and improving production efficiency to keep the industry globally competitive.

As the country's "Sugar Bowl," Negros Occidental produces nearly half of the nation's sugar supply. The province is home to 15 sugar mills, with 10 currently in operation, including Victorias Mill—the country's largest sugar processing facility.

"The sugar industry is the lifeblood of Negros Occidental, supporting thousands of families. Alyansa is committed to modernizing mills, ensuring fair prices for farmers, and investing in infrastructure to keep the industry competitive," Tiangco said.

He added that Alyansa's economic agenda includes financial support for farmers, improved infrastructure for sugar production, and trade policies to strengthen local producers.

"Negros Occidental's sugar sector fuels jobs and economic growth. Our commitment is to ensure that this industry remains strong for future generations," he said.

The 12-member Alyansa slate includes former Interior Secretary Benhur Abalos, Makati City Mayor Abigail Binay, Sen. Ramon Revilla, Sen. Pia Cayetano, former senator Panfilo Lacson, Sen. Lito Lapid, Sen. Imee Marcos, former senator Manny Pacquiao, former Senate President Vicente Sotto III, Sen. Francis Tolentino, House Deputy Majority Leader and former Social Welfare Secretary Erwin Tulfo, and Deputy Speaker Camille Villar.

Aside from strengthening the sugar industry, Tiangco said Alyansa candidates will also highlight broader economic initiatives, including support for small businesses, job creation, and programs to drive local development.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/02/20/alyansa-vows-fair-prices-to-sugar-farmers/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

Ex-senator: Institutionalize Kadiwa

Jovee Marie N. de la Cruz

February 20, 2025

DUMAGUETE CITY—A former lawmaker on Thursday underscored the need for budget reforms and the institutionalization of the Kadiwa store system as crucial steps to support the agriculture sector and combat poverty in Negros and the whole country.

Former senator Panfilo M. Lacson emphasized the importance of empowering local governments to directly purchase crops from farmers at fair prices—bypassing middlemen who often force them to sell at a loss.

“Why not institutionalize the Kadiwa store system by way of legislation? This is a work in progress. Assuming we win, this will be one of my legislative priorities,” Lacson said in Filipino at a news conference of the Alyansa para sa Bagong Pilipinas senatorial slate here.

The Kadiwa store system, which connects farmers directly with consumers, ensures fairer pricing and market access, reducing dependence on exploitative traders.

Also, Lacson said channeling funds from the national budget to the local governments will lead to post-harvest facilities and support for the sugar industry, as well as livelihood programs that will address poverty on the island.

“If we can channel taxpayers’ money through the local governments, we will promote development and livelihood. After all, local governments are the backbone of our nation’s livelihood and development,” he said.

“This is why we need to empower the local governments so the entire country can benefit. This will lower poverty and keep inflation from worsening,” he added.

Meanwhile, Lacson stressed the need to curb the importation of sugar and agricultural products, which he said causes the industry to suffer.

“Instead of expanding our sugar plantations, we are killing the industry because of our import quotas to big business. And our farmers do not stand a chance against lower-priced imports,” he said.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/02/20/ex-senator-institutionalize-kadiwa/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

Tuna capital to host international farm tourism conference

BusinessMirror
February 20, 2025

GENERAL Santos City, the “Tuna Capital of the Philippines,” will host the 8th Philippine International Farm Tourism Conference, the country’s largest gathering of practitioners and authorities on farm tourism on February 24-26.

Organized by the International School of Sustainable Tourism (ISST), this year’s edition is themed “Stimulating Sustainable Economic Growth in Rural Communities through Farm Tourism.”

The event is aimed at facilitating collaboration among farm owners and farmers, and emphasize the positive socio-economic impact of farm tourism.

ISST president Mina Gabor said that this year’s conference will focus on sustainable growth through the cultivation of fruit farms, aquaculture and livestock, and investments on agriculture and tourism.

“The three-day conference opens with an exhibit of agricultural produce, processed food, native craft and finished products from General Santos and neighboring provinces. Conference participants will also immerse in the diverse cuisine, natural wonders, adventure attractions and exotic culture of the Soccsksargen Region,” Gabor said.

