CLIPPINGS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

A. SEC. EFP QUOTED

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
Rice imports to flood market amid tight supply

MANILA STANDARD
Extra rice imports Okayed

MANILA BULLETIN
DTI rice distribution hits a snag; NFA adds 500,000 MT rice import

BUSINESS WORLD
NFA Council approves further rice imports of 500, 000 MT

BUSINESS MIRROR
Ompong farm damage climbs to nearly P27B
NFA Council Oks imports of 500k MT more of rice

MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT
PH on rice-importing spree

THE DAILY TRIBUNE
NFAC Oks additional rice imports

THE MANILA TIMES
***Photo release:* Supply Side**
Agri damage from 'Ompong' hits P26.7B

PILIPINO MIRROR
Dagdag na 500k MT rice import
Pinsala ni 'Ompong' sa agri pumalo na sa P26.7 Bilyon

B. DA FAMILY

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
AgriLink, Tarlac discuss land tenure security
Agri damage from Ompong highest since Yolanda

MANILA STANDARD
Coast Guard foil rice smugglers in Zamboanga
Enter the Department of Agriculture and Food

BUSINESS WORLD
Laguna de Bay Bangus industry calls for more restrictive pollution controls
Measure outlining PCA board composition hurdles Senate

BUSINESS MIRROR
'BANGUS' Growers score LLDA policies for low output; govt vows aid
***Photo:* A farmer**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQURIER
Ease NFA permit requirement supermarkets ask Gov't
THE MANILA TIMES
***Photo:* Enough Supply**

BANDERA
P2B kita sa 'Tara' system ng NFA ibinunyag

PILIPINO MIRROR
Palayan bumaba ang produksiyon dahil kay Ompong

ABANTE TONITE
Editorial: Pila sa murang bigas

C. AGRI-RELATED STORY

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
Customs donates more rice to typhoon victims
Public warned vs landslides as Paeng approaches

MANILA BULLETIN
Palace eyes total dismantling of fish cages in Laguna Lake

THE DAILY TRIBUNE
A loser's advice on rice pricing

PILIPINO STAR NGAYON
P70 kada kilo ng bangus, pwede-BISDA

ABANTE
Mga fish pen sa Laguna de Bay, was akin – Palasyo

BALITA
P18B sa agri napinsala ng 'Ompong'

PILIPINO MIRROR
Bantay Presyo

D. FOREIGN STORY

BUSINESS WORLD
Proposed EU palm oil ban sows bitter seeds for Southeast farmers

MALAYA BUSINESS INSIGHT
Soybeans extend declines

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
New African swine fever outbreak in Inner Mongolia

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

Date: September 25, 2018 Page: 2

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Rice imports to flood market amid tight supply

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

Amid the continued tight supply of Filipinos' main staple in the market, the Philippines is set to import 750,000 metric tons of rice until yearend and another one million MT by 2019 to help stabilize prices and boost national inventory.

Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol said the interagency National Food Authority Council (NFAC) has approved the importation of the 500,000 MT of rice on top of the earlier approved 250,000 MT, for a total of 750,000 MT set to arrive until end-2018.

Piñol now chairs the NFA Council after the grains agency has been officially transferred back to the Department of Agriculture (DA) by virtue of Executive Order 62 issued last week.

The NFA Council members have been known to disagree on matters of importation. The Council, in fact, deferred several times earlier this year the proposal to import, which eventually led to the wrong timing of arrival of stocks.

"It will all be 25 percent brokens. The Council also approved the standby authority importation of one million metric tons for 2019," Piñol told reporters after the NFAC meeting on Monday.

"The message we want to get across to those hoarding rice right now is you better release your rice in the market or else your stocks will be affected once the NFA importation arrives," he added.

The added importation for the last quarter of the year will bring total imports to 1.25 million MT for the whole 2018.

The NFA Council has yet to determine the mode of importation for the 750,000 MT.

"I told them that I don't care how they do it, what alphabet they use in importing, whether G2P (government-to-private), G2G (government-to-government) or XYZ, what is important is that they bring in the rice stocks as soon as possible," Piñol said.

"If the rice traders who are holding on to their stocks right now believe that they can blackmail the government, they are wrong," he added.

Last May, the Philippines imported the first batch of 250,000 MT which was immediately followed by another 250,000 MT in June.

The arrival of the second batch has yet to be completed as only 162,000 MT has entered the country. The imports, however, have failed to lower prices due to delays in the release in the market.

The government now plans to flood the market with the 750,000 MT of rice in hopes to finally bring down the price of the commodity.

This after rice prices hit an all-time this year, with the wholesale price of well-milled rice rising 17 percent to P45.51 per kilo and average retail price increasing to P48.93 per kilo, up by 16 percent year-on-year.

The wholesale price of regular-milled rice was P43.13 per kilo, 21 percent higher than the previous year. Its average retail price also increased 20 percent to P45.71 per kilo.

Meanwhile, the government's plan to import another one million MT next year is still quite conservative, considering the latest projection of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) of 1.5 million MT.

This is amid high rice prices due to tight supply, rising fuel prices, market distribution inefficiencies and preparation for the midterm elections set in May 2019.

Production of milled-rice next year is only seen increasing by one percent to 12.35 million MT from the expected 12.23 million MT this year.

USDA said there may be slight improvements in area planted as rice areas in 2019 will be at 4.85 million hectares, less than one percent higher than the 4.84 million hectares this year.

In terms of ending stocks, USDA said the Philippines will likely end 2018 with a carryover volume of 2.78 million MT for 2019.

Manila Standard

Date: SEPT. 25, 2018 Page: A1 & A2

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Extra rice imports okayed

Avalanche of 750K metric tons intended to avert shortage

BEFORE LONG. This may be a lifting sight before long in the country's main port, after the government's National Food Authority Council has approved the importation of 500,000 metric tons of rice on top of the previously announced 250,000 metric tons, according to Agriculture Secretary Manny Piñol. The NFA Board has approved the standby importation of one million tons of rice for arrival in 2019.

PART 1 OF 2

Manila Standard

Date: SEPT. 25, 2018 Page: A1 & A2

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

PART 2 OF 2

By Othel V. Campos

THE Agriculture Department is poised to import as much as 750,000 metric tons of rice that will arrive before the end of the year.

The decision to increase the import volume came on the heels of Typhoon "Ompong," which caused damage to crops and livestock by as much as P26.7 billion, well above initial forecasts.

Agriculture Secretary Manny Piñol said this was the second worst damage done by a typhoon, next to "Yolanda" in 2013, which destroyed P35 billion worth of crops and livestock.

Ompong destroyed P14.5 billion in rice crops, P8.1 billion in corn, P3.4 million in high-value crops, P79 million in fruit trees, P45 million in livestock, P2 million in fisheries, and P528 million in irrigation facilities, machinery and other equipment.

Piñol said the department had a quick reaction fund of P600 million, crop insurance of P1.6 billion and an emergency loan program of P880 million, but this would not be enough to cover the P26.7 billion in damage.

The rice imports will replenish the almost depleted stocks of government rice that stood at two days inventory.

"All these [imports] will be at 25 percent

Next page

Extra rice...

From A1

broken. We put a stop to the importation of 5 percent broken. This is where problems arise. Traders tend to hoard and sell fancy rice when prices go up," said Agriculture secretary Manny Pinol in a briefing Monday in Quezon City.

