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MANILA BULLETIN:

DA approves importation of 25,000 MT of fish to ensure stable supply, prices

BY DEXTER BARRO II

Feb 21, 2025 04:23 PM

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has approved the importation of 25,000 metric tons (MT) of various fish products, including salmon, sardines, clams, and squid, for the period of March to May.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel said this directive aims to ensure that there is a stable food supply in the country, preventing potential price surges in the market.

The Philippines, being an archipelago with rich marine resources, has been relying on to importation to keep prices down amid fish and seafood inflation.

The 25,000 MT of fish imports permitted under Memorandum Order (MO) No. 12 was formulated by the National Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (NFARMC) last year.

The NFARMC, a recommendatory body attached to the DA, set this import ceiling to address inflation concerns and improve the allocation of import volume for institutional buyers and wet markets.

Calling it an “experimental approach,” the DA said the goal is to test whether the combined import cap can help stabilize prices while maintaining a sufficient food supply.

An impact analysis has been required by the NFARMC to assess if the approved imports can be the solution to the aforementioned issues.

Under the DA’s order, importers wishing to participate must have been accredited for at least one year and previously engaged in similar imports.

An initial volume of 28 MT shall be allocated to each qualified importer, with the remaining volume allocated to importers on a “first come first serve basis.”

Those with incomplete documentary requirements, without Bureau of Customs (BOC) accreditation at the start of the importation period, or under investigation for food safety violations will be excluded from the importations.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) will issue sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) import clearances with 45-day validity.

In addition, cold storage facilities with a valid license to operate from the BFAR will be allowed to store the imported seafood.

Fisheries groups have long rejected the government’s moves to import food, noting its possible impact on the livelihood of local fisherfolk.

In response, Laurel argued that this new batch of fish imports “should not affect local fishermen.”

He added that this will instead help in the ease of doing business for the fish industry.

“This will also add variety in the market, especially for food service industry, since fish and marine species covered by this importation are mostly fish and marine products not caught locally,” Laurel said in a statement.

Among the fish that will be imported include Alaskan pollock, barramundi, bluefin tuna, capelin, Chilean seabass, cobia, cod, croaker, eel, emperor, fish meat, flounder, gindara, grouper, hake, halibut, hamachi, hoki, lobster, marlin, moonfish, mussels, mullet, octopus, oil fish, oyster, pangasius, red snapper, scallops, sea bream, silverfish, smelt, soft and hardshell crabs, swordfish, tuna by-products, and yellowtail sole.

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https://mb.com.ph/2025/2/21/da-approves-importation-of-25-000-mt-of-fish-to-ensure-stable-supply-prices#google_vignette

MANILA BULLETIN:

DA bans poultry goods from 4 more US states amid bird flu outbreak

BY DEXTER BARRO II

Feb 21, 2025 09:40 AM

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has extended its temporary ban on the importation of poultry products to include four additional American states in an effort to prevent the spread of bird flu in the country.

Under Memorandum Order (MO) No. 11, the agency orders the ban of domestic and wild birds and their products, including poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs, and semen from Illinois, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

The order came after reports early this month that several outbreaks of the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) have been affecting domestic birds in the four states.

Under the directive of DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel, the trade restriction is a requisite to curb the potential spread of the virus and protect the health of the local poultry population.

Laurel has authorized the immediate suspension of the processing and issuance of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) import clearances for poultry products.

The import ban does not cover the entry of shipments that were already in transit, loaded, and arrived at local ports, provided that they were slaughtered or produced 14 days before the first outbreaks.

Illinois recorded its first outbreak last year on Nov. 14, followed by Minnesota on Nov. 26, Wisconsin on Dec. 10, and Ohio on Dec. 13.

If such products are not covered by this provision, veterinary quarantine officers and inspectors are mandated to stop and confiscate them across all major ports of entry.

The DA previously lifted the ban on poultry products from Ohio in June of last year and Minnesota in November.

