

CLIPPINGS FOR TODAY MARCH 07, 2025

A. MANILA BULLETIN:

Marcos visits P67.48-M rice processing complex in Isabela

Philippines secures \$950-million World Bank loans

B. THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA approves max SRP for pork items

GSIS, Ayala eye FTI property

DA bans US poultry imports

C. PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DA lifts ban on poultry products from France

DA pushes P380 per kilo pork belly price limit

Marcos inspects P67.48-M rice processing complex in Isabela

D. BUSINESS WORLD:

Pork maximum suggested retail price to be enforced next week

PHL rice inventory declines 4.6% month on month in early February

E. REMATE:

'Bigas-pay later' alok ng NFA sa LGUs

Rice processing system sa Isabela ininspeksyon ni PBBM

Pag-import ng ibon mula sa France pwede na – DA

\$1-B utang para sa agrikultura makukuha ng Pinas sa World Bank

Presyo ng baboy bababa ngayong Marso — DA

F. ABANTE:

NFA rice ipapautang sa mga LGU

G. MANILA STANDARD:

MSRP for pork starts on March 10 — DA

H. THE MANILA TIMES:

La Niña expected to be short-lived

I. BUSINESS MIRROR:

Government says maximum suggested retail price for pork in wet markets starts March 10

DA bans poultry products from 3 US states

‘Tame February inflation should spur more rate cuts’

Integrated approach to rice production key to lower prices, says former Labor official

J. MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT:

DA bars poultry imports from 3 US states; lifts ban on France

Pork MSRP in National Capital Region takes effect March 10

K. ABANTE TONITE:

Agri chief kumpiyansang babagsak presyo ng pork sa MSRP

L. PILIPINO STAR NGAYON:

Ban sa bird imports mula France, inalis na ng DA

Mas malakas na suporta sa magsasaka, iginiit ni Bong Go

MANILA BULLETIN:

Marcos visits P67.48-M rice processing complex in Isabela

BY [BETHEENA UNITE](#)

Mar 6, 2025 01:09 PM

President Marcos has inspected the P67.48-million multi-stage rice processing complex project in Barangay Ipil, Echague, Isabela which was inaugurated last year.



Rice Processing

System II in Isabela (RTVM)

The project, known as the Rice Processing System II, is expected to benefit thousands of farmers in the province.

It was inaugurated on Nov. 28, 2024 as part of the government's Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Mechanization Program.

The complex includes the state-of-the-art multi-stage rice mill with three Tons Per Hour (TPH) capacity valued at P48.58 million and five recirculating dryers, with 12-ton capacity each, worth P18.9 million.

According to the Department of Agriculture (DA), the RCEF was created under Republic Act 11203 to improve the competitiveness of rice farmers and increase their income amidst the liberalization of the Philippine rice trade policy.

It added that it established the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Program (RCEP) to complement and supplement the existing DA-National Rice Program (DA-NRP).

The RCEP Mechanization Program aims to reduce production costs by P2-3/kg, decrease post-harvest losses by three to five percent, and enhance value addition by 30 percent.

The program's beneficiary is Isabela's provincial government, which maintains 70,556 registered farmers in the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA), cultivating 66,303 hectares of rice land.



President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. inspects the Rice Processing System II in Echague, Isabela on March 6, 2025. (RTVM)

It is expected to directly benefit the farmers by improving rice processing and post-harvest operations. During the inspection, Marcos was joined by Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Manuel Bonoan and Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu-Laurel Jr. Isabela Governor Rodolfo Albano III, and Echague Mayor Francis Faustino Dy were also present.

https://mb.com.ph/2025/3/6/marcos-visits-p67-48-m-rice-processing-complex-in-isabela#google_vignette

MANILA BULLETIN:

Philippines secures \$950-million World Bank loans

Marcos administration to borrow \$3.41 billion more from the Washington-based multilateral lender in 2025

BY [DERCO ROSAL](#)

Mar 6, 2025 04:04 PM

AT A GLANCE

- On top of these loans, six more are scheduled to be greenlit by the World Bank this year, worth a total of \$3.41 billion or almost ₱195 billion.

Filipinos could see relief from additional transportation costs and product losses as the World Bank has approved two major transport and healthcare projects worth a combined \$950.54 million or over ₱54 billion.

On top of these fresh loans, six more are scheduled to be greenlit by the World Bank this year, worth a total of \$3.41 billion or almost ₱195 billion.

According to the multilateral lender, the two loans it approved on March 5 would benefit at least nine million Filipinos as it aims to enhance transport connectivity and health services in Mindanao and low-capacity provinces across the country.

Amounting to \$454.94 million, the Mindanao Transport Connectivity Improvement Project will fund the upgrade and rehabilitation of a 428-kilometer (km) road corridor linking the cities of Cagayan de Oro, Davao, and General Santos, improving access to key ports and airports.

The project includes upgrading four key highways and three local roads, totaling 129.86 km.

“Better rural roads reduce transportation costs and product losses for poor farmers, significantly contributing to poverty reduction,” the World Bank said in a statement.

Pratap Tvgssshrk, World Bank senior transport specialist, said “sustained growth and poverty reduction in Mindanao requires making agriculture more productive, particularly the smallholder farmers.”

“Connecting rural and remote areas to urban centers where there is demand for farm produce is a key intervention to support growth in the agricultural sector.”

Meanwhile, the \$495.6-million Philippines Health System Resilience Project will invest in healthcare networks, workforce development, and emergency response systems across 17 provinces, including 11 in Mindanao.

“It will also invest in disease surveillance, public health laboratories, and emergency response systems,” the World Bank said.

This initiative aims to bolster healthcare services for 17.9 million Filipinos, particularly those in remote and underserved areas.

“The health sector in the Philippines significantly depends on the efforts of local government units (LGUs) to provide essential services. However, many LGUs face challenges due to limited resources and capacity,” said Wei Han, World Bank senior economist.

Han then stressed that the project is crucial in strengthening low-capacity LGUs, enabling them to provide quality healthcare services and support socioeconomic growth by improving health outcomes in the country.

World Bank Country Director Zafer Mustafaoglu said the lender is “committed to support the Philippines in its journey towards inclusive growth and its aspiration to become an upper middle-income country.”

These projects, he said, will “address regional disparities and improve the quality of life for many Filipinos.”

Moving forward, the World Bank is expected to approve on March 14 the \$67.34 million Philippines Civil Service Modernization Project; on March 31, the \$800-million Philippines First Energy Transition and Climate Resilience Development Policy Loan (DPL).

Two loans will be up for approval in June: the \$1 billion Philippines Sustainable Agricultural Transformation Program—poised to be the biggest-ever single loan from the Washington-based multilateral lender; and the \$240.6-million Accelerated Water and Sanitation Project in Selected Areas.

In July, the World Bank loans to be approved are the \$600-million Project for Learning Upgrade Support and Decentralization and \$700-million Philippines Community Resilience Project.