He told the National Food Authority Council to keep rice imports at 25 percent broken and warned traders who would import any other kind of rice.

"The message we want to get across to those traders holding on to their inventory is for them to release their stocks now," he added.

In addition, the NFA board has also approved the standby importation of 1 million MT rice for arrival in 2019.

The Department will submit the proposed importation volume to the President Sept. 25.

Ilocos Norte Gov. Imee R. Marcos, meanwhile, suggested that the National Food Authority be authorized to buy milled rice from traders at prevailing market prices or buy palay from farmers at prices matching the rice traders' buying rate.

Rice traders usually buy at a higher rate than the NFA.

"The TRAIN Law has a catch-all provision which could serve as legal basis for a rice buying program by the NFA using incremental proceeds from TRAIN Law revenues. This provision will address costs," Marcos said, referring to the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion law.

She said when the poor are assured of a stable supply of NFA rice, they will choose it over commercial rice, which will lead to lower prices all around.

Also on Monday, the Bureau of Customs filed five criminal cases against importers and customs brokers who were supposedly involved in smuggled shipments cumulatively valued at more than P20 million.

Among those charged were officers of Malaya Multi-Purpose Cooperative for large-scale agricultural smuggling of four containers of onions worth P2.5 million.

"Their importation consisted of four containers of onions which were concealed among cartons of apples and pears," the BoC said in a statement.

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER
Date: SEPT. 25, 2018 Page: 1/15

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

DTI rice distribution hits a snag; NFA adds 500,000 MT rice import

By **BERNIE CAHILES-MAGKILAT** and **MADELAINE B. MIRAFLOR**

The much vaunted massive distribution of cheap and accessible rice by the government hit a snag on Monday as groceries and supermarkets being tapped as new distribution channels were required to secure permits to be able to sell NFA rice, and then were reportedly given the run around.

Steven Cua, president of PAG-ASA, an association of 200 supermarkets and grocery members nationwide, said efforts to flood the market with cheaper rice hit some technicalities because NFA required their retailers to get a permit.

"At the rate permits in the Philippines are given, the rice "crisis" could have been resolved by the time we get them," Cua lamented. He noted that some of their stores do not sell rice at all making the permit "dysfunctional" once this temporary ▶5

DTI rice distribution... ◀1

arrangement expires.

The Department of Trade and Industry and the NFA signed a memorandum of Agreement that would allow supermarkets and groceries to sell NFA rice.

NFA kicked off this program Monday with one PAG-ASA member-store, the Daily Supermarket near Cubao area, who was allowed to buy, pick-up and repack the NFA rice.

Cua noted that these retailers were asked to pay in manager's checks and to pick up the rice from the NFA Paco office warehouse.

"They didn't make it easy, convenient, and attractive for us to help. Rice is just one commodity. We carry on the average easily 25,000 products," said Cua.

The government allowed the retailers to also get a reasonable return but Cua stressed, "This is not our priority, but we are willing to help. But do we have to line up to get the permit, pay somewhere else, pick up the product somewhere else, and most of us don't have the trucks for that. So it's so much a hassle to help."

Cua could only surmise that perhaps NFA was extra careful in screening the retailers against unscrupulous traders. However he noted that they did the same arrangement during then President Arroyo's term and there was no problem.

500,000MT rice importation

Meanwhile, the NFA has given the green light for the importation of an additional 500,000 metric tons (MT) of rice, which will be on top of the recently approved importation of 250,000 MT through an open tender scheme.

"NFA Council approved the entry of additional 750,000 MT rice imports this year. This would be an additional 500,000 MT to the 250,000 MT earlier approved," Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol told reporters on Monday.

"The Council also approved the standby importation of one million MT for 2019. The message that we want to get across is that for those hoarding rice, you better release your stocks in the market now before these imported stocks come in," he added.

As of now, about one million MT of imported rice had already entered the country since January, with more expected by the latter part of the year.

Two weeks ago, the Council adhered to the order of the President and approved the importation of additional 250,000 MT of rice via an open tender scheme.

The move is supposed to be part of the government's response to tame inflation and the non-stop increase in the prices of commercial rice in local markets.

The new stock to be bought under this new importation program, however, is expected to arrive in November.

Piñol, who now serves as the NFA Council head, a few weeks ago had raised concerns over a possible rice crisis if the country's economic managers would keep on pushing for more importation instead of allotting funds to boost local production.

President Duterte had signed the Executive Order (EO) formally returning NFA, among other agencies, under the supervision of the DA.

The EO reorganized the NFA Council, making Piñol the chairman of the highest policy making body of the NFA, while the NFA Administrator will serve as the Vice Chairman.

This came at a time when NFA is faced with a rice crisis mainly brought about by the non-stop increase in the prices of rice, followed by Tyhoon Ompong which brought billions of pesos of damages to the agriculture sector.

Fast-track importation

NFA on Friday also called on the Council to fast-track the forthcoming rice importation to make sure that the agency won't run out of buffer stock while it was forced to give a lot of it away to the victims of Typhoon Ompong.

NFA Spokesperson Rex Estoperez said in a statement that NFA will ask the approval of the NFA Council to allow the early importation of additional rice.

"Because of the typhoons, we will propose to the NFA Council if they can allow us to import in advance. Many of our crops are damaged so we have to import earlier," Estoperez said.

Importation to hurt farmers

The government's plan to import more rice is seen to hurt local farmers who are expecting to harvest their year-end yields.

This was according to Herculano "Joji" Co, president of the Philippine Confederation of Grains Association, who first couldn't believe that the NFA would still push for more importation this year.

"Ewan ko kung magagawa yan [I don't know if they can do it]. If you do it last quarter, for what? Aani na [it's already harvest season]," Co said in an earlier interview.

For 2018, the government is projecting a bumper harvest in palay, with Piñol even saying the country will have a record palay output of 19.4 million MT this year.

Moreover, Samahan ng Industriya ng Agrikultura (SINAG) believes the existing rice importation program will not help temper the price of rice in the market as it had failed to do so in the past months.

BusinessWorld
INCREASE YOUR BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE™

Date: SEPT. 25, 2018 Page: S1/5

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

NFA Council approves further rice imports of 500,000 MT

THE National Food Authority (NFA) Council has approved the importation of an additional 500,000 metric tons (MT) of rice this year and a standby volume of 1 million metric tons for 2019, according to agriculture secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol.

"The NFA Council has approved the importation of 750,000 MT of rice for this year. The council also approved the standby importation of 1 million MT for 2019. The message we are going to get across to those who are hoarding rice right now (is that) you'd better release your stocks to the market" before the imports arrive, Mr. Piñol told reporters in a chance interview at the Department of Agriculture.

The 750,000 MT cited by Mr. Piñol includes an additional 500,000 MT on top of a previously-approved volume of 250,000 MT.

According to Mr. Piñol , he also proposed to the NFA Council not to allow the importation of premium grades of rice as these varieties will not address the high prices for lower grades of rice purchased by the poor.

"I suggested to the NFA Council as a matter of policy, we should not allow the importation of fancy rice. Let the Filipino farmers produce the fancy rice," Mr. Piñol said.

