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**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# San Juan City gov't expands P33/kilo NFA rice sale

BY [PATRICK GARCIA](#)

Feb 25, 2025 02:08 PM



**San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora, together with Department of Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., spearheads the sale of NFA rice at P1,650 per sack, equivalent to P33 per kilogram, under the Food Security Emergency Program of the National Government on Monday, Feb. 24. (Santi San Juan)**

Due to the overwhelming positive response of San Juan City residents to the P33 per kilogram rice sale program of the city government and the National Food Authority (NFA), the 5-kilogram packs of rice will also be sold to San Juaneños at P33 per kilogram.

San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora said that the initial 1,000 sacks of rice purchased by the city government from the NFA were sold out during its initial sale on Feb. 24.

This prompted the city government to offer 5-kilogram packs of rice to residents at P165 per pack, or still at P33 per kilogram, to give more affordable options and flexibility to their constituents.

"San Juaneños who wish to buy either the 5kg packs or the 50kg sacks (priced at P1,650 per sack) must first register at the city hall lobby to ensure proper supply management and prevent shortages. Those who wish to buy 10 or 15 kilos can buy 2 or 3 packages of 5 kilos rice. Preregistration for Batch 2 of the rice selling begins today (Feb. 25), ensuring that those who sign up will have access to the next round of affordable rice distribution," Zamora explained.

He also ordered the preregistration for both 50kg sacks and 5kg packs to accommodate more buyers.

Beginning Feb. 26, the 5kg rice packs will be available for sale at the San Juan City Hall wherein the city government will monitor demand for both rice package sizes and adjust its procurement from Food Terminal Inc. (FTI) accordingly.

This procedure ensures that while there is no oversupply, those who register will have the opportunity to buy their allocated rice without unnecessary shortages.

During NFA's turnover of the first batch of sacks of well-milled rice to select local government units (LGUs) in the country, Zamora said the city government will shoulder the logistical costs of the purchased rice to San Juaneños as part of its efforts to provide financial reprieve to its residents.

"Kami po ay hindi na magpapatong. So, kung nakuha po namin ito for P33 per kilo which is equivalent to P1,650 kada sako, yun na din po ang halaga ng pagbenta namin. Ito ay sapagkat ayaw na din naming maging dagdag pasanin pa ng ating mamamayan. The LGU of San Juan will cover all the costs for the trucking, hauling, logistics, and yung paglipat po from here sa warehouse going to San Juan City (If we purchased the rice for P33 per kilo which is equivalent to P1,650 per sack, then that's also how much we will sell it to San Juaneños. This is because we do not want this to be another burden to our constituents. The LGU of San Juan will cover all the costs for the trucking, hauling, logistics, and all transportation expenses from here at the warehouse going to San Juan City)," the mayor explained.



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<https://mb.com.ph/2025/2/25/san-juan-city-gov-t-expands-p33-kilo-nfa-rice-sale>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Stronger government aid for farmers urged

[Kristine Daguno-Bersamina](#) - Philstar.com

February 25, 2025 | 11:41am



Farmers plant rice seedlings for the first cropping season in Mangatarem, Pangasinan on June 30, 2024.

The Philippine STAR / Cesar Ramirez

MANILA, Philippines — A former senator is renewing his call for better support for farmers as the government struggles to rein in surging food prices.

In a recent interview on "Toni Talks" with Toni Gonzaga, former Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan recalled how a typhoon devastated his farm, giving him firsthand experience of the hardships Filipino farmers endure.

"I didn't start out in politics thinking I'd focus on agriculture. But then a typhoon hit my farm and wiped out everything. I experienced firsthand what farmers go through and it changed me," Pangilinan said.

"It's not just about food security; it's about justice for our farmers. Their struggle became my fight," he added.

Pangilinan previously served as presidential adviser on food security and agricultural modernization under the Aquino administration, overseeing key agencies such as the National Food Authority (NFA), National Irrigation Administration, Philippine Coconut Authority and the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority. His role focused on enhancing food security and modernizing the agricultural sector.

From 2016 to 2022, Pangilinan served as a senator before running as former Vice President Leni Robredo's running mate in the 2022 elections. He lost to Sara Duterte, daughter of then-President Rodrigo Duterte, while Robredo was defeated by Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Now running as an independent candidate for senator in the 2025 midterm elections, Pangilinan said he still has unfinished work in governance and vowed to continue championing farmers' rights and pushing for agricultural reforms.

"I still have dreams for this country. I want to fight for our farmers, improve education and bring about good governance," he said.

