

## CLIPPINGS FOR TODAY MARCH 19, 2025

### A. MANILA BULLETIN:

Low palay prices in Cagayan not due to importation—Palace

What to know about the bird flu outbreak in wild birds and what it means for backyard bird feeders

### B. THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

The usual suspect: Corruption

Pork producers urge consultations as retail prices surpass P400 per kilo despite price cap

### C. PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DA files complaint vs onion importer

Gov't sues firm over P2.37-M illegal onion imports

Mayani to put up 2 more cooling facilities for vegetables

### D. BUSINESS WORLD:

Meat, fish prices rise in early March

Biofertilizer company sees opportunity to sell product across Southeast Asia

### E. MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT:

DA files complaint against illegal 2024 onion shipment

### F. BUSINESS MIRROR:

DA: Panel will again monitor domestic meat supply, prices

Traders, not imports, caused low farmgate price of palay—Palace

### G. THE MANILA TIMES:

Rice price drops, pork more costly early March

Low palay prices drive farmers to death

### H. REMATE:

DA kumpiyansa sa pagbaba ng taripa sa banana exports sa Japan

Deadly H7N9 bird flu outbreak naitala sa Amerika

**I. ABANTE:**

**Smuggler ng sibuyas kinasuhan**

**J. ABANTE TONITE:**

**Farmgate price ng palay lumagapak**

**K. PILIPINO STAR NGAYON:**

**EDITORIAL — Itigil, importasyon ng bigas**

**DA: Pork stakeholders hiling konsultasyon sa pork MSRP**

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Low palay prices in Cagayan not due to importation—Palace

BY [BETHEENA UNITE](#)

Mar 18, 2025 04:34 PM

Rice importation was not the reason behind the low price of palay in Cagayan, but the local traders, Malacañang said.



Palace Press Officer and Communications Undersecretary Claire Castro said that according to Department of Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel, the low price of palay in the province was due to local traders, who directly buy the palay from the farmers.

"Base po sa records – nakausap po natin si Secretary Kiko Laurel – base po sa records po, mababa po ang importasyon natin. At hindi po totoo na dahilan po ito, iyong pagbaba po ng pagbibili sa mga magsasaka— bumababa ang bili ng palay, hindi po dahil sa importasyon (Based on the records—we were able to talk to Secretary Kiko Laurel—our importation is low. And it is not true that it was the reason behind the low price of palay, it is not due to importation)," Castro said in a Palace briefing on Tuesday, March 18.

The Palace official said Laurel suspects that local traders are to be blamed.

"[M]alamang po – ang sabi sa akin ni Secretary Kiko – ang namamayagpag po dito iyong mga local traders (As per Secretary Kiko, probably it was because of the local traders)," she said.

In order to remedy the situation, the farmers were told to reach out to their respective local government units (LGU) and sell their produce directly to the National Food Authority (NFA) buying station to avoid suffering a cut usually imposed by traders.

"So, ang magiging rekomendasyon po namin ay makipagtulungan po muna iyong mga magsasaka doon sa local government units po para po madala po ito sa NFA buying station; bumibili po ang NFA ng P23 to P24 dry (So, our recommendation is for famers to coordinate with LGUs to bring their produce to NFA buying stations which purchase P23 to P24 dry)," Castro said.

The Palace also recognized that among the challenges the farmers face in selling their goods directly to the government is logistics.

Castro said the DA is currently procuring trucks to allow farmers to sell their goods directly to the NFA.

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/3/18/low-palay-prices-in-cagayan-not-due-to-importation-palace>

MANILA BULLETIN:

# What to know about the bird flu outbreak in wild birds and what it means for backyard bird feeders

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mar 18, 2025 11:09 PM



FILE - A mallard spreads his wings in the sun at the Capitol Reflecting Pool in Washington, Friday, Nov. 17, 2023. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

WASHINGTON (AP) — [Bird flu](#) has devastated poultry and dairy farms, and sent the [price of eggs](#) soaring in the United States since it was first detected in North America in late 2021.

But what has been the toll on [wild birds](#)? More than 170 species of North American wild birds – including ducks, geese, gulls, owls, [eagles](#) and others – have been infected with bird flu.

Take precautions around sick or dead wild birds, experts recommend. But you can keep your bird feeder up. Despite the spread in birds and other wild animals, scientists say the threat to the general population is currently low.

## *Which wild birds can get bird flu?*

More than 12,000 individual birds have tested positive since the virus began spreading, according to the U.S. Agriculture Department.

The count is a "gross underestimate" because most dead birds are never taken to a lab for testing, said Bryan Richards at the U.S. Geological Survey's National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin.

Dabbling ducks, such as mallards and blue-winged teal, can carry the virus with few symptoms because "these viruses co-evolved in waterfowl," said Richards. But ducks can also shed the virus in their feces or saliva, sometimes infecting other birds or mammals like foxes.

Birds without natural immunity that migrate or roost together in large flocks, such as geese, are most likely to die in large numbers. A recent bird flu outbreak among migratory eared grebes in Utah killed between 15,000 and 25,000 birds near Great Salt Lake, state wildlife officials said in early February.

Seabirds, which tend to roost in large numbers, are also highly impacted.

Songbirds such as Northern cardinals, blue jays or chickadees — the kind of birds that might visit bird feeders — can also become infected and die, but their populations appear to fare better since they don't gather closely in large groups where the virus could spread, said Michael J. Parr, president of the American Bird Conservancy.

### *What are bird flu symptoms in wild birds?*

Symptoms vary, but may include lack of coordination, inability to fly and respiratory distress.

“If people see a wild bird acting weird, the best thing they can do is call their local wildlife rehabilitator” and avoid handling it directly, said Dr. Dana Franzen-Klein, a veterinarian and medical director at the University of Minnesota’s Raptor Center.

If you must handle an infected bird, it’s best to wear gloves and a mask as a precaution.

### *Is it safe to have a backyard bird feeder?*

Experts say bird feeders are generally safe and aren't a notable source of spreading bird flu.

But if you also keep backyard chickens, Parr of the American Bird Conservancy recommends taking the bird feeder down to prevent possible transmission to poultry. Birdfeeders and nesting boxes should also be cleaned regularly.

The risk of spread to people from bird feeders "is very, very low," he said.