NFA Spokesperson Rex C. Estoperez said that the first batch of the approved importation for this year, which is 250,000 MT, is expected to arrive not later than Nov. 30, as bidding will start in October.

"We will have the 250,000 MT (by) Nov. 30. We'll start with the 250,000 first," Mr. Estoperez told reporters.

Mr. Piñol said that the import volumes take into account the damage to domestic crops caused by typhoon Ompong (international name: Mangkhut). Damage to the rice crop has been estimated at P14.5 billion, out of the total agricultural damage of P26.77 billion.

Damage to the corn crop was estimated at P8.1 billion, while damage to livestock was at P45.6 million. — **Reicelene Joy N. Ignacio**

BusinessMirror
A broader look at today's business
SEPT. 25 2018 / PAGE: A1 & A2

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Ompong farm damage climbs to nearly ₱27B

By Jasper Emmanuel Y. Arcalas @jearcalas

FARM sector damage caused by Typhoon Ompong has reached P26.7 billion, the highest since Supertyphoon Yolanda (international code name Haiyan) wrought havoc in 2013 and caused P35 billion in production losses, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

"This is now the highest damage to the agriculture sector since Yolanda. Yolanda was about P35 billion and we are now [at] about P26 billion," Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol said in a press conference on Monday. The latest damage assessment report by the DA showed that the rice sector suffered the brunt of the damage brought by Ompong.

The DA report said about 517,175 hectares of rice farms were affected by Ompong, with an estimated production loss of about 765,484 metric tons (MT).

See "Farm damage," A2

Farm damage...

Continued from A1

About 337,208 rice farmers in Northern Luzon incurred losses amounting to P14.534 billion, according to the DA report.

Typhoon Ompong damaged 214,596 hectares of corn farms, which had an estimated production loss of 496,881 MT valued at P8.172 billion, according to the DA. The DA report added that 175,547 corn farmers were affected by Ompong.

Piñol said the DA currently has over P3 billion worth of available interventions for farmers affected by Typhoon Ompong.

"One is our quick-response fund in the amount of P600 million, our crop insurance in the amount of P1.6 billion and our emergency loaning program that has P880 million," he said.

Furthermore, Piñol said they are also looking at requesting at least P5 billion in suplemental budget from lawmakers to address the needs of the affected farmers.

"We could ask for a supplemental budget so that we'll be given immediate funding for the needs of the affected areas," he said.

"But if that doesn't materialize, we can propose the inclusion of the said rehabilitation budget in the 2019 budget," he added.

The DA report showed that Region 2 suffered the most production losses at P13.944 billion with about 786,240 MT of output damaged and 303,827 farmers affected.

BusinessMirror
A broader look at today's business

Date: SEPT. 25, 2018 Page: A2

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

NFA Council OKs imports of 500K MT more of rice

By Jasper Emmanuel Y. Arcalas @jearcalas
& Bernadette D. Nicolas @BNicolasBM

THE National Food Authority Council (NFAC) approved on Monday the purchase of an additional 500,000 metric tons of imported rice, on top of the 250,000 MT it greenlighted on September 4.

"The message that we are getting across to those hoarding [rice] right now is that you better release your stocks in the market, or else your stocks would be affected by the NFA's importation."—Piñol

But Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol, who is also the chairman of the NFAC, said the imports would be brought into the country by the National Food Authority (NFA), and not the Philippine International Trading Corp. (PITC), as earlier reported. The PITC is a government-owned and -controlled corporation (GOCC) attached to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

Piñol said the 500,000 MT will arrive in the Philippines before the end of the year. The additional volume would bring the total imports of the NFA in the fourth quarter to 750,000 MT.

Manila is racing to fill state warehouses with imported rice to cut the retail price of the staple and discourage unscrupulous traders from hoarding their stocks.

"The message that we are getting across to those hoarding [rice] right now is that you better release your stocks in the market, or else your stocks would be affected by

PART 1 OF 2

BusinessMirror
A broader look at today's business

Date: SEPT. 25, 2018 Page: A2

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

PART 2 OF 2

the NFA's importation," Piñol told reporters in a news briefing in Quezon City on Monday.

The 750,000 MT would arrive in tranches. The first tranche of rice imports—the 250,000 MT that the government earlier purchased via open tender—will arrive in November, according to NFA Spokesman Rex C. Estoperez.

Estoperez also said the remaining 500,000 MT would most likely be procured via open tender. The government may hold an auction for 250,000 MT of rice imports in mid-October.

For the additional imports, the NFA will only allow the 25-percent broken rice variety, according to Piñol.

Piñol said the NFAC, the highest policy-making body of the NFA, has also approved a standby import authority of 1 MMT for next year.

He said the NFA should be able to bring in the additional rice imports "as soon as possible" and regardless of procurement mode.

Piñol said he left the NFAC meeting after approving the additional volume on Monday and left the nitty-gritty of procurement process to other members of the council.

"I do not care how you do it [or] what alphabet you use: G2P [government-to-private], G2G [government-to-government], or XYZ, I don't care," he said. "What is important is that you bring in the rice stocks as soon as possible."

Imports via PITC?

IN a news briefing on Monday, Presidential Spokesman Harry L. Roque Jr. said the rice imports would go through the PITC, adding that there is no legal impediment for the GOCC to proceed with the purchase of 150,000 MT of rice.

"The DTI will be the one to import rice and they will not just import commercial rice," Roque said. "The DTI will be importing [rice] which is 25 percent broken, so that it can be sold at P27 per kilogram so that we won't rely on the NFA. That is a good news because we are removing the monopoly from the NFA on the decision on when to import rice, especially cheap rice."

Roque added that there is nothing in the law which created the PITC that prevents it from importing "so that is what the DTI is doing now."

No other details were provided by Roque as to the mode of importation and the volume of rice to be imported by the PITC as of press time.

The announcement came after the PITC said in a statement more than a week ago that they are proposing to import 150,000 MT of rice via the G2G scheme, which is considered a faster process compared to conducting an auction.

Piñol said, however, that the NFAC did not approve any import volume for the PITC.

The power to import rice and regulate its entry to the local market is vested in the NFA by virtue of Presidential Decree 4, which created the National Grains Authority, the forerunner of the NFA.

The government decided to go on a rice-buying binge after inflation surged to a nine-year high of 6.4 percent in August.

Including the purchases of traders via the minimum access volume scheme, the country's total rice imports this year would hit 2.055 MMT. The NFA would account for around 1.25 MMT, which includes the additional volume approved by the council.

Aside from importing rice, the Economic Development Cluster has also recommended to the President the removal of administrative constraints and nontariff barriers on the importation of fish, sugar, meat and vegetables.

Malaya
Business Insight

Date: SEPT. 25 2018 Page: A1 & A2

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

PH on rice-importing spree

Crop losses at P27B

BY JED MACAPAGAL

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) yesterday said it will import an additional 500,000 metric tons (MT) of rice this year following the P14.5-billon damage incurred by the crop in the last typhoon or more than half of the P26.7-billion crop damage.

Emmanuel Piñol, DA secretary and chairman of the National Food Authority (NFA) Council, said the council also approved the standby importation of as much as 1 million MT of rice for next year.

The P26.7-billion crop damage incurred due to Typhoon Ompong is the biggest crop damage since Typhoon Yolanda in 2013, at P35 billion.