Given the geographical land mass of the United States (US), veterinary authorities of the USA and the Philippines had a mutual agreement in 2016 that a state-wide ban shall only be imposed if there are three or more counties affected by HPAI in one state.

The four aforementioned states all had three or more counties affected with bird flu as reflected in their official reports in the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH).

Before this, the DA imposed a similar temporary ban on the US states of South Dakota, Maryland, and Missouri.

According to the WOAH, the HPAI virus can spread through direct contact with secretions from infected birds through feces and contaminated feed and water.

With its resistant nature, including the ability to survive for long periods when temperatures are low, the virus can also be carried on farm equipment and spread easily from farm to farm.

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/2/21/da-bans-poultry-goods-from-4-more-us-states-amid-bird-flu-outbreak>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Lowering food prices is admin's top, urgent priority — Romualdez

BY JOSEPH PEDRAJAS

Feb 22, 2025 07:32 PM

AT A GLANCE

- House Speaker Martin Romualdez said Saturday, Feb. 22, that lowering the cost of essential goods and ensuring economic stability were the Marcos administration's top and urgent priority.

House Speaker Martin Romualdez said Saturday, Feb. 22, that lowering the cost of essential goods and ensuring economic stability were the Marcos administration's top and urgent priority.

Stressing that every Filipino family is directly affected if the prices of basic needs are high, Romualdez says that it is the government's "obligation" to ensure that food is affordable.

His pronouncement came after the latest economic data indicated that while inflation eased to 2.9 percent in January 2025, food inflation rose to 4 percent. This reflected the country's supply chain vulnerabilities.

According to Moody's Analytics, external factors such as global trade frictions and domestic challenges — including typhoon damage to agricultural production — have kept inflation risks elevated.

Romualdez believes there is a need for a dual approach; that is, maintaining sound monetary policy while taking decisive action to bolster domestic production.

"Ang pagtugon sa inflation ay hindi lang trabaho ng Bangko Sentral. Dapat itong sabayan ng matalinong pamamahala sa suplay ng pagkain at iba pang pangunahing bilihan (Addressing inflation is not only the job of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. It should be complemented by a smart administration of food and basic needs)," he said.

"Ang layunin natin ay tiyakin na ang presyo ay hindi basta tataas-bababa nang walang direksyon. Dapat nating gawing matatag at predictable ang ating food supply para sa kapakanan ng mga mamamayan (Our goal is to ensure that food prices will not easily increase or decrease without any direction. We should make the food supply strong and predictable for the benefit of the people)," he added.

One of the government's response to food price volatility is the Department of Agriculture's (DA) finalization of a 55,000-metric-ton minimum access volume (MAV) quota for pork imports, which aims to stabilize pork prices.

However, Romualdez said that while importation can address short-term shortages, long-term food security depends on boosting domestic agricultural production.

But for now, he said there are ongoing efforts to strengthen local production.

In La Union and Pangasinan, 32 farmers' cooperatives and local government units already received 35 agricultural machines worth P71.6 million under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Mechanization Program.

With the program's second phase set to receive an increased P9-billion annual budget, Romualdez believed that improved mechanization will translate to higher yields and lower food costs.

Market data also reflect mixed price movements in staple goods. The average retail price of rice slightly declined to P54.18 per kilogram in early February, with regular-milled rice experiencing a decrease while special rice saw a marginal increase. Meanwhile, meat prices—including fresh pork kasim—rose compared to the previous month.

He pointed out that fluctuating prices in essential goods highlight the urgency of reinforcing local supply chains and developing long-term market stabilization programs.

"Ang solusyon ay nakasalalay sa matibay na produksyon, episyenteng supply chain, at patas na kompetisyon sa merkado. Kailangan nating tiyakin na ang bawat Pilipino ay may access sa de-kalidad at abot-kayang pagkain (The solution is based on strong production, efficient supply chain and fair market competition. We need to ensure that every Filipino has access to quality and affordable food)," he said.