### *How is the bird flu outbreak affecting endangered bird species?*

In the case of critically endangered California condors, scientists organized a [vaccination program](#) after some birds became infected. But that’s not a realistic option for most wild bird species.

Instead, experts recommend giving wild birds the best chance by taking other steps to protect habitats and reduce various risks that species face, such as exposure to pesticides or [lead ammo](#).

Bald eagles, which are federally protected but no longer endangered, are scavengers that will eat dead animals. “That first year, we lost a lot of eagles" likely from bald eagles eating infected ducks or bringing them to their nests, said Richards.

Scientists also documented an unusually high number of eagle chicks that didn't survive into adulthood during the first breeding season after the virus appeared in North America, likely because the chicks got the virus or sick parents weren't able to adequately feed and care for them.

But over time, the number of confirmed infections in eagles nationwide has declined from 427 in 2022 to 48 last year.

That may mean that eagles that survived the first year now have some acquired immunity, said Franzen-Klein. This past migration season, researchers counted a record number of bald eagles migrating through northern Minnesota.

“There are good signs of hope” that eagles in the region are rebounding, she said.

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/3/18/what-to-know-about-the-bird-flu-outbreak-in-wild-birds-and-what-it-means-for-backyard-bird-feeders>

# The usual suspect: Corruption



[COMMONSENSE](#) - [Marichu A. Villanueva](#) - The Philippine Star

March 19, 2025 | 12:00am

There was not even any earthquake event when the Cabagan-Santa Maria bridge in Isabela collapsed and injured six motorists on the evening of Feb. 27. An alleged overloaded truck was identified as the culprit for causing the newly built suspension bridge to collapse. Incident report has it that a truck weighing 102 tons caused a portion of the bridge to collapse.

Based on the subsequent investigation, President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. (PBBM) attributed the collapse to the supposed “under design” of the suspension bridge. But this was before he personally inspected the bridge along with Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Manuel Bonoan last March 6.

Known as the no-talk, no-mistake DPWH secretary, he apparently succeeded in convincing PBBM that the contractor could not be faulted. After all, the contractor merely followed the original plan. But DPWH found out that specifications became flawed to conform to the lower budget allocated for the project. “Who’s responsible is basically who made the design. Look what happened,” PBBM rhetorically asked and replied to his own question.

Albert Cañete, the chief engineer of the firm behind the design of the collapsed bridge, urged statements should be based on the results of a “forensic engineering investigation.” Offhand, he insisted the design complied with the specifications set by the DPWH. As designed, it can withstand up to 54 tons, or the equivalent of two trucks weighing 27 tons each.

Given the reputation of the DPWH as among the most-graft prone government agencies, we cannot help but see the bridge collapse as the consequence of whatever corruption went into that project through the years of its construction.

We cannot really blame contractors because they are also victims of corruption in government. In his homily about “Transfiguration” on the second Sunday of Lent, our parish priest shared what he described as “Marites” or slang for loose talks. He told us about having listened to a self-confession of an un-named government official. “As they say, straight from the horse’s mouth,” our priest quipped.

Paraphrasing him, it was about how contractors include in their costing an item called “for the boys” in any government projects. As an example, our priest quoted the government official: for a project worth P100 million, contractors set aside P25 million, or about 25 percent of the total cost of any government funded project.

On the other hand, we also have heard complaints of contractors from Southern Philippines of alleged harassment and intimidation by an official from the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Eastern Mindanao (OPAMinE). The official allegedly has been asking for advances and in return, the contractors are guaranteed to be awarded multimillion pesos worth of government infrastructure projects. This errant official would always claim: “Utos lang ito ng mga Boss.” But he never delivers.

And the same official reportedly pins the blame to Special Assistant to the President (SAP) Anton Lagdameo and PBBM. Since he got appointed in 2023, this official has purportedly been using his

Mindanaoan roots and position to entice contractors and businessmen to invest in his narrative even without authority from DPWH and SAP Lagdameo.

He also allegedly goes to Malacañang to get information about possible judiciary appointments in Mindanao. Once he gets a copy of the shortlist of nominees, he will meet these personalities and guarantee they will get the desired court assignment if they cough up grease money. The sad part is his audacity to carry out his corruption the name of the President and SAP Lagdameo.

With his mighty position in Mindanao, he may have amassed already so much personal wealth from peddling non-existent projects and court appointments. A lifestyle check and an investigation into his dubious and deceitful activities should end such pests in public service.

In a radio interview earlier, Ombudsman Samuel Martires was quoted as pointing to the National Food Authority (NFA) as the most corrupt government agency. The NFA is a government-run corporation under the Department of Agriculture (DA). In particular, Martires noted with dismay the ombudsman investigators found out why the NFA is seemingly weak in its mandate of stabilizing the prices of rice and other basic food supplies in the markets amid multimillion-peso worth of imported rice and other agricultural products to meet the demand.

Martires subsequently clarified that his statement had been taken out of context in that radio interview. However, Martires was extensively quoted about the ombudsman's observations. "When we investigated, we found corruption," the ombudsman declared without equivocation.

"We asked why this is happening, they said it was because the agricultural inspectors say: 'It's OK.' And all Customs has to do is collect the tax," Martires said in that radio interview.

The Bureau of Customs is another story of corruption. As a young reporter then, Customs, along with the Bureau of Internal Revenue – both under the Department of Finance – were notoriously tagged among the most corrupt government agencies. And definitely, the same sentiments prevail up to the present.

No less than the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights attested to this on its "Concluding Observations" on the Philippines' implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and efforts to fight corruption rendered on Feb. 18 in Geneva, Switzerland. In its report on the Philippines, it stated: "...the Committee remains concerned that corruption remains pervasive in all branches of government, and in the wider public sector."

The same UN body also expressed its concern about reports on anti-corruption bodies, such as the Office of the Ombudsman and the Commission on Audit. COA lacks sufficient financial and technical resources to effectively investigate all reported government transactions tainted with graft and corruption.

Without benefit of investigation, the immediate reaction always leads us to suspect corruption as the culprit. Have we become so jaded to so much corruption in our government agencies? Thus, it is not surprising to blame everything that goes bad as largely due to corruption.