She added that Gen. Santos Mayor Lorelie Pacquiao has endorsed the event to the local industry stakeholders to widen their learnings and knowledge on farm tourism to help bring prosperity in the countryside.

Gracing the occasion are Tourism Secretary Esperanza Christina Garcia-Frasco, former senator Manny Pacquiao, Seameo Biotrop (South East Asia Regional Center for Tropical Biology) Human Center and Innovation department manager Dewi Suryani, Agriculture Undersecretary Constante Palabrica, and Center for International Trade, Expositions and Missions (Citem) Executive Director Romleah Pulido Ocampo.

This year’s conference, that will be held at at the KCC Mall, is the first in Mindanao and will showcase the phenomenal progress and peace of the Land of Promise it has attained in recent years.

Topics include Diversified Agriculture and Sustainable Farm Tourism Models, Enhancing the Land for Food Security at Home, Innovations and Technology Adoption for Increasing Farm Productivity and Sustainability, Peace and Trust in the Communities, livestock farms as farm tourism sites, and aquaculture development on new products.

The conference concludes with a familiarization tour to leading farm tourism sites in the Soccsksargen Region, such as Felicidad Orchard, Fish Port Complex, Guava Farm, and Bougainvillea Avenue of Sarangani Highlands.

The conference is supported by the Department of Tourism, Tourism Promotions Board, Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority, Department of Agriculture—Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Bureau of Animal Industry, Philippine Exporters Confederation (Philexport), the Department of Trade and Industry, Department of the Interior and Local Government, and Philippine Airlines as official carrier.

International agencies Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (Searca), and the Asean Center for Biodiversity are partnering again with the ISST to bring in the best practices in the Southeast Asian region.

Collaborating local governments are the provinces of Sarangani, Cotabato, and Sultan Kudarat, and the congressional offices of General Santos Rep. Loreto Acharon and Sarangani Rep. Steve Chiongbian Solon.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/02/20/tuna-capital-to-host-international-farm-tourism-conference/>

ABANTE TONITE:

Ping Lacson: `Agriculture sector pinapatay ng import quota!`

February 20, 2025

Binutata ni dating Senador Panfilo “Ping” Lacson ang diskarte ng gobyerno sa importasyon ng mga produktong agrikultura na nagpapahirap sa bansa, lalonglalo na sa mga magsasaka.

Iginiit ni Lacson na kailangan na ring bawasan ang pag-import ng asukal at iba pang produktong agrikultura na siyang dahilan ng paghihirap ng sektor ng agrikultura sa bansa.

Binutata ni dating Senador Panfilo “Ping” Lacson ang diskarte ng gobyerno sa importasyon ng mga produktong agrikultura na nagpapahirap sa bansa, lalonglalo na sa mga magsasaka.

Iginiit ni Lacson na kailangan na ring bawasan ang pag-import ng asukal at iba pang produktong agrikultura na siyang dahilan ng paghihirap ng sektor ng agrikultura sa bansa.

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2025/02/20/ping-lacson-agriculture-sector-pinapatay-ng-import-quota/>

REMATE:

Poultry importation mula sa 4 US states ipinagbawal ng DA

February 20, 2025 16:15



MANILA, Philippines- Ipinatigil ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang poultry importation mula sa apat na estado ng Amerika para mapigilan ang paglaganap ng bird flu sa Pilipinas.

Ipinag-utos ng DA ang import ban sa pamamagitan ng Memorandum Order No. 11 sakop ang domestic at wild birds at kanilang produkto, kabilang na ang poultry meat, day-old chicks, mga itlog at semilya mula Illinois, Minnesota, Ohio at Wisconsin.

Ipinahayag ito ng DA sa memo matapos na iulat ng Estados Unidos ang ilang outbreaks ng ‘highly pathogenic avian influenza’ noong Pebrero 3 ngayong taon na makaaapekto sa domestic birds.

Ipinag-utos ng ahensya ang ban para mapigilan ang pagpasok ng avian influenza “and protect the health of the local poultry population,” ayon sa naging direktiba na nilagdaan ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. noong Pebrero 18.

