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**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# 'Paano naman ang gulay?': Romualdez vows to make vegetables affordable to Pinoys

**BY ELLSON QUISMORIO**

Mar 2, 2025 03:29 PM

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## AT A GLANCE

- House Speaker Martin Romualdez wants Filipinos to have affordable, nutritious vegetables to go with their purchase of affordable rice.



(Unsplash)

Speaker Martin Romualdez wants Filipinos to have affordable, nutritious vegetables to go with their purchase of affordable rice.

Romualdez, who has consistently emphasized that reducing food costs is a top national priority, has stressed Sunday, March 2 that addressing rising vegetable prices is crucial to ensuring food security for all.

“Hindi lang bigas ang dapat nating tutukan—paano naman ang gulay? Araw-araw na pangangailangan ito ng bawat pamilyang Pilipino. Kailangan nating tiyakin na may sapat, abot-kaya, at masustansiyang pagkain sa hapag-kainan ng bawat Pilipino,” said the leader of the 306-member House of Representatives.

(We shouldn't solely focus on rice--how about vegetables? This is a daily need of the Filipino family.we need to ensure that there is ample, affordable, and nutritious food on the tables of every Filipino.)

Recent data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) highlights the volatility of vegetable prices. In February 2025, the average retail price of tomatoes stood at ₱109.94 per kilogram, down

from ₱158.67 in late January. However, red onion prices rose to ₱162.69 per kilogram from ₱153.70, while calamansi increased to ₱86.63 per kilogram from ₱81.61.

These fluctuations put additional strain on household budgets, especially for low-income families who rely on vegetables as a major part of their diet, said the leader of the 306-strong House.

The Speaker identified the root causes of high vegetable prices as poor agricultural infrastructure, inefficient farm-to-market transport, and the lack of post-harvest facilities, among others.

Romualdez reiterated that investing in agricultural infrastructure was key to pulling down vegetable prices. He cited ongoing efforts by the Department of Agriculture (DA) to improve farm-to-market roads and storage facilities, which could help minimize post-harvest losses and stabilize supply.

The Leyte 1st district congressman also stressed the importance of ensuring that locally produced vegetables reach markets efficiently to prevent dependence on costly imports.

“Kailangan nating palakasin ang ating sariling ani. Kung puro imported na gulay ang ibabaha sa merkado, paano naman ang ating mga magsasaka? Ang solusyon ay hindi puro pag-aangkat, kundi pagpapalakas ng ating sariling produksyon,” he said.

(We need to improve our local harvest. If imported vegetables flood the market, then what would become of our farmers? The solution is not to rely on importation, but to strengthen our local production.)

Beyond infrastructure, he pushed for greater investment in modernizing farming techniques to boost local vegetable yields. This includes expanded access to high-quality seeds, fertilizer subsidies, and financial assistance for small farmers.

The lawyer-legislator from Visayas also called for stricter price monitoring and regulation to ensure fair farmgate prices for both farmers and consumers.

As part of long-term solutions, he urged stronger collaboration among government agencies, local government units, and the private sector to develop a sustainable food pricing system.

He called on the National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC) and the DA to conduct regular policy reviews to ensure effective interventions in stabilizing vegetable prices.

“Hindi natin ito puwedeng iwanan sa merkado nang walang malinaw na plano. Mula sa pagtatanim hanggang sa bentahan sa palengke, dapat may tamang regulasyon,” he emphasized.

(We cannot leave everything to the market if we don't have a plan. From the sowing of seeds to selling produce in the market, the proper regulations must be observed.)

The Speaker reaffirmed his commitment to passing legislative measures that institutionalize long-term solutions to food inflation.

These include improved land use policies for vegetable farming, incentives for agricultural cooperatives, and stricter oversight on food supply chain disruptions, according to Speaker Romualdez.

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/3/2/romualdez-vows-to-make-vegetables-affordable-to-pinoys>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Erwin Tulfo asks DA to put SRP on rice, vegetables, eggs, meat

BY ELLSON QUISMORIO

Mar 2, 2025 02:05 PM

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## AT A GLANCE

- ACT-CIS Party-list Rep. Erwin Tulfo is batting for all basic food items to have a suggested retail price (SRP) in order to prevent certain businessmen from manipulating their prices.



ACT-CIS Party-list Rep. Erwin Tulfo (Facebook)

ACT-CIS Party-list Rep. Erwin Tulfo is batting for all basic food items to have a suggested retail price (SRP) in order to prevent certain businessmen from manipulating their prices.