<https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2025/03/19/2429368/usual-suspect-corruption>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Pork producers urge consultations as retail prices surpass P400 per kilo despite price cap

[Dominique Nicole Flores](#) - Philstar.com

March 18, 2025 | 3:49pm



Vendors at the Commonwealth Market in Quezon City sell pork products to customers on March 28, 2023.

STAR / Jesse Bustos

MANILA, Philippines — After the Department of Agriculture (DA) found that only one in five pork retailers complied with the agreed maximum suggested retail price (MSRP), stakeholder groups are urging another round of consultations.

The DA has set price caps at P380 per kilogram for liempo, P350 for kasim and pigue, and P300 for “sabit ulo,” or whole pig carcasses delivered to sellers.

Despite this, the agency’s monitoring shows that pork prices in Metro Manila wet markets still range from [as low as P230 to as high as P470](#) per kilogram. The maximum suggested retail prices have been in effect since March 10.

So where does the problem lie? Pork producers said they have complied with the set farmgate price.

## **Farmers sell pork at P230 per kilo**

In an interview with DZBB 594 on Tuesday, March 18, farmers group Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura (SINAG) said producers are adhering to the farmgate price of around P230 per kilogram.

This is already lower than the previous price of P260 to P265, SINAG Executive Director Jayson Cainglet said. He noted that for the past two weeks, producers have complied with the farmgate price of P230 per kilogram to help bring down retail prices.

Cainglet added that the 20% compliance rate cited by the DA does not reflect producers but may instead be an issue with retailers or traders, whom he calls the “biyahero.”

“Hindi talaga farmers ang nagsasabi talaga kung magkano niya bibilhin ang kanyang produkto,” he said.

(It’s not really the farmers who decide how much their products will be bought for.)

He also said that even if producers sell pork at P240 per kilogram — a P10 increase — retail prices for liempo should still not exceed P390 to P400 per kilogram.

“Ang assurance po ng producers kahit nalulugi, tumutupad po siya sa usapan para matulungan ng gobyerno na bumaba ang presyo,” Cainglet said.



(The assurance from producers is that even if they are incurring losses, they are honoring the agreement to help the government lower prices.)

However, in an interview with Teleradyo Serbisyo, Pork Producers Federation of the Philippines (PPFP) President Rolando Tambago explained that the P400 per kilogram retail price is already much lower than the previous rate of P480 for liempo.

In the same radio program, DA spokesperson Arnel de Mesa said one issue is the P300 price cap for “sabit ulo,” which only has a compliance rate of 5% to 7%.

### **How the MSRP is calculated**

SINAG explained that the maximum suggested retail price is determined by adding the farmgate price to the costs imposed by traders and retailers.

For example, at a farmgate price of P230 per kilogram, traders add P70, bringing it to P300 per kilogram. Retailers then add another P50, resulting in the agreed price cap of around P350 per kilogram.

Since pork passes through only “three hands” in the supply chain, Cainglet said it should be easier to identify where the issue lies.

“From magbababoy yung biyahero trader, ipapakatay niya at ipapasa sa retailer. Kaya mas madali ang kwentahan,” he added.

(From the hog raiser, the trader, they will have the [pigs] slaughtered, and then pass them on to the retailer. This makes the pricing calculations simpler.)

### **Start with retailers, another consultation**

SINAG suggested that the DA begin by monitoring retailers and asking how much they purchased pork from traders, rather than starting at the farm level.

If pork producers are blamed, Cainglet warned that attempts to lower farmgate prices could hurt their earnings and even push them into losses, especially amid challenges like African swine fever.

“Dagdag gastos po talaga sa mangbababoy itong dinadanas ngayon. Despite that, sumusunod po tayo sa napagkaisahan para tulungan ang gobyerno na mapababa po natin ang presyo ng baboy,” he said.

(This situation is an added expense for hog raisers. Despite that, we are honoring the agreement to help the government bring down pork prices.)

Meanwhile, Tambago said that if reports of non-compliance with price caps persist, the DA should convene another consultation with supply chain stakeholders.

“Kung may mga reports na hindi pa umaabot doon sa napagkasunduan, dapat pag-usapan ulit ng retailers, ng mga biyahero at saka mga sa hanay namin na co-producers kung saan nagkakaproblema ... bakit ‘di nasusunod ‘yung maximum SRP natin,” he said.

(If there are reports that the agreed price is not being met, retailers, traders and us co-producers should discuss where the problem lies... why the maximum SRP is not being followed)

On the DA’s part, De Mesa agreed that the MSRP should be reviewed with stakeholders. However, he noted that the agency had expected higher compliance in wet markets, given the extensive consultations and agreements that preceded the price cap.

“Yun ay unanimous among the different stakeholders,” he said.

For now, the DA has not reprimanded anyone for failing to comply with the price cap. De Mesa emphasized that the agency's priority is to continue monitoring wet markets.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/agriculture/2025/03/18/2429314/pork-producers-urge-consultations-retail-prices-surpass-p400-kilo-despite-price-cap>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# DA files complaint vs onion importer

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

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 11:20 AM March 18, 2025

MANILA, Philippines – The Department of Agriculture (DA) has filed a complaint against JRA and Pearl Enterprises Inc. for importing P2.37 million worth of fresh yellow onions without the required permits.

In a statement on Tuesday, the DA said the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) had filed a formal complaint before the Manila City Prosecutor's Office.

It stemmed from the importation of 25 metric tons of fresh yellow onions from China that arrived at Manila's South Harbor in July 2024.

Based on the complaint filed by Henrick Exconde, Area Manager of BPI's National Plant Quarantine Division at the Port of Manila – South Harbor, Pasig-based JRA brought in the onions even if the government did not authorize onion importation for most of 2024.

The BPI suspended the issuance of import permits for fresh yellow onions from January 1 to Aug. 19, 2024, saying there was enough supply to meet local demand.

According to the agency, JRA has failed to satisfactorily explain why it imported the onions without securing the necessary sanitary and phytosanitary import clearance, a certification ensuring the vegetables were safe for human consumption and would not spread pests or plant diseases.

<https://business.inquirer.net/513569/da-files-complaint-vs-onion-importer>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Gov't sues firm over P2.37-M illegal onion imports

By: [Jordeene B. Lagare](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)  
[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 02:14 AM March 19, 2025



INQUIRER.net stock images

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Tuesday that a complaint has been filed against a company that brought into the country last year P2.37 million worth of fresh yellow onions without a permit.

