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**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# **DA approves onion importation to prevent price spikes**

**BY [DEXTER BARRO II](#)**

Feb 6, 2025 03:50 PM

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The Department of Agriculture (DA) has approved the importation of 4000 metric tons (MT) of red and white onions to prevent a repeat of the 2022 crisis when onions soared as high as ₱700 per kilo.

“This importation of 3,000 metric tons of red onions and 1,000 metric tons of white onions is intended to ensure we have a sufficient buffer stocks while we await the fresh harvest,” DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel said on Thursday, Feb. 6.

“We will not risk a potential shortage that unscrupulous traders could exploit to drive up prices, as we saw in the past. We do not want a repeat of the 2022 crisis,” he added.

In 2022, the retail prices of onion saw absurdly high spikes as a consequence of a supply shortage exacerbated by delayed imports.

A year later, a congressional inquiry by the House of Representatives also found substantial evidence that hoarding, smuggling, and price fixing played significant roles behind high onion prices.

Based on latest figures from the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), red onion stocks in storage stood at 8,500 MT, while white onion stocks were at 1,628 MT.

Following a bumper harvest last year, the inventory of red onions is expected to last until February—which coincides with the start of a new harvest season.

According to the DA, the importation of both red and white onions are expected to arrive within the next two weeks.

Current projections estimate that several MT of onion will be harvested this month. Meanwhile, around 33,000 MT are expected for March.

BPI Director Glenn Panganiban, meanwhile, allayed concerns of consumers as he stressed that the imports is just a “preemptive measure”.

“While we were assured during our consultative meetings that there is still ample supply of onions, BPI recommended minimal imports to prevent major price spikes,” said Panganiban.

“Also, due to the typhoons that hit late last year and prevalence of pests and disease, this importation is meant to be a buffer for possible supply gaps,” he explained.

BPI data shows that the country’s monthly consumption is approximately 17,000 MT for red onions and 4,000 MT for white onions.

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/2/6/da-approves-onion-importation-to-prevent-price-spikes>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Second type of bird flu detected in US dairy COWS

BY [ASSOCIATED PRESS](#)

Feb 6, 2025 09:02 AM



**Dairy cows stand in a field outside of a milking barn at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Animal Disease Center research facility in Ames, Iowa, on Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2024. (AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall,File)**

Dairy cattle in Nevada have been infected with a new type of bird flu that's different from the version that has spread in U.S. herds since last year, Agriculture Department officials said Wednesday.

The detection indicates that distinct forms of the virus known as Type A H5N1 have spilled over from wild birds into cattle at least twice. Experts said it raises new questions about wider spread and the difficulty of controlling infections in animals and the people who work closely with them.

"I always thought one bird-to-cow transmission was a very rare event. Seems that may not be the case," said Richard Webby, an influenza expert at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

A version of the H5N1 bird flu virus known as B3.13 was confirmed in March after being introduced to cattle in late 2023, scientists said. It has infected more than 950 herds in 16 states. The new version, known as D1.1, was confirmed in Nevada cattle on Friday, according to USDA. It was detected in milk collected as part of a surveillance program launched in December.

"Now we know why it's really important to test and continue testing," said Angela Rasmussen, a virus expert at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, who helped identify the first spillover.

The D1.1 version of the virus was the type linked to the first U.S. death tied to bird flu and a severe illness in Canada. A person in Louisiana died in January after developing severe respiratory symptoms following

contact with wild and backyard birds. In British Columbia, a teen girl was hospitalized for months with a virus traced to poultry.

At least 67 people in the U.S. have been infected with bird flu, mostly those who work closely with dairy or cattle, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

USDA officials said they would post genetic sequences and other information about the new form of the virus to a public repository later this week. Scientists said that would be key to understanding whether the spillover was a recent event or whether the virus has been circulating, perhaps widely, for longer.

"If this turns out to have been something that crossed into cattle a couple months ago, a couple months is a long time not to detect it," said Michael Worobey, an evolutionary biologist at the University of Arizona who has studied the H5N1 virus in cattle.

He added that it's important for federal officials to share promptly information about a virus that has the potential to trigger a pandemic that could "make COVID seem like a walk in the park."

"It's a vital part of national security, global security, the well-being of people, of animals and of businesses in the U.S.," Worobey added.

[https://mb.com.ph/2025/2/6/second-type-of-bird-flu-detected-in-us-dairy-cows#google\\_vignette](https://mb.com.ph/2025/2/6/second-type-of-bird-flu-detected-in-us-dairy-cows#google_vignette)

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Bird flu in US dairy cows, eggs heist, a house close to tumbling

BY [ASSOCIATED PRESS](#)

Feb 6, 2025 02:35 PM

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Here's a roundup of news stories from around the world:

## **Second type of bird flu detected in US dairy cows**

Dairy cattle in Nevada have been infected with a new type of bird flu that's different from the version that has spread in U.S. herds since last year, Agriculture Department officials said Wednesday. The detection indicates that distinct forms of the virus known as Type A H5N1 have spilled over from wild birds into cattle at least twice. Experts said it raises new questions about wider spread and the difficulty of controlling infections in animals and the people who work closely with them. "I always thought one bird-to-cow transmission was a very rare event. Seems that may not be the case," said Richard Webby, an influenza expert at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. A version of the H5N1 bird flu virus known as B3.13 was confirmed in March after being introduced to cattle in late 2023, scientists said. It has infected more than 950 herds in 16 states. The new version, known as D1.1, was confirmed in Nevada cattle on Friday, according to USDA. It was detected in milk collected as part of a surveillance program launched in December.

## **100,000 eggs heist in Pennsylvania becomes a case police have yet to crack**

ANTRIM TOWNSHIP, Pa. (AP) — The heist of 100,000 eggs from the back of a trailer in Pennsylvania has become a whodunit that police have yet to crack. Four days after the theft that law enforcement say could be tied to the sky-high cost of eggs, no leads have come in, Trooper First Class Megan Frazer, a spokesperson for the Pennsylvania State Police, said Wednesday. "We're relying on leads from people from the community. So, we're hoping that somebody knows something, and they'll call us and give us some tips," she said. Police are also following up with any possible witnesses and looking into surveillance footage that could help them identify the perpetrator as they race to solve the mystery. "In my career, I've never heard of a hundred thousand eggs being stolen. This is definitely unique," said Frazer, who has a dozen years on the job. Bird flu is forcing farmers to slaughter millions of chickens a month, pushing U.S. egg prices to more than double their cost in the summer of 2023. And it appears there may be no relief in sight with Easter approaching. The average price per dozen eggs nationwide hit \$4.15 in December. That is not quite as high as the \$4.82 record set two years ago, but the Agriculture Department predicts egg prices are going to soar another 20% this year. The 100,000 eggs were snatched from the back of Pete & Gerry's Organics' distribution trailer on Saturday about 8:40 p.m. in Antrim Township, Pennsylvania, according to police.