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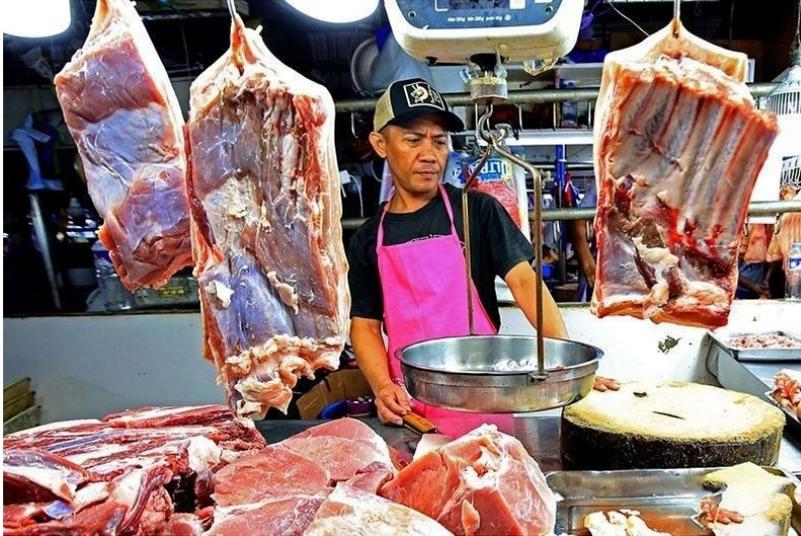
<https://mb.com.ph/2025/3/6/philippines-secures-950-million-world-bank-loans>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA approves max SRP for pork items

Bella Cariaso - The Philippine Star

March 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 — Beginning Monday, pork shoulder will be sold at maximum suggested retail price (SRP) of P350 per kilo and pork belly at P380.

The Department of Agriculture announced yesterday the setting of maximum SRP following a series of meetings with stakeholders called by the DA to address the high retail price of pork.

At a press conference, Agriculture spokesman Arnel de Mesa said a unanimous decision was reached between the DA and the pork industry to implement the maximum SRP.

“Almost all of the stakeholders attended the meeting. After the last round of consultation this 3 p.m. with the stakeholders in the hog industry, which was also attended by the Philippine National Police, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and other government agencies, it was a unanimous decision to implement a maximum SRP on pork beginning Monday, March 10, 2025,” De Mesa said.

He added that aside from the max SRP on pork shoulder and pork belly, the price of “sabit ulo” would be capped at P300 per kilo.

“We will have a monthly review and we will start (the review) after a month of the implementation of the maximum SRP,” De Mesa said.

For his part, farmers’ group Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura (SINAG) executive director Jayson Cainglet said that the pork industry is one with the DA in providing affordable pork to consumers.

“It took weeks for all the players in the hog industry to come up with the unanimous decision. There was a consultation with the biyaheros, retailers and it is important to mention that the max SRP was unanimous,” Cainglet said.

He added that the max SRP on pork was necessary as the retail price remains high at more than P400 per kilo.

“All were given two weeks to consult but until now we still hear P400, P420 (per kilo). We are hoping by March 10, everybody will follow and after a month, we will review whether the max SRP is too much or not enough. This is a unanimous decision of the pork industry,” Cainglet added.

Las Pinas Public Market United Vendors president Manny Pareja also said the max SRP on pork is necessary as sales by pork retailers are affected by the high retail price.

“Retailers are crying because consumers buy less pork because of the high price. We are dependent on the consumers. If the consumers do not buy, we will not survive. It is important to bring down the retail price of pork,” Pareja said.

De Mesa said that the DA will tap the help of the police to ensure compliance by retailers with the new price cap directive.

Based on monitoring by the DA in Metro Manila markets, the retail price of pork shoulder ranged from P350 and P420 per kilo, and pork belly from P375 to P480 per kilo.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2025/03/07/2426476/da-approves-max-srp-pork-items>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

GSIS, Ayala eye FTI property

[Jasper Emmanuel Arcalas](#), [Louise Maureen Simeon](#) - The Philippine Star

March 7, 2025 | 12:00am



In an interview with The STAR, Finance Undersecretary Catherine Fong said the DOF continues to dispose of state assets in order to hit the P100-billion privatization target for 2025.

DA wants P58 billion sale proceeds to shore up budget

MANILA, Philippines — The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and property giant Ayala Land Inc. are interested in acquiring the Food Terminal Inc. (FTI) in Taguig for P58 billion as the Department of Finance (DOF) ramps up asset disposal to generate revenue.

In an interview with The STAR, Finance Undersecretary Catherine Fong said the DOF continues to dispose of state assets in order to hit the P100-billion privatization target for 2025.

The FTI is on the list of potential assets for sale even amid complications and resistance to the disposal of the property. The government is eyeing to sell about 24 hectares of FTI, valued at P58 billion.

“GSIS wants to buy it. GSIS is liquid and they want it for investments. They know that the value will increase further once the expressway (Skyway Stage 4) is built,” Fong said.

“Ayala also wants to buy it since they are already there,” she said.

In 2012, the government sold a huge chunk of FTI to Ayala Land for P24.3 billion. The property giant then transformed the 74-hectare FTI into an integrated mixed-use development now known as ARCA South.

GSIS and Ayala Land did not immediately respond when sought for comment.

Fong explained that there has been a long-standing policy since the administration of the late president Benigno Aquino III that FTI is supposed to be sold.

“That has not been overturned, the assets are for privatization. When (a portion of it) was sold to Ayala, FTI asked that it not be sold entirely because there are lessees. All of a sudden, they want to revive it,” Fong said.

Previously, FTI managed to transfer the title of the remaining 24-hectare property to its name without the knowledge of the Privatization Council. The title is originally under the Republic of the Philippines.

FTI now has no more food terminal in the area, with its only source of income coming from its leasing activity which, according to Fong, is not FTI’s mandate.

The DOF is awaiting directives from the Office of the President (OP).

“If the policy will be changed, OP has to say it. As far as we’re concerned, it’s meant for privatization. That has not changed,” Fong said.

“I’m supposed to sell, the national government needs the money,” she said.

However, the Department of Agriculture is pushing for the revival of FTI, specifically for cold storage and food hubs to address overproduction and minimize post-harvest losses of various farm products.

Sought for comment, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the DA has yet to receive formal communication from the DOF about the planned privatization.

“In case that is the direction, I would like that 10 hectares be left for our storage and food hub,” Tiu Laurel told The STAR.

“Part of the proceeds should go to FTI to be used to build mega food hubs that we need for our farmers in Clark, Quezon and also in Visayas and Mindanao,” he said.

The FTI said it supports the overall development of the country but maintained that a portion of the food terminal must be given to them so they can fulfill their mandate.

FTI president and CEO Joseph Rudolph Lo said proceeds of the sale should be allocated to the DA as its annual budget remains insufficient to fulfill the vision of President Marcos. Lo maintained that the FTI could still generate proceeds that the DA needs to support local farmers if it fulfills its mandate.

“If it comes to sacrificing FTI for the DA then I fully support the direction,” Lo said.

The DOF is already ramping up efforts to privatize state assets to boost the government’s non-tax revenues. Last year, the government raised only P4 billion out of the P40-billion target, amid poor marketing plans and bureaucratic red tape.

Apart from FTI, other government assets that are for disposition this year include the Philippine National Construction Corp., Financial Center Area, Ecology Villages, Mile Long Complex, National Housing Authority-Calooan Property, Fil-Eastern Woods Industries Inc., Pioneer Glass Manufacturing Corp. and Mindanao Progress Corp.