JRA and Pearl Enterprises, based on the complaint filed by the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) in the Manila City Prosecutor's Office, imported 25 metric tons of fresh yellow onions from China that arrived at the Manila South Harbor in July 2024.

This was done even though the government did not authorize the importation of onions for most of the year, according to Henrick Exconde, area manager of the BPI National Plant Quarantine Division at the Port of Manila–South Harbor, who filed the complaint. The BPI had suspended the issuance of sanitary and phytosanitary import clearances (SPSICs) for fresh yellow onions from Jan. 1 to Aug. 19 last year as there was enough supply to meet local demand.

Import firms are required to obtain an SPSIC to ensure that agricultural commodities brought into the country are safe for human consumption and to prevent the spread of pests or animal diseases.

The complaint against JRA said that it failed to satisfactorily explain why it imported the onions without first securing an import clearance.

Named as respondents in the BPI complaint were JRA president Jessica Pascual, along with directors Jacob Tuballa, Perlita Tuballa, Joezel Tuballa and Joward Tuballa.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the filing of cases against erring import firms was part of the DA's efforts to protect local farmers and consumers from unfair trade practices and potential public health risks.

The BPI previously sued another firm, Chastity Consumer Goods Trading, for reportedly misdeclaring imported onions as processed food.

The complaint filed in the Olongapo City Prosecutor's Office said the company was not a registered BPI importer while it also lacked the required clearance for the importation. The case was based on the discovery of a shipment of yellow onions in two container vans that arrived at the Port of Subic last year. The imported goods were consigned to Chastity and had been declared as frozen fish egg balls.

Carmela Rivera, area manager of BPI-National Plant Quarantine Services Division at the Port of Subic, said authorities inspected the shipment based on information it could contain undeclared agricultural products.

<https://business.inquirer.net/513726/govt-sues-firm-over-p2-37-m-illegal-onion-imports>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Mayani to put up 2 more cooling facilities for vegetables

By: [Jordeene B. Lagare](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)  
[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 09:06 AM March 18, 2025



Mayani co-founder and CEO JT Solis. Photo by Jordeene B. Lagare

MANILA, Philippines – Local agriculture startup Mayani is developing two pre-cooling storage facilities in Batangas and Benguet provinces to extend the shelf life of vegetables and other produce while reducing post-harvest losses.

In a recent interview, Mayani co-founder and CEO JT Solis said the firm had unlocked some \$1 million (or approximately P57.28 million) through the catalytic capital from the Temasek Trust ecosystem to develop these facilities.

Solis said Mayani planned to begin operations of its pre-cooling facilities within the second quarter of this year.

“The two pre-cooling facilities... we’re still constructing it this year but we already have the plan [and] the blueprint,” Solis said on the sidelines of a forum organized by the University of Asia and the Pacific and Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture.

Pre-cooling facilities are designed to store freshly harvested fruits, vegetables and other produce in temperature-controlled conditions from the farm to the market, prolonging their shelf life until refrigerated vans arrive to transport high-quality goods.

The first pre-cooling facility in Benguet will store highland vegetables such as broccoli, carrots and cabbage as well as strawberry, while the second one in Batangas will cater to lowland vegetables including squash, okra and eggplant along with tomatoes.

Temperature settings of pre-cooling facilities vary depending on the commodity.

According to Solis, these pre-cooling facilities are not meant for storage, but to immediately bring down the temperature of the vegetables after harvest to prevent losses at the farm level.

“The objective is to bring down the temperature from 30 to 40 degrees – where the vegetable is already cooking itself – to 4 to 6 degrees,” he told reporters.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, about a third of the world’s harvested food is wasted or lost after harvest annually, and one of the reasons is the lack of cold storage facilities that can prolong their shelf life.

Solis noted that the volume of agricultural produce saved through these facilities will provide additional income for farmers.

Mayani already has two pre-cooling storage facilities located in Mandaluyong with a combined capacity of 50 metric tons.

<https://business.inquirer.net/513423/mayani-to-put-up-2-more-cooling-facilities-for-vegetables>

## BUSINESS WORLD:

# Meat, fish prices rise in early March

March 18, 2025 | 8:35 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR/ EDD GUMBAN

MEAT and fish prices rose in early March, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said in a report.

The price of fresh pork belly (*liempo*) in the March 1-5 period, which the PSA calls the first phase of March, rose to P384.08 per kilo from P378.84 in the previous monitoring period of Feb. 15-17 and P375.02 a month earlier, the PSA said.

It said a kilo of round scad (*galunggong*) retailed for an average of P235.26 per kilo in early March, against P231.24 in the second phase of February and P226.43 a month earlier.

The government imposed a maximum suggested retail price (MSRP) of P380 per kilo for *liempo* and at P350 for *kasim* (shoulder) and *pigue* (rear leg) beginning March 10.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) also imposed a maximum suggested price of P300 per kilo on traders when they pass pork on to retailers.

The level of compliance with the pork MSRP remains low over a week since it took effect, the DA said on Monday, attributing the persistent high prices to the high wholesale prices charged by traders.

The government first applied the MSRP scheme to rice, initially setting it at P58 per kilo.

The PSA said a kilo of regular-milled rice averaged P46.30 per kilo at retail during the first phase of March, against P47.19 in the second phase of February and P47.77 a month earlier.

Inflation eased to 2.1% in February from 2.9% in January as rice inflation dropped to 4.9%, the sharpest decline since April 2020.

The PSA said tomato averaged P75.65 per kilo at retail during the first phase of March, against P90.64 in the second phase of February and P109.42 a month earlier.

In early March, the farmgate price of tomato was as low as P4 per kilo in some parts of the country due to excessive supply.

The PSA said native garlic retailed for a national average of P185.73 per kilo during the first phase of March, against P183.75 in the second phase of February 2025 and P182.35 a month earlier.

Carabao mango averaged P176.99 per kilo at retail on March 1 to 5 from P182.74 in the second phase of February and P191.19 a month earlier.

The PSA said the average retail price of cooking oil increased was P171.18 per liter in early March from P170.20 in the second phase of February and P170.24 a month earlier. — **Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2025/03/18/660254/meat-fish-prices-rise-in-early-march/>

**BUSINESS WORLD:**

# Biofertilizer company sees opportunity to sell product across Southeast Asia

March 18, 2025 | 8:34 pm



DA.GOV.PH

A COMPANY that recently constructed a biofertilizer plant in Laguna said it considers sales of its product to be feasible elsewhere in Southeast Asia.