Piñol,said the 500,000 MT to be imported this year will be on top of the approved 250,000 MT that would further boost rice stocks.

Piñol said the P14.5 billion damage on rice is equivalent to 765,000 MT of production loss, prompting the DA to revise its target production for the year to 18.6 million MT from an earlier forecast of 19.4 million MT.

Damage to corn is at P8.2 billion or 496,881 MT in production loss; high-value crops, at P3.4 billion and 153,091 MT production loss; fruit trees at P79 million and 5,046 MT production loss.

Livestock, fisheries and agricultural facilities suffered damage

See PH ➤ Page A2

PART 1 OF 2

Malaya
Business Insight

Date: SEPT. 25, 2018 Page: A1 & A2

PART 2 OF 2

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

PH

worth P45.5 million, P2.3 million and P528 million, respectively.

Among seven affected regions, Cagayan Valley suffered the most with a total value of P13.94 billion affecting 378,340 hectares of farm land. Crop production loss is estimated at 786,240 MT.

Piñol said the DA will ask Congress for a P5-billion in supplemental budget for rehabilitation and immediate intervention.

He said the DA could also propose the inclusion of rehabilitation funds for Ompong-afflicted areas in the 2019 budget.

"The only money we have for interventions would be our quick reaction fund in the amount of P600 million, our insurance worth P1.6 billion, our emergency loan program in the amount of P880 million and our standby allocation for seeds which will still be quantified," Piñol said. **(See related story on Page 3. DBM releases P662M for calamity victims)**

"Our funds are not enough; that is the reason why we are creating a master plan that will be submitted to the Office of the President since we are hoping that Congress can allocate funds," he added

Meanwhile, supermarkets fear efforts to sell affordable rice in their branches could get derailed by bureaucracy.

Steve Cua, president of Philippine Amalgamated Groceries and Supermarkets Association (PAGASA), said government should do away with the permitting system or at least fasttrack the release of those permits to immediately address the rice availability issue.

"This is sort of a quick-fix solution to quell the heightened perception of the public that NFA is running out of rice. This perception is compounded or magnified by the fact that prices of basic necessities are going up," Cua said.

Cua said the system is making it hard for retailers to pursue the initiative.

"We don't really need to sell NFA rice. We are just heeding the call of government to help out," Cua said, referring to a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Trade and Industry and the NFA to make NFA rice available in the stores of the 200-strong PAGASA.

Cua added NFA is probably being cautious that some unscrupulous traders will take advantage of the scheme.

"You have to trust our group. If you want this fast, you have to flood the market immediately. Government has to import," Cua added.

Cua said NFA should have anticipated the participation of retailers in NFA rice trade and should have started moving stocks and importing more when the MOA was signed last September 19.

Another issue worrying PAGASA is that they may not be able to pick up the rice at warehouses due to lack of logistics and resources. - ***with I. Isip***

THE DAILY tribune
Without fear or favor

Date: SEPT. 25, 2018 Page: 7

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

NFAC OKs additional rice imports

By Kuhlin Ceslie Gacula

To augment rice supply in the country, the National Food Authority Council (NFAC) has approved the additional importation of 500,000 metric tons of rice on top of the previously announced 250,000 MT standby authority.

According to Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol, some 750,000 metric tons of total rice imports are expected until the end of the year.

The Agri chief noted that it is up to the NFAC to decide whether to go through a government-to-government or a government-to-private sector bidding as long as they can bring in the rice stocks as soon as possible.

He warned rice traders to release their stocks before the rice imports arrive.

"If rice traders hoarding on stocks right now believe that they can blackmail government or hold hostage government, they're wrong," Piñol said.

Moreover, the secretary noted there will be no more importation of broken rice beyond 25 percent as it prevents rice prices in the market from decreasing.

"The problem is that importers allow the entry of 5 percent broken rice or fancy rice which is sold at high prices (and therefore) does not help bring down the rice in the market," Piñol explained.

He also disclosed that another one million metric tons of standby authority import has already been set for 2019.

The Manila Times

Date: SEPT. 25, 2018 Page: A2

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

SUPPLY SIDE Department of Agriculture Secretary Manny Piñol (center) meets with the NFA Council, NFA regional directors and governors of typhoon-stricken provinces to update price of rice, vegetables and fish in the market. PHOTO BY RUY MARTINEZ

The Manila Times

Date: SEPT. 25, 2018 Page: A3

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Agri damage from 'Ompong' hits P26.7B

THE damage wrought by typhoon Ompong on agriculture reached P26.7 billion, with Cagayan Valley bearing the brunt, sustaining P13.8 billion in losses, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Monday.

Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol said the figure is the highest since the destruction of super typhoon Yolanda in 2013.

Citing data from the DA's Disaster and Risk Reduction Management Operation Center, Piñol said also hard hit were Region 1 (Ilocos) and the Cordillera Administrative Region, which incurred losses of P5.8 billion and P3.9 billion, respectively.

Almost half of the three regions' rice crop valued at P14.5 billion was damaged.

The volume of production loss was placed at 765,484 metric tons (MT).

Corn production losses amounted to P8.17 billion.

According to Piñol, most of the affected crops were on their reproductive stage, which were reported as partially damaged.

Meanwhile, high-value crops production losses, affecting 54,972 hectares in CAR and the provinces of Rizal, Cagayan and Isabela, reached P3.4 billion.

As for livestock, losses were placed at P45.6 million, affecting 1,403 farmers and growers, while the fisheries sector incurred a total damage amount of P2.3 million, affecting 163 fisherfolks.

Piñol admitted that the DA has insufficient funds to rehabilitate the areas wrecked by Ompong.

"The fund is not enough which is why we're creating a master plan which we will submit to the Office of the President [on September 25] because we are hoping that we will be able to appeal to Congress to allocate funds," he said.

The agriculture chief said the DA might ask for a supplemental budget.

"The initial estimate is P5 billion as an immediate intervention," he noted.

Piñol met with 20 governors of provinces affected by Ompong to lay out a Master Plan for Rehabilitation and fast-track the repair and recovery of damaged farms and fisheries facilities.

EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ

PILIPINO MIRROR
FILIPINO MIRROR MEDIA GROUP CORPORATION
- SALAMIN NG KATOTOHANAN -

Date: SEPTEMBER 25, 2018 Page: 9

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

DAGDAG NA 500K MT RICE IMPORT

Aprub sa NFA Council

INAPRUBAHAN na ng National Food Authority (NFA) Council ang pag-angkat ng 500,000 metric tons ng bigas bilang karagdagan sa naunang inanunsiyong 250,000 metric tons.

Ayon kay Agriculture Secretary Manny Piñol, ang kabuuang 750,000 MT ng bigas ay darating sa katapusan ng 2018, kung saan pupunan nito ang nawalang produksiyon sa rice sub-sector dahil sa bagyong Ompong.

"Kasama na, na-quantify na namin 'yung kailangan naming isuporta sa Ompong-affected areas," wika ni Piñol.

Sinabi pa ni Piñol na inaprubahan din ng council ang standby importation ng 1 million metric tons para sa 2019.

"The message that we are getting across to those hoarding the rice right now, you better release your stocks in the market or else 'pag inabutan kayo ng stocks of NFA, masasagasaan 'yung stocks niyo," ani Piñol.