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<https://mb.com.ph/2025/2/22/lowering-food-prices-is-admin-s-top-urgent-priority-romualdez>

MANILA BULLETIN:

‘Kadiwa’ market lands in Camp Aguinaldo

BY MARTIN SADONGDONG

Feb 22, 2025 03:05 PM



Military personnel and local villagers buy rice and other products at the "Kadiwa ng Pangulo" in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City on Feb. 21, 2025. (Photo: AFP)

The “Kadiwa ng Pangulo” (KNP), a government initiative that offers agricultural products and other basic necessities to the public at an affordable price, has landed at the general headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

AFP Chief, General Romeo Brawner Jr. led the ceremonial launch of the Kadiwa market on Friday, Feb. 21, highlighting the military’s “continued commitment to support government initiatives that promote food security, economic growth, and sustainable livelihood for Filipinos.”

He emphasized the importance of KNP’s role in strengthening the agricultural sector and empowering local farmers, fisherfolk, and micro-enterprises.

“The AFP remains steadfast in supporting initiatives that go beyond defense and contribute to the well-being of the Filipino people,” he said.

“Through partnerships with government agencies and civil society, the AFP continues to uphold its mandate in ensuring not only national security but also economic resilience, social stability, and sustainable progress,” the military chief added.

After the launch, military personnel and residents in Barangay Camp Aguinaldo were allowed to explore the Kadiwa booths to buy food.

The price of rice ranges from P29 to P43 per kilo under the government’s Rice For All (RFA) program, far from the regular-priced P43 to P62 per kilo of rice in the wet market.

First established during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Kadiwa program was developed by the Department of Agriculture (DA) to link local agri-food producers directly with consumers, improving food mobilization and stabilizing prices amid economic challenges.

It seeks to establish the smooth distribution of affordable rice at P40 per kilo with a 25-kilogram limit per person, ensuring stable food supply as it enables farmers to sell directly to consumers by removing market layers.

It also establishes additional markets for farmers, fisherfolks and micro enterprises to sell locally produced agri-fishery products and basic necessities.

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/2/22/kadiwa-market-lands-in-camp-aguinaldo>

MANILA BULLETIN:

DA brings Kadiwa program to police, military camps

BY DEXTER BARRO II

Feb 22, 2025 02:31 PM



PNP Chief Police General Rommel Marbil (left) and Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel (right) lead the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the launch of the Kadiwa store at Camp Crame (PNP photo)

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has partnered with the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to boost the expansion of the Kadiwa ng Pangulo (KNP) program, ensuring wider access to affordable goods.

In separate events on Friday, Feb. 21, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel led the launch of KNP stores at the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame and the AFP headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

According to the DA, more Kadiwa stores will be set up in select police and military camps across the country.

The program will be targeting about 228,000 PNP personnel, 150,000 AFP members, and nearby communities.

Established under the Marcos administration, KNP is part of the government's efforts to provide farmers and fishermen with direct access to spaces where they can sell their produce directly to consumers.

Eliminating the intermediaries, or so-called middlemen, would mean that farmers directly earn from their products while enabling consumers to buy goods at affordable prices.

A key feature of KNP is the Rice-for-All (RFA) program, where consumers can buy rice as low as ₱38 per kilo. This is alongside the ₱29 rice which is available for the country's vulnerable sectors.

"This program embodies the government's commitment to inclusive development and food security... This setup not only allows farmers and fisherfolk to earn better prices for their hard work, but also ensures that the quality products reach the consumers at an affordable cost," Laurel said in his speech at Camp Crame.

"It's a win-win solution for both sectors, paving the way for a more equitable and sustainable agriculture economy," he added.

The DA chief said having institutional buyers like the PNP and the AFP has paved the path for other government agencies to participate in KNP.

"The collaboration highlights a spirit of bayanihan that drives this program forward," he underscored.

AFP Chief of Staff General Romeo Brawner Jr. expressed optimism about the DA's efforts, emphasizing that being food-secure results in a more stable nation.

Meanwhile, PNP Chief Police General Rommel Marbil said the expansion of KNP is a testament to President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.'s commitment to the welfare and well-being of uniformed personnel.