Agri Specialist, Inc., which recently launched a 7,200 metric-ton capacity biofertilizer facility, said neighboring countries can also benefit from the plant's output as early as this year, citing potential markets like Vietnam, Indonesia, and Thailand. Even Bangladesh, according to Chief Executive Officer and President Mario C. Labadan, Jr.

On Sunday the company opened a 2,000-square meter fully automated manufacturing facility producing nitrogen-fixing bacteria known as Bio N, a blend of Azospirillum bacteria and nutrient-rich mediums developed by the University of the Philippines Los Baños in 1985.

The Department of Agriculture has long promoted Bio N, but Agri Specialist is the first to commercially offer the regenerative agriculture product, which promises to increase farmer incomes while reducing dependence on imported fertilizer.

Five 200-gram packs of the Bio N fertilizer can be spread across each hectare of rice or corn land, according to the company.

One kilo of Bio N is functionally equivalent to 100 kilos of urea, Mr. Labadan said, saving farmers about P2,500 per hectare of rice or corn.

He said the company plans to export Bio N across the region once it captures at least 20% of the domestic market. He said the Agri Specialist hopes to benefit from the Tatak Pinoy Act of 2024, which prioritizes Philippine-made goods in government procurement.

The Philippines imports about 90% of its inorganic fertilizer.

"We need a little bit of preferred status," Mr. Labadan added.

Bio N replaces 30-50% of the total nitrogen requirement of rice and corn.

It has been tested by rice farmers in 13 regions over the last two cropping seasons. — **Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2025/03/18/660251/biofertilizer-company-sees-opportunity-to-sell-product-across-southeast-asia/>



**MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT:**

# DA files complaint against illegal 2024 onion shipment

By *Jed Macapagal* March 19, 2025



**Yellow onions are sold at the Agribusiness Development Center of the Department of Agriculture Kadiwa store on Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.**

The Department of Agriculture (DA)'s Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) has filed another complaint against a trader for importing fresh yellow onions last year in violation of food safety and plant quarantine regulations.

The DA said in a statement on Tuesday the complaint was filed with the Manila City Prosecutor's Office against JRA and Pearl Enterprises Inc. president and directors.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the complaint has been part of DA's efforts to safeguard local farmers and consumers from unfair trade practices and potential public health risks.

"Similar legal actions are being prepared as we intensify our campaign against agricultural smugglers. Let this serve as a warning to those who seek to challenge our resolve," Tiu Laurel said.

The DA said the complaint, lodged by Henrick Exconde, the BPI-National Plant Quarantine Division area manager at the Port of Manila-South Harbor, was due to JRA's importation of 25 metric tons of fresh yellow onions from China, without the necessary import permit.

The agency said the shipment, with an estimated value of P2.37 million, was consigned to JRA and arrived at the Manila's South Harbor in July 2024.

Exconde said that during the period of importation, BPI suspended the issuance of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearances (SPSIC) for fresh yellow onions.

"It is important to note that during this time, the BPI had suspended issuing SPSICs for fresh yellow onion imports," Exconde stated in the complaint.

The DA-BPI had halted the issuance of import permits for fresh yellow onions from January 1 to August 19, 2024.

However, the DA said JRA failed to explain why it imported the onions without first securing the necessary SPSIC, a certification ensuring the vegetables were safe for human consumption and free of pests or plant diseases.

The DA said that based on its registration papers at the Securities and Exchange Commission, JRA is based in Parañaque City.

Earlier this month, the DA, through the BPI, also filed a complaint with the Olongapo City Prosecutor's Office, against Chastity Consumer Goods Trading, for misdeclaring imported onions as processed fish products.

The agency had then said the Cavite-based company violated the Food Safety Act and the Plant Quarantine Law of 1978 for two container vans, which arrived at the Port of Subic in August 2024.

Both JRA and Chastity were among 10 companies blacklisted by the DA last December, as part of intensified efforts to combat agricultural smuggling, profiteering, hoarding and cartel activities that drive up food prices and destabilize the local market.

The Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Law was enacted in 2024, to deter activities of smugglers, profiteers, cartels and hoarders.

The law classified smuggling of rice and other agricultural products as “economic sabotage,” a crime punishable by life imprisonment and fines five times the value of the agricultural and fishery products smuggled.

Based on the monitoring of public markets in the National Capital Region, local red onions sold for P70 to P160 per kg as of Tuesday while local white onions went for P60 to P140 per kg.

Meanwhile, imported white onions sold for P60 to P140 per kg.

<https://malaya.com.ph/business/corporate/da-files-complaint-against-illegal-2024-onion-shipment/>

## BUSINESS MIRROR:

# DA: Panel will again monitor domestic meat supply, prices

- [Ada Pelonia](#)
- [March 18, 2025](#)
- [2 minute read](#)



**In a market in Las Piñas City, a meat vendor chops different parts of pork to be displayed. According to the seller of meat in the area, the prices of meat are going up and they don't know why. They surmised it is not lack of supply, because there is meat still being delivered.**

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has reactivated its price and volume watch body for livestock and poultry to monitor the country's meat supply.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. and Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa confirmed to this newspaper the reactivation of the body, which was formalized through a meeting with industry stakeholders.

"They already held a meeting. This would help monitor the production, importation, and prices [of livestock and poultry]," De Mesa told the BusinessMirror on Tuesday.

United Broiler Raisers Association (Ubra) said the body would be composed of broiler and layer groups, pork producers, meat importers, and processors. They held a meeting last week.

"I think they realize that there are uncertainties in the supply. We really need data," Ubra Chairman Elias Jose Inciong told reporters partly in Filipino on the sidelines of a recent forum organized by the University of Asia and the Pacific's Center for Food and Agribusiness in Pasig City.

He noted that the monitoring body would serve as an avenue for the government and industries to plan and anticipate problems.

"We may not be able to solve things a hundred percent, but at least for the benefit of the industry and the consuming public, we can minimize or shorten any problem," Inciong said.

However, the Ubra chief stressed the need for the agency's projection on commodities' output.

"We need [the DA's] forecast and then if we have disagreements, we can talk about the range of solutions," he said.