The Alyansa para sa Bagong Pilipinas senatorial candidate issued this appeal to the Department of Agriculture (DA) in a statement Sunday, March 2.

“Inaabuso kasi ng ilang mga negosyante tulad ng mga middleman o mga broker ang presyo ng ilang pagkain dahilang para surmirit ang presyo nito sa merkado o mga palengke,” Tulfo said.

(Some businessmen like middlemen or brokers abuse the prices of some food items, which cause price hikes in the market.)

“Kasi kung susuriin ng mabuti, mura ang benta sa farm gate o yung mga producer ng mga bigas, gulay, itlog at karne ng mga manok at baboy pero pagdating sa palengke presyong ginto na ito,” explained Tulfo, the House deputy majority leader for communications.

(Because if we study it carefully, producers of rice, vegetables, eggs, and meat like pork and poultry sell at low farm gate prices but these suddenly turn into gold when reach the marketplace.)

He added, “Tumataas na ang presyo pagdaan sa kamay ng mga middleman o traders bago pa ipasa sa retailers na nasa mga palengke.”

(The price goes up once the goods reach the middlemen or traders, before it the retailers in the markets get their hands on them.)

The lawmaker is suggesting to the DA to place suggested retail prices (SRP) on basic food items with prices that are always rising such as rice, chicken, pork, fish, vegetables and other commodities.

The aspiring senator said this would prevent the manipulation of prices.

In the congressional hearings on the high prices of commodities that were held during the past few months, it was revealed that middlemen and those engaged in cartel are the ones dictating the prices of basic food items such as rice.

Tulfo added that once the prices of these commodities stabilize, the DA can remove their SRPs.

<https://mb.com.ph/2025/3/2/erwin-tulfo-asks-da-to-put-srp-on-rice-vegetables-eggs-meat>

# Marcos tells agri officials: Boost biosecurity measures

BY ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS

Mar 2, 2025 07:19 AM

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## AT A GLANCE

- Stressing the importance of biosecurity, the President said that even if the hogs are vaccinated, succeeding stocks will be exposed to the disease if the piggeries are not well-managed.

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President Marcos wants to ramp up livestock consolidation and intensify biosecurity measures in addition to the ongoing vaccination against African swine fever (ASF) to fight the virus.



*President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. (Malacañang file photo)*

Marcos said during Friday's meeting with Regional Development Council III at the CSJDM Convention Center in San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan.

Stressing the importance of biosecurity, the President said that even if the hogs are vaccinated, succeeding stocks will be exposed to the disease if the piggeries are not well-managed.

"The key to that is consolidation. *Mayroon tayong ginagawa sa consolidation kasi pagka-backyard, mahirap kontrolin yung biosecurity* (The key to that is consolidation. We are working on consolidation because when it's backyard, it's difficult to control biosecurity)," he said.

"*Yung plano natin, hopefully na mailagay natin in one biosecure facility* (Our plan is to hopefully put them all in one biosecure facility, but I don't know; it seems difficult). I don't know, *mukhang mahirap, because most people don't want to give up their animals,*" he added.

Agriculture Undersecretary-designate for Livestock Constanse Palabrica assured the President that they are implementing biosecurity and informing farmers on handling such measures.

He said that 80 percent of the pigs are well-protected once vaccinated.



Palabrica also informed the President that the ASF situation is under control, noting that the ongoing vaccination has immunized 50,000 hogs.

"Regarding the vaccine, we have purchased around half a million ASF vaccines, and close to 200,000 now will be vaccinated, will be used here in Region 3," he said.

"So far, we're getting good results, and once the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) could collate all the data, we will submit this to the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) because under the MOU (memorandum of understanding) between BAI and FDA, we have to check for efficacy and effectivity of the vaccine," he added.

Palabrica added that the data will be sent to the FDA for the modified release permit and a regular release.

President Marcos wants to ramp up livestock consolidation and intensify biosecurity measures in addition to the ongoing vaccination against African swine fever (ASF) to fight the virus.



*President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. (Malacañang file photo)*

Marcos said during Friday's meeting with Regional Development Council III at the CSJDM Convention Center in San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan.

Stressing the importance of biosecurity, the President said that even if the hogs are vaccinated, succeeding stocks will be exposed to the disease if the piggeries are not well-managed.

"The key to that is consolidation. Mayroon tayong ginagawa sa consolidation kasi pagka-backyard, mahirap kontrolin yung biosecurity (The key to that is consolidation. We are working on consolidation because when it's backyard, it's difficult to control biosecurity)," he said.