PNP Chief Police General Rommel Marbil (left) and Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel (right) lead the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the launch of the Kadiwa store at Camp Crame (PNP photo)

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<https://mb.com.ph/2025/2/22/da-brings-kadiwa-program-to-police-military-camps>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA allows importation of 25,000 MT of frozen fish

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

February 22, 2025 | 12:00am



Various marine products, such as lapu-lapu, assorted fish, green mussels, and sea grapes, are displayed for sale at the public market in Lingayen, Pangasinan on February 1, 2025 morning.

Cesar Ramirez / The Philippine STAR

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) has approved the importation of 25,000 metric tons (MT) of various frozen seafood such as salmon, squid, scallops and sardines to boost domestic supply and prevent a spike in the prices of the concerned commodities.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. issued Memorandum Order 12, which provides the guidelines on the implementation of the certificate of necessity to import (CNI) covering the period from March to May.

The importation allows the entry of 40 fish products of various species. The issuance of the CNI also allows the imported frozen fish items to be sold to wet markets and supermarkets.

“This will add variety in the market, especially for the food service industry, since fish and marine species covered by this importation are mostly fish and marine products not caught locally,” Tiu Laurel said in a separate statement.

“This should not affect local fishermen and should help in the ease of doing business,” he added.

The approved fish species to be imported under the CNI are salmon, sardines, gindara, pangasius, tuna by-products, hamachi, swordfish, barramundi and fish meat.

Also allowed to be imported are alaskan pollock, oilfish, halibut, cod/black cod, hake, croaker, chilean seabass, marlin, silverfish/silver sillago, eel, mullet, cobia, capelin, moonfish, yellowtail sole and hoki.

The DA also approved the importation of lobster, scallops, mussels (black, green-lipped, blue), clams, red snapper, grouper, flounder, emperor, sea bream, bluefin tuna, oyster, smelt, soft/hard shell crab, octopus and squid.

Sources told The STAR that the approved species per fish product are foreign ones that do not thrive or cannot be caught locally in the country, thus does not compete directly with those that local fishers catch and sell in the domestic market.

Fisheries and Aquaculture Board chair Chingling Tanco told The STAR that the imported fish species would be sold to wet markets and supermarkets, boosting domestic supplies and would help arrest possible price spikes in fish commodities.

The imported fish products may also be sold to other markets including hotels and restaurants, Tanco added.

Tiu Laurel said those who can participate in the importation should be accredited for at least one year prior to the issuance of the order, and registered importers under Fisheries Administrative Order 259 who participated in any previous CNI.

“All importers who complied may qualify to import, provided that all accreditation and registration documents are updated and complete,” the agriculture chief said in his order.

Tiu Laurel added that importers with pending cases or investigations in relation to violations of any food safety or importation rules and regulations are disqualified from participating in the importation.

He said an initial volume of 28 metric tons shall be allocated to each qualified importer.

“The remaining volume shall be allocated to the qualified importers on a first come first serve basis,”

Tiu Laurel added.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2025/02/22/2423346/da-allows-importation-25000-mt-frozen-fish>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DA okays 25,000 MT of fish, seafood imports

By: [Jordeene B. Lagare](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)
Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:42 AM February 22, 2025



Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr.
PHOTO FROM DA FB PAGE

The [Department of Agriculture \(DA\)](#) has authorized the [importation](#) of 25,000 metric tons (MT) of various frozen fish and seafood in the next three months to avert any potential price spike, especially in the food service industry.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. signed Memorandum Order No. 12 outlining the guidelines for importing about 40 fish and fishery or aquatic products from March 1 to May 30, 2025.

“This will also add variety in the market, especially for food service industry, since fish and marine species covered by this importation are mostly fish and marine products not caught locally,” Tiu Laurel said in a statement on Friday, a day after signing the memo.

“This should not affect local fishermen and should help in the ease of doing business,” he added without elaborating.

The food service industry includes restaurants, bars, fast food outlets, caterers and others that sell or serve food or drink to the general public.