## **Luxury house close to tumbling into Cape Cod Bay**

WELLFLEET, Mass. (AP) — The waters of Cape Cod Bay are coming for the big brown house perched on the edge of a sandy bluff high above the beach. It's just a matter of when. Erosion has marched right up to the concrete footings of the multimillion-dollar home where it overlooks the bay. Massive sliding doors that used to open onto a wide deck, complete with hot tub, are now barricaded by thin wooden slats that prevent anyone from stepping through and falling 25 feet to the beach below. The owner knew it. He removed the deck and other parts of the house, including a small tower that held the primary bedroom, before stopping work and falling into a standoff with

the town. He's since sold the place to a salvage company, according to his attorney, that says it won't pay for work. Officials in Wellfleet worry the home's collapse will damage delicate beds in their harbor where farmers grow oysters that are among New England's most prized. A report commissioned by the town projects if nothing is done, the 5,100-square-foot home will tumble into the bay within three years — and possibly much sooner. Its certain fate is a reminder of the fragility of building along the cape, where thanks to climate change sea level rise has accelerated in recent years. "I mean, the cape has always been moving," said John Cumbler, a retired environmental history professor who also serves on the Wellfleet Conservation Commission. "The sand is moving." The house was built in 2010 on Cape Cod on the bay side of the peninsula.

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/2/6/bird-flu-in-us-dairy-cows-eggs-heist-a-house-close-to-tumbling>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# 100,000 eggs heist in Pennsylvania becomes a case police have yet to crack

BY [ASSOCIATED PRESS](#)

Feb 6, 2025 09:12 AM

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(AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty)

ANTRIM TOWNSHIP, Pa. (AP) — The heist of 100,000 eggs from the back of a trailer in Pennsylvania has become a whodunit that police have yet to crack.

Four days after the theft that law enforcement say could be tied to the sky-high cost of eggs, no leads have come in, Trooper First Class Megan Frazer, a spokesperson for the Pennsylvania State Police, said Wednesday.

"We're relying on leads from people from the community. So, we're hoping that somebody knows something, and they'll call us and give us some tips," she said.

Police are also following up with any possible witnesses and looking into surveillance footage that could help them identify the perpetrator as they race to solve the mystery.

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"In my career, I've never heard of a hundred thousand eggs being stolen. This is definitely unique," said Frazer, who has a dozen years on the job.

Bird flu is forcing farmers to slaughter millions of chickens a month, pushing U.S. egg prices to more than double their cost in the summer of 2023. And it appears there may be no relief in sight with Easter approaching.

The average price per dozen eggs nationwide hit \$4.15 in December. That is not quite as high as the \$4.82 record set two years ago, but the Agriculture Department predicts egg prices are going to soar another 20% this year.

The 100,000 eggs were snatched from the back of Pete & Gerry's Organics' distribution trailer on Saturday about 8:40 p.m. in Antrim Township, Pennsylvania, according to police.

They are worth about \$40,000, which means this crime is a felony, Frazer said.

Pete & Gerry's Organics LLC said in a statement that the company is working with law enforcement to investigate the theft.

"We take this matter seriously and are committed to resolving it as quickly as possible," the statement said.

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/2/6/100-000-eggs-heist-in-pennsylvania-becomes-a-case-police-have-yet-to-crack>



**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Meat importers, traders wary of MAV allocation delays anew

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

February 7, 2025 | 12:00am



A vendor arranges meat up for sale at Paco Public Market in Manila on February 1, 2024.

STAR / Edd Gumban

MANILA, Philippines — Local importers are sounding the alarm over the possible trade disruptions that the delay in the issuance of this year’s minimum access volume (MAV) allocation could cause in the country’s pork and chicken supply.

The Meat Importers and Traders Association (MITA) wrote to Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. to express its concerns over the delays in this year’s MAV distribution. MITA emphasized that this is the second time since last year that delays were experienced in the distribution of the MAV allocation.

“The delay in the SDP (systematic distribution process) will certainly cause trade disruptions. Importers are concerned of a repeat of last year and orders will be put on hold, delayed or cancelled,” MITA said in its letter that was also sent to other Cabinet Secretaries who sit in the MAV Management Committee.

The MAV is a system that allows the entry of commodities in the country at a lower tariff rate. For example, imported pork within the MAV or also known as in-quota volume are levied with a 15 percent tariff while imports outside MAV or out-quota have a 25 percent tariff.

However, for certain commodities like chicken, the in-quota and out-quota tariff rates have become uniform at 40 percent.

MITA noted that the SDP of the beginning year pool should have been conducted in the first week of January with the publication of the tentative allocations per importer in the following week. Afterwards, the final approved allocation shall be published in time for the start of the MAV year on Feb. 1.

“However to date, the SDP had been scheduled, rescheduled and then cancelled until further notice,” the group said.

MITA urged the DA to allow the MAV secretariat to proceed with the distribution of the beginning year pool. The group also proposed that the provisional MAV import certificates must be issued while the process is-ongoing to prevent trade disruptions.

Sources told The STAR that the cause of the delay in the MAV allocation distribution this year is similar to last year as the Department of Agriculture (DA) seeks to tweak the MAV guidelines to address certain “loopholes” in the system.

The DA is primarily looking at preventing the sale of the pork imported under the MAV system to wet markets as it directly compete with locally produced pork, sources said.

Last year, The STAR reported that the DA delayed the distribution of the pork MAV as it seeks to rationalize the system and opted to release the allocation in tranches. The action was aimed at limiting pork imports to protect domestic producers.

In November last year, MITA disclosed that there are plans from the DA to tweak the MAV guidelines to “favor” processors over traders and “require” traders to sell only through government programs.

The issue surrounding the country’s pork MAV last year reached the World Trade Organization’s Committee on Agriculture with two trade partners – United States and Canada – inquiring about the delays in the release of the import allocations.

The Philippines responded that it acknowledges the delays in the 2024 pork MAV distribution and pointed out that the entire 54,210 metric tons of pork MAV has been fully distributed already as of September last year.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2025/02/07/2419726/meat-importers-traders-wary-mav-allocation-delays-anew>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

## **77 essential commodities get higher SRP**

**Louella Desiderio** - The Philippine Star

February 7, 2025 | 12:00am



Those with price increases are seven SKUs of canned sardines, five SKUs of coffee refill, four SKUs of 3-in-1 coffee, two of bread, three of instant noodles, five of candles, four of corned beef, three of beef loaf, six of salt, five of bottled water, 15 SKUs of condiments, six of toilet soap, six of detergent and laundry soap and one each for condensed milk, evaporated milk, powdered milk, luncheon meat, meat loaf and battery.

STAR / Russell Palma

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) yesterday released a new suggested retail price (SRP) bulletin for basic necessities and prime commodities, with 77 out of 191 stock-keeping units (SKUs) showing price increases.