Inciong noted that he requested for the price and volume watch meeting to be held monthly. The next meeting would coincide with the review of the maximum suggested retail price (MSRP) for pork, he added.

"We're going back to a rational approach to how things are done, which is database and subject to consultations [and] not analysis based on experience which has its limitations," Inciong said.

### **'Low compliance'**

The DA recently bared the low compliance of retailers with the MSRP for pork imposed by the government, as only 20 percent of over 170 Metro Manila stalls followed the price guidance.

The agency imposed the MSRP on pork in Metro Manila wet markets starting March 10 at P380 per kilo for pork belly or liempo and P350 per kilo for kasim or pork shoulder and pigue or pork ham.

De Mesa also noted that the compliance with MSRP for “sabit ulo” at P300 per kilo, or the price at which traders pass on pork to retailers, stood below 10 percent.

“If they are not compliant with ‘sabit ulo,’ therefore [retailers] would really have a hard time complying with the MSRP of P350 to P380 [per kilo]. So, we will focus on that,” he told reporters in a press briefing on Monday.

De Mesa noted that the DA will hold another meeting to determine the causes for the low compliance rate despite holding consultations with stakeholders.

Image credits: [Nonie Reyes](#)

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/03/18/da-panel-will-again-monitor-domestic-meat-supply-prices/>

**BUSINESS MIRROR:**

# Traders, not imports, caused low farmgate price of palay—Palace

- Samuel P. Medenilla
- March 18, 2025
- 2 minute read



A store owner sorts out his rice products at Kamuning Public Market in Quezon City on Tuesday (March 18, 2025). Malacañang has urged farmers to seek local government units' assistance in directly selling their palay (unhusked rice) to the National Food Authority, which buys the dry variety for P23 to P24 per kg.

Malacañang on Tuesday blamed the low farmgate price of unmilled rice on unscrupulous local traders who wanted to maximize their profits amid the ongoing harvest of paddy rice.

In a press briefing, Palace Press Office Claire Castro belied talk that the low farmgate price of palay or unmilled rice was caused by the increase in imports.

“It is not true that this is the cause of the drop in the buying [price] of palay from farmers. Because based on records, our [rice] imports are lower [this year],” Castro said, citing data from the Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.

“This is what is happening—Secretary Kiko told me—the local traders will prevail here,” she said.

In its latest report, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported that the average farmgate price for unmilled rice last month was P20.29 per kilogram (kg), which is significantly lower compared to P25.03 recorded a year ago.

The regions with the lowest farmgate price are Calabarzon (P17.34 per kg), Soccsksargen (P17.53 per kg); and Mimaropa (P18.61 per kg).

The retail price for regular milled rice during the first week of the month was also down to P46.30 per kg compared to the previous month's P47.77 per kg.

To address the issue, Castro urged the affected farmers to sell their rice to the National Food Authority (NFA) instead of rice traders.

“The NFA buys dry [unhusked rice] for P23 to P24 [per kg],” she explained.

The Presidential Communications Office (PCO) undersecretary said the affected farmers can coordinate with their local government units (LGU) to help bring their harvested rice to the nearest NFA buying station. She said DA is currently procuring more trucks to help farmers bring their harvested rice to the NFA.

DA earlier said it wants to release 300,000 metric tons (MT) of rice in the warehouses of NFA so it can buy new rice stocks amid the ongoing dry harvest season from December to May.

Last month, the NFA told this newspaper that it will procure as much as 870,000 MT of palay this year. “[We aim to procure] 545,000 MT, and if there’s still a budget for it we will go as high as 870,000 MT of palay,” NFA Administrator Larry Lacson told the BusinessMirror on Wednesday. The grains agency said it is seeking more funds to increase its buffer stock as mandated by the amended Rice Tariffication Law.  
Image credits: [PNA/Joan Bondoc](#)

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/03/18/traders-not-imports-caused-low-farmgate-price-of-palay-palace/>

**THE MANILA TIMES:**

# Rice price drops, pork more costly early

## March

By Giselle P. Jordan

March 19, 2025

THE average retail price of rice decreased, while that of pork increased in the first phase of this month (March 1 to 5), according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

Regular milled rice sold for P46.30 per kilogram (kg), lower than P47.19/kg in last month's second phase (Feb. 15-17), and cheaper than P47.77/kg in the first phase (Feb. 1-5).

Fresh pork liempo was retailed at P384.08/kg in the first phase of March, higher than P378.84/kg and P375.02/kg in the second and first phase of February, respectively.

Galunggong was available for P235.26/kg also in the first phase of March, higher than P231.24/kg and P226.43/kg in the second and first phase of February, respectively.

A kilogram of tomatoes sold for P76.65 in the first phase of March, a decline compared to the P90.64/kg in the second half of February and P109.42/kg in the first phase of February.

The retail price of native garlic was P185.73/kg in the first phase of March, higher than P183.75/kg in the second phase of February, and P182.35/kg in the first phase.

Carabao mango retailed for P176.99/kg in the first phase of March, lower than P182.74/kg in the second phase of February, and P191.19/kg in the first phase.

Cooking oil sold for P171.18 per liter in the first phase of March, higher than P170.20 per liter in the second phase of February and P170.24 in the first phase.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2025/03/19/business/top-business/rice-price-drops-pork-more-costly-early-march/2075465>

**THE MANILA TIMES:**

# Low palay prices drive farmers to death

**By Giselle P. Jordan**

**March 18, 2025**

LOW palay prices have driven at least three Nueva Ecija farmers to death, Magsasaka Party-list chairman Argel Joseph Cabatbat revealed in a radio interview.

Former agriculture secretary and Magsasaka Party-list nominee Leonardo Montemayor said he has confirmed these reports through his meetings with farmers in the towns of Guimba and Talavera in Nueva Ecija.

Montemayor said palay prices are currently at P15 per kilogram (kg) or lower, which leaves farmers in despair as they fail to pay their debts.

However, Department of Agriculture (DA) spokesman Arnel de Mesa said on Monday that the average palay prices in Central Luzon are at P22/kg to P23/kg, as reported by the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice).

Earlier this month, National Food Authority (NFA) Administrator Larry Lacson said rice millers are buying clean and dry palay at P20/kg to P22/kg, with wet palay usually bought at P5 lower per kilogram.