Fish and seafood covered by the DA memo are Alaskan pollock, barramundi, bluefin tuna, capelin, Chilean Seabass, clams, cobia, cod/black cod, croaker, eel, emperor, fish meat, flounder, gindara, grouper, hake, halibut, hamachi, hoki and lobster.

Also included are marlin, moonfish, mussels (black, green-lipped, blue), mullet, octopus, oilfish, oyster, pangasius, red snapper, salmon, sardines, scallops, sea bream, silverfish/silver sillago, smelt, soft and hardshell crabs, squid, swordfish, tuna by-products and yellowtail sole.

The agency will allocate an initial 28 MT to each accredited or registered importer, while the remaining volume will be distributed to qualified importers on a first-come, first-served basis.

“The allocation for subsequent importations shall be based on the actual number of qualified importers who complied within the seven working days period,” the DA said in the issuance.

BFAR facilities

The memo does not specify the measures or penalties to ensure that the imports are marine products that won't compete with the local seafood industry, particularly fish ordinarily found in wet markets.

All sanitary and phytosanitary import clearances (SPSICs) to be issued under this order shall be valid for 45 days from the issuance date.

Any unused SPSICs will be deemed automatically canceled and surrendered to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

Imported fish or seafood should be stored in BFAR-accredited cold storage facilities.

This is open to importers who have been accredited for at least one year before this order was issued and those who participated in previous importations.

Those with pending cases or under investigation for violating food safety or importation rules, incomplete documentary requirements or without Bureau of Customs accreditation at the start of the importation period are excluded.

The DA said its policymaking body on the fisheries sector, the National Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council set the import ceiling late last year, seeking to address inflation concerns and improve the allocation of import volume for institutional buyers and wet markets.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2037043/da-okays-25000-mt-of-fish-seafood-imports>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

P22 million NIA-DAR irrigation systems turned over in Bicol

By: [Connie Calipay - @inquirerdotnet](#)

Philippine News Agency / 06:42 AM February 22, 2025



(Photo courtesy of NIA-5)

LEGAZPI CITY — The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in Bicol have turned over P22 million worth of communal irrigation systems to irrigators associations in the region this week.

This move is meant to ensure a reliable water supply and improved land cultivation for farmers in two provinces.

In an interview on Friday, Ma. Cleofe Baraero, NIA-5 spokesperson, said the project aligns with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s vision to strengthen the livelihood of farmers and boost the agricultural sector in the country.

The initiatives were funded under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program-Irrigation Component (CARP-IC), which aims to boost agricultural productivity and the livelihood of farmers.

“The projects were a P13 million solar-powered irrigation system in Juban town in Sorsogon and P9 million irrigation system in Malinao and Camalig towns [in Albay],” Baraero said.

She added the completion of the solar-powered irrigation and canalization works measuring 1,043 meters can now reach 89 hectares of rice fields and will benefit 139 farmers in Sorsogon.

Meanwhile in Albay, Baraero said the project will help increase the agricultural productivity of more than 130 farmers and stabilize the water supply in 61.7 hectares in Malinao and 29.6 hectares in Camalig.

“These irrigation projects reaffirm the government’s dedication to advancing agricultural sustainability and food security in the region,” she said.

(With a report from Angelica Serrano, OJT/PNA)

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2037103/p22-million-nia-dar-irrigation-systems-turned-over-in-bicol>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Asean countries asked to work together to stop illicit tobacco trade

By: [Jan Escosio](#) - Reporter / [@JEPOI04](#)
INQUIRER.net / 04:41 PM February 21, 2025



Rodney Van Dooren, an expert on regional illicit trade for Philip Morris International (PMI)

MANILA, Philippines – Members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) should work together to stop the spread of illegal tobacco trade which has been harming legitimate businesses in the region, according to international experts.

The experts made the call during the National Tobacco Administration’s Second International Tobacco Summit, emphasizing the need for a regional and holistic approach to address the growing crisis.