Sinabi naman ni NFA spokesman Rex Estoperez na inaasahan nilang darating ang unang 250,000 MT ng imported rice bago sumapit ang Nobyembre 30.

Nakatakda naman aniyang simulan ang bidding sa Oktubre.

PILIPINO MIRROR
FILIPINO MIRROR MEDIA GROUP CORPORATION
• SALAMIN NG KATOTOHANAN •

Date: SEPTEMBER 25, 2018 Page: 8

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

PINSALA NI 'OMPONG' SA AGRI PUMALO NA SA P26.7 BILYON

UMABOT na sa P26,769,717,985 ang pinsala ng bagyong Ompong sa sektor ng agrikultura, ayon kay Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol.

Ayon kay Piñol, ang rice sub-sector ang nagtamo ng pinakamalaking pinsala na nasa P14,534,562,756.

"According to the reports coming from different regions, the updated damage report is P26.7 billion. Ang pinakamalaki nito is rice, P14.5 billion; mais, P8.1 billion; high value crops, P3.4 billion ..." ani Piñol.

"This is the highest damage to agriculture since Yolanda. In Yolanda, we have P35 billion," anang kalihim.

Ang fruit trees ay nagtamo naman ng P79 million na pinsala; livestock, P45 million; fisheries, P2 million; at irrigation facilities, machineries at iba pang equipment, P528 million.

"What would be the total, in reports from the provinces, would be the total rehab requirements," sabi pa ni Piñol.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

Date: SEPTEMBER Page: B16

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Agrilink, Tarlac discuss land tenure security

Officials of Agrilink 2018 recently made a courtesy visit to the Office of Tarlac Governor Susan Yap to discuss the issue of security of land tenure to protect hog raisers especially in Central Luzon.

The region, which covers Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales, is known as the country's rice granary and leader in pork value chain.

Agrilink chairman Edwin Chen and Foundation for Resource Linkage and Development Inc. (FRLD)'s Antonio Roces cited the success story of Richmond Lim, owner of Tarlac City Slaughterhouse Complex, which has invested in several processing amenities and practices that made the abattoir a Double "A"-grade facility.

Photo shows (from left) Edwin Chen, chairman, Agrilink 2018 and president, Pork Producers Federation of the Philippines (ProPork), Rosalino Perez and Antonio Roces, FRLD; Richmond Lim, owner of Tarlac City Slaughterhouse Complex, and Butch Ventura, city administrator from the office of the governor.

This accreditation means an increase in operations, additional income for more hog farmers, and livelihood opportunities in the city.

Vice Governor David noted that to lure more investment into this agricultural venture, security of land tenure should be implemented.

Agrilink 2018, organized by FRLD and supported by the Department of Agriculture, will underscore how the hog industry can sustain its growth by further improving its supply and value chains through organized and professionalized production systems and marketing processes.

The event is slated from Oct. 4 to 6 at the World Trade Center, Pasay City.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

Date: SEPTEMBER 25, 2018 Page: 8

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Agri damage from Ompong highest since Yolanda

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

Agriculture damage due to Typhoon Ompong is now the highest recorded since Typhoon Yolanda in 2013, soaring to P27 billion and prompting local government units (LGUs) to seek a supplemental budget to facilitate immediate rehabilitation.

An updated Department of Agriculture-Disaster and Risk Reduction Management Operation Center report showed that agricultural damage is at P26.77 billion affecting rice, corn, high value crops, fisheries and livestock covering 755,361 hectares with an estimated volume of production loss at 1.42 million metric tons (MT).

"This is the highest damage to agriculture since Yolanda. Yolanda was at P35 billion, we are now at about P26 billion," Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol said at a briefing after the rehabilitation meeting with LGUs on Monday.

Rice contributed the largest share of losses at P14.53 billion covering 517,175 hectares, which is equivalent to 765,484 MT. About 570,521 farmers have been affected.

Corn production loss is at P8.2 billion affecting 214,596 hectares in Cordillera and Cagayan Valley with estimated production volume loss of 496,881 MT.

Losses in high value crops have reached P3.4 billion affecting 22,827 hectares in Cordillera and the provinces of Rizal, Cagayan and Isabela. The volume of production loss is at 153,091 MT, mostly at their reproductive stage.

Damage in irrigation facilities, like small water impounding projects, impounding dams and spillways, was also reported to have reached P528 million.

Manila Standard

Date: SEPT. 25, 2018 Page: B4

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Coast Guard foil rice smugglers in Zamboanga

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Authorities have intercepted three wooden-hulled ferries loaded with smuggled rice off this city, an official disclosed Monday.

Lt. Commander Noriel Ramos, Zamboanga Coast Guard Station commander, disclosed that the vessels were intercepted in a joint law enforcement operation around 6:50 p.m. Saturday near the shore of Barangay Baliwasan, this city.

Ramos said the joint team was conducting patrol aboard on two Rigid-Hulled Inflatable Boats of the Coast Guard when they intercepted the three wooden-hulled vessels loaded with rice.

The intercepted vessels were *m/v Aizalyn 3, M/L Jasmin Michael and M/L Habiba*, all homeported in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi. The vessels were each loaded with sacks of rice believed to have come from Malaysia.

Ramos said the cargoes were consigned to two people identified only as a certain Salam and Musad, both alleged smugglers based in this city.

He said they have yet to conduct an inventory jointly with the Bureau of Customs to determine the exact volume of the cargo aboard the three vessels, but believed these to be worth millions of pesos.

The vessels are currently moored at a private wharf in this city, he added.

Ramos said the apprehending team is made up of personnel from the Coast Guard Southwestern Mindanao District, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, the military, and the police.

Meanwhile, in Dumaguete City, the National Food Authority in Negros Oriental has assured there is no hoarding of commercial rice in the province amid the skyrocketing prices of basic commodities.

NFA provincial manager Hilaria Ganzon gave the assurance as the NFA here celebrates Grains Industry Week from September 20 to 26.

According to Ganzon, they are monitoring the prices of commercial rice in the market, as well as conducting inspections of warehouses.

"We are continuously inspecting warehouses as well as monitoring traders," Ganzon said.

SEPT. 25, 2017
PAGE: A5

Manila Standard

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Enter the Department of Agriculture and Food

BUSINESS CLASS
RUDY ROMERO

WITH the recent placement by President Duterte of the NFA (National Food Authority) under the supervision of the head of the DA (Department of Agriculture), food policymaking in this country has come full circle.

Food policy-making authority had been lodged with the DA since Independence Day. The government's technical personnel were happy with that administrative arrangement—after all, agriculture embraced food—but certain politicians wanted to see an agency devoted to the food crops. Thus was NARIC (National Rice and Corn Administration) born. When NARIC became enmeshed in politics and corruption, the decision was made to try and sanitize the agency by renaming it NGA (National Grains Authority). Later the agency underwent another change of name; NGA gave way to NFA, to emphasize the fact that it was food that was under consideration. With President Duterte's Executive Order, food policymaking authority has been returned to DA, where it all began.

> "This would be entirely appropriate."

The professed concern of the proponents of a separate agency for food was the prioritization of food in the government's policy hierarchy. It was argued that, with an agency of its own, food would enjoy priority at the hands of the dispensers of fiscal and other benefits. Separated and distinct, a food agency would not suffer the inattention and parsimony habitually accorded to DA by the Executive Department and Congress.