"Yung plano natin, hopefully na mailagay natin in one biosecure facility (Our plan is to hopefully put them all in one biosecure facility, but I don't know; it seems difficult). I don't know, mukhang mahirap, because most people don't want to give up their animals," he added.

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<https://mb.com.ph/2025/3/2/marcos-agri-boost-biosecurity-measures>



**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# DOTr ordered to secure Smart deal for railway

[Alexis Romero](#) - The Philippine Star

March 2, 2025 | 12:00am



Speaking at the Regional Development Council III meeting in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan last Friday, Marcos called for a dialogue with Smart Communications chairman and chief executive officer Manuel V. Pangilinan “to resolve the problem of broadband frequency for the NSCR signaling system.”

KJ Rosales / File

MANILA, Philippines — President Marcos has instructed the Department of Transportation (DOTr) to seal the broadband co-sharing partnership with Smart Communications Inc. for the North-South Commuter Railway (NSCR) Project.

Speaking at the Regional Development Council III meeting in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan last Friday, Marcos called for a dialogue with Smart Communications chairman and chief executive officer Manuel V. Pangilinan “to resolve the problem of broadband frequency for the NSCR signaling system.”

“It’s been left hanging for quite a while and knowing Smart and Manny, nakakausap naman natin (we can talk to them). We’ll just find a way to do it,” the President said.

“We are asking Smart to give even a little broadband so it can be used by the commuter railway,” he added in Filipino.

DOTr Secretary Vince Dizon said his agency has spoken with Pangilinan and Smart.

“This was the top item on the agenda and based on my initial talks with Smart, I think we can come to a quick resolution of this,” he said.

The NSCR is a 147-kilometer mass transit system that links Clark, Pampanga to Calamba, Laguna. Once completed in 2026, the project is seen to serve up to 800,000 passengers daily and reduce travel time from Pampanga to Laguna to less than two hours.

### **Biosecurity**

At the same meeting, Marcos instructed agencies to ramp up livestock consolidation and strengthen biosecurity measures in addition to the ongoing vaccination against African swine fever (ASF).

“The key to that is consolidation. We are performing consolidation because if it is done in the backyards, it would be hard to control biosecurity,” he said.

“The plan, hopefully, is to place it in one secure...facility. I don’t know, it seems difficult, because most people don’t want to give up their animals,” he added.

Marcos pointed out that even if the hogs are vaccinated, succeeding stocks would be exposed to the disease if piggeries are not well-managed.

Agriculture Undersecretary-designate for livestock Constante Palabrica said biosecurity is being implemented and farmers are informed on handling such measures.

The majority or 80 percent of the pigs are well-protected once vaccinated, he added.

Palabrica also assured Marcos that the ASF situation is under control and that

50,000 hogs have been immunized.

“Regarding the vaccine, we have purchased around half a million ASF vaccines, and close to 200,000 now will be vaccinated, will be used here in Region 3,” the agriculture official said.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2025/03/02/2425181/dotr-ordered-secure-smart-deal-railway>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Benguet town brewing into leading source of premium Arabica coffee

[Artemio Dumlao](#) - The Philippine Star

March 2, 2025 | 12:00am



Arabica coffee grown in Bakun

STAR / File

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet, Philippines — The hinterland Benguet town of Bakun is brewing its way into becoming one of the country’s leading sources of high-grade Arabica coffee.

Recognized for its distinct quality and flavor, Benguet’s Arabica coffee is now experiencing perk-up demand and fast gaining reputation as a top-tier type, with Bakun poised to meet the market’s growing appetite for this high-value crop.

To support this, Hedcor, the renewable asset manager of AboitizPower, has provided 5,000 Arabica coffee wildlings and 500 cacao seedlings to boost the municipality’s thriving coffee and cacao industry.

“This initiative empowers farmers to scale production, take advantage of the rising demand, and position Bakun as a key player in the coffee industry,” the company said.

The unique terrain of Bakun, situated between 1,200 and 2,500 meters above sea level, offers ideal conditions for cultivating Arabica coffee. This advantage, coupled with the support of partners like Hedcor, creates an opportunity for the community to thrive in the high-value coffee market.

“With the fast-rising popularity of the coffee brand in the market, driven by its distinct quality and flavor, the supply remains limited. That is why we are encouraging our farmers, with the strong support of our partners, to scale up production,” said Bakun municipal agriculturist Enrique Atelba.