Also included are the Office of the Ombudsman properties in Laguna, Baguio and Batangas, Technology Resources Corp. Al-Amanah Islamic Investment Bank of the Philippines, Sta. Clara Lumber Co. Inc. and Peninsula Development Bank.

These are on top of 28,000 real estate titles in varying sizes.

Privatization is one of the priority measures of the Marcos administration to generate revenues and widen the limited fiscal space without having to raise new taxes.

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2025/03/07/2426412/gsis-ayala-eye-fti-property>

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

DA bans US poultry imports

Bella Cariaso - The Philippine Star

March 7, 2025 | 12:00am



In his Memorandum Order 14, Tiu Laurel said that based on the report submitted by the Deputy Administrator and Chief Veterinary Officer of Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, as of Feb. 20 there were several outbreaks of H5N1 high pathogenicity avian influenza in Indiana, New York and Pennsylvania, affecting domestic birds as confirmed by the National Veterinary Services Laboratories.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has banned the importation of chicken and poultry products from Indiana, New York and Pennsylvania amid the outbreak of bird flu in the United States.

In his Memorandum Order 14, Tiu Laurel said that based on the report submitted by the Deputy Administrator and Chief Veterinary Officer of Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, as of Feb. 20 there were several outbreaks of H5N1 high pathogenicity avian influenza in Indiana, New York and Pennsylvania, affecting domestic birds as confirmed by the National Veterinary Services Laboratories.

Tiu Laurel said the prohibition covered domestic and wild birds and their products including poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs and semen originating from the three states.

Meanwhile, Tiu Laurel has lifted the temporary ban on the importation of domestic and wild birds, as well as poultry products from France.

‘No need for IRR’

Sen. Cynthia Villar, chairperson of the Senate committee on agriculture, food and agrarian reform expressed frustration over what she described as the poor implementation of laws, blaming the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) for diluting legislative intent.

At Wednesday's Kapihan sa Manila Bay forum, Villar questioned why Republic Act 12022, or the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act, has not been implemented amid the continuing entry of smuggled agricultural products and the struggles of farmers, livestock raisers and fisherfolk.

She pointed out that in some cases, the IRR changes the spirit of the law, undermining its original purpose.

“That’s why I made it clear in the law that there is no need for an IRR. The law itself serves as the IRR,” she said. – **Cecille Suerte Felipe**

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2025/03/07/2426463/da-bans-us-poultry-imports>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DA lifts ban on poultry products from France

By: [Jown Manalo](#) - Reporter / [@jownmanaloINQ](#)
INQUIRER.net / 12:40 PM March 06, 2025



INQUIRER STOCK PHOTO

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) has lifted the temporary ban on poultry products from France.

In a statement on Thursday, the DA said Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel ordered the lifting of the ban through Memorandum Order No. 13.

This decision followed an official report from French veterinary authorities to the World Organisation for Animal Health, stating that all reported cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) have “ended with resolved status,” with no additional outbreaks since February 4, 2025.

According to the DA, its Bureau of Animal Industry also reviewed the situation, concluding that “the disease’s containment appears to have been successful.”

“The lifting of the ban is expected to ease trade tensions and support the poultry industry, which has been adversely impacted by the restrictions,” the DA stressed.

Despite this, the agency emphasized that strict quarantine protocols and continued monitoring of all incoming shipments will remain in place to safeguard the country’s biosecurity.

In September 2024, the DA temporarily banned the entry of poultry imports from France due to an HPAI outbreak in Malo, Ille-et-Vilaine, Bretagne, which affected domestic birds.

The restrictions applied to domestic and wild birds, poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs, and poultry semen from France, the DA previously said.

<https://business.inquirer.net/510548/da-lifts-ban-on-poultry-products-from-france>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

DA pushes P380 per kilo pork belly price limit

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

Philippine Daily Inquirer / 06:27 PM March 06, 2025



CHOICE CUTS A stall selling pork at Commonwealth Market in Quezon City—Grig C. Montegrando

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Agriculture (DA) has put a maximum suggested retail price (MSRP) of P350 per kilo for pork shoulder (kasim) and P380 per kilo for pork belly effective March 10 to curb rising retail prices.

“The new pricing initiative considers the ongoing challenges facing the pork industry, particularly the lingering effects of African Swine Fever (ASF),” the DA said in a statement on Thursday.

It also sets the MSRP of P300 per kg for for “sabit ulo” or the price at which traders pass pork to retailers.

However, the new MSRP excludes pork sold at so-called “modern markets” such as supermarkets and hypermarkets given their higher operating costs.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the DA had issued the MSRP for pork after consulting industry players—from producers to wholesalers, traders and retailers.

“We believe the MSRP will help ensure the sustainability of the pork industry, which continues to suffer from ASF’s adverse effects,” Tiu Laurel said.

<https://business.inquirer.net/510630/da-pushes-p380-per-kilo-maximum-pork-belly-price>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Marcos inspects P67.48-M rice processing complex in Isabela

By: [Villamor Visaya Jr.](#) - Correspondent / [@VillVisayaJrINQ](#)
Inquirer Northern Luzon / 12:54 PM March 06, 2025



President Marcos inspects the Rice Processing Complex in Ipil, Echague, Isabela, with Agriculture Secretary Francisco Laurel Jr. and local officials on Thursday, March 6, 2025. | PHOTO: Villamor Visaya Jr. / Inquirer Northern Luzon

ECHAGUE, Isabela — President Marcos Jr. inspected the Rice Processing System II (RPS II) in this town on Thursday (March 6), acknowledging the province’s contribution as the second-largest rice producer in the country.

Marcos noted that the facility is part of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Mechanization Program, representing a P67.48-million investment.

The RPS II, operated by the provincial government, includes a multi-stage rice mill valued at P48.58 million with a capacity of three tons per hour, and five recirculating dryers capable of handling 12 tons, worth P18.9 million. The facility was launched in November 2024.

Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech) Director Dionisio Alvindia said in an interview that the facility aims to reduce production costs and minimize postharvest losses, benefiting the local rice industry.

Alvindia added that the facility would help improve farmers' incomes and ensure a more stable rice supply for consumers.

The RPS II benefits 70,556 farmers registered under the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) in Isabela, covering 66,303 hectares of rice land.

PhilMech plans to provide additional equipment, including silos for storing dried palay, a 30-ton dryer, a 5-8-ton rice mill, and a fortified rice machine. More satellite buying stations will also be established across the province.

President Marcos did not grant media interviews during his visit to Echague town. INQ

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/2041096/marcos-inspects-p67-48-m-rice-processing-complex-in-isabela>

BUSINESS WORLD:

Pork maximum suggested retail price to be enforced next week

March 6, 2025 | 9:49 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR/ MICHAEL VARCAS

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Thursday that it will enforce a maximum suggested retail price (MSRP) scheme for pork in Metro Manila wet markets starting next week, after a consultation with industry members.

The MSRP was set at P380 per kilo for *liempo* (belly) and at P350 per kilo for *kasim* (shoulder) and *pigue* (rear leg), Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. said.

He added that pricing was arrived at following consultations with the pork industry.