NFA's champions were correct in their calculations. The food agency did come to enjoy the fiscal policymakers' favor and preferential attention. Indeed, one measure of the policymakers' complaisant attitude toward NFA were the huge explosion of NFA's debt. One of the three largest items in the government's domestic-debt service is the debt of NFA.

Nowhere in the law creating NFA is there a provision allowing NFA to engage in losing operations. Yet year after year NFA piles up operational losses, to the point where the agency's name has become virtually synonymous with losses. That's because NFA's management has acquired the mindset that NFA is required to provide Filipinos with cheap rice at all cost.

Cheap rice, yes; NFA is mandated by law to provide cheap rice, but it is not required to do so at a loss. Cheap rice. Unfortunately, rice, being the staple food of the low-income groups, is a political commodity and lends itself to the overwhelming influence of partisan politics.

If the truth must be told, NFA has never really been interested in keeping Filipinos supplied with low-priced but domestically produced rice. With its enormous budget, NFA could well operate in a manner that was supportive of Filipino farmers. Given the levels of the farmgate prices that NFA pays them for their output—that's around P17 per kilogram at present—there is little incentive for Filipino farmers to be more efficient. The resulting low per-hectare yield gives rise to inadequate domestic production, which, when sold to NFA, becomes known as NFA rice. Naturally, the supply of low-priced NFA rice is soon exhausted.

Enter imports. Paraphrasing the Department of Tourism slogan, "There's more fun in imports." Imports yield under-the-table commissions, even when done on a government-to-government basis; purchases from domestic farmers don't give rise to commissions. That's why NFA management is trigger-happy whenever the possibility of supply deficits arises.

This country has the resource endowment with which to achieve self-sufficiency in rice, but as long as NFA is structured the way it is and as long as the present NFA management is oriented, like its predecessors, toward imports, that desideratum will be elusive.

Over the years NFA has been associated with supply deficits, imports operating losses, heavy indebtedness, inefficiency and corruption. Clearly, the experiment with an agency charged with delivering national food security has failed. Time to bring food policymaking back into the fold of the DA.

The name Department of Agriculture and Food would, in the light of the latest structural change, be entirely appropriate.

BusinessWorld
INCREASE YOUR BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE™

Date: SEPT. 25, 2018 Page: 4/S1

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Laguna de Bay *bangus* industry calls for more restrictive pollution controls

THE Bangus Industry Stakeholders & Dealers Alliance (BISDA) said the government needs to impose tougher pollution controls on industry and households to ensure the sustainability of the Laguna de Bay fishery, as prices of *bangus*, or milkfish, become prohibitive for consumers.

It said restrictions on aquaculture in the growing area which is nearest to Metro Manila's major markets are not the solution to controlling pollution, and that the government needs to crack down on polluters along the Pasig and Marikina rivers, which feed into Laguna de Bay.

BISDA spokesperson Joel R. Dizon said in a text message to the *BusinessWorld* that *bangus* growers on Laguna de Bay must be "allowed to utilize the optimum area for fish production" and that the government must "go hard after the true culprits of pollution: industrial effluents, domestic wastes, all happening upstream Pasig and Marikina rivers far from the lake itself."

He said current market prices for *bangus* range from P170-P200 per kilogram nationwide from their normal range of P90-P120.

Mr. Dizon said relying on fish imports will diminish the competitiveness of the domestic fishing industry and pose a drain on the country's dollar reserves.

"If we rely on imports, we will further impair the competitiveness of local fish supply, deplete our national dollar reserves and slowly drive Laguna Lake to eutrophication — the overblooming of algae until turbidity reaches toxic levels (to the point where) the fishery industry can no longer bounce back," according to Mr. Dizon.

In an open letter to President Rodrigo R. Duterte, BISDA said rising prices for *bangus* are due to losses suffered by growers in Pangasinan, Pampanga and Bulacan due to heavy rain associated with the southwest monsoon, or habagat, and recent typhoons.

The group also cited weak production in Laguna de Bay after the implementation of Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) Board Resolution No. 518 and 525, which impose a moratorium on aquaculture and call for the dismantling of fish pens owned by corporations to allow small fishermen access to their traditional fishing grounds.

BISDA said that the LLDA should be mandated to protect the capacity of the aquaculture industry in Laguna de Bay.

"We join the opinion of the experts to instead address the real culprits (industrial, agriculture and domestic wastes) to the water degradation of the lake and thus increase aquaculture productivity," it said in the open letter.

According to Mr. Dizon, "We resorted to publishing our open letter because we have submitted numerous recommendations for alleviating the scarcity of *bangus* supply to LLDA in several consultations but we feel that these do not reach the President."

"If we help the aquaculture industry instead of burdening it with more restrictive regulations, we can increase production. That will lower the market price," Mr. Dizon added.

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources said that it will conduct an assessment with affected milkfish stakeholders through a dialogue. It also said that the BFAR, which is under the Department of Agriculture (DA), has an Agricultural Credit Policy Council Production Loan Easy Access (ACPC PLEA) program which small fishermen may avail to expand their fish production.

In a text message, BFAR National Director Eduardo B. Gongona said that "The DA-BFAR is implementing a regular project on input assistance for milkfish, tilapia, seaweed and shellfish. These include a training component and technical assistance on water quality and disease monitoring. The input is in the form of fingerlings."

"Qualified cooperatives may avail of the ACPC PLEA Program to avail of production loans. We will conduct a needs assessment among affected *bangus* stakeholders through a consultation-dialogue for BFAR to appropriately assess the assistance needed," Mr. Gongona added.

He said however that assistance in the form of fingerlings will only be possible if the LLDA lifts its controls. He added that the public prefers round scad, or *galunggong*, as a source of protein.

He added that the Philippines has other growing areas for *bangus*, citing Iloilo, an added that prices are high because of middlemen. — **Reicelene Joy N. Ignacio**

BusinessWorld
INCREASE YOUR BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE™

Date: SEPT. 25, 2018 Page: S1/5

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Measure outlining PCA board composition hurdles Senate

THE SENATE on Monday passed on third and final reading a bill increasing the representation of coconut farmers in the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) board.

Senate Bill No. 1976 or the proposed Strengthened Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) law was approved with 18 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention. It was authored and sponsored by Senator Cynthia A. Villar, chairperson of the Senate committee on agriculture.

The proposed measure seeks to amend Presidential Decree 1468 or the Revised Coconut Industry Code of 1987 that will reconstitute the PCA board.

"Farmers were not adequately represented in the body that will manage the coconut levy trust fund. With six farmer-representatives in the 11-member board, it is guaranteed that the interest of the coconut farmers will be protected," Ms. Villar said in a statement.

Under the bill, the PCA Board will be composed of six farmer-representatives from each of the island groups (Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao), four government representatives, and one representative from the coconut industry.

The four government representatives are the Agriculture Secretary as chairperson of the PCA board, the Finance Secretary as vice chairperson, the Budget Secretary, and the PCA Administrator, to appointed by the President.

The farmer-representatives must be Filipino citizens, be listed in the Coconut Farmers Registry, should have a track record of promoting the interests of coconut farmers, and be nominated by coconut farmer organizations active in the past three years.