His renewed push for agricultural reform comes as the country faces a food security emergency, with the government's measures to lower rice prices struggling to take effect. But a farmers' group warned that measures to lower rice prices should not come at the expense of farmers.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2025/02/25/2424081/stronger-government-aid-farmers-urged>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# DA orders inspection of onion warehouses

**Christine Boton** - The Philippine Star

February 26, 2025 | 12:00am



Undated photo shows a box of red onions.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) has ordered the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) to inspect onion storage facilities nationwide to determine whether newly harvested produce are being withheld from the market, potentially inflating prices.

Onion harvests were expected to begin this month, with the BPI projecting an early yield of around 33,000 metric tons by March to help stabilize market prices.

However, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. expressed concern that fresh supplies may not be reaching consumers as expected.

“Last Friday, I directed the BPI and its team to visit all the onion cold storage facilities across the country and inspect whether newly harvested onions are being kept there instead of being sold,” he said.

“If they are, that’s wrong. Onions are typically stored toward the middle or end of the harvest season, not at the start. This clearly points to price manipulation – it’s hoarding,” he added.

Hoarding and price manipulation are considered illegal trade practices punishable by law.

The agriculture chief estimated that the BPI would complete its inspection within four to seven days, with a report expected by the end of the week.

Earlier this month, Tiu Laurel authorized the importation of 3,000 metric tons of red onions and 1,000 metric tons of white onions to mitigate a projected supply shortage ahead of the harvest season.

Despite this measure, onion prices remain high in the local market.

According to the DA’s latest monitoring as of Feb. 24, red onions are currently priced between P140 and P240 per kilo, while white onions range from P90 to P150 per kilo.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2025/02/26/2424239/da-orders-inspection-onion-warehouses>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# **DA-11 distributes P11.6-million agri machinery in Davao Region**

By: [Che Palicte](#) -

Philippine News Agency / 06:58 AM February 26, 2025



(Photo courtesy of DA-11)

DAVAO CITY — The Department of Agriculture in Davao Region (DA-11) distributed P11.6 million worth of agricultural machinery to farmers cooperatives and local governments Monday.

The machinery, which included four-wheel tractors with rotavators, was provided through the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF), DA-11 Director Macario Gonzaga said Tuesday.

“With the RCEF Mechanization Program, more provinces can attain a higher level of mechanization,” he said.

Recipients included the Isirosary Farmers Association and San Isidro Carmen Irrigators Association Inc. in Davao del Norte; Dalawinon Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative and Lalar Gomitoyom Irrigators Association in Davao del Sur; and Davao Oriental provincial government, Kinablagan Rice Farmers IA Inc., Caraga-San Pedro IA Inc., Mantunao IA Inc., and Saranay Farmers IA of Rang-ay Inc. in Davao Oriental.

DA-11 Technical Director Marie Ann Constantino said the distribution reflects the agency’s commitment to improving farmers’ lives.

“This initiative aims to enhance farm productivity and efficiency,” she said.

The Philippine Center for Post-Harvest Development and Mechanization collaborated with DA-11 on the initiative.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2038147/da-11-distributes-p11-6-million-agri-machinery-in-davao-region>

**BUSINESS WORLD:**

# Drop in sugar yields stable since October

February 25, 2025 | 8:28 pm



**PHILSTAR FILE PHOTO**

THE Sugar Regulatory Administration said the drop in sugar yields has been holding steady since October, adding that it nevertheless expects to hit its 1.78 million metric ton (MMT) target for the crop year.

“We are currently about 11% down on LKGTC (50-kilo bag of sugar per ton of cane), and we have not seen a significant change in the percentage,” Administrator Pablo Luis S. Azcona told reporters.

Sugar production during the current crop year, was 1.01 MMT as of Feb. 16. The crop year runs from September to August, meaning that cane being grown starting last year experienced the tail end of the El Niño dry spells and the subsequent La Niña, which brought heavier-than-usual rains.

“The percentage decrease in yields has been the same since October,” he added.

Mill production fell 27.68% year on year to 1.01 MMT between Sept. 1 and Feb. 16. Output during the previous full crop year had been 1.92 MMT.

“The main factor that we are anticipating is the El Niño damage,” Mr. Azcona said.

He noted that the harvest in northern Negros has been delayed by rains, giving the final output numbers some upside that makes hitting the 1.78 MMT target possible.

“You move a bit south (in Negros), it’s already dry,” he said, facilitating the harvest there.