He said the agency will also impose a cap of P300 per kilo for *sabit ulo* — the price at which traders sell pork to retailers.

However, pork sold in so-called “modern markets” such as supermarkets and hypermarkets are exempt from the MSRP scheme due to their higher operating costs.

He said the new pricing scheme considers the lingering effects of African Swine Fever (ASF).

“We believe the MSRP will help ensure the sustainability of the pork industry, which continues to suffer from ASF’s adverse effects.”

As of Feb. 14, 19 provinces in nine regions had active ASF cases, according to the Bureau of Animal Industry. First detected in 2019, ASF has spread to 76 provinces, it said.

Mr. Laurel said the MSRP will be reviewed after one month to determine whether adjustments are needed.

Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura Chairman Rosendo So said the industry is doing its part to “alleviate the burdens of Filipino consumers.”

ProPork President Rolando Tambago and National Federation of Hog Farmers, Inc. Chairman Chester Warren Yeo Tan said the MSRP is essential for the long-term stability of the pork industry.

Representatives from the Department of Trade and Industry and the Philippine National Police were also present during the consultation. — **Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2025/03/06/657816/pork-maximum-suggested-retail-price-to-be-enforced-next-week/>

BUSINESS WORLD:

PHL rice inventory declines 4.6% month on month in early February

March 6, 2025 | 9:45 pm



PHILIPPINE STAR/MIGUEL DE GUZMAN

THE national rice inventory at the start of February fell 4.6% month on month, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said.

Rice stocks hit 2.10 million metric tons (MT) as of Feb. 1.

Year on year, the national rice inventory rose 38.9%, it added.

Rice held by households as of Feb. 1 fell 24.7%. Commercial entities held 18.0% less rice month on month, while National Food Authority (NFA) holdings fell 1.5%.

Year on year, NFA stocks rose 516.7%, while rice held by commercial entities rose 30.4%, and holdings of households rose 15.9%.

“Of this month’s total rice stocks, 48.4% were from the commercial sector, 37.8% were from households, and 13.8% were from the NFA depositories,” the PSA said.

“Normally, stock levels in the first three months of the year go down until the dry season harvest starts entering the market,” Federation of Free Farmers National Director Raul Q. Montemayor said via Viber.

He said the year-on-year rise in inventory follows record imports of about 4.8 million MT in 2024, “some of which were not consumed in 2024 and carried over to 2025.”

Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura Executive Director Jayson H. Cainglet said the main concern is the farmgate price of palay at P15-16 per kilo, which could dampen the impact of the harvest on inventories.

He said traders are only willing to pay between P16 and P18 per kilo due to the competition from imported rice, whose landed cost is now at P35 per kilo.

“We hope that under the food security emergency, additional funding will be provided to the Department of Agriculture so it can procure more dry palay at P23-24 per kilo,” he said.

The NFA has raised the buying price to P18 per kilo for fresh palay (unmilled rice) and P24 for clean and dry palay.

NFA administrator Larry del Rosario Lacson said on Wednesday that millers were paying P20-P22 per kilo for clean and dry palay, adding that fresh or wet palay usually fetches P5 less.

Mr. Cainglet noted that the current budget for palay procurement is the equivalent of 12-13 days, or 3% of rice demand.

“Ideally, government procurement should be at least 15% of consumption.”

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.

To bring down rice prices, the government has lowered tariffs and has declared an emergency that triggers the release of government rice stocks.

Arze G. Glipo of the Integrated Rural Development Foundation said on Wednesday that production costs are rising while monopolies in key commodities distorting rice markets.

Eduardo Landayan, Vice-President of the AMMA-KATIPUNAN farmers’ group, noted that in Nueva Ecija and Isabela, which account for more than 20% of national rice output, palay prices have dipped to P15-P18 per kilo because traders are reluctant to buy palay because their warehouses are still stocked with rice imports.

He said the Rice Tariffication Law gave traders and importers access to cheap imported rice that they can use during harvest season to delay buying and force palay prices down.

Crop scientist Teodoro M. Mendoza said the threat of climate change and reliance on the international rice market subject the industry to price volatility, especially if major rice exporters suffer from extreme weather events.

He urged the government to give the NFA an additional P100 billion to procure at least 25% of the domestic rice harvest.

He also called for measures to raise household incomes of farmers and workers, expand irrigated land, and diversify sources of food to include more plant-based protein. — **Kyle Aristophere T. Atienza**

<https://www.bworldonline.com/economy/2025/03/06/657811/phl-rice-inventory-declines-4-6-month-on-month-in-early-february/>

REMATE:

‘Bigas-pay later’ alok ng NFA sa LGUs

March 6, 2025 18:20



MANILA, Philippines- Pinapayagan na ngayon ang local government units (LGUs) na umutang ng National Food Authority (NFA) rice.

Inihayag ito ni Palace Press Officer at Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro matapos na makapulong si Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., araw ng Miyerkules.

Sa press briefing sa Malakanyang, ipinaalam ni Castro kay Tiu Laurel ang sentimyento ng ibang LGUs na hindi kayang bumili ng bultong NFA rice.

Ani Castro, ang LGUs na kapos ang pondo ay kailangan na makipag-ugnayan sa Food Terminal Terminal Incorporated (FTI) para sa credit purchase ng NFA rice.

“Ang sabi sa atin ni DA Secretary Laurel, puwedeng kumuha ng bigas, utang, kausapin ang FTI,” ang sinabi ni Castro.

“Puwede silang magbayad after. So ‘yun po ang good news. Hindi po kailangang maglabas ng cash ang LGUs na hindi po kakayanin na bumili kaagad ng NFA rice. So, makipag-ugnayan lang po sa FTI at sila po mabibigyan,” dagdag na wika nito.

Nauna rito, pinayuhan ni Castro ang LGUs na magbenta ng NFA rice sa presyong P33 per kg. sa halip na P35 para pagaanin ang kalagayan ng mga consumers.

Nagpapatupad ang NFA ng iba’t ibang istrategiya para paluwagin ang espasyo ng bodega nito para sa local palay procurement sa buong bansa, sa gitna ng mabagal na pagbibitiw ng rice stocks sa LGUs.

Matatandaang hinikayat ng NFA ang LGUs na bilisan ang pagkuha ng NFA rice mula sa DA, sa pamamagitan ng FTI, sa ilalim ng food security emergency para sa bigas.

Tinatayang 70 LGUs ang nagpahiwatig ng kanilang interes na makakuha ng NFA rice.

Sa ngayon, tanging ang San Juan at Navotas sa Metro Manila at Camarines Sur sa Bicol Region ang nakakuha ng inisyal na ipinalabas na NFA rice. **Kris Jose**

<https://remate.ph/bigas-pay-later-alok-ng-nfa-sa-lgus/>

REMATE:

Rice processing system sa Isabela ininspeksyon ni PBBM

March 6, 2025 14:07



MANILA, Philippines- Pinangunahan ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ang pag-inspeksyon sa Rice Processing System II (RPS II) sa Echague, Isabela.

Ang pasilidad ay bahagi ng Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Mechanization Program na may kabuuang investment na P67.48 million.

Inilunsad noong November 2024, kasama sa RPS II ang multi-stage rice mill na may kapasidad na tatlong tonelada kada oras na may halagang P48.58 milyon at limang recirculating dryers na may kakayahan na humawak ng 12 tonelada, may halagang P18.9 million.