Those with price increases are seven SKUs of canned sardines, five SKUs of coffee refill, four SKUs of 3-in-1 coffee, two of bread, three of instant noodles, five of candles, four of corned beef, three of beef loaf, six of salt, five of bottled water, 15 SKUs of condiments, six of toilet soap, six of detergent and laundry soap and one each for condensed milk, evaporated milk, powdered milk, luncheon meat, meat loaf and battery.

The SRP increase for canned sardines ranges from P0.90 to P2.73; for condensed milk, the SRP increased to P44.50 from P42; for evaporated milk, the SRP rose to P48 from P44; for coffee, increase ranges from P0.40 to P3.70; for bread, from P2.25 to P3.50; and for instant noodles, from P0.10 to P0.50.

The SRP list also showed six SKUs had price decreases. In particular, two SKUs of canned sardines and four SKUs of bottled water had price decreases.

Meanwhile, the SRP for 108 SKUs were unchanged.

There were changes in the sizes of some SKUs, with nine reducing the size but increasing the SRP, one reducing its size but maintaining its SRP and one increasing its size and raising the SRP.

A manufacturer who requested anonymity said that while there were several discussions held on the streamlining of the SRP list, the formal discussions ceased in view of the changes in the leadership of DTI late last year.

“It comes as a surprise that the latest SRP list was released without informing the industry of the status of those discussions. We look forward to hearing their future direction regarding these initiatives,” the manufacturer said.

Meanwhile, watchdog Bantay Bigas has slammed the Department of Agriculture (DA) for not cracking down on retailers who do not abide by the P55 maximum suggested retail price (SRP) on premium imported rice.

Bantay Bigas spokesperson Cathy Estavillo was reacting to the statement of Agriculture Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa, who said that they will be lenient and allow retailers to sell their old stocks above the maximum SRP.

“This only means that the DA failed to study the policy regarding maximum SRP,” Estavillo told The STAR.

Based on monitoring of the DA in Metro Manila markets, the retail price of imported special rice was sold as high as P60 per kilo despite the P55 per kilo maximum SRP. Max SRP of P55 per kilo took effect on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the retail price of imported premium rice was sold as high as P58 per kilo.

“The government should go after importers, millers and traders as the retail price of rice remains high despite the 15 percent tariff on imported rice,” Estavillo said.

Estavillo added that authorities failed to penalize traders who are involved in hoarding, smuggling and price manipulation.

Farmers’ group Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) also questioned the formula used to justify the declaration of food security emergency as provided under Republic Act 12078 or the Agricultural Tariffication Act.

FFF national manager Raul Montemayor cautioned the government against loosely interpreting the law to declare a food security emergency, saying this could lead to future abuses.

Montemayor noted that Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu-Laurel Jr. invoked a formula used by the National Price Coordinating Council in declaring food security emergency, which says that “an emergency exists” when “the rice inflation has exceeded the upper bound target for food inflation and reached double digits.”

Under RA 12078, the Secretary of the DA may declare an emergency, if there is a supply shortage or an extraordinary increase in rice prices. He can then intervene by releasing buffer stocks of the National Food Authority for sale to government agencies and Kadiwa outlets.

Despite criticisms, Laurel said the implementation of Executive Order 62 will continue until the DA achieves its target of P49 per kilo maximum SRP on imported rice by March 1.

EO 62, which took effect in July 2024, lowered the tariff on imported grains from 35 percent to 15 percent. Tiu Laurel was forced to implement maximum SRP on rice as retail price of imported rice remained high despite the implementation of the executive order. – **Bella Carioso**

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2025/02/07/2419769/77-essential-commodities-get-higher-srp>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

## **DA: Imported onions coming to avoid repeat of ‘2022 crisis’**

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

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 05:46 AM February 07, 2025



NO NEED TO CRY Imported red onions arrive at Manila’s Divisoria market in this photo taken on Jan. 23, 2023. INQUIRER PHOTO

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has approved the importation of 4,000 metric tons of onions to [avert a repeat of the sharp spikes in 2022](#) when retail prices reached a record high of P700 a kilogram.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said on Thursday that he has authorized the procurement of 3,000 MT of red onions and 1,000 MT of the white variety from abroad.

Tiu Laurel said in a statement that the shipments, which are expected to arrive within the next two weeks, aims to ensure sufficient buffer stocks while awaiting fresh local harvest. “We will not risk a potential shortage that unscrupulous traders could exploit to drive up prices, as we saw in the past. We do not want a repeat of the 2022 crisis,” he added.

In 2022, the price of onions—an essential ingredient in Philippine cuisine—soared to all-time highs due to delayed imports and a supply shortage allegedly caused by hoarding.

Latest data from the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) placed the country's monthly consumption at 17,000 MT for red onions and 4,000 MT for white onions.

## **Bumper harvest**

As of mid-January, the BPI reported that red onion stocks in storage stood at 8,500 MT, while white onion stocks were at 1,628 MT.

According to the DA, the inventory of red onions, following a bumper harvest last year, is expected to last until February, when the new harvest season begins.

Onion production totaled 264,323 MT last year, up by 4.7 percent from 252,488 MT in 2023, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority. It was also the highest production since 2019.

“While we were assured during our consultative meetings that there is still ample supply of onions, BPI recommended minimal imports to prevent major price spikes,” said BPI Director Gerald Glenn Panganiban.

“Also, due to the typhoons that hit late last year and prevalence of pests and disease, this importation is meant to be a buffer for possible supply gaps. This move is a preemptive measure,” he added.

Panganiban said current projections showed several tons of onion would be harvested this month and around 33,000 MT in March.

## **Onion cartel**

Retail prices have been increasing this year, with local red onions in Metro Manila selling from P115 to P220 per kg as of Feb. 5, higher than P80 to P160 in the same period last year, according to the DA.

Local white onions retailed between P120 and P140 per kg, also up from P60 to P110 a year ago.

The outrageous increase in onion prices in 2022 prompted Congress and the Philippine Competition Commission (PCC) to investigate suspicions on the involvement of a cartel that allegedly manipulated supply and prices.

In July last year, the enforcement office of the PCC filed charges and recommended penalties totaling P2.42 billion against 12 onion traders and importers for allegedly acting as a cartel since 2019 in violation of the Philippine Competition Act.

The respondents were found to have imported 28,916 MT of red onions and 47,639 MT of yellow onions from 2020 to 2021.

It said the firms and individuals, collectively referred to in previous congressional hearings as the “onion cartel,” allocated the supply of imported onions by assigning among themselves the sanitary and phytosanitary import clearances issued by the DA in violation of the anticompetition law.

The PCC said the importers and traders also divided among themselves the volume of onions allowed to be imported.

In doing so, the PCC argued that the “respondents effectively controlled more than 50 percent of the volume of onions imported into the Philippines,” pointing out that such collusion led “to lower supply, higher prices, poorer quality and less innovation.”

It also noted that the companies and individuals connived to lessen competition by exchanging sensitive business information, such as price, suppliers, customers, volume, shipping, distribution and storage.