Mr. Azcona said big farms, which account for only 10% of the industry, are doing very well in terms of tonnage due to their access to water.

“The 85% do not have access to water. The other problem with the unirrigated farms is their costs this year are very high,” he said, noting that such farms planted and fertilized twice.

“They planted let’s say in October, and had to replant in May,” he said. — **Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2025/02/25/655615/drop-in-sugar-yields-stable-since-october/>



**REMATE:**

# Regional cooperation susi vs illicit tobacco trade sa ASEAN

February 25, 2025 15:59



MANILA, Philippines – SINABI ng mga international experts sa kanilang pagsasalita sa National Tobacco Administration’s Second International Tobacco Summit na mahalaga ang ‘regional at holistic approach,’ para pag-usapan ang lumalagong krisis sa ‘illicit tobacco trade’; o iligal na kalakalan sa tabako.

Nananatili kasi itong seryosong usapin sa ASEAN na nagpahina sa pampublikong kalusugan, nagpasiklab sa organisadong krimen at itinuturong dahilan ng bilyong pisong pagkalugi ng gobyerno.

Binigyang diin ni Rodney Van Dooren, Regional Illicit Trade Expert ng Philip Morris International, ang cross-border nature ng illicit tobacco trade at ang kahalagahan ng pagtutulungan sa pagitan ng ASEAN nations para epektibo itong labanan.

Binalangkas naman ni Van Dooren ang pangunahing rekomendasyon para sugpuin ang illicit tobacco trade, kabilang na rito ang pagsunod sa destination market regulations, pag-isahin ang transit country regulations, paigtingin ang international trade agreements, at palawakin ang kooperasyon maliban sa mga awtoridad ng customs.

Binigyang-diin nito ang pangangailangan na paigtingin ang umiiral na plataporma gaya ng World Customs Organization at World Trade Organization para pangasiwaan na mapadali ang mga pagsisikap sa pagpapatupad.

Ang Pilipinas, ayon pa rin kay Van Dooren, ay nagpapatupad ng ilang hakbang para tugunan ang mga usapin, kabilang na ang BIR whitelist ng mga aprubadong manufacturers, importers, exporters, at brands para mapahusay pa ang pagpapatupad; temporary ban sa online sales ng e-cigarettes para sugpuin ang unregulated trade; at amiyendahan ang Anti-Agri Smuggling Bill para maisama ang tobacco products.

Sa kabila ng mga pagsisikap na ito, nagpapatuloy pa rin ang ilegal na kalakalan dahil sa mataas na demand at makabuluhang price gaps sa pagitan ng legal at illegal tobacco products.

Sa kabilang dako, pinatibay naman ni Australian Security Expert Rohan Pike ang pananaw na ito. Pinag-aralan ni Pike ang illicit tobacco markets sa buong mundo.

Matatandaang, sa isang May 2024 interview sa ABC News, ipinunto nito ang mataas na presyo ng tabako sa Asutralia, nagpasiklab sa black market na dino-dominahan ng organisadong crime groups.

Binigyang-diin naman ni NTA Administrator Belinda Sanchez ang pangangailangan para sa holistic approach para harapin ang ilegal na kalakalan.

Samantala, sinabi naman ng NTA na ang illicit trade ay may masamang epekto sa kabuhayan ng 2.2 milyong Filipino, kabilang na sa mahigit pa sa 430,000 magsasaka at manggagawang bukid na nakasandal sa industriya. **KRIS JOSE**

<https://remate.ph/regional-cooperation-susi-vs-illicit-tobacco-trade-sa-asean/>

**REMATE:**

# P29 kada kilong bigas mabibili na araw-araw sa CamSur

February 25, 2025 08:34



MANILA, Philippines – Sinimulan na ng National Irrigation Administration sa Bicol (NIA-5) ang araw-araw na pagbebenta ng Bagong Bayaning Magsasaka (BBM) rice sa Camarines Sur, na nag-aalok ng malinis, bagong giling, at abot-kayang bigas, lalo na para sa mga sektor na nangangailangan.

Ayon kay Ma. Cleofe Baraero, tagapagsalita ng NIA-5, mabibili ang “Bagasan Ara-aldaw” rice sa NIA-Camarines Sur Irrigation Management Office (IMO) sa bayan ng Magarao.

Nasa PHP29 kada kilo ang presyo nito para sa senior citizens, PWDs, benepisyaryo ng 4Ps, at mga solong magulang, habang PHP35 kada kilo naman para sa pangkalahatang publiko.