Layon ng pasilidad na bawasan ang production costs at postharvest losses, na sa kalaunan ay mapakikinabangan ng local rice industry.

Sa kalaunan pa rin ay magresulta ito sa mas maayos na kita para sa lokal na magsasaka at mas matatag na suplay ng bigas para sa consumers. **Kris Jose**

<https://remate.ph/rice-processing-system-sa-isabela-ininspeksyon-ni-pbbm/>

REMATE:

Pag-import ng ibon mula sa France pwede na – DA

March 6, 2025 13:13



MANILA, Philippines- Inalis na ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang pansamantalang pagbabawal sa pag-aangkat ng mga domestic at wild birds, gayundin ang mga poultry products mula sa France.

Sa memorandum noong Oktubre 13, iniutos ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. ang pag-aalis sa pagbabawal.

Ayon sa DA, ang pagsiklab noong nakaraang taon sa France ay una nang nag-udyok sa DA na magpataw ng mga paghihigpit sa pag-import ng mga manok sa bansang Pransya, kabilang ang karne ng manok, mga sisiw na nasa araw, itlog, at semilya.

Nabatid na ang desisyong ito ay dumating pagkatapos ng pagtatasa ng Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) ng DA at maingat na pagsusuri sa sitwasyon sa France, kung saan mukhang matagumpay ang pagpigil sa sakit.

Ang pag-alis ng pagbabawal ay inaasahang magpapagaan ng tensyon sa kalakalan at suportahan ang industriya ng manok, na naapektuhan ng mga paghihigpit.

Gayunman, binigyang-diin ng DA ang patuloy na pagsubaybay sa lahat ng mga papasok na kargamento, na may mahigpit na mga protocol sa quarantine upang matiyak na ang biosecurity ng bansa ay nananatiling hindi nakompromiso. **Santi Celario**

<https://remate.ph/pag-import-ng-ibon-mula-sa-france-pwede-na-da/>

REMATE:

\$1-B utang para sa agrikultura makukuha ng Pinas sa World Bank

March 6, 2025 08:29



MANILA, Philippines – INAASAHAN na lalagdaan ng Pilipinas ngayong Hulyo ang record-high \$1-billion loan agreement (mahigit sa ₱57 billion) mula sa World Bank para pondohan ang agricultural transformation program.

Sa katunayan ayon sa Department of Agriculture (DA) ay nakipagdayalogo na si Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel kay World Bank Country Director Zafer Mustafaoğlu noong nakaraang buwan para repasuhin ang progreso ng kasunduan.

Muling pinagtibay naman ni Mustafaoğlu ang commitment ng bangko na magbigay ng pondo para sa Philippine Sustainable Agricultural Transformation (PSAT) loan program.

Ang dokumentong inilathala sa website ng World Bank ay nagpapahiwatig na ang PSAT ay may pagtataya na gagastos ng \$20 billion (mahigit sa ₱1.1 trillion), kung saan babalikatin ng Philippine government ang \$11.895 billion (mahigit sa ₱683 billion) mula sa \$12.8975 billion (mahigit sa ₱741 billion) operation cost. Sa \$1-billion funding ng World bank, nangangahulugan na magkakaroon ng financing gap na \$2.5 million.

Sinabi pa ng Washington-based multilateral lender na noong nakaraang taon, nakatakdang aprubahan ng board ang loan sa Hunyo 5 ngayong taon.

Ang paglagda sa pagitan ng dalawang partido ay nakaplano ngayong Hulyo. Hindi naman nagbigay ng eksaktong petsa ang DA. Sinasabing dapat na sumabay ito sa 4th State of the Nation Address (SONA) ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Sa oras na malagdaan, tanda na ito ng unang proyekto ng Pilipinas sa ilalim ng World Bank's Program-for-Results (PforR) financing framework.

Sa kabilang dako, ang Department of Finance (DOF), ang ahensiya na responsable naman sa financial resources ng gobyerno ay manghihiram sa ngalan ng DA, implementing agency ng gobyerno.

Ang PSAT, na aabot ng limang taon ang operasyon, ay nakatakda namang ilunsad sa Agosto.

Sa kabilang dako, layon ng DA-led program na palakasin ang agri-fishery sector ng bansa sa pamamagitan ng “targeted support” sa agri-food systems, kabilang na ang ‘climate-responsive strategies, policy reforms, diversification, at palakasin ang fiscal management.’

“PSAT aims to improve the efficiency of government spending while ensuring sustainable outcomes by building institutional capacity and strengthening governance,” ang sinabi ng departamento.

Sa pakikipagpulong pa rin ni Tiu Laurel kay Mustafaoğlu, pinag-usapan din ng mga ito ang \$15-million grant na popondohan ng United Kingdom (UK) sa ilalim naman ng Technical Assistance for Sustainable Agricultural Transformation (TASAT).

“TASAT will support the DA’s implementation of PSAT by enhancing internal audits, evaluating resource use alternatives, assessing sectoral transformation, and expanding the availability of improved planting materials for high-value crops,” ayon sa ulat.

Ang supplementary funding ay ie-endorso ng DOF at National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) sa pamamagitan ng Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC).

Tiniyak naman ni Tiu Laurel na ipagpapatuloy ng departamento ang pakikipagtulungan sa World Bank upang matiyak ang napapanahong pagsasagawa ng PSAT.

“This multiyear loan from the World Bank will provide us with the critical resources needed to advance the government’s food security agenda and promote sustainable agriculture,” ang sinabi ni Tiu Laurel.

Sinabi pa niya na maisusulong ng PSAT ang mga pangunahing development sa mga lugar na makatutulong na iangat ang buhay ng milyong filipino na umaasa lamang sa pagsasaka at pangisdaan. *Kris Jose*

<https://remate.ph/1-b-utang-para-sa-agrikultura-makukuha-ng-pinas-sa-world-bank/>

REMATE:

Presyo ng baboy bababa ngayong Marso — DA

March 6, 2025 08:16



MANILA, Philippines – Inaasahan ng Department of Agriculture (DA) na bababa ang presyo ng baboy ngayong Marso matapos ang kasunduan ng mga stakeholder ng hog industry na ibaba ang presyo.

Ayon kay DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa, bumababa na ang farmgate price ng baboy sa ₱220 hanggang ₱240 kada kilo mula sa dating ₱250 hanggang ₱260, na magdudulot ng ₱10 hanggang ₱20 bawas-presyo sa pamilihan.

Batay sa pinakahuling monitoring ng DA, ang presyo ng pork ham ay nasa ₱350 hanggang ₱420 mula sa ₱370 hanggang ₱430 noong simula ng buwan. Bumaba rin ang presyo ng pork belly sa ₱375 hanggang ₱480 mula sa dating ₱480.