The proposed measure was also the accompanying bill of Senate Bill No. 1233 or the proposed Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Act, which hurdled the bicameral conference committee in August, and is awaiting the President's signature.

Senate Bill No. 1233 created the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund, which was sourced from the P100 billion coconut levy funds collected under President Ferdinand E. Marcos. The bill mandates the reconstituted PCA to manage and utilize such funds.

The fund will be used exclusively for the benefit of coconut farmers and the development of the coconut industry. It will be released to the PCA at P5 billion annually until it runs out, which is estimated to be within 25 years. — **Camille A. Aguinaldo**

BusinessMirror
A broader look at today's business

Date: SEPT. 25, 2018 Page: A2 + A8

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

'Bangus' growers score LLDA policies for low output; govt vows aid

By Jonathan L. Mayuga
@jonlmayuga
& Jasper Emmanuel Y. Arcalas
@jearcalas

THE government has vowed to assist *bangus* growers increase their output, even as the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) insisted that President Duterte himself mandated the clearing of fish pens and fish cages in Laguna de Bay.

Officials from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (Bfar) and the LLDA issued their pronouncements after the Bangus Industry Stakeholders and Dealers Alliance (Bisda) asked the government in a statement to help them improve their production.

Bisda is a group of *bangus* growers, small fishermen, market dealers and brokers in the provinces of Rizal, Laguna, Bulacan, Pangasinan, Pampanga and Metro Manila.

The group said the spike in the retail prices of milkfish in the wet market recently was due to the lack of supply, which was exacerbated by the LLDA resolutions that hampered production in the Laguna lake area. Another key source of *bangus*, Pangasinan, has been reeling, not from policy change but from nature: It has been heavily impacted the southwest monsoon and recent typhoons.

"There was a substantial decrease in production [at Laguna lake], that is why some of the fish-cage operators were saying the price of *bangus* and tilapia increased. We are looking into this," Engr. Emil Hernandez, manager of the LLDA's Environmental Regulation Department, said in a telephone interview.

Hernandez pointed to the reduction in production areas for milkfish and tilapia as one of the factors that caused output to decline substantially.

250K a day

'Bangus' production in Laguna de Bay prior to the LLDA's clearing operation. This is now down to just 70,000 kg a day to a maximum of 100,000 kg

He said, however, that the reduction in production areas was agreed upon by all stakeholders, following the dialogue between LLDA General Manager Jaime C. Medina and the stakeholders, and the forging of a compromise deal with fish-cage and fish-pen operators.

In earlier interviews, the LLDA chief also said President Duterte is "well-informed of the actions taken by the LLDA Board and the plans and programs implemented by the agency under his leadership.

The 90-hectare Laguna de Bay, one of the largest freshwater lakes in Southeast Asia, is also the biggest aquaculture hub in the country where tilapia and *bangus* are raised all-year round.

However, the recent spike in the price of *bangus* alarmed local producers, particularly those operating in Laguna de Bay, because of the huge decline in their output as a result of what they describe as "poor policy formulation and implementation of the current LLDA."

"We just want to make sure that the President is aware of what is happening. We are not protesting nor assailing the government, but we are publicly appealing to the President to hear our side," said lawyer Rodriguez Dizon, spokesman of Bisda.

Aside from bad weather which affected output in Pampanga, Pangasinan and Bulacan, Bisda said LLDA Board Resolution 518 and 525 caused the output of milkfish to go down drastically.

See "Bangus," A2

'Bangus'...

Continued from A8

Crimp on production

LLDA Board Resolution 518 ordered the dismantling of fish cages and fish pens in Laguna de Bay, while Board Resolution 525 ordered operators to reduce by half the size of their production areas.

Worse, the group said LLDA Board Resolution 540 now calls for the implementation of a new zoning plan that will surely adversely affect production that could lead to disaster, if not kill entirely, the *bangus* industry in Laguna de Bay.

According to Dizon, bangus production in Laguna de Bay prior to the implementation of LLDA's clearing operation was pegged at 250,000 kilos a day. Now, he said output in the lake ranges from a minimum of 70,000 kilograms (kg) a day to a maximum of 100,000 kg a day.

BusinessMirror
A broader look at today's business

Date: SEPT. 25, 2018 Page: A1

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

A FARMER segregates freshly harvested palay in Siniloan, Laguna, in this file photo. The National Food Authority Council on Monday approved the importation of 500,000 metric tons more of rice in a bid to flood the market with affordable varities. This, as supply constraints are seen worsening on account of the huge damage to rice-growing areas by Typhoon Ompong, with the total losses nearing P27 billion. BERNARD TESTA

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Date: SEPT. 25, 2018 Page: B3

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

MAKING RICE ACCESSIBLE

EASE NFA PERMIT REQUIREMENT, SUPERMARKETS ASK GOV'T

By Roy Stephen C. Canivel
@roycanivel_INQ

About 200 supermarket outlets across the country are not able to sell the more affordable NFA rice due to problems in securing permits from the National Food Authority.

This is despite the fact that it was the government that sought the industry's help to make the staple accessible in supermarkets.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the NFA signed last week a memorandum of agreement with supermarket group Philippine Amalgamated Supermarkets Association (Pagasa) Inc. to make the staple available in their outlets.

While the agreement is aimed at tapping these retail outlets to help flood the market with affordable rice to temper increases in the prices of the staple, the government seemed to be making it difficult for these retailers to do what was asked of them.

"The NFA requires us to get permits. At the rate permits in the Philippines are given, maybe the 'crisis' will already be over by the time we get them," said Pagasa president Steven Cua.

He said there might also be concerns that rice stocks would run out if supermarkets would get allocations especially since the deal — which he said was rushed over one weekend — was not considered in previous rice importation.

There are also logistic concerns which may inconvenience Pagasa.

Cua said that, for one, supermarkets would need to pick up the rice stocks themselves from NFA warehouses which could be difficult since most of them had no trucks of their own. Also, he said, supermarkets were required to pay for the stocks in another location (the NFA office).

Also, rice would be sold to the group in bulk and unpacked, he said, quoting the MOA, which meant group members would have to do the packing themselves.

"They're not making it easy for us to help," Cua said.

All these follow the MOA, which was an initiative that DTI came up with to help address the problem on rice, which contributed to the 9-year high inflation in August.

The DTI has the best intentions but it seems to fall short on the execution aspect of its plan.

"We do a lot of things on a day-to-day basis. This is not our priority but we are willing to help," Cua said. INQ

The Manila Times

Date: SEPT. 25, 2018 Page: A1

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

ENOUGH SUPPLY Photo of an NFA storage facility in Quezon City packed with sacks of rice proves that there is no shortage of NFA rice in Metro Manila. PHOTO BY ROGER RAÑADA

INQUIRER Bandera
BALITA • BUENAS • CHIKA

Date: SEPT. 25, 2018 Page: 4

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

P2B kita sa 'tara' system ng NFA ibinunyag

HINDI pa ligtas sa mga kaso ang nagbitiw na si dating National Food Authority (NFA) administrator Jason Aquino.

Sa isang privilege speech kahapon, inakusahan ni Sen. Risa Hontiveros si Aquino na umano'y sentro ng malawakang korupsyon sa NFA.