Maaaring bumili ng minimum na 5 kg at maximum na 10 kg ng bigas, mula Lunes hanggang Biyernes, 8 a.m. hanggang 4 p.m.

Ang bigas ay mula sa ani noong Disyembre ng mga ka-partner na irrigators association ng NIA sa ilalim ng contract farming program.

Bagamat naibebenta na ang BBM rice sa mga Kadiwa store sa rehiyon, ang araw-araw na availability nito ay nagsisiguro ng tuloy-tuloy na supply na inaasahang tatagal hanggang Mayo o Hunyo.

Magpapatuloy ang contract farming program hanggang 2025, na sasaklaw sa anim na probinsya upang palakasin ang produksyon ng bigas. *Santi Celario*

<https://remate.ph/p29-kada-kilong-bigas-mabibili-na-araw-araw-sa-camsur/>

**THE MANILA TIMES:**

# **El Niño to affect 2025 sugar production – SRA**

**By Giselle P. Jordan**

**February 26, 2025**

THE Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) is expecting 1.78 million metric tons (MMT) in raw sugar production this year, the agency's administrator and CEO Pablo Luis Azcona said in a statement.

"Our estimate is only 1.78 [MMT] because of El Niño — that's a major factor. We anticipate the El Niño damage," Azcona pointed out.

As of Feb. 9, the numbers stood at 930,878 MT. Azcona is hopeful this would increase, given that some farms in the northern part of Negros Island Region have yet to harvest due to rainy weather.

Big sugarcane farms with access to water are doing well in tonnage, although the sugar yield from the canes is low, Azcona said, but noted that big farms comprise only 10 percent of the sugar industry, and that many other farms still have problems with irrigation.

Unirrigated farms also suffer from high production costs since farmers have to plant and apply fertilizer twice due to El Niño.

"So, when the price of sugar was at P2,300 to P2,400 per 50-kilogram bag, the [farmers] were crying because they had to do everything twice — that's painful," said Azcona.

The SRA's goal is to help increase production by 20 percent. Asked whether he thinks it is achievable in the Marcos administration, Azcona said it is possible on a small scale, but would take a lot of changes on a national level.

For instance, Azcona elaborated, "we need to work on sugarcane varieties, as well as the cultural practices on sugarcane farming."

However, some farmers are resistant to change, Azcona said, adding that, in his personal experience, it took him three to four years to convince them to change their planting methods, such as row spacing.

It is difficult to implement changes in sugarcane farming because "you plant as you harvest," Azcona said.

The SRA, he added, is also determined to enhance research, and has allotted P17 million for the procurement of two new machines for soil analysis. The bidding and awarding of the supplier will be done in June, and the machines to be delivered in 2026.

The agency analyzes 5,000 soil samples annually in the Negros Island Region.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2025/02/26/business/top-business/el-nio-to-affect-2025-sugar-production-sra/2062320>

**THE MANILA TIMES:**

**PERSPECTIVE**

# **Coconut farmers serve notice of claim to UCPB Savings Bank Inc.**

**By Charles R. Avila**

**February 26, 2025**

ON the eve of the bidding process for the sale of 97.55 percent of shares in UCPB Savings Bank Inc., the Confederation of Coconut Farmers Organizations of the Philippines (Confed) served notice to the Land Bank of the Philippines (LandBank), the present holder of those shares, that they will not cease to claim true and beneficial ownership of all coconut levy assets, "including but not limited to the UCPB Savings Bank Inc."

The legal claim was expressed in a formal letter of Confed to LandBank.

Before the failure of the bidding process following this notice of claim, LandBank was selling its shares at a minimum bid price of P341.14 per share.

In an earlier act considered illegal by Confed, LandBank was allowed by former president Rodrigo Duterte to buy out the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) for a mere P000.34 per share — a buyout deceitfully termed as a "merger."

Ever since that time, Confed has been exerting all efforts to recover the bank that was intended by Presidential Decree 755 to be an agri-bank of the coconut farmers who provided the levy funds for that purpose. Their efforts lately included a serious intention to unite with ready and sympathetic funders to bid for this subsidiary of UCPB that was up for sale.

However, "upon the most appropriate reflection of the evolving jurisprudence on the coconut levy funds," Confed announced it was "pursuing the clear and unqualified dictates and pronouncements of the Supreme Court... in its rulings that the 'coco levy fund is a public fund and awarded to the government solely for the benefit of the coconut farmers and the development of the coconut industry'."