Ang pagtaas ng produksyon ng baboy at ang nalalapit na paglabas ng bakuna laban sa African Swine Fever (ASF) sa commercial level ay inaasahang magpapatatag sa suplay at magdudulot ng karagdagang pagbaba sa presyo. Samantala, hindi pa inaanunsyo ng DA ang opisyal na pagpapatupad ng suggested retail price (MSRP) sa baboy. *RNT*

<https://remate.ph/presyo-ng-baboy-bababa-ngayong-marso-da/>

ABANTE:

NFA rice ipapautang sa mga LGU

Abante News

• **March 6, 2025**



Maari nang utangin ng mga local government units ang bigas ng National Food Authority (NFA) lalo na sa mga lokal na pamahalaan na walang sapat na pondo.

Ito ang ibinalita ni Palace Press Officer Atty. Claire Castro matapos makausap si Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.

Sa press briefing sa Malacañang, sinabi ni Castro pinapayagan ang mga LGU na kumuha ng NFA rice ng kahit na walang pondo dahil maaaring bayaran ito sa loob ng 30 araw.

Makipag-ugnayan lamang aniya ang mga LGU sa Food Terminal Incorporated para mabigyan sila ng NFA rice na maari nilang ibenta sa kanilang constituents

“Ang sabi sa atin ni Secretary Laurel puwedeng kumuha ng bigas, utang, kausapin ang FTI at may 30 days na ia-allow para kung may nagbayad na sa kanila, nabenta na ‘yung bigas sa constituents then puwede na sila magbayad after. Hindi kailangan maglabas ng cash ang LGUs na hindi kakayanin na bumili agad ng NFA rice. Makipag-ugnayan lamang sila sa FTI para mabigyan sila,” ani Castro. (Aileen Taliping)

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2025/03/06/nfa-rice-ipapautang-sa-mga-lgu/>

MANILA STANDARD:

MSRP for pork starts on March 10 — DA

By Othel V. Campos

March 7, 2025, 12:30 am

The Department of Agriculture (DA) said yesterday it will enforce a maximum suggested retail price (MSRP) of P350 per kilogram for pork shoulder (kasim) and P380 for pork belly (liempo) in Metro Manila starting March 10, 2025.

However, pork sold in “modern markets,” such as supermarkets and hypermarkets, will be exempt from the MSRP due to their higher operating costs.

Agriculture secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. said the measure aims to ease the financial burden on consumers amid persistently high meat prices and ongoing challenges in the pork industry, particularly the lingering effects of African Swine Fever (ASF).

“After consulting industry stakeholders—from producers to retailers—we believe the MSRP will help sustain the pork industry, which continues to suffer from ASF’s impact,” he explained after a meeting with pork industry stakeholders.

The DA will also set a P300 per kilo minimum selling price (MSP) for “sabit ulo,” or the rate at which traders pass pork to retailers.

The pricing scheme will be reviewed after a month to assess the need for adjustments.

Undersecretary for livestock Dante Palabrica noted that industry groups support the government’s efforts to make pork more affordable.

“They recognize that if prices exceed P400 per kilo, consumers may shift to imported pork or other protein sources like chicken and fish,” he said.

Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura chairman Rosendo So said his group supports the DA’s initiative and will continue to do their best “to help ease the burden on Filipino consumers.”

ProPork president Rolando Tambago and National Federation of Hog Farmers Inc. chairman Chester Warren Yeo Tan agreed that the new measure will benefit both consumers and the entire pork value chain.

Officials from the Department of Trade and Industry and the Philippine National Police were present during the consultation.

<https://manilastandard.net/news/national/314565645/msrp-for-pork-starts-on-march-10-da.html>

THE MANILA TIMES:

La Niña expected to be short-lived

By Agence France-Presse

March 7, 2025

GENEVA, Switzerland — The cooling weather phenomenon La Niña that emerged late last year is weak and likely to be brief, the United Nations said Thursday, dashing hopes it could help rein in soaring global temperatures.

"The weak La Niña event that emerged in December 2024 is likely to be short-lived," the United Nations' World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said in its latest update.

There is currently a 60-percent probability that conditions will shift back to neutral between this month and May, it said, adding that chances increased to 70 percent between April and June.

The WMO had last year voiced hope the return of La Niña would help lower temperatures slightly after months of global heat records fueled in part by La Niña's opposite number, the warming El Niño weather pattern, which gripped the planet for a year from June 2023.

But the phenomenon appeared unlikely to significantly impact temperatures after 2024 ticked in as the hottest year ever recorded.

Despite the presence of weak La Niña conditions, WMO pointed out Thursday that "January 2025 was the warmest January on record."

And it said its latest global seasonal climate update, which looks beyond just the impact of the El Niño and La Niña phenomena, noted that "above-normal sea surface temperatures [were] expected to persist across all major oceans — except for the near-equatorial eastern Pacific."

It also forecast "above-average temperatures over nearly all land areas worldwide."

La Niña refers to a naturally occurring climate phenomenon that cools the ocean surface temperatures in large swathes of the tropical Pacific Ocean, coupled with winds, rains and changes in atmospheric pressure. In many locations, especially in the tropics, La Niña produces the opposite climate impacts to El Niño, which heats up the surface of the oceans, leading to drought in some parts of the world and triggering heavy downpours elsewhere.

The agency said the probability of El Niño developing again between now and June was "negligible."

While both are natural climate events, WMO stressed they were "taking place in the broader context of human-induced climate change, which is increasing global temperatures, exacerbating extreme weather and climate, and impacting seasonal rainfall and temperature patterns."

WMO chief Celeste Saulo stressed in the update that seasonal forecasts for El Niño and La Niña, and the associated impacts on weather and climate patterns globally were "an important tool to inform early warnings and early action," and help support decision-making.

"These forecasts translate into millions of dollars worth in economic savings for key sectors like agriculture, energy and transport, and save thousands of lives over the years by enabling disaster risk preparedness," she said.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2025/03/07/news/national/la-nia-expected-to-be-short-lived/2068752>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

‘Tame February inflation should spur more rate cuts’

Reine Juvierre S. Alberto

March 7, 2025

THE easing of inflation in February gives the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) more elbow room to resume its rate-cutting cycle in its next meeting in April, according to economists.

Inflation cooled to 2.1 percent in February 2025, from 2.9 percent in January 2025 and 3.4 percent in February 2024. It is also the lowest recorded inflation rate since September 2024's 1.9 percent. (See: <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/03/05/inflation-drops-to-2-1-in-feb-lowest-in-5-months-psa/>).

With the inflation print falling below the BSP's forecast range of 2.2 to 3 percent, Citi economist Nalin Chutchotitham said the central bank could resume cutting interest rates by a total of 75 basis points this year—25 bps each in April, August and December, respectively. This would bring down key policy rates to 5 percent.

“In terms of monetary policy conditions, things were still somewhat tight last year, despite the three policy rate cuts by the BSP last year,” Chutchotitham said in a press chat on Thursday.

She said another two 25-bps cut is expected to be delivered by the BSP in 2026, which will reduce key policy rates to 4.50 percent.

The central bank, despite being cautious amid various global uncertainties, could resume the reduction of interest rates in April as inflation is expected to settle at around the middle of its target due to lower tariffs on food imports, according to Chutchotitham.

She said bringing down interest rates down to 5 percent will allow the economy to grow to its potential, which is estimated at around 6 percent.

However, “there are still a lot of things to consider. Surprises can happen on both upside and downside,” Chutchotitham added.

With a “surprising” inflation in February 2025, she said Citi adjusted its inflation forecast for the Philippines to 2.6 percent from 3.2 percent in 2025.

