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Frozen meat sa Balintawak Market, inuuod

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Big money in Mestiza ampalaya

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Navotas lawmaker urged to suspend fishing boat licensing

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Frozen meat sa Balintawak Market, inuuod

Malaki ang posibilidad na ikamatay ng situmang makakain ang ibinebentaang frozen meat sa Balintawak Market sa Quezon City.

Babalita ito ng National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) matapos na mag-inspeksyon at kumpiska- hin ang umahabot sa 150 kilos ng frozen meat na nagkakahalaga ng P20,000 sa nasabing public market.

Ayon sa NMIS, nakitaan ng mga nakumpis- kang karne ng parasites o lintas na matatag ang ikamatay ng makakain kina. Nadiskubre rin ang mga atay ng baboy na inuuod na pero ibinentata pa rin.

"Yung worm hindi namamatay 'yung eggs. Pweden mahawa sa'y o. 'Pag ito'y nagtagal sa bayop, kayang patayin ang hayop," sabi ni Dr. Rolando Marquez ng NMIS-National Capital Region.

Dahil dito, inabisinhan ng mga opisyal ng NMIS ang mga vendor na nagtitinda pa ng mga nabubulok at inuuod na atay at karne ng mga baboy, baka at manok na sa susunod na mahuli sila ay kakasuhan na at hindi na makakapagtinda sa Balintawak Market.

"Vendors who continue to sell mishandled meat will be fined P50,000-P100,000 for the first offense, P200,000 for the second offense, and P300,000-P500,000 for the third offense. Their NMIS license may also be canceled at the third of- fense," ayon kay Marquez.

Kasahay nito, isa manang meat vendor ang sinemuman, din ng nag-inspeksayong mga taga- NMIS dahil nakitaang nagtutadad ng paninda sa ibabaw ng karton na mahigiit na inipindubawa- wal dahil makakaaspekt o umano ito sa kalidad ng mga karne.

"Yung ma-accumulate na contaminant niw na pwedeng magkaroon ng formation ng dirt, ma-
Villar calls on PCG to protect fisheries sector

By VANNE ELAINE P. TERRAZOLA

Senator Cynthia Villar is seeking the help of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) to boost the country's agricultural sector and ease the lives of farmers and fisherfolk.

Villar, chair of the Senate agriculture and food committee, said the PCG's mandate not only in keeping maritime security but also in marine protection is tantamount to protecting the fisheries sector.

"There is a huge link between that and our agriculture sector and the future food security. We know that the fisheries sector is a big part of our agriculture sector," said Villar during the launch of the PCG Auxiliary Eco Projects and Awarding of Fishery Livelihood Assistance in Subic Bay, Zambales recently.

Villar called for the strict enforcement of the Republic Act 10654 or the Act to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing. She said the arrest of illegal fishers would help the sector since the penalties will be allocated for fishery law enforcement and assistance to poor fisherfolk.

She likewise stressed that there should be a continuous push for legislative measures that would help improve farmers and fisherfolk.

Villar said agriculture contributes over 10 percent to the country's Gross Domestic Product, and fisheries, she added, gives between 15 to 18 percent of the profit in the agriculture sector. She, however, said farmers and fisherfolk still comprise majority or 40 percent of Filipinos living below the poverty line.
Big money in Mestiza ampalaya

A number of farmers from Pampanga are reaping high yield and big profits from their crops of Mestiza ampalaya, a new hybrid released for commercial planting three years ago by East-West Seed.

Mestiza has now become a favorite of farmers for a number of good reasons. For one, it is high-yielding and the fruits are mostly Class A, thus commanding a high price in the market. The variety is also resistant to Namamaraako, a serious disease that is said to be a cucumber aphid-borne yellow virus. The fruits also have a good shelf life. The light green color is another characteristic favored by consumers.

According to Ric Reyes of East-West, consumers perceive that light green ampalaya fruits are less bitter than the dark green varieties.

One fellow who made millions of pesos from his Mestiza crop planted on 7,000 square meters is Oscar Manalansan, 59, of Brgy. Santiago, Lubao, Pampanga. In September 2016, he planted Mestiza on 7,000 square meters. About 43 days later, he started harvesting from his plants. According to him, he made a total of 16 harvests, each harvest averaging 2,500 kilos of mostly Class A fruits.

Because it was an off-season crop and the supply was limited, Manalansan enjoyed a high price of P80 per kilo. There were also times when the price reached P100 per kilo. Because of his big income, he was able to build a new house in Calangain, Lubao.