Kagyat namang sinuspinde nito ang ‘processing, evaluation at issuance’ ng sanitary at phytosanitary import clearance para sa mga nabanggit na kalakal.

“All veterinary quarantine officers/inspectors will stop and confiscate poultry deliveries from these American states at all major ports of entry,” ayon sa Kalihim.

Gayunman, ang import restriction ay hindi naman ia-apply sa shipments mula sa apat na estado ng Amerika “that were in transit, loaded or accepted unto port before the Philippine government transmitted the order to American authorities.”

“The ban excludes such commodities as long as the products were produced or slaughtered 14 days before the first reported outbreak. Illinois recorded its first outbreak on Nov. 14, 2024, followed by Minnesota on Nov. 26, 2024; Ohio on Dec. 13, 2024 and Wisconsin on Dec. 10, 2024,” ayon sa DA.

Bago pa ito, binawi na ng DA ang import ban sa poultry products mula Ohio noong Hunyo ng nakaraang taon at Minnesota noong nakaraang Nobyembre.

Ang Veterinary authorities ng Estados Unidos at Pilipinas ay lumagda ng kasunduan noong 2016 na nagsasad ng “ang state-wide ban ay ipatutupad lamang kung may tatlo o higit pang bansa ang apektado ng avian influenza” sa isang estado.

“The above-mentioned state has three (3) or more counties affected with HPAI as reflected in their official reports in the WOA (World Organization for Animal Health),” ang sinasabi sa memo.

Samantala, ang Amerika ang isa sa major suppliers ng meat products ng Pilipinas, hawak nito ang export market share na 15.2% sa nakalipas na taon.

“Meat imports rose by 20.8 percent to 1.45 million metric tons (MT) in 2024 from 1.2 million MT a year ago,” ayon sa data mula sa Bureau of Animal Industry. **Kris Jose**

<https://remate.ph/poultry-importation-mula-sa-4-us-states-ipinagbawal-ng-da/>

REMATE:

National Food Security Emergency

February 20, 2025 12:19



ABALA na sa paghahakot ng mga sako-sakong bigas ang mga kargador sa National Food Authority warehouse sa Valenzuela upang ikarga sa sasakyan upang ideliber sa ibat-ibang lungsod, kasunod ng deklarasyon ng National Food Security Emergency sa bigas.





Layon ng Department of Agriculture na agad mailabas ang mga bigas upang ibenta sa mga mamimili at mapaluwag ang mga warehouse para sa mga bagong-ani. *Edgar Rabulan*

<https://remate.ph/national-food-security-emergency/>

REMATE:

Pagbebenta ng NFA rice pinae-exempt ng DA sa election ban

February 20, 2025 08:27



MANILA – Humiling ang Department of Agriculture (DA) sa Commission on Elections (Comelec) na payagang maibenta ang mga stock ng bigas mula sa National Food Authority (NFA) sa mga local government unit (LGU) sa kabila ng election ban.

Ang kahilingan ay kasunod ng pagsisimula ng pamamahagi ng NFA rice noong Peb. 19 sa ilalim ng deklarasyon ng food security emergency. Ayon kay DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., opisyal nilang ipinaalam sa Comelec ang programa at humihiling ng exemption para sa mga LGU na nais lumahok.

Sa ilalim ng programa, maaaring bumili ang LGUs ng NFA rice sa halagang PHP33 kada kilo sa pamamagitan ng Food Terminal Incorporated (FTI) at ibenta ito sa kanilang nasasakupan sa presyong hanggang PHP35 kada kilo. Sa ngayon, 67 LGUs na ang nagpahayag ng interes na makilahok.

Ipinagbabawal ng Comelec Resolution 11060 ang paglalaan ng pampublikong pondo para sa mga serbisyong panlipunan 45 araw bago ang halalan sa Mayo 12. Gayunman, nagbigay na ang Comelec ng exemptions sa ilang programa ng Department of Social

Welfare and Development (DSWD) tulad ng 4Ps, AKAP, WGP, at AICS, sa ilalim ng tiyak na kondisyon. *Santi Celario*

<https://remate.ph/pagbebenta-ng-nfa-rice-pinae-exempt-ng-da-sa-election-ban/>

ABANTE:

Agri importation tuwing anihan ibabawal ng mga pambato ni PBBM sa Senado

Abante News

• February 20, 2025



DUMAGUETE CITY -” Sagot namin kayong mga magsasaka!”