Rodney Van Dooren, regional illicit trade expert for Philip Morris International, highlighted the cross-border nature of the illicit tobacco trade and the importance of cooperation among ASEAN nations.

“Local law enforcement in the Philippines is making great strides in shutting down illicit tobacco operations, but this needs constant attention as new threats are always emerging. What I want to emphasize today is that according to trade data and news articles in the Philippines, most non-compliant cigarettes in the Philippines originate from ASEAN countries and India, and from China for non-compliant e-cigarettes,” said Van Dooren.

He outlined key recommendations, including compliance with destination market regulations, harmonization of transit country regulations, leveraging international trade agreements, and expanding cooperation beyond customs authorities.

“An export without a corresponding import should trigger international cooperation,” Van Dooren said, as he called on ASEAN nations to adopt a shared responsibility framework. He also emphasized using platforms like the World Customs Organization and World Trade Organization to facilitate enforcement. Van Dooren noted that the Philippines has implemented several measures, including a Bureau of Internal Revenue whitelist of approved manufacturers, importers, exporters, and brands; a temporary ban on online sales of e-cigarettes; and amendments to the Anti-Agricultural Smuggling Bill to include tobacco products.

Despite these efforts, illicit trade persists due to high demand and price gaps between legal and illegal products. “It’s really about supply and demand—once there is demand, there’ll be supply,” Van Dooren said.

Australian security expert Rohan Pike, who has studied illicit tobacco markets globally, echoed this view. In a May 2024 interview with ABC News, he pointed out that Australia’s high tobacco prices have fueled a black market dominated by organized crime.

“The number one driver of the problem is the enormous price of tobacco,” Pike said, noting that even law-abiding citizens turn to illicit products when prices reach extreme levels. Speaking at the summit, Pike emphasized that government action should not rely on seizures alone. “Simply seizing tobacco and illicit products is not nearly enough. Seizures have no relevance whatsoever in stopping an illicit market,” he said.

NTA Administrator Belinda Sanchez also cited the need for a holistic approach. “The increasing illicit trade in tobacco is a growing concern, undermining our efforts and threatening the livelihoods of countless individuals,” she said. “We need a holistic approach to tackle this problem, one that addresses not just the symptoms but also the root causes. A multifaceted approach that combines regulation, education, and community engagement.”

The NTA said the illicit trade adversely affects the livelihoods of 2.2 million Filipinos, including over 430,000 farmers and farm workers.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2036948/asean-countries-asked-to-work-together-to-stop-illicit-tobacco-trade>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Exemption ng bentahan ng NFA rice hiniling ng DA sa Comelec

By Jan Escosio February 21, 2025 - 07:58 AM



Mga sako ng bigas sa isang NFA warehouse. (INQUIRER.net file photo)

METRO MANILA, Philippines — Inihirit ng Department of Agriculture (DA) sa Commission on Elections (Comelec) na bigyan ng exemption sa election ban ang pagbebenta ng mga lokal na pamahalaan ng bigas mula sa National Food Authority (NFA).

Sinabi ni Agriculture Secretary Francis Tiu-Laurel na ang apila sa Comelec ay bilang pagsuporta sa posisyon ng mga lokal na pamahalaan na magbebenta ng NFA rice ng P33 hanggang P35 kada kilo.

“Humingi kami ng tulong sa kanila na iyong mga nag-a-apply na LGUs ay mabigyan nila ng exemption,” ani Tiu-Laurel

BASAHIIN: NFA rice ikakalat sa Metro Manila LGUs

Ang pagbebenta ng LGUs ng murang bigas ay alinsunod sa idineklarang food security emergency for rice.

May 67 na lokal na pamahalaan na ang nagpahiwatig na bibili ng NFA rice para makatulong sa kanilang lokalidad.

Nakasaad sa Comelec Resolution No. 11060 na ipinagbabawal ang pagpapalabas ng pondo para sa pagbibigay ng social services 45 na araw bago ang eleksyon sa Mayo 12.