[https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2032407/da-imported-onions-coming-to-avoid-repeat-of-2022-crisis?utm\\_source=\(direct\)&utm\\_medium=gallery](https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2032407/da-imported-onions-coming-to-avoid-repeat-of-2022-crisis?utm_source=(direct)&utm_medium=gallery)

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# DA authorizes importation anew of 4,000 MT of red and white onions

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

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 12:27 PM February 06, 2025



Department of Agriculture and onion

MANILA, Philippines — Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. confirmed on Thursday that he had authorized the importation of 4,000 metric tons (MT) of red and white onions to avert big-time price spikes last experienced in 2022.

“This importation of 3,000 metric tons of red onions and 1,000 metric tons of white onions is intended to ensure we have [sufficient buffer] stocks while we await the fresh harvest,” Tiu Laurel said in a statement.

“We will not risk a potential shortage that unscrupulous traders could exploit to drive up prices, as we saw in the past. We do not want a repeat of the 2022 crisis,” he added.

In 2022, retail prices of onions reached a record high of P700 per kilogram due to a supply shortage aggravated by delayed imports.

Data from the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) showed that red onion stocks in storage stood at 8,500 MT, while white onion stocks were at 1,628 MT as of mid-January.

The inventory of red onions, following a bumper harvest last year, was expected to last until February, when the new harvest season begins, the DA said.

“While we were assured during our consultative meetings that there is still [an] ample supply of onions, BPI recommended minimal imports to prevent major price spikes,” BPI director Gerald Glenn Panganiban said.



“Also, due to the typhoons that hit late last year and [the] prevalence of pests and disease, this importation is meant to be a buffer for possible supply gaps. This move is a preemptive measure,” he added.

According to the BPI, the national monthly consumption is pegged at 17,000 MT for red onions and 4,000 MT for white onions.

**<https://business.inquirer.net/505242/da-authorizes-importation-anew-of-4000-mt-of-red-and-white-onions>**

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Meat importers decry delay of cargo quotas



**BY JORDEENE B. LAGARE**  
FEBRUARY 7, 2025



## Save the municipal fishers

Delaying the distribution of the minimum access volume (MAV) quotas for this year will result in trade disruptions, according to the Meat Importers and Traders Association (Mita).

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 minimum volume committed by the Philippines to the World Trade Organization to help facilitate global trade.

Mita said the 2025 quota schedule under MAV was supposed to be released in January based on the existing guidelines. However, the Department of Agriculture (DA) has yet to come out with it.

“This is the second time this has happened,” Mita president emeritus Jesus Cham and president Sherwin Choi said in a letter to Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.

Based on MAV Guidelines, the Systematic Distribution Process of the Beginning Year Pool (SDP) should have been completed by the first week of January.

This is followed by the publication of tentative allocations in the second week and the approval of final allocations.

“However, to date, the SDP had been scheduled, rescheduled and then cancelled until further notice,” Mita said.

“The delay in the SDP will certainly cause trade disruptions. Importers are concerned of a repeat of last year and orders will be put on hold, delayed or canceled,” the group added.

In the meantime, Mita is calling on the DA to provide provisional quotas to eligible entities “to ensure continuity of trade.”

Under the MAV scheme, the country’s bound commitment is 216,940 metric tons for imported pork.

Furthermore, Executive Order No. 62 signed by President Marcos last June maintained low tariffs on various products such as rice and pork until 2028 to ensure continued supply of essential food products at affordable prices.

The tariff rate on swine, fresh, chilled or frozen meat is retained at 15 percent for in-quota and 25 percent for out-quota shipment.

Meat imports that entered the Philippines totaled 1.33 billion kilograms as of November last year, surpassing the 2023 volume of 1.2 billion kg, based on the data from the Bureau of Animal Industry.

Around half of meat arrivals were pork with 671.56 million kg, followed by chicken and beef with 435.5 million kg and 187.71 million kg.

<https://plus.inquirer.net/business/meat-importers-decry-delay-of-cargo-quotas/>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Lawmaker hails appointment of Salilig as new BFAR chief

By: [Gabriel Pabico Lalu](#) - Reporter / [@GabrielLaluINQ](#)  
INQUIRER.net / 11:41 PM February 06, 2025



Newly appointed BFAR chief Elizer S. Salilig (right) taking his oath of office. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)

MANILA, Philippines — Bicol Saro party-list Rep. Brian Raymund Yamsuan hopes the new [Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources \(BFAR\)](#) head will help improve the state of small-scale fisherfolk, especially during a crucial time.

Yamsuan, in a statement on Thursday said he is optimistic about the appointment of [BFAR Director Elizer Salilig](#), a career official with over 34 years of experience.

According to the lawmaker, who heads the House of Representatives' committee on aquaculture and fisheries resources, said that he has seen Salilig's "passion and dedication" over the years at BFAR.

"We certainly welcome the President's appointment of Mr. Elizer Salilig as the new national director of BFAR. Director Salilig's vast institutional memory and experience, especially when it comes to improving the plight of poor fishing communities, certainly assures us that with him at the helm, BFAR would be able to expand and enhance its programs to support our beleaguered fisherfolk and boost our food security," he said.

Salilig started as a fishery technician for the Department of Agriculture (DA) in Soccsksargen, before moving on to become the regional director of BFAR's Mimaropa office.

The new BFAR chief, who took his oath before Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel last January 24, also made a courtesy call on Yamsuan on Wednesday.

Yamsuan said Salilig's appointment comes at a time when small fisherfolk are at risk after a Supreme Court (SC) decision allowed commercial fishing companies to have [access to municipal waters](#).

The SC decision stemmed from a case involving the Mercidar Fishing Corp. petition on the issue of allowing commercial fishing vessels within the 15-kilometer municipal water zone.

The Malabon Regional Trial Court ruled in favor of Mercidar, while SC upheld the lower court's ruling.

BFAR recently came out with a statement, saying that they are pushing for the reversal of the SC decision, as it has impacted the livelihood of small fisherfolk, and the amount of marine resources available.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2032419/yamsuan-hopes-new-bfar-chief-will-continue-helping-small-scale-fishers>

**BUSINESS WORLD:**

# Low onion inventories trigger import order for 4,000 MT

February 6, 2025 | 9:04 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR/MIGUEL DE GUZMAN

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said it approved imports of 4,000 metric tons (MT) worth of onions to ensure stable prices with stocks running low.

In a statement, Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. said that the DA will permit shipments of 3,000 MT of red onions and 1,000 MT of white onions for delivery within two weeks.

He added that the imports will plug the supply gap until the domestic harvest comes in.

“We will not risk a potential shortage that traders could exploit to drive up prices, as we saw in the past. We do not want a repeat of the 2022 crisis,” Mr. Laurel said.

In 2022, onion prices surged to as much as of P700 per kilo due to a shortage of domestic supply and delayed imports.

Last year, the DA allowed white onion imports totaling 17,000 MT, after delaying imports until August due to a bumper harvest.

The DA has said that the inventory of red onions from last year was expected to last until February, when the harvest starts.