“Hedcor’s provision of Arabica coffee wildlings and cacao seedlings builds on the municipality’s agricultural strengths, allowing our community to reach its full potential as a producer of high-value crops, including coffee, cacao, and fruit-bearing crops,” he added.

Hedcor actively supports Bakun’s agricultural development, recognizing the unique highland terrain as ideal for cultivating high-value crops by empowering the community to leverage its agricultural strength. This initiative not only enhances food security and promotes economic growth but also contributes to environmental sustainability.

Beyond supplying Arabica coffee wildlings and cacao seedlings, Hedcor is helping Bakun secure long-term agricultural success. The company also provided 500 each of atis, lemon, rambutan and lanzones seedlings, along with 250 sacks of chicken dung to enrich the soil and support sustainable farming practices.

These efforts complement Hedcor’s broader support for Bakun, including a P1.3-million financial assistance package to fund critical watershed protection and community development initiatives. These projects focus on reforestation and sustainable land management practices to preserve Bakun’s vital watersheds, which serve as lifelines for agricultural productivity, drinking water, and renewable energy generation.

Hedcor president and COO Rolando Pacquiao emphasized the importance of sustaining Bakun’s watershed for both agriculture and clean energy production. “Conserving these watersheds is crucial for sustaining the municipality’s agricultural productivity, supporting power generation, and maintaining overall ecological balance.” Pacquiao said.

He noted that these watersheds directly power Hedcor’s renewable energy facilities, ensuring a reliable and sustainable power supply for the community and neighboring regions. “By supporting watershed protection and agricultural development, we’re helping Bakun not only achieve economic growth but also build resilience for future generations.”

As Bakun farmers scale up production to meet the growing demand for high-grade Arabica coffee, the hinterland Benguet town is well-positioned to strengthen its reputation as a premier source of premium coffee in the Philippines.

This transformation underscores the power of collaboration between communities, private partners, and local governments to create sustainable growth opportunities.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2025/03/02/2425122/benguet-town-brewing-leading-source-premium-arabica-coffee>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# House panel to intensify initiatives aimed at lowering rice prices

By: [Faith Argosino](#) - Reporter / [@FArgosinoINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 06:49 PM March 02, 2025



INQUIRER.net stock images

MANILA, Philippines — The House of Representatives quinta committee has vowed to intensify its efforts to lower rice prices, as it urged the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Enforcement Group to “develop and enforce a framework to dismantle cartels and prevent price-fixing.”

To do so, Quezon Rep. Mark Enverga — who heads the committee on agriculture and one of the quinta panel chairs — said Republic Act No. 12022, or the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act, is the key.

“The law grants the government stronger legal tools to combat hoarding, price manipulation, and cartel activities, imposing severe penalties—including life imprisonment and hefty fines—on violators,” Enverga said in a statement on Sunday.

Following the enactment of this law in September 2024, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. created the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Enforcement Group, which focuses on “dismantling smuggling operations and apprehending offenders, along with the development of a special team of prosecutors nationwide to expedite cases related to agricultural sabotage.”



Enverga urged the group to swiftly form a framework that would dismantle cartels and stop price-fixing.

“The message of this law is clear: We will no longer tolerate the exploitative businessmen who make it difficult for our farmers and consumers to earn a living. The enforcement group should act now to stop this kind of work,” he said in Filipino.

He likewise urged the Department of Trade and Industry to establish a suggested retail price (SRP) formula for rice, similar to other essential commodities, and to require importers to show the SRP on rice packaging.

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Customs “would assess tariffs based on declared purchase costs, wholesale prices, and SRP,” he added.

Enverga also assured the public that the panel would not allow the government to rely on rice importation since it believes that “boosting domestic rice production is key to long-term food security.”

Enverga’s statements came following the government’s decision to sell National Food Authority rice at P35 per kilo. Although the lawmaker believes that it provided relief to consumers, he said more work needs to be done and the panel could still push for lower rice prices.

The Quinta panel consists of five panels — ways and means, trade and industry, agriculture and food, social services, and the special committee on food security — tasked with curbing smuggling, hoarding, price manipulation, and hunger.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2039717/house-panel-to-intensify-initiatives-aimed-at-lowering-rice-prices>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Tulfo tells DA: Put SRP on basic food items to curb price manipulation

By: [Jown Manalo](#) - Reporter / [@jownmanaloINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 01:35 PM March 02, 2025



Rep. Erwin Tulfo. Senate PRIB file photo

MANILA, Philippines — ACT-CIS Rep. Erwin Tulfo has called on the Department of Agriculture (DA) to implement suggested retail prices (SRP) on essential goods to prevent excessive price hikes by middlemen and traders.