Meanwhile, HSBC Economist Aris Dacanay said the BSP could cut rates regardless of the action of the US Federal Reserve.

“With inflation finding itself within the lower-end range of the BSP's target band, there is room for the economy to absorb any foreign exchange-induced inflation if the policy rate differential between the BSP and the Fed were to narrow,” Dacanay said.

Also, household consumption slightly stumbling due to the currently high interest rate environment could pressure the BSP to ease policy rates.

“Given low inflation, we believe the BSP has room to rebalance its risks from forex stability and inflation to supporting growth,” he said.

In the coming months, Dacanay said the room to rebalance risks will likely grow larger as global oil prices continue to ease while global rice prices have already fallen substantially.

“With the government aiming to boost rice supply in the economy via its buffer stocks, we can expect retail rice prices to continue delivering downward pressure on inflation,” Dacanay said.

“Our base case is for the BSP to resume its easing cycle in June this year. Due to inflation surprising to the downside, risks are tilted towards the BSP resuming its easing cycle even earlier during its next rate-setting meeting in April,” he added.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/03/07/tame-february-inflation-should-spur-more-rate-cuts/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

Government says maximum suggested retail price for pork in wet markets starts March 10

Ada Pelonia

March 6, 2025

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said it would plow ahead with the maximum suggested retail price (MSRP) for pork in Metro Manila wet markets starting March 10.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the DA will impose an MSRP of P380 per kilo for pork belly or liempo and P350 per kilo for kasim or pork shoulder and pigue or pork ham.

The agency said the move to impose an MSRP on pork aims to ease the financial strain on consumers reeling from the surge in meat prices.

The new pricing also considered the ongoing challenges facing the pork industry, particularly the lingering effects of African swine fever (ASF), it added.

The DA will also impose a maximum suggested price of P300 per kilo for sabit ulo, or the price at which traders pass pork to retailers.

Laurel said the MSRP will be reviewed after one month to determine if adjustments to the pricing should be considered.

However, the agency clarified that pork sold in supermarkets and hypermarkets will be exempt from the MSRP, given their higher operating costs.

The DA said it decided to impose an MSRP on pork following consultations with industry stakeholders, such as producers, wholesalers, traders, and retailers, who said this move would ensure the pork industry's sustainability, which continues to suffer from the ASF's adverse effects.

Meanwhile, DA Undersecretary for Livestock Dante Palabrica said industry groups have shown support to the government's initiatives to make pork more affordable.

"They've recognized that if prices stay above P400 per kilo, consumers may shift to imported pork or other protein sources like chicken and fish," Palabrica said.

For Chester Warren Yeo Tan, chairman of the National Federation of Hog Farmers Inc. (NatFed), the MSRP would stabilize pork prices, thus benefiting consumers and the entire pork value chain, which continues to be challenged by ASF.

Retail prices of pork ham in Metro Manila markets range from P350 to P420 per kilo, while pork belly stood between P375 to P480 per kilo, based on the latest government price monitoring report.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/03/06/government-says-maximum-suggested-retail-price-for-pork-in-wet-markets-starts-march-10/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

DA bans poultry products from 3 US states

Ada Pelonia

March 6, 2025

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) imposed a temporary ban on poultry products from three US states where bird flu outbreaks have been confirmed.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. signed Memorandum Order 14, which authorized the ban on the entry of imported domestic and wild birds, including their products such as poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs, and semen from the states of Indiana, New York, and Pennsylvania.

The DA said it decided to issue the ban after US veterinary officials confirmed several outbreaks of H5N1 High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) in these states.

Following this report, Laurel ordered the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) to suspend the issuance of sanitary and phytosanitary import clearance (SPSIC) to the affected commodity.

He also noted that only birds slaughtered or products processed 14 days before the first outbreak in the particular locality would be allowed to enter the country.

In this case, Indiana's first outbreak was recorded on January 3, New York's on January 17, and Pennsylvania's on February 4.

The agency warned that shipments that failed to comply would be stopped and confiscated by veterinary quarantine officers or inspectors at all major ports of entry.

The DA recently imposed a ban from poultry goods that originated in Illinois, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Maryland, and Missouri.

Ban lifted

IN a separate order, the DA lifted the temporary ban it slapped on poultry products from France. Laurel signed MO 13, which lifted the suspension of shipments of poultry imports, including poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs, and semen from the European nation.

The DA said it decided to lift the ban after French veterinary authorities reported to the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) that all reported cases of HPAI have ended with resolved status, and no additional outbreaks were reported after February 4, 2025.

The agency said the lifting of the ban is expected to ease trade tensions and provide support to the poultry industry, which has been adversely affected by the restrictions.

The DA also stressed that the continued monitoring of all incoming shipments, with strict quarantine protocols to ensure the country's biosecurity, remains uncompromised.

Meanwhile, an agriculture official said the long-awaited bird flu vaccines are expected to hurdle field trials by the end of March this year.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said the trial results for bird flu vaccines would be presented to the BAI through the Veterinary Technical Advisory Committee (VTAC), which would then be endorsed to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

"By the end of this quarter, the two trials would be concluded and then the application for approval will be sent to the FDA," de Mesa told reporters in a previous interview.

He said the vaccines undergoing field trials came from companies in Hungary and Germany.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/03/06/da-bans-poultry-products-from-3-us-states/>

BUSINESS MIRROR:

Integrated approach to rice production key to lower prices, says former Labor official

Ada Pelonia
March 6, 2025

An integrated approach in rice production would help make food less expensive, according to a former labor undersecretary. During a press conference organized by the Integrated Rural Development Foundation (IRDF) last Wednesday, former Labor Undersecretary Rene E. Ofreneo urged the Department of Agriculture (DA) to adopt an integrated approach to rice sector development to curb rising prices.

This would entail support in rice production, post-harvest, logistics and transportation, marketing, and value chain development.

“We need to emulate a strong state intervention in rice trade as exemplified by countries like Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, and China,” Ofreneo said.

Citing data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), IRDF Executive Director Arze Glipo said that in certain provinces like Kalinga, Mountain Province, Olongapo, Zambales, Batangas, Romblon, and Albay, among others, rice prices range from P50 to P60 per kilo as of February 2025.

Glipo noted that among the reasons behind sustained price increases were rising production costs and the surge of rice imports due to the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL).

The country’s imported rice shipments hit 4.78 million metric tons (MMT) in 2024, nearly 33 percent higher than the 3.6 MMT imported in 2023.

Teodoro Mendoza, agronomist and former professor of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), stressed that reliance on the imported staple grain would subject the country to price volatilities, especially if exporting countries suffer extreme weather events.

With this, he called for the amendment of the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL) to further increase the National Food Authority’s (NFA) buffer stock requirement to cover 60 days of national consumption or 25 percent of the country’s rice output.

“That will translate to about P100 billion additional budget for NFA excluding yung pagdami ng mga warehouses na ipapatayo,” Mendoza said.

Retail prices of imported rice in Metro Manila markets range from P44 to P46 per kilo for well-milled and P36 to P46 per kilo for regular milled, based on the latest government price monitoring report.