According to Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), the red onion inventory was 2,325.86 MT, with white onion stocks at 70,161 MT as of Jan. 31.

Monthly consumption of red onions was estimated at 17,000 MT and white onions 4,000 MT, the BPI said.

“While we were assured during our consultative meetings that there is still ample supply of onions, the BPI recommended minimal imports to prevent major price spikes,” BPI Director Gerald Glenn F. Panganiban said.

“Also, due to the typhoons that hit late last year and prevalence of pests and disease, these imports are meant to be a buffer for possible supply gaps. This move is a preemptive measure,” Mr. Panganiban added.

He said that the agency is projecting the onion harvest to reach 33,000 MT by March.

In 2024, onion production rose 4.7% to 264,322 MT, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority. — **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2025/02/06/651831/low-onion-inventories-trigger-import-order-for-4000-mt/>

**BUSINESS WORLD:**

# Meat traders push to distribute MAV quotas

February 6, 2025 | 9:03 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR/ EDD GUMBAN

MEAT IMPORTERS are calling on the Department of Agriculture (DA) to allocate the pork and poultry quotas for the minimum access volume (MAV), which should have been released during the first week of January.

The Meat Importers and Traders Association (MITA) said in a letter to the DA: “the quotas for the MAV year 2025 have not been distributed. This is the second time this has happened.”

The group added that since the start of the quota year on Feb. 1, the Systematic Distribution Process (SDP) has not been conducted.

“The SDP had been scheduled, rescheduled and then canceled until further notice,” it added in its letter to Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr.

It said that the delay in SDP may disrupt the meat trade as happened last year, when MAV allocations were also delayed.

“Importers are concerned about a repeat of last year, and orders will be put on hold, delayed or canceled,” MITA added.

Last year, the DA also postponed the distribution of MAV allocations.

“MITA strongly urges DA to allow MAV Secretariat (MAVSEC) to proceed with the distribution of the Beginning Year Pool,” it said.

“In the meantime, MAVSEC should be instructed to issue Provisional MAVICs (MAV import clearances) to ensure continuity of trade,” MITA added.

MAV grants trading partners guaranteed market access, subject to volume quotas. The MAV system is a feature of the World Trade Organization’s trading system.

The Philippines has committed to admit imports of 54,210 metric tons (MT) of pork and 23,500 MT of chicken.

— **Adrian H. Halili**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2025/02/06/651830/meat-traders-push-to-distribute-mav-quotas/>

**BUSINESS WORLD:**

# Balisacan backs anti-trust legislation for agriculture to boost food security

February 6, 2025 | 9:01 pm



**BW FILE PHOTO**

NATIONAL ECONOMIC and Development Authority (NEDA) Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan said anti-trust legislation will be crucial in ensuring food security.

“We must complement antitrust tools with strategies to address structural issues that shape firm behavior in the agriculture sector and related industries,” Mr. Balisacan, a former competition commissioner, said in his speech at the 2025 Manila Forum on Competition in Developing Countries.

“Pro-competitive legislation, policies, regulations, and programs or projects can contribute toward safeguarding consumers and producers from uncompetitive and unfair conduct,” he added.

However, Mr. Balisacan said competition policy is not a universal solution, though it can promote efficiency and resilience.

He also cited recent government efforts to control food inflation, such as lowering the rice tariffs and removing non-tariff barriers “encourage market players to augment the food supply.”

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported that headline inflation rose 2.9% year on year in January, matching the December print.

Food inflation accelerated to 4% from 3.5% in December and 3.3% in 2024.

The PSA said tomato price growth accelerated to 155.7% from 120.8% a month earlier.

“Together, let us work for fairer markets and amplify the pivotal role of competition in this important sector as we collectively aspire for food security and shared prosperity for all,” Mr. Balisacan said. — **Aubrey Rose A. Inosante**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2025/02/06/651826/balisacan-backs-anti-trust-legislation-for-agriculture-to-boost-food-security/>



**REMATE:**

# **Bagong BFAR chief, Oks kay Yamsuan**

February 6, 2025 17:40

Kumpiyansa si Rep. Brian Raymund Yamsuan na paiigtingin ng bagong talagang national director ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) ang mahigpit na pagtutok ng ahensya sa kapakanan ng maliliit na mangingisda at sa pagpapabuti ng kanilang kabuhayan.

Ayon kay Yamsuan, chairman ng House Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources, nakikita niya kay BFAR Director Elizer Salilig ang tunay na malasakit at dedikasyon sa pagtulong sa mahigit dalawang milyong maliliit na mangingisdang matagal nang naipit sa gulong ng kahirapan.

“Tinatanggap natin ang pagtatalaga ng Mr. Elizer Salilig bilang bagong national director ng BFAR. Ang kanyang malawak na kaalaman at karanasan, lalo na sa pagpapabuti ng kalagayan ng mahihirap na fishing communities, ay nagbibigay sa atin ng katiyakan na sa kanyang pamumuno, mapapalawak at mapapalakas ang mga programa ng BFAR upang suportahan ang ating mga mangingisda at mapatatag ang seguridad sa pagkain ng bansa,” ani Yamsuan.

Nagtungo sina Salilig at ilang pangunahing opisyal ng BFAR kay Yamsuan para sa isang courtesy call noong Pebrero 5, 2025.

Base sa track record, itinuturing ng maliliit na mangingisda na kakampi si Salilig, isang career government official na umangat sa ranggo at matagal nang nagsusulong ng mga programang tumutulong sa municipal fishing communities.

Naniniwala si Yamsuan na sa ilalim ng pamumuno ni Salilig, mas mapapalakas ng BFAR ang pagbibigay ng mga kinakailangang kagamitan at kaalaman sa maliliit na mangingisda upang mapaunlad ang kanilang buhay.

“Isang malaking kabalintunaan na sa kabila ng yaman ng ating karagatan, nananatiling kabilang sa pinakamahihirap ang ating maliliit na mangingisda. Natutuwa tayong malaman na matagal nang tumutulong si Director Salilig sa mga fishing community pagdating sa pagpoproseso at pagbebenta ng kanilang huli, gayundin sa paggamit ng modernong kagamitan upang mapataas ang kanilang kita. Makikipagtulungan tayo kay Director Salilig upang matiyak na maisasakatuparan ang kanyang mga programa sa buong bansa nang may sapat na pondo,” ani Yamsuan.

<https://remate.ph/bagong-bfar-chief-oks-kay-yamsuan/>

**REMATE:**

# Pinas aangkat ng 4,000 MT ng pula at puting sibuyas

February 6, 2025 14:35



MANILA, Philippines – Inaprubahan ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang pag-aangkat ng 4,000 metric tons (MT) ng sibuyas upang maiwasan ang muling pagtaas ng presyo gaya ng nangyari noong 2022, kung kailan pumalo sa PHP720 kada kilo ang halaga nito dahil sa kakulangan ng suplay.

Ayon kay DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., layunin ng hakbang na pigilan ang pananamantala ng mga negosyanteng nagmamaniplula ng presyo sa gitna ng kakulangan sa merkado.