Tulfo, in a statement on Sunday, noted that while farmgate prices of rice, vegetables, eggs, and meat remain low, their costs rise significantly in markets due to middlemen and traders

“Inaabuso kasi ng ilang mga negosyante tulad ng mga middleman o mga broker ang presyo ng ilang pagkain dahilang para sumirit ang presyo nito sa merkado o mga palengke,” Tulfo stressed.

(Some businessmen, such as middlemen and brokers, are taking advantage of food prices, causing them to soar in markets.)

“Tumataas na ang presyo pagdaan sa kamay ng mga middleman o traders bago pa ipasa sa mga retailers na nasa mga palengke,” he added.

(Prices increase as they pass through middlemen and traders before reaching market retailers.)



“With the implementation of the SRP sa ilang pagkain, masisiguro nating hindi maaaring manipulahin ang presyo ng produkto,” he underscored.

(With the SRP on certain food items, we can ensure that prices won’t be manipulated.)

Tulfo’s appeal followed congressional hearings which revealed that middlemen and cartels play a major role in price hikes, particularly for rice.

“Ang SRP kasi ang magkokontrol sa kikitain ng mga middleman o trader o kartel para affordable pa rin ang produkto pagdating sa merkado,” Tulfo said.

(The SRP will regulate the profits of middlemen, traders, and cartels so that products remain affordable when they reach the market.)

He also emphasized that SRPs would not be permanent and could be lifted once market prices stabilize.

Tulfo, a senatorial candidate under the Alyansa Para sa Bagong Pilipinas, currently leads the senatorial race with 45 percent voter preference, according to the latest Social Weather Stations survey.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2039675/tulfo-tells-da-put-srp-on-basic-food-items-to-curb-price-manipulation>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# Negros Occ. legislators seek reversal of SC ruling on municipal waters

By: [Carla Gomez](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Inquirer Visayas](#) / 02:00 PM March 02, 2025

BACOLOD CITY — The Provincial Board of Negros Occidental has called on national government agencies to take immediate action against a Supreme Court (SC) ruling that allowed [commercial fishing](#) in municipal waters.

In a resolution dated Feb. 25, local legislators stressed the need for urgent action to safeguard the rights of municipal fishers, as well as to protect fisheries and marine resources.

“The decision threatens the livelihoods of over two million small fisherfolk in the country, including those in Negros Occidental who rely on municipal waters for their daily sustenance and economic survival,” it said.

“Unregulated commercial fishing in municipal waters will deplete fish stocks, degrade marine ecosystems, and undermine local conservation efforts that have been successfully implemented by local governments and fisherfolk organizations,” it added.

The Provincial Board reaffirmed its commitment to protect the more than 45,000 marginalized municipal fisherfolk with 472 fisherfolk associations in the 25 coastal cities and municipalities covering 187 barangays of Negros Occidental.

“It is imperative for the province of Negros Occidental to take a strong stand in support of its municipal fisherfolk and advocate for the protection of fisheries resources for future generations,” it said.

Negros Occidental is the second local government in the Visayas to go against the high court’s ruling on allowing commercial fishing to operate in municipal waters.

Last Feb. 21, the Iloilo provincial government submitted documents to the SC to intervene in the case.

The Provincial Agriculture Office of Iloilo started compiling position papers from 19 coastal municipalities, fisherfolk groups, and stakeholders to build a collective case against the decision.

Negros Occidental Gov. Eugenio Jose Lacson, for his part, clarified that the province would not file an appeal before the SC.

Instead, Negros Occidental would ask the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Justice to represent the small fisherfolk.

“The local government units hope that their position will be heard by the Supreme Court but it is really up to the national government to represent the fisherfolk,” he said in an interview on Feb. 25.

“We will just make it known that we are behind the small fisherfolk and we will see what we can do to get back the old law which prioritized municipal fisherfolk and regulated commercial fishing operations within those waters,” he added.

According to the governor, the decision threatens the livelihood of small fisherfolk, as well as the billion-peso blue crab industry.

“It will only benefit big players, the commercial fishers, to the detriment of the small fisherfolk,” Lacson said.

On Dec. 19, 2024, the Supreme Court issued a decision that removed the 15-kilometer municipal water demarcation, which had prioritized municipal fisherfolk and regulated commercial fishing operations within those waters.