Rodelo Manalansan, a brother of Oscar, also plants Mestiza ampalaya besides other varieties from East-West like D-Max tohato, Djangoo finger pep-

FLORIDABLANCA MESTIZA AMPALAYA GROWER – Ronnie Capulong, 44, the Brgy. Captain of San Ramon, Floridablanca, Pampanga, is one of the farmers in his province who is making bumper harvests of Mestiza ampalaya, a new hybrid released by East-West Seed. In photo, he is flanked by Eric Hojilla and Ric Reyes of East-West Seed. In front of them is a bumper harvest of good quality fruits that command a high price in the market.
per. In December last year, Rodolfo’s wife Arlene sold their harvest of Mestiza at the Dinalupihan market for P100 per kilo. Rodolfo rents five hectares at P25,000 per hectare per year where he plants Mestiza and other East-West varieties. He said that renting land for farming has its advantages. Whenever there is a buildup of pests and diseases in one location, he can always look for another place to rent.

In Floridablanca town, there are also successful Mestiza growers. One of them is Brgy. Captain Ronnie Capulong, 44, of Brgy. San Ramon. He also likes the high-yield of Mestiza and its resistance to the Namamarako disease. Floridablanca is considered as a major ampalaya producer in Central Luzon. A total of 250 hectares are said to be planted to ampalaya each season.

BLOCKBUSTER HYBRID IN VIETNAME – Meanwhile, East-West Seed has reported a new ampalaya variety has become a blockbuster in Vietnam. This is HMT 128 which is also very high-yielding because it is resistant to diseases.

Earlier, for more than ten years, two ampalaya varieties were the big money-makers in Vietnam. These were the HMT 241 and HMT 241. As much as 20 tons of seeds of the two varieties were sold each year in the past 10 years. That was a really big amount. If each kilo sold for just US$300 a kilo, the income of the company was a staggering $8 million from the seeds each year. But it could be more.

BITTER GOURD FOR INDIA – East-West Seed has also developed earlier another blockbuster ampalaya for India. This is called Palee, a spiny variety that has become a favorite not only in India but also in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. One farmer from Bangladesh, India, named Anamnraju is so happy about Palee because it is disease-resistant and high-yielding. From one hectare he could harvest as much as 40 tons with a market value of 800,000 rupees equivalent to $12,000.

FASCINATED WITH SWEETHEART AMPALAYA – A visitor at the recent Agrilink trade show was fascinated with the unusual shape of the Sweetheart or Valentine ampalaya which was exhibited by East-West Seed in its indoor booth. The variety was developed in Thailand for its curiosity value as well as its value as a vegetable. It is now being introduced in the Philippines. The fruit has a broad shoulder with tapering lower portion resembling a human heart.
Ban licensing of fishing boats, Pamalakaya asks Tiangco

FORMER Anakpawis Party-list solon and now national chairperson of the fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas Fernando Hicap urged Navotas City Representative Tobias “Toby” Tiangco to suspend the registration of fishing boats in his city.

Pamalakaya said that the fisherfolk does not need to pay to get their boats registered to contribute to the fish production of the country’s “fishing capital”.

Hicap, a former colleague of Tiangco in the House of Representatives, echoes the sentiments of the Navotas fisherfolk about the registration scheme under the amended Fisheries Code of 1998 or the Republic Act 10654 that poses heavy burden to them who hardly earn enough money for their daily needs due to high cost of fish production and deteriorating marine catch in Manila Bay.

“Like the privilege plates that Congressman Tiangco wants to ban, we also urge him to lift the fishing ordinance in his city requiring municipal fishermen to acquire boat registration number from the local government,” Hicap said in a statement. Bill Casas
NAVOTAS LAWMAKER URGED TO SUSPEND FISHING BOAT LICENSING

THE militant fisherfolk group Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) on Friday urged Rep. Tobias Tiangco of Navotas City to suspend the registration of fishing boats in the city. Fernando Hicap, the group’s national chairman, stressed that fisherfolk don’t need to pay just to get their boats registered to contribute in the country’s fishing capital. Hicap said the registration scheme under the amended Fisheries Code of 1998 or Republic Act 10654 poses a heavy burden to them who hardly earn enough for their daily needs due to the high cost of fish production and the dwindling marine catch in Manila Bay. Under the Boat Registration program of the amended Fisheries Code, fisherfolk are required to register their boats otherwise, they will be categorized as illegal fishers and will be charged with hefty fines and stiff penalties. The group instead urged Tiangco to provide livelihood assistance to more than 7,000 small fisherfolk in Navotas.

NEIL ESCOBAR