In its Feb. 18 letter to LandBank, Confed said that in a suit it filed against then-president Benigno Aquino III et. al. (GR 217965, Aug. 8, 2017), "the Supreme Court reiterated and highlighted the ruling that coco levy funds and assets and all proceeds of any privatization of the coco levy assets shall be for the sole and exclusive benefit of all coconut farmers and the development of the coconut industry..."

In that same ruling, said the Confed letter, the Supreme Court was quite clear that: "The coconut levy funds are special funds allocated for a specific purpose and can never be used for purposes other than for the benefit of the coconut farmers or the development of the coconut industry. Any attempt to appropriate the said funds for another reason, no matter how noble or beneficial, would be struck down as unconstitutional."

However, Confed wrote, "It is to be noted that there has been neither a pronouncement nor declaration to be found in the entire process of the privatization and the sale of the shares of UCPB Savings Bank Inc. that the proceeds thereof shall accrue solely and exclusively for the benefit of

all the coconut farmers and for the development of the coconut industry pursuant to the herein-cited rulings. It is, thus, submitted that the privatization together with the entire bidding process of the UCPB Savings Bank Inc. is null and void."

In another recent statement, Confed made clear that what it really wants is "the reinstatement of the three-fold strategic government intervention through the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) on the productivity side, Coconut Industry Investment Fund-Oil Mills Group (CIIF-OMG) on the processing and world trading side, and the UCPB as the financial support bank of the coconut farmers and the coconut industry."

To this end, Confed told LandBank: "you are kindly placed on legal notice that CCFOP-Confed will continue and persist in its unflinching efforts and struggles for the recovery of all the coconut levy assets including but not limited to the UCPB Savings Bank Inc. by availing of the legal and/or administrative actions and safeguards to protect the paramount interests of all the coconut farmers in the Republic of the Philippines."

*Charles R. Avila is the chairman of the national sectoral committee on coconut of the Philippine Council of Agriculture and Fisheries. He is also the spokesman for the Confederation of Coconut Farmers Organizations of the Philippines and former administrator of the Philippine Coconut Authority.*

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2025/02/26/opinion/contributors/coconut-farmers-serve-notice-of-claim-to-ucpb-savings-bank-inc/2062056>

**BUSINESS MIRROR:**

# Embracing vegetables: A solution to animal disease outbreaks and rising meat prices

BusinessMirror Editorial

February 26, 2025

The outbreaks of animal diseases in local farms, while unfortunate, present opportunities for both the government and the private sector to promote the consumption of more vegetables and root crops. Now is the best time to encourage Filipino consumers to eat more leafy vegetables that are usually cheaper than meat products. Unlike pork and beef, cooking vegetables would not require more energy and some of these food items are even considered healthier when half-cooked.

A Global Agricultural Information Network (Gain) report published by the United States Department of Agriculture-Foreign Agricultural Service said annual per capita consumption of vegetables in the Philippines is 45 kilograms. The estimated consumption of vegetables of Filipinos, the report noted, is less than one-third of the Food and Agriculture Organization's recommended intake. Citing a roadmap on the vegetable industry crafted by the Philippine government, the report noted that policymakers want to improve per capita vegetable consumption by 1 percent each year.

An increase in demand would encourage farmers to plant more and enable the country to displace some of the vegetables it imported in recent years. The Gain report published in November 2023 noted that the Philippines bought some 160,000 metric tons (MT) of fresh vegetables and 512,000 MT of processed vegetables. The imported processed vegetables were valued at \$460 million or P23 billion.

The report noted that the importation of fresh and processed vegetables has experienced strong annual growth rates of 17 percent and 6 percent, respectively, over the past decade. However, even if this growth were to be sustained, it would still be inadequate to meet the demand of a rapidly growing population and the government's goal of promoting greater vegetable consumption. Citing traders, the Gain report estimated that an annual vegetable supply deficit of 1.4 million metric tons (wet weight) through at least 2030.

Unfortunately, local vegetable production in recent years has been growing at a compound annual growth rate of only 1.5 percent. Apart from the shrinking of local farmlands, the lack of postharvest facilities is exacerbating the difficulties of producing more local vegetables. Typhoons, according to the Gain report, pose a significant threat to vegetable production.

As animal diseases continue to ravage farms particularly those that raise hogs, which have caused pork prices to skyrocket to unprecedented levels, policymakers should promote other alternative protein sources. (See, "*DA amends pork MAV rules in bid to tame market prices,*" in *the BusinessMirror, February 20, 2025*). Urban areas like Metro Manila would continue to see high pork prices because of African swine fever (ASF) outbreaks, which have reduced the domestic hog population. Since ASF was first detected in 2019, hog output has yet to return to pre-pandemic levels.