Ito ang pramis ng mga kandidato ng Alyansa Para sa Bagong Pilipinas kaugnay sa ilalatag na serye ng polisiya na makakatulong patatagin ang sektor ng agrikultura, kabilang ang mga programa ng gobyerno sa pag-aangkat ng pagkain, ayudang pinansiyal at mas mahigpit na regulasyon sa pag-i-import.

Sa campaign sortie ng ‘Alyansa’ sa Negros Oriental nitong Huwebes, Pebrero 20, ipinagdiinan ng mga pambato ni PBBM ang kanilang adbokasiya sa mas malinaw na polisiya sa pagba-ban sa agricultural importation sa panahon ng anihan upang maprotektahan ang kapakanan ng mga local farmers.

“Let us support our local farmers, stop the importation of high sucrose kasi iyun po ang kalaban ng ating local famers,” dagdag ng mayora. “So let us make a clear policy na kapag panahon ng ani, panahon ng harvest, no importation,” ayon pa sa alyansa.

Naglatag rin ng panukala si dating Senate President Vicente “Tito” Sotto III na magtatalaga sa gobyerno na bilingin ang 50 porsiyento sa mga ani ng mga magsasaka sa presyong hindi talo ang mga magbubukid. “We are going to propose that 50% of all the outputs of all farmers of our agriculture products in the country, not only in Negros Oriental, be bought by the government at their farmgate price,” wika ni Sotto.

Sa kanyang bahagi, sinabi ni Deputy Speaker Camille Villar ang kanyang pagsuporta sa mga legislative efforts sa Congress na nakakatulong sa mga magsasaka, partikular ang New Agrarian Emancipation Act, na nagpapatawad na sa mga utang ng lampas sa 600,000 mga magsasaka.

Nais naman ni former Senator Panfilo “Ping” Lacson na i-institutionalize na ang mga Kadiwa stores. “Ang magagawa ko lang at ito’y pinapaaral ko na, kasi naitanong na ito noong unang rally namin sa Laoag, na bakit hindi natin ma-institutionalize ‘yong Kadiwa store by way of legislation?’” ayon kay Lacson.

Ang iba pang kandidato ng Alyansa as sila re-electionist Senators Ramon Bong Revilla, Pia Cayetano, Lito Lapid, Imee Marcos, Francis “Tol” Tolentino, Mayor Abby Binay, Cong. Erwin Tulfo.

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2025/02/20/agri-importation-tuwing-anihan-ibabawal-ng-mga-pambato-ni-pbbm-sa-senado/>

ABANTE:

Sotto pinush presyong magsasaka sa mga produktong agrikultura

Abante News

- February 20, 2025



Isa sa mga programang isusulong ni dating Senate President Vicente “Tito” Sotto III at iba pang senatorial candidate ng Alyansa Para sa Bagong Pilipinas na itakda sa presyo ng mga magsasaka ang 50 porsiyento ng mga agricultural product sa bansa.

Ani Sotto, sa paraang ito, mas malaki ang magiging income ng mga magsasaka.

“We are going to propose that 50 percent of all the output of all farmers, of all agricultural products in the country, not only in Negros Oriental, be put by government at their farmgate price. Sa presyo ng magsasaka, hindi sa presyo ng traders,” saad ni Sotto sa isinagawang press conference ng partido sa Dumaguete City nitong Huwebes, Pebrero 20.

“Ang mga magsasaka kikita, mas malaki ang magiging income nila,” dagdag pa niya.

“That is our proposal. If we need to put it into law, we will put it into law. That is the program that we are proposing as members of Alyansa,” patuloy pa niya. (Issa Santiago)

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2025/02/20/sotto-pinush-presyong-magsasaka-sa-mga-produktong-agrikultura/>