Local rice prices range between P42 and P52 per kilo for well-milled and P38 and P45 per kilo for regular milled, government data showed.

<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2025/03/06/integrated-approach-to-rice-production-key-to-lower-prices-says-former-labor-official/>

MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT:

DA bars poultry imports from 3 US states; lifts ban on France

By Jed Macapagal

March 7, 2025

The Department of Agriculture (DA) banned temporarily the entry of poultry products from Indiana, New York and Pennsylvania in the United States, but has lifted the ban on the import of domestic and wild birds, as well as poultry products from France.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. issued separate memorandum orders on the measures, which cover poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs and semen.

Under Memorandum Order No. 13 series of 2025 signed on March 4, the DA secretary ordered the lifting of the import ban on France after French veterinary authorities reported to the World Organization for Animal Health that all reported cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in their country have ended with resolved status, with no additional outbreaks after Feb. 4, 2025.

The DA said the lifting of the ban is expected to support the local poultry industry, but emphasized the continued monitoring of all incoming shipments with strict quarantine protocols to ensure the country's biosecurity remains uncompromised.

Meanwhile, Memorandum Order No. 14 series of 2025 also signed by Tiu Laurel on March 4 said poultry products from the three US states are temporarily banned after the American deputy administrator and chief veterinary officer of the US Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service reported several outbreaks of H5N1 HPAI as of Feb. 20, 2025.

The US National Veterinary Services Laboratories also confirmed the cases affected domestic birds, DA added.

Data from the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) showed the Philippines imported 472.21 million kg of chicken meat for the entire 2024.

BAI's data also showed that for the period, the Philippines bought 158.16 million kg of chicken from the US, or 12.3 percent of the country's total chicken imports.

No data is available on the volume that came from the three particular US states.

On the other hand, France provided 441,663 kg of chicken to the Philippines, equivalent to 0.09 percent of all chicken meat that entered the country last year.

DA's monitoring of public markets as of Wednesday showed the prevailing retail prices of whole dressed chicken range between P190 and P240 per kg.

<https://malaya.com.ph/business/corporate/da-bars-poultry-imports-from-3-us-states-lifts-ban-on-france/>

MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT:

Pork MSRP in National Capital Region takes effect March 10

March 7, 2025

The Department of Agriculture (DA) said a maximum suggested retail price (MSRP) for pork in National Capital Region (NCR) wet markets will be implemented starting March 10.

The MSRP will be set at P380 per kg for liempo and P350 per kg for kasim and pigue, the DA said in a statement on Thursday.

The DA will also be imposing a maximum price of P300 per kg for “sabit ulo” or the price at which traders pass pork to retailers.

“This decision was made after consultations with industry stakeholders—from producers to wholesalers, traders and retailers. We believe the MSRP will help ensure the sustainability of the pork industry, which continues to suffer from ASF’s (African swine fever) adverse effects,” said Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.

The MSRP will be reviewed after one month to determine whether adjustments will have to be made, he added.

However, the DA said pork sold in modern markets such as supermarkets and hypermarkets will be exempt from the MSRP given their higher operating costs.

<https://malaya.com.ph/business/corporate/pork-msrp-in-national-capital-region-takes-effect-march-10/>

ABANTE TONITE:

Agri chief kumpiyansang babagsak presyo ng pork sa MSRP

March 6, 2025

Magpapatupad na ang Department of Agriculture (DA) ng price ceiling o maximum suggested retail price (MSRP) para sa baboy sa National Capital Region sa darating na linggo para bumaba ang presyo nito tulad nang nangyari sa bigas.

Sabi ng DA, sa ika-10 ng Marso magpapatupad ito ng MSRP sa liempo na P380 per kilo at P350 per kilo sa kasim at pigue. Pati ang tinatawag na sabit ulo ay papatawan ng P300 per kilo na MSRP. Tinimbang ng kagawaran ang naging epekto ng African Swine Fever at iba pang mga hamon sa industriya nang magdesisyon ito sa MSRP ng baboy.

“This decision was made after consultations with industry stakeholders—from producers to wholesalers, traders, and retailers,” ayon kay Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. Naniniwala ang kalihim na magiging matatag ang presyo ng karneng baboy sa pagpapatupad ng MSRP.

Gayunpaman, hindi kasama sa MSRP ang mga supermarket at hypermarket dahil mas mataas ang operating cost ng mga ito, sabi ng DA.

Sabi ni DA Undersecretary for Livestock Dante Palabrica, suportado ito ng industriya. Kapag lumampas kasi sa P400 per kilo ang presyo, maaaring imported pork na ang bilhin ng mga konsumer, o manok o mag-isda na lang ang mga tao. (Eileen Mencias)

<https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2025/03/06/agri-chief-kumpiyansang-babagsak-presyo-ng-pork-sa-msrp/>

PILIPINO STAR NGAYON:

Ban sa bird imports mula France, inalis na ng DA

Angie dela Cruz

March 7, 2025 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Tinanggal na ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang temporary ban para sa importation ng domestic at wild birds gayundin ng poultry products mula France.

Sa ipinalabas na Memorandum Order No. 13, sinabi ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. na ang pagtatanggal sa import ban ay dulot ng official report mula sa French Veterinary Authorities sa World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) na ang lahat ng reported cases ng HPAI ay naresolba na at wala nang naging dagdag na outbreaks makaraan ang Pebrero 4, 2025.

Noong nagdaang taon, inutos ng DA ang French poultry imports kasama na ang poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs at semen dahil sa outbreak ng virus.

Nagsagawa ng assessment ang DA's Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) at pag-aaral sa sitwasyon sa France at nakumpirmang naresolba na ang ourbreak kayat inalis na ang ban hinggil dito.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/metro/2025/03/07/2426544/ban-sa-bird-imports-mulafrance-inalis-na-ng-da>

PILIPINO STAR NGAYON:

Mas malakas na suporta sa magsasaka, iginiit ni Bong Go

March 7, 2025 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Muling pinagtibay ni Senador Christopher “Bong” Go ang kanyang pangako sa pagsuporta sa mga Pilipinong magsasaka at pagpapalakas sa mga serbisyo sa pangangalagang pangkalusugan sa kanyang pagdalo sa Farmers Congress sa Carmen, Bohol.

Inimbitahan ni Mayor Conchita Torbio delos Reyes, humarap si Go sa mga magsasaka at mga lokal na opisyal kung saan ay itinampok niya ang kanyang hands-on approach sa governance sa pagtataguyod ng food security, pagpapabuti ng access sa mga serbisyong medikal at pagpapalakas sa kabataan bilang mga lider sa hinaharap ng bansa.

Binigyang-diin ni Go, miyembro ng Senate committee on agriculture, na ang mga magsasaka ang backbone ng food security ng bansa at dapat unahin sa mga programa ng gobyerno.

Isa ang senador sa co-author ng Republic Act No. 11901, o ang Agriculture, Fisheries, and Rural Development Financing Enhancement Act of 2022. Pinalalakas ng batas na ito ang mga mekanismo sa pananalapi para sa mga magsasaka at mangingisda para matiyak na mayroon silang access sa mahahalagang resources sa produktibidad at kabuhayan.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2025/03/07/2426533/mas-malakas-na-suporta-sa-magsasaka-iginiit-ni-bong-go>