Una nang binigyan ng exemption sa election ban ang ilang programa ng Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) kasama ang Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), Ayuda sa Kapos ang Kita Program (AKAP), Walang Gutom Program (WGP), at Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS).

<https://radyo.inquirer.net/343561/exemption-ng-bentahan-ng-nfa-rice-hiniling-ng-da-sa-comelec>

REMATE:

Importasyon ng 25K MT ng isda, seafood aprub sa DA

February 22, 2025 15:49



MANILA, Philippines – PINAHINTULUTAN ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang importasyon ng 25,000 metric tons (MT) ng iba't ibang frozen fish at seafood sa susunod na tatlong buwan upang maiwasan ang anumang potensiyal na pagsirit ng presyo lalo na sa food service industry.

Sa katunayan, nilagdaan ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. ang Memorandum Order No. 12 binalangkas ang guidelines para sa pag-aangkat ng 40 na isda at fishery o aquatic products mula Marso 1 hanggang Mayo 30, 2025.

“This will also add variety in the market, especially for food service industry, since fish and marine species covered by this importation are mostly fish and marine products not caught locally,” ang sinabi ni Tiu Laurel sa isang kalatas, isang araw matapos ang paglagda sa memo.

“This should not affect local fishermen and should help in the ease of doing business,” ayon pa rin kay Tiu Laurel na hindi na nagbigay pa ng ibang detalye.

Kabilang naman sa food service industry ay ang restaurants, bars, fast food outlets, caterers at iba pang nagbebenta o nagsisilbi ng pagkain o inumin sa pangkalahatang publiko.

Ang ‘mga isda at seafood’ na saklaw ng DA memo ay ang Alaskan pollock, barramundi, bluefin tuna, capelin, Chilean Seabass, clams, cobia, cod/black cod, croaker, eel, emperor, fish meat, flounder, gindara, grouper, hake, halibut, hamachi, hoki at lobster.

Kabilang din ang marlin, moonfish, mussels (black, green-lipped, blue), mullet, octopus, oilfish, oyster, pangasius, red snapper, salmon, sardines, scallops, sea bream, silverfish/silver sillago, smelt, soft at hardshell crabs, squid, swordfish, tuna by-products at yellowtail sole.

Maglalaan ang ahensiya ng paunang 28,000 MT sa bawat each accredited o registered importer, habang ang natitirang dami ay ipamamahagi sa kuwalipikadong qualified importers sa first-come, first-served basis.

“The allocation for subsequent importations shall be based on the actual number of qualified importers who complied within the seven working days period,” ang nakasaad sa DA.

Hindi na tinukoy ng memo ang mga hakbang at kaparusahan upang matiyak na ang mga inangkat na marine products ay hindi makikipag-paligsahan sa local seafood industry, partikular na sa mga isda na ordinaryong natatagpuan sa mga wet market.

Ang lahat ng sanitary and phytosanitary import clearances (SPSICs) na ipalalabas sa ilalim ng kautusan ay dapat na balido para sa 45 na araw mula sa issuance date.

Ang anumang hindi nagamit na SPSICs ay awtomatikong ituturing na kanselado at isinuko sa Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

Ang mga imported fish o seafood ay dapat na nakalagay sa BFAR-accredited cold storage facilities.

ITO ay bukas sa mga importers na accredited para sa hindi bababa sa isang taon bago pa ipalabas ang kautusan at iyong nagpartisipasyon sa mga naunang importasyon.

“Those with pending cases or under investigation for violating food safety or importation rules, incomplete documentary requirements or without Bureau of Customs accreditation at the start of the importation period are excluded,” ayon sa kautusan.

Sinabi naman ng DA, na ang policymaking body sa fisheries sector na nagtakda ang National Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council ng import ceiling nito lamang huling bahagi ng nakaraang taon, naglalayon na tugunan ang inflation concerns at paghusayin ang alokasyon ng import volume para sa institutional buyers at wet markets. *Kris Jose*

<https://remate.ph/importasyon-ng-25k-mt-ng-isda-seafood-aprub-sa-da/>