“We will not risk a potential shortage that unscrupulous traders could exploit to drive up prices, as we saw in the past,” ani Tiu Laurel.

Sa loob ng susunod na dalawang linggo, inaasahang darating ang 3,000 MT ng pulang sibuyas at 1,000 MT ng puting sibuyas habang hinihintay ang anihan ng mga lokal na magsasaka.

Sinabi naman ni Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) Director Glenn Panganiban na ang pag-aangkat ay isang preventive measure upang punan ang posibleng kakulangan sa suplay.

Batay sa datos ng BPI noong kalagitnaan ng Enero, nasa 8,500 MT lamang ang stock ng pulang sibuyas na tatagal hanggang Pebrero, habang nasa 1,628 MT ang puting sibuyas. Sa kasalukuyang demand, kumokonsumo ang bansa ng humigit-kumulang 17,000 MT ng pulang sibuyas at 4,000 MT ng puting sibuyas bawat buwan. *Santi Celario*

<https://remate.ph/pinas-aangkat-ng-4000-mt-ng-pula-at-puting-sibuyas/>

**REMATE:**

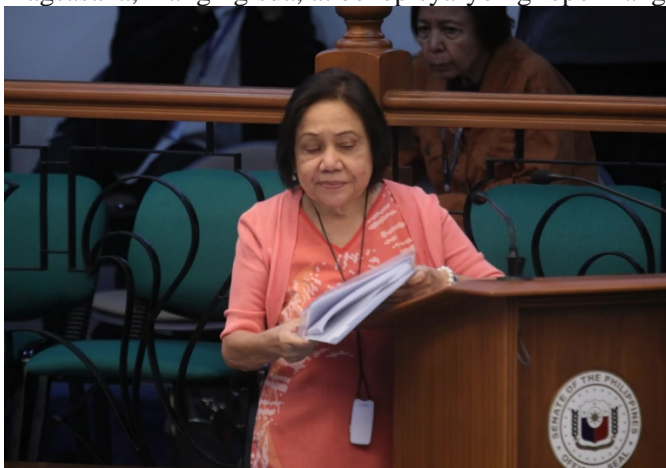
# Paglibre sa utang, interes ng mga magsasaka, mangingisda pinasasabatas

February 6, 2025 12:02



via Cesar Morales

Isinusulong ni Senador Cynthia Villar ang Senate Bill No. 2979, isang panukalang batas na naglalayong burahin ang mga utang at ipawalang-bisa ang hindi nabayaranang interes, multa, at surcharge ng mga magsasaka, mangingisda, at benepisyaryo ng repormang agraryo.



Via Cesar Morales

Saklaw ng panukala ang mga pautang mula sa Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Credit Policy Council, Cooperative Development Authority, National Food Authority, at Quedan and Rural Credit Guarantee Corporation.

Kapag naisabatas, layunin nitong mapagaan ang pasanin ng mga nasa sektor ng agrikultura at tulungan silang makabangon sa kanilang mga utang upang mapanatili ang kanilang kabuhayan. *RNT*

<https://remate.ph/paglibre-sa-utang-interes-ng-mga-magsasaka-mangingisda-pinasasabatas/>

**REMATE:**

# Sagad na SRP sa baboy itatakda ng DA

February 6, 2025 10:12



MANILA, Philippines – Magpapatupad ang Department of Agriculture (DA) ng maximum suggested retail price (MSRP) sa baboy, katulad ng ginawa sa imported na bigas, upang mapanatili ang patas na presyo sa merkado.

Ayon kay DA spokesperson Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa, kasalukuyang pinag-aaralan pa kung magkano ang magiging presyo at kung kailan ito ipatutupad. Bagama't nakarekober na ang industriya ng baboy mula sa African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak noong ikatlong bahagi ng 2024, nananatiling mataas ang presyo nito sa pamilihan.

Batay sa pinakahuling datos ng DA, umabot na sa ₱480 kada kilo ang presyo ng liempo at ₱420 naman ang pigue. Sinabi ni De Mesa na kahit nasa ₱220 hanggang ₱240 lamang ang farm gate price ng baboy, umaabot sa ₱450 hanggang ₱460 ang bentahan sa palengke, na nagpapahiwatig ng hindi makatarungang pagpepresyo.

Layunin ng DA na ipatupad ang MSRP sa baboy upang mapanatili ang patas na presyo para sa mga mamimili at negosyante. (*Santi Celario*)

<https://remate.ph/sagad-na-srp-sa-baboy-itatakda-ng-da/>

**ABANTE:**

# Bagong BFAR chief, aprub kay Cong Yamsuan

Abante News

- February 7, 2025



Kumpiyansa si Rep. Brian Raymund Yamsuan na paiigtingin ng bagong talagang national director ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) ang mahigpit na pagtutok ng ahensya sa kapakanan ng maliliit na mangingisda at sa pagpapabuti ng kanilang kabuhayan.

Ayon kay Yamsuan, chairman ng House Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources, nakikita niya kay BFAR Director Elizer Salilig ang tunay na malasakit at dedikasyon sa pagtulong sa mahigit dalawang milyong maliliit na mangingisdang matagal nang naipit sa gulong ng kahirapan.

“Tinatanggap natin ang pagtatalaga ng Mr. Elizer Salilig bilang bagong national director ng BFAR. Ang kanyang malawak na kaalaman at karanasan, lalo na sa pagpapabuti ng kalagayan ng mahihirap na fishing communities, ay nagbibigay sa atin ng katiyakan na sa kanyang pamumuno, mapapalawak at mapapalakas ang mga programa ng BFAR upang suportahan ang ating mga mangingisda at mapatatag ang seguridad sa pagkain ng bansa,” ani Yamsuan.

Nagtungo sina Salilig at ilang pangunahing opisyal ng BFAR kay Yamsuan para sa isang courtesy call noong Pebrero 5, 2025.

Base sa track record, itinuturing ng maliliit na mangingisda na kakampi si Salilig, isang career government official na umangat sa ranggo at matagal nang nagsusulong ng mga programang tumutulong sa municipal fishing communities.

Naniniwala si Yamsuan na sa ilalim ng pamumuno ni Salilig, mas mapapalakas ng BFAR ang pagbibigay ng mga kinakailangang kagamitan at kaalaman sa maliliit na mangingisda upang mapaunlad ang kanilang buhay.

“Isang malaking kabalintunaan na sa kabila ng yaman ng ating karagatan, nananatiling kabilang sa pinakamahihirap ang ating maliliit na mangingisda. Natutuwa tayong malaman na matagal nang tumutulong si Director Salilig sa mga fishing community pagdating sa pagpoproseso at pagbebenta ng kanilang huli, gayundin sa paggamit ng modernong kagamitan upang mapataas ang kanilang kita. Makikipagtulungan tayo kay Director Salilig upang matiyak na maisasakatuparan ang kanyang mga programa sa buong bansa nang may sapat na pondo,” ani Yamsuan.