The NFA also raised its palay buying price earlier this month, buying at P18/kg for fresh palay and P24/kg for clean and dry palay.

Montemayor blames the "unlimited importation of cheap rice," for the low palay prices, especially now that the harvest season is currently ongoing.

In 2019, the Philippine government implemented Republic Act (RA) 11203, or the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL), which lifted the quantitative import restriction on rice and replaced it with tariffs instead.

Nueva Ecija farmers are planning to hold a protest on Saturday, March 22, at the Quezon Bypass Road to call the attention of the public on their plight. Up to 150,000 farmers are expected to be in attendance.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2025/03/18/regions/low-palay-prices-drive-farmers-to-death/2074391>



**REMATE:**

# DA kumpiyansa sa pagbaba ng taripa sa banana exports sa Japan

March 18, 2025 17:20



MANILA, Philippines- Nagpahayag ng kumpiyansa si Department of Agriculture (DA) hinggil sa posibleng konsiderasyon ng Japanese government na repasuhin ang ipinataw nitong taripa sa banana exports ng bansa.

Ito’y matapos magpulong ang Philippine delegation, sa pangunguna ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., noong Marso 10 kasama ang Japan’s State Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Hirofumi Takinami at Liberal Democratic Party Secretary General and Japan-Philippines Parliamentary Friendship League Chairman Hiroshi Moriyama na ipanukala ang general review at maka-secure ng “fairer trade environment” para sa Pilipinas sa gitna ng nagbabagong global landscape.

Sa isang panayam, sinabi ni DA spokesperson Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa na kumpiyansa si Tiu Laurel na titingnan ng Japanese government ang tariff concerns ng Pilipinas.

Ang mga sariwang banana exports mula Pilipinas ay mayroong 18% taripa mula April 1 hanggang Sept. 30 at 8% sa panahon ng Oct. 1 hanggang March 31 period sa ilalim ng Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA).

Ani De Mesa, mayroong posibleng advantages lalo pa’t nananatiling top market for banana exports ng Pilipinas ang Japan.

“Importante na mapababa iyong taripa na ini-impose ng Japan sa ating export bananas para masigurado na mas competitive iyong presyo ng saging sa Japan,” ang sinabi ni de Mesa.

Inihayag nito na ang mas pinababang taripa ay magpapahusay ng oportunidad para sa banana producers.

“Iyong ating mga exporters mapalago pa lalo iyong industriya ng saging sa ating bansa,” aniya pa rin.

Nauna rito, sinabi ni Tiu Laurel na ang pinahusay na export environment ay partikular na mapakikinabangan ng mga banana farmers sa Mindanao.

“The Philippines takes great pride in being the leading supplier of fresh bananas to Japan. To sustain and expand this industry, we must push for tariff reductions on our bananas. This will not only attract greater investment in banana production but also drive poverty alleviation, job creation, and security in Mindanao,” aniya pa rin sa isang kalatas noong March 14. **Kris Jose**

<https://remate.ph/da-kumpiyansa-sa-pagbaba-ng-taripa-sa-banana-exports-sa-japan/>

**REMATE:**

# Deadly H7N9 bird flu outbreak naitala sa Amerika

March 18, 2025 08:00



MANILA, Philippines – Iniulat ng U.S. ang unang pagkalat ng nakamamatay na H7N9 bird flu sa isang poultry farm mula noong 2017.

Natukoy ang virus sa isang kawan ng 47,654 manok sa Noxubee, Mississippi, ayon sa World Animal Health Organization. Sinimulan na ang pagpatay sa apektadong mga manok, habang nagsasagawa ng masusing imbestigasyon ang mga awtoridad.

Matinding tinamaan ng avian influenza ang mga poultry farm sa buong mundo, dahilan ng pagtaas ng presyo ng pagkain at pangamba sa panibagong pandemya.

Ang H5N1 strain ang naging pinakapanira sa mga nagdaang taon, na nagdulot ng impeksyon at pagkamatay ng tao. Ngunit mas nakamamatay ang H7N9, na may halos 40% fatality rate sa mga naitalang kaso simula noong 2013, ayon sa World Health Organization.

Nagpapatupad ang mga awtoridad sa U.S. ng mas pinaigting na pagbabantay upang mapigilan ang lalo pang pagkalat ng virus. **RNT**

<https://remate.ph/deadly-h7n9-bird-flu-outbreak-naitala-sa-amerika/>

**ABANTE:**

# Smuggler ng sibuyas kinasuhan

Abante News

- **March 18, 2025**



Kinasuhan ng Department of Agriculture ang dalawang kompanyang diumano'y nagtangkang magpuslit ng 25 toneladang sibuyas na nagkakahalagang P2.37 milyon noong Hulyo 2024.

Kinilala ng DA ang dalawang kompanya bilang JRA at Pearl Enterprises Inc. Sabit sa reklamong smuggling ang mga opisyal ng JRA na sina JRA President Jessica Pascual, gayundin sina JRA Directors Jacob Tuballa, Perlita Tuballa, Joezel Tuballa, at Joward Tuballa. Isinama sila sa sinampang reklamong smuggling, partikular na ang pagbabago sa patakarang may kinalaman sa health at quarantine dahil walang kinakailang import permits o sanitary phytosanitary clearance ang kanilang shipment.

Nagbanta si Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. sa mga smugglers ng agricultural products na paiigtingin pa ng kagawaran ang paghahabol sa kanila.

Pinahinto ng Bureau of Plant Industry ng DA ang pagbibigay ng sanitary and phytosanitary import clearances (SPSICs) para sa mga sibuyas mula Enero 1, 2024, hanggang Agosto 19, 2024.

Ayon kay Henrick Exconde, tagapamahala ng BPI sa Port of Manila-South Harbor, walang SPSIC ang JRA para sa shipment nito ng sibuyas na dumating noong Hulyo 2024 sa Manila South Harbor. (Eileen Mencias)

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2025/03/18/smuggler-ng-sibuyas-kinasuhan/>

**ABANTE TONITE:**

# Farmgate price ng palay lumagapak

ABANTE TONITE

- **March 18, 2025**



#image\_title

Naglalaro lang sa P33 hanggang P35 ang presyo kada kilo ng imported rice mula pa noong Disyembre kaya dapat lang na nasa P45 ang presyo nito kada kilo.