Lacson said there is a need to protect the rights of municipal fisherfolk by advocating for the continued preferential access of small-scale fishers to the 15-kilometer municipal waters.

These waters, he said, are vital for the livelihood of more than 45,000 marginalized fishing communities with 472 fisherfolk associations in the 25 coastal cities and municipalities of Negros Occidental covering 187 barangays, ensuring food security, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable fisheries management.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2039684/negros-occ-legislators-seek-reversal-of-sc-ruling-on-municipal-waters>

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# DA files complaint vs trading firm for misdeclaration of imported onions

By: [Jown Manalo](#) - Reporter / [@jownmanaloINO](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 04:05 PM March 02, 2025



Department of Agriculture (DA) logo. INQUIRER FILES

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) has filed a complaint against Chastity Consumer Goods Trading for alleged misdeclaration of imported fresh yellow onions as processed food to bypass agricultural import regulations.

In a statement on Sunday, the DA said it lodged the complaint with the Olongapo City Prosecutor's Office, accusing the trading firm of violating the Food Safety Act and the Plant Quarantine Law of 1978. The agency named Lina Bang Talan, the owner and president of Chastity Consumer Goods Trading, as the respondent in the case.

The case stems from an inspection at the Port of Subic, which uncovered thousands of boxes of yellow onions falsely declared as frozen fish egg balls.

“The goods were declared as frozen fish egg balls, a processed food item not under the jurisdiction of the BPI (Bureau of Plant Industry). However, upon inspection, the containers yielded thousands of cartons of yellow onions, which are subject to the DA-BPI’s regulations,” the DA said.

Carmela Rivera, area manager of BPI – National Plant Quarantine Services Division at the Port of Subic, said authorities inspected in August 2024 after receiving “derogatory information” indicating undeclared agricultural products in the shipment.

Officials from the BPI, Bureau of Customs, and other port authorities confirmed that the cargo contained yellow onions, which require a Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance to prevent the spread of pests and diseases, she added.

The DA also noted that Chastity Consumer Goods Trading is not a registered BPI importer, making the shipment unauthorized.

The agency added that tests conducted on the confiscated onions, which totaled 6,395 stacks, found high levels of microbiological contaminants, including E. coli, making them unsafe for consumption.

Authorities warned that misdeclaration of agricultural imports poses serious risks to food safety and local crop protection.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2039707/da-files-complaint-vs-trading-firm-for-misdeclaration-of-imported-onions>

**REMATE:**

## **PBBM sa DA: Biosecurity measures vs ASF, palakasin**

March 2, 2025 14:31



MANILA, Philippines – Inatasan ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ang Department of Agriculture (DA) na palakasin ang livestock consolidation at biosecurity measures kontra African swine fever (ASF).

Sa pagpupulong kasama ang Regional Development Council 3 (Central Luzon) sa CSJDM Convention Center sa San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan, iginiit ni Marcos ang kahalagahan ng biosecurity kasabay ng nagpapatuloy na vaccination efforts para labanan ang ASF.

Nagbabala siya na sa kabila ng pagbabakuna sa mga baboy, posibleng ma-expose sa sakit ang mga susunod na stock kung ang mga babuyan ay hindi mapapangasiwaan ng maayos.

“The key to that is consolidation. Mayroon tayong ginagawa sa consolidation kasi pagka-backyard, mahirap kontrolin ‘yung biosecurity,” aniya.

“Di ba ‘yung plano natin, hopefully na mailagay natin in one secure – biosecure facility. I don’t know, mukhang mahirap because most people don’t want to give up their animals.”

Sinabi naman ni DA Undersecretary Designate for Livestock Constante Palabrica na nagpapatupad ang ahensya ng biosecurity, kasabay ng pagsisiguro na 80% ng mga baboy ay protektado sa bakuna.

Idinagdag ni Palabrica na under control na ang sitwasyon ng ASF.

“Regarding the vaccine, we have purchased around half a million ASF vaccines, and close to 200,000 now will be vaccinated, will be used here in Region 3,” anang opisyal.

“So far, we’re getting good results, and once the Bureau of Animal Industry could collate all the data, we will submit this to the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) because under the MOU (memorandum of understanding) between BAI (Bureau of Animal Industry) and FDA, we have to check for efficacy and effectivity of the vaccine.” *RNT/JGC*

<https://remate.ph/pbbm-sa-da-biosecurity-measures-vs-asf-palakasin/>