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2025/02/07/bagong-bfar-chief-aprub-kay-cong-yamsuan/>



**ABANTE:**

# Nangangamoy krisis: Laurel import pa more ng sibuyas

Abante News

- **February 6, 2025**



Inaprubahan ng Department of Agriculture (DA) nitong Huwebes ang importasyon ng 4,000 tonelada ng sibuyas.

Sa isang statement, sinabi ni DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. na ang hakbang na ito ay upang mapigilan na maulit ang 2022 crisis, kung saan ang retail price ng sibuyas ay umabot ng P720 per kilo dahil sa kakapusan ng suplay.

“We will not risk a potential shortage that unscrupulous traders could exploit to drive up prices, as we saw in the past. We do not want a repeat of the 2022 crisis,” ayon sa DA chief.

Isiniwalat ni Tiu Laurel na tinatayang 3,000 tonelada ng pulang sibuyas at 1,000 tonelada ng puting sibuyas ang paparating sa susunod na dalawang linggo habang inaabangan ang local harvest

Ipinaliwanag naman ni Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) Director Glenn Panganiban na ang pag-angkat ng sibuyas ay isang preventive measure upang mapunuan ang posibleng kakulangan sa suplay.

“While we were assured during our consultative meetings that there is still (an) ample supply of onions, BPI recommended minimal imports to prevent major price spikes,” ani Pa-nganiban.

Sa huling tala noong kalagitnaan ng Enero, ang imbentaryo ng stock ng pulang sibuyas ay 8,500 tonelada na tatagal ng Pebrero habang ang puting sibuyas ay 1,628 tonelada.

Ang konsumo ng bansa sa pulang sibuyas ay 17,000 metriko tonelada kada buwan, habang 4,000 MT naman sa puting sibuyas. (PNA)

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2025/02/06/nangangamoy-krisis-laurel-import-pa-more-ng-sibuyas/>

**MANILA STANDARD:**

# **Yamsuan confident on BFAR chief's efforts for fisherfolks**

By Maricel Cruz

February 6, 2025, 11:20 pm

Rep. Brian Raymund Yamsuan of Bicol Saro party-list group expressed confidence that the newly appointed national director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) would intensify the agency's "laser focus" on protecting the welfare and uplifting the plight of small-scale fishers.

Yamsuan, the chairperson of the House Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources, said he saw in new BFAR Director Elizer Salilig the "passion and dedication" to help the country's over 2 million marginalized fisherfolk free themselves from the cycle of poverty that have trapped them for decades.

"We certainly welcome the President's appointment of Mr. Elizer Salilig as the new national director of BFAR. Director Salilig's vast institutional memory and experience, especially when it comes to improving the plight of poor fishing communities, certainly assures us that with him at the helm, BFAR would be able to expand and enhance its programs to support our beleaguered fisherfolk and boost our food security," Yamsuan said.

Salilig and several key officials of the the BFAR made a courtesy call on Yamsuan on Wednesday or during the last day of session of Congress on Feb. 5.

Yamsuan said safeguarding the interests of small fisherfolk is crucial at this time when their survival could be threatened by a Supreme Court (SC) decision which cleared the way for commercial fishing companies to gain unobstructed access to municipal waters.

He was referring to the SC First Division ruling which upheld a 2023 decision of the Malabon Regional Trial Court (RTC) to invalidate certain provisions of the Fisheries Code that gave small fisherfolk preferential access to municipal waters. Acting on the petition of the Mercidar Fishing Corporation, the Malabon RTC said the provision under the Fisheries Code granting this preferential access to small-scale fishers was unconstitutional.

Under the Fisheries Code, small-scale fishers are given preferential access over the 15-kilometer municipal water zone to protect not only their livelihoods but also ensure the sustainability of marine ecosystems.

A motion asking the Supreme Court to reverse its ruling has already been filed by BFAR.

Salilig said during his meeting with Yamsuan that BFAR has given top priority to the case involving the Supreme Court ruling. He also pointed out the need to study amendments to the Fisheries Code to ensure that both municipal and commercial fishers mutually benefit while ensuring the sustainability of the country's marine resources.

Yamsuan said the aquaculture and fisheries resources committee is prepared to hold an inquiry on the social and economic repercussions of the high court ruling, in response to the resolution filed by fellow lawmakers asking the panel to conduct an investigation into this urgent concern.

The Congress adjourned on February 8 and will resume session on June 2, 2025.

Small fisherfolk have found an ally in Salilig, a long-time career government official who rose from the ranks, and whose programs before he was named BFAR chief were aimed at empowering municipal fishing communities.

Yamsuan said he is confident that under Salilig, the BFAR would be able to provide small fisherfolk with the necessary tools and knowledge to enable them to expand their income opportunities.

“The irony is that our small fisherfolk remain among the poorest of the poor despite our abundant marine resources. We are happy to learn that Director Salilig has long been helping municipal fishing communities in processing and marketing their catch, along with assisting them in utilizing modern tools as a means to raise their incomes. We will work with Director Salilig to assist him in getting his programs implemented on a nationwide scale and with sufficient funding,” Yamsuan said.

<https://manilastandard.net/news/national/314554869/yamsuan-confident-on-bfar-chiefs-efforts-for-fisherfolks.html>

**MANILA STANDARD:**

# **DA authorizes importation of red, white onions**

By Othel V. Campos

February 6, 2025, 8:10 pm

Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. announced Thursday the importation of both red and white onions, with shipments expected to arrive within the next two weeks.

“This importation of 3,000 metric tons of red onions and 1,000 metric tons of white onions is aimed at ensuring sufficient buffer stocks while we await the fresh harvest,” he said.

He said the DA would not want to risk a potential shortage that unscrupulous traders could exploit to drive up prices.

“We do not want a repeat of the 2022 crisis,” he said.

The price of onions—an essential ingredient in Philippine cuisine—soared to a record high of P700 per kilogram in 2022 due to a supply shortage exacerbated by delayed imports.

Data from the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) showed that monthly consumption is 17,000 MT for red onions and 4,000 MT for white onions.

Local inventory of red onions, following a bumper harvest last year, was expected to last until February, when the new harvest season begins.

BPI said that as of mid-January, red onion stocks in storage stood at 8,500 metric tons, while white onion stocks were at 1,628 metric tons.

“While we were assured during our consultative meetings that there is still ample supply of onions, BPI recommended minimal imports to prevent major price spikes. Additionally, due to the typhoons that hit late last year and the prevalence of pests and disease, this importation is intended to serve as a buffer for potential supply gaps. This is a preemptive measure,” said BPI director Glenn Panganiban.

Based on industry projections several metric tons of onions would be harvested this month, and some 33,000 metric tons are expected by March.

<https://manilastandard.net/business/314554829/da-authorizes-importation-of-red-white-onions.html>

**THE MANILA TIMES:**

# Onion imports OKd to halt price spikes

**By Giselle P. Jordan**

**February 7, 2025**

AGRICULTURE Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. confirmed on Thursday that he had authorized the importation of a total of 4,000 metric tons (MT) of onions to avert possible price spikes.