Until and unless the world can find a viable solution to controlling or eradicating animal diseases, policymakers should encourage people to consume alternatives that would ease the pressure on certain food items like pork. Eating more vegetables would benefit not just consumers' budgets, but also their health.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/02/26/embracing-vegetables-a-solution-to-animal-disease-outbreaks-and-rising-meat-prices/>

**PILIPINO STAR NGAYON:**

# DA, inutos inspeksiyon sa warehouse ng sibuyas

[Angie dela Cruz](#)

February 26, 2025 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Inatasan ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. ang Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) na suriin ang lahat ng warehouse ng sibuyas upang matiyak na nakararating sa mga palengke at pamilihan ang mga bagong aning sibuyas.

Aniya ngayong buwan ang simula nang anihan ng sibuyas at inaasahang maibebenta agad ito sa mga pamilihan upang hindi tumaas ang presyo nito at matiyak na walang nagtatago ng suplay.

Inaasahan ng Kalihim na matatapos ng BPI sa loob ng apat hanggang pitong araw ang pag-inspeksyon sa mga onion warehouse at maiulat agad sa kanya ang resulta ng inspeksiyon sa lalung madaling panahon.

Una nang inaprubahan ng DA ang pag-import ng may 3,000 metric tons ng pulang sibuyas at 1,000 metric tons ng puting sibuyas upang mapunan ang inaasahang shortage bago ang anihan.

Batay sa latest DA monitoring, ang presyo ng red onions ay nasa P140 hanggang P240 per kilo habang ang presyo ng white onions ay nasa P130 hanggang P150 per kilo.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2025/02/26/2424251/dainutos-inspeksiyon-sa-warehouse-ng-sibuyas>



**PILIPINO STAR NGAYON:**

# Mga mangingisda sa Lucena umalma vs illegal fishing

[Tony Sandoval](#)

February 26, 2025 | 12:00am

LUCENA CITY, Philippines — Nagtungo ang mga maliliit na mangingisda sa Tayabas Bay sa Tanggapan ng Punong Lungsod at Sangguniang Panlungsod ng Lucena upang ipaabot ang kanilang petisyon kasama ang kanilang mga Municipal Agriculturist (MA), Integrated/Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (IFARMC/MFARMC), mga Bantay Dagat, at mga miyembro ng People's Organization (PO).

Bilang patunay ng kanilang nagkakaisang layunin, lumagda ang mga miyembro ng IFARMC, Bantay Dagat, at People's Organization sa petisyon upang ipakita ang kanilang matinding paninindigan.

Ang petisyon ay naglalaman ng sama-samang pagkilos upang maipatigil ang mga paggamit ng Buli-Buli (Hulbot-Hulbot) at Blast Fishing sa pangingsda sa Tayabas Bay". Ayon sa mga nagpetisyon, ang Tayabas Bay ay isang napakahalagang pinagkukunan ng kabuhayan at pagkain para sa mga mangingisda sa Quezon at mga kalapit lalawigan. Ang patuloy anila na paggamit ng mga ilegal na pamamaraan ng pangingsda, tulad ng Buli-Buli (Modified Danish Seine) at Blast Fishing (dynamite fishing), ay nagdudulot ng malubhang epekto sa ekosistema ng dagat, partikular na sa mga coral reefs, at naglalagay sa panganib ang mga likas na yaman at ang hanapbuhay ng mga lokal na mangingisda.

Ang mga nasabing pangingsda ay ipinagbabawal na, sa ilalim ng Fisheries Administrative Order No. 246-1 at sa Republic Act 8550 na naamyendahan ng RA 10654, na kilala bilang Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998.

Ayon sa mga mangingisda, karamihan sa mga gumagawa ng Buli-Buli at blast fishing ay mula sa mga barangay ng Dalahican, Barra, at Talao-talao sa Lucena City, at kanilang ginigiit na ito ay nagdudulot ng seryosong perwisyo sa kabuhayan ng mga mangingisda mula sa mga bayang sakop ng Tayabas Bay tulad ng Sariaya, Pagbilao, Padre Burgos, Agdangan, Unisan, Pitogo, Macalelon, General Luna, Catanauan, Mulanay, San Francisco at maging ang ilang mga bayang sakop ng lalawigan ng Marinduque.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/probinsiya/2025/02/26/2424277/mga-mangingisda-sa-lucena-umalma-vs-illegal-fishing>