Ito ang sagot ni Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura (SINAG) Executive Director Jayson Cainglet sa nakatakdang pagpapatupad ng 45 pesos na Maximum Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) sa bigas simula sa Marso 31.

na bumaba ang MSRP upang makinabang ang consumers dahil bukod sa sampung pisong patong sa presyo ay bumaba pa ang taripa kaya ilang buwan nang doble ang kinikita ng importers.

Sinabi pa ni Cainglet na ikinababahala nila ngayon ang lagapak na farmgate price ng palay na naglalaro sa P15 hanggang P17.

Dagdag pa niya, nalugi na nga ang mga magsasaka ng kamatis at sibuyas sa bagsak-presyong dulot ng imported na gulay ay nanganganib pang malugi ang mga magsasaka ng palay.

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2025/03/18/farmgate-price-ng-palay-lumagapak/>

# EDITORIAL — Itigil, importasyon ng bigas

Pilipino Star Ngayon

March 19, 2025 | 12:00am



MASAYANG ibinalita ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. na maaaring ipatupad na sa Marso 31 ang bagong maximum suggested retail price (MSRP) sa bigas na nagkakahalaga ng P45 bawat kilo. Ayon kay Tiu Laurel ang pagbabawas ay dahil sa pagbaba ng presyo ng imported na bigas sa world market at sa paglakas ng piso. Sa kasalukuyan, ang pinakamababang presyo ng bigas sa mga palengke ay P49 bawat kilo. Ang pinakamahal ay P65 per kilo.

Kung tutuusin, mahal pa rin ang binabalak na MSRP na P45 per kilo ng bigas. Tiyak na marami pa rin ang iiyak dito lalo na ang mga kinikita ay sapat-sapat lang. Ang kakarampot na kinikita halimbawa ng mga jeepney at tricycle drivers na P300 ay halos limang kilong bigas lang ang mabibili. Saan kukuha ng iuulam? Baka hindi makabili kahit isang lata ng sardinas.

Nang ibaba ni President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ang taripa para sa imported na bigas na nakasaad sa Executive Order 62, ang inaasahan niya ay bababa ang presyo ng bigas. Pero nagkamali siya sapagkat sa halip na bumaba, lalo pang tumaas ang presyo. Sa halip na makakain nang husto ang mga mahihirap, lalo pang nagsalat—kanin lamang ay hindi pa mapunuan ang kumakalam na tiyan.

Noong Enero, sinabi ni Tiu Laurel na hindi dapat umabot sa P65 kada kilo ng imported na bigas sa mga palengke. Ayon sa kanya, kapag umabot sa ganito kataas na presyo, maliwanag na ito ay profiteering. Noon sinabi ng Kalihim ang kanyang balak na MSRP system. Sinabi niya na makikipagpulong siya sa rice importers at retailers para maipatupad ang MSRP. At sinabi na nga ni Tiu Laurel na sa Marso 31 ay ipatutupad na ang P45 na MSRP. Pero hindi pa nga ito masasabing mababa o abot kaya ng mga nagdarahop na mamamayan.

Ang pinaka-ideyal na presyo ng bigas na maaabot ng mahihirap na mamamayan ay P35 per kilo. Ang ganitong presyo ang inaasahan ng mamamayan. Hindi na sila naghahangad pa ng P20 per kilo na ipinangako ni President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. noong campaign period. Itinuring na lamang iyon nang marami na bangungot.

Isang dahilan kaya hindi bumababa ang presyo ng bigas ay dahil sa sabwatan ng mga gahamang rice importers at negosyante. At kaya hindi lubusang maibaba ang presyo (kahit P35 per kilo) ay dahil patuloy pa rin ang sabwatan ng mga ganid na rice importers at traders.

Dapat din namang itigil ang importasyon ng bigas habang nasa panahon ng anihan. Saan naman nakakita na nag-aani ang mga lokal na magsasaka ay bumabaha naman sa merkado ang imported na bigas. Hindi dapat mangyari ito. Dahil dagsa ang bigas, mura rin na naibebenta ng mga magsasaka ang kanilang aning palay na umaabot lamang sa P15 per kilo. Kawawa ang mga magsasaka. Itigil muna ang pag-iimport ng bigas kapag panahon ng anihan.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/opinyon/2025/03/19/2429427/editorial-itigil-importasyon-ng-bigas>

**PILIPINO STAR NGAYON:**

# DA: Pork stakeholders hiling konsultasyon sa pork MSRP

[Angie dela Cruz](#) - Pilipino Star Ngayon

March 19, 2025 | 12:00am



Pork retailers display meats at their shops inside a public market in Marikina on March 10, 2025 morning.

Walter Bollozos/The Philippine STAR

MANILA, Philippines — Inanunsyo ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang panawagan ng mga stakeholders na magkaroon ng konsultasyon kaugnay nang ipinatutupad na MSRP sa karne ng baboy.

Ito ay makaraang malaman ng DA na isa lamang sa limang pork retailers ang tumupad sa napagkasunduang maximum suggested retail price (MSRP) sa karne ng baboy.

Una nang nagtakda ang DA ng price caps na P380 per kilo sa liempo, P350 kada kilo sa kasim at pigue at P300 kada kilo sa “sabit ulo,” o buong carcasses ng baboy.

Ang maximum retail price sa karne ng baboy ay nagsimula noong March 10.

Sa monitoring sa karne ng baboy sa mga palengke sa Metro Manila, nananatiling mula sa P230 ay naging P470 ang kada kilo ng karne ng baboy. Ayon sa mga pork producers, tinupad naman nila ang farmgate price ng baboy.

Ayon kay Mr. Jason Caglet, executive director ng Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura (SINAG) nagpatupad ng farmgate price na P230 per kilo ng baboy ang pork producers, mas mababa sa dating presyo na mula P260 hanggang P265 kada kilo para mapababa ang retail price ng karne ng baboy.

Anya kahit na ang pork producer ay nagbenta ng baboy sa halagang P240 per kilogram, nagpapatong pa rin ng P10 taas presyo kada kilo ang mga retailers sa mga palengke pero hindi dapat tumaas sa P390 hanggang P400 kada kilo.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2025/03/19/2429390/da-pork-stakeholders-hiling-konsultasyon-sa-pork-msrp>