"This importation of 3,000 metric tons of red onions and 1,000 metric tons of white onions is intended to ensure we have sufficient buffer stocks while we await the fresh harvest," he said.

"We will not risk a potential shortage that unscrupulous traders could exploit to drive up prices, as we saw in the past. We do not want a repeat of the 2022 crisis," the Department of Agriculture chief said.

In 2022, the price of onions reached a record high of P700 per kilo due to a supply shortage, aggravated by a delay in importations.

Data from the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) showed that the country consumes 17,000 MT of red onions and 4,000 MT of white onions monthly.

Red onion stocks were at 8,500 MT while white onion stocks were at 1,628 MT as of mid-January, BPI data showed. The current red onion inventory is expected to last until February, when the harvest season starts.

BPI Director Glenn Panganiban said that "while we were assured during our consultative meetings that there is still ample supply of onions, BPI recommended minimal imports to prevent major price spikes."

"Also, due to the typhoons that hit late last year and prevalence of pests and disease, this importation is meant to be a buffer for possible supply gaps. This move is a preemptive measure." The imported onions are expected to arrive within the next two weeks.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2025/02/07/business/top-business/onion-imports-okd-to-halt-price-spikes/2051345>

## **BUSINESS MIRROR:**

# **Onion imports meant to avert price hikes**

Ada Pelonia

February 6, 2025

THE Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) said onion imports would serve as a preemptive measure to avert price increases and plug supply gaps.

“While we were assured during our consultative meetings that there is still ample supply of onions, BPI recommended minimal imports to prevent major price spikes,” BPI Director Glenn Panganiban said in a statement.

“Also, due to the typhoons that hit late last year and [the] prevalence of pests and disease, this importation is meant to be a buffer for possible supply gaps. This move is a preemptive measure,” he added.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. recently told the BusinessMirror that the agency would approve red and yellow onion imports of around 4,000 metric tons (MT), with a caveat that these would only plug the projected shortfall in domestic supply for this month. (See: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/02/03/dwindling-supplies-prompt-manila-to-import-red-onions/>)

Laurel confirmed on Thursday that he authorized the importation of 3,000 MT of red onions and 1,000 MT of yellow onions, which he said would ensure sufficient buffer stocks while awaiting harvest. These are expected to arrive within the next two weeks.

“We will not risk a potential shortage that unscrupulous traders could exploit to drive up prices, as we saw in the past. We do not want a repeat of the 2022 crisis,” he said.

Data from the BPI showed that the country’s red onion inventory as of January 31 stood at 2,325 MT while yellow onion stocks were estimated at 631 MT.

The BPI estimated that red and yellow onion stocks had been depleted since February 4, based on the country’s daily consumption.

The agency noted that the expected volume of red onions that will be harvested until February 28 would reach 47,729 MT, minus the supplies already in cold storage facilities. These additional stocks are expected to last for 85 days or until April 27.

For yellow onions, the Philippines is expected to produce 19,457 MT by the end of February.

The country imported 930 MT of yellow onions. The agency estimated that the country’s additional yellow onion supplies would last for 143 days or until June 24.

In the latter part of 2022, the price of red onions skyrocketed to as much as P700 per kilo due to a supply shortfall.

The Philippines suffered an onion “crisis” as the state limited the entry of imported stocks and prioritized domestic producers.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/02/06/onion-imports-meant-to-avert-price-hikes/>

**ABANTE TONITE:**

# **Kamara aprub sa bagong BFAR chief-Yamsuan**

**February 7, 2025**



Naniniwala si Rep. Brian Raymund Yamsuan na paiigtingin ng bagong talagang national director ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) ang mahigpit na pagtutok ng ahensya sa kapakanan ng maliliit na mangingisda at sa pagpapabuti ng kanilang kabuhayan.

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“Tinatanggap natin ang pagtatalaga ng Mr. Elizer Salilig bilang bagong national director ng BFAR. Ang kanyang malawak na kaalaman at karanasan, lalo na sa pagpapabuti ng kalagayan ng mahihirap na fishing communities, ay nagbibigay sa atin ng katiyakan na sa kanyang pamumuno, mapapalawak at mapapalakas ang mga programa ng BFAR upang suportahan ang ating mga mangingisda at mapatatag ang seguridad sa pagkain ng bansa,” ani Yamsuan.

Nagtungo sina Salilig at ilang pangunahing opisyal ng BFAR kay Yamsuan para sa isang courtesy call noong Pebrero 5, 2025.

Base sa track record, itinuturing ng maliliit na mangingisda na kakampi si Salilig, isang career government official na umangat sa ranggo at matagal nang nagsusulong ng mga programang tumutulong sa municipal fishing communities.

Naniniwala si Yamsuan na sa ilalim ng pamumuno ni Salilig, mas mapapalakas ng BFAR ang pagbibigay ng mga kinakailangang kagamitan at kaalaman sa maliliit na mangingisda upang mapaunlad ang kanilang buhay.

“Isang malaking kabalintunaan na sa kabila ng yaman ng ating karagatan, nananatiling kabilang sa pinakamahihirap ang ating maliliit na mangingisda. Natutuwa tayong malaman na matagal nang tumutulong si Director Salilig sa mga fishing community pagdating sa pagpoproseso at pagbebenta ng kanilang huli, gayundin sa paggamit ng modernong kagamitan upang mapataas ang kanilang kita. Makikipagtulungan tayo kay Director Salilig upang matiyak na maisasakatuparan ang kanyang mga programa sa buong bansa nang may sapat na pondo,” ani Yamsuan.

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2025/02/07/kamara-aprub-sa-bagong-bfar-chief-yamsuan/>



**PILIPINO STAR NGAYON:**

# DA, pinag-aaralan MSRP sa presyo ng baboy

[Doris Franche-Borja](#)

February 7, 2025 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Pinag-aaralan na ng Department of Agriculture ang paglalagay ng maximum suggested retail price (MSRP) sa presyo ng baboy.

Ayon kay Agriculture Undersecretary Arnel de Mesa, kasalukuyan silang nagpupulong at pinag-aaralan ang itatakdang MSRP.

Iaanunsiyo ang MSRP sa sandaling matapos ang pag-aaral ng DA.

Batay sa pinakahuling datos mula sa ahensya, naglalaro sa P420 hanggang P480 ang presyo ng baboy kada kilo.

Samantala, over supply ng itlog sa bansa dahil sa rami ng inahing manok.

Ani De Mesa, hanggang Marso ay karaniwang nagkakaroon ng oversupply ng itlog kaya nagkakatay ng inahing manok para makontrol ang populasyon nito.

Sinabi naman ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel na walang 'unnecessary culling' sa inahing manok na dahilan para bumagsak ang supply ng itlog at tumaas ang presyo nito.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2025/02/07/2419794/da-pinag-aaralan-msrp-sa-presyo-ng-baboy>