Sinabi ni Hontiveros na sa ilalim ng "tara" system, umabot sa P2 bilyong kita kada taon ang napunta sa iilang tao.

"Mr. President, paano kumikita ang administrator dito? Simple. Ang kalakarang tara per bag ay between P100 to P150 – P100 kung kaibigan ka, P150 kung 'di kayo masyadong close. Gawin na nating P100," sabi ni Hontiveros.

Idinagdag ni Hontiveros na umaabot sa isang milyong toneladang bigas kada taon ang inaangkat ng bansa, kung saan naglalaman ng 20 sako ng bigas ang kada tonelada.

"This means we import 20,000,000 bags of rice. Let us multiply 20,000,000 bags by P100. Twenty million bags multiplied by P100 is a windfall of P2 billion," sabi ni Hontiveros.

"Ito pa lang ang 'entrance fee' ng mga importer para mabigyan ng certificate of eligibility at import permit. Hindi pa kasama ang iba-ibang bayad pa para sa iba-ibang modus operandi. Hindi pa kasama ang service fee na bigla-bigla nalang pinataw sa administrasyon ni Jason Aquino. In short, we are looking at a multi-billion peso enterprise. A multi-billion enterprise that has lined the pockets of a privileged few, and caused hunger to untold numbers of Filipinos," ayon pa kay Hontiveros.

Sinabi ni Hontiveros na dapat kasuhan si Aquino ng economic sabotage.

"How much was paid to Aquino by private importers for allowing this modus operandi? We can only surmise. What criminal offense can be charged against him? Here, there is no surmising. Economic sabotage under Republic Act No. 10845," sabi ni Hontiveros.

Sinuportahan naman ni Sen. Grace Poe ang pahayag ni Hontiveros.

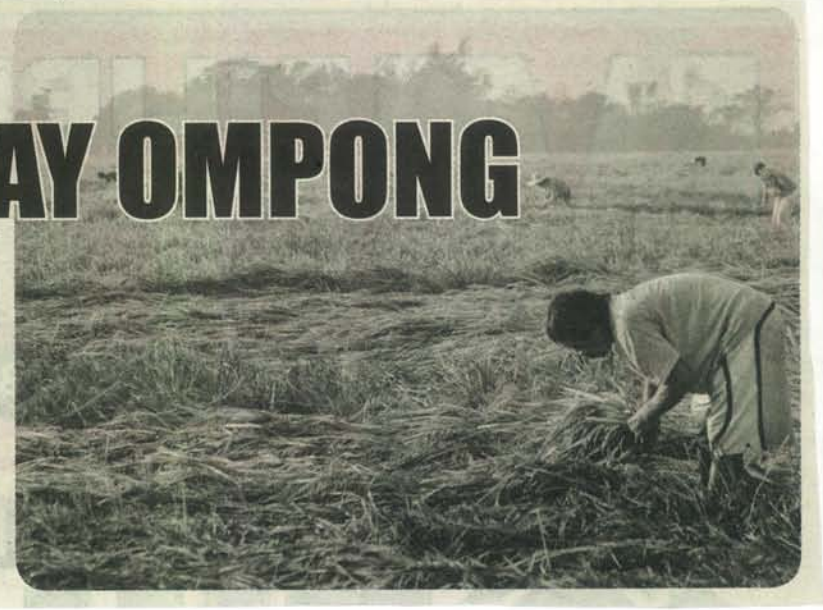
"Siguro dapat talaga maipakulong na kasi kung hindi talaga napapakulong at hanggang ngayon ni isa wala pang napapakukulong dyan e, hindi matatakot 'yang mga 'yan," sabi ni Poe. — *Inquirer.net*

PILIPINO MIRROR
PILIPINO MIRROR MEDIA GROUP CORPORATION
• SALAMIN NG KATOTOHANAN •

Date: SEPTEMBER 25, 2018 Page: 2

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

PALAYAN BUMABA ANG PRODUKSIYON DAHIL KAY OMPONG



MAARING bumagsak ang produksiyon ng palayan ngayong taon mula sa 2.5 porsiyento hanggang 18.8 million metric tons (MMT) kumpara sa nagdaang taong mataas na record na 19.28 MMT dahil sa mga sinalanta ng bagyong Ompong sa sakahan sa Northern Luzon, ayon sa isang opisyal ng agriculture.

Sinabi ni Department of Agriculture (DA) Assistant Secretary Andrew B. Villacorta na inasahan ng ahensiya ang 10.8-MMT produksiyon ng palay sa ikalawang semestre ng taon bago dumating si Ompong.

Pero, ipinakita sa initial damage reports na tinipon ng DA na nasa 600,000 MT ng palay ay sinira na ng bagyo, ayon kay Villacorta.

"That means we are only expecting about 10.2 [million metric tons] this second semester if there would won't be another Typhoon coming in," pahayag niya sa isang panayam.

"So, our target production [for the year] of 19.4 million metric tons is unlikely. We are expecting about 18.8 million metric tons or even lower [this year]," dagdag niya.

Bukod pa rito, sinabi ni Villacorta na ang produksiyon ng mais ay maaaring hindi umabot sa target ng DA na 7.7 MMT dahil pinawi lahat ni Typhoon Ompong ang nasa 250,000 MT hanggang 260,000 MT ng mais sa Northern Luzon.

Umabot ang produksiyon ng mais noong nagdaang taon ng all-time high na 7.914 MMT, 9.64 porsiyento na mataas sa 7.218 MMT na inirekord na volume noong 2016.

"We are expecting 3.5 million metric tons of corn for the second semester," sabi ni Villacorta.

Sinabi pa ni Villacorta na maaaring payagan ng DA ang mag-angkat ng mais para mapalitan ang mga naluging produksiyon nito at para matugunan ang demand ng local feed millers at livestock industry.

"In fact, Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol has approved the importation of about 200,000 metric tons requested by feed millers before Typhoon Ompong. There could be additional request from feed millers, perhaps another 200,000 metric tons," sabi niya.

Sinabi pa ni Villacorta, gusto ni Piñol, na siya ngayong namumuno sa National Food Authority Council (NFAC), na magkaroon ng yearend inventory ang NFA ng nasa 750,000 MT.

Nauna rito, sinabi ni Piñol na ang Filipinas ay maaaring umangkat ng dagdag na volume bukod sa aprubado ng NFA na 250,000 MT, na inaasahang dumating ngayong Nobyembre.

"We can expect more imports [this year]. The instruction of the President is to fill the warehouses [of the NFA]," sabi ni Piñol.

"The President has given me the leeway to make decisions, especially after the onslaught of Typhoon Ompong. We will have to make sure provinces affected by the typhoon would have enough rice for the next four months," dagdag niya.

Nalugi ang mga magsasaka sa Northern Luzon ng umaabot sa P16.76 bilyon dahil sa bagyong si Ompong. **JASPER EMMANUEL Y. ARCALAS**

ABANTE TONITE
MABILIS SA BALITA

Date: SEPTEMBER 25, 2018 Page: 4

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

EDITORIAL

Para sa inyong reaksyon: I-type TONITE <space> EDITORIAL <space>MESSAGE at i-send sa 2299

Pila sa murang bigas

Pagkahatid sa kanyang anak na Grade 1, takbo na si Norma sa Pasig palengke.

Alas-otso ng umaga siya dumating du'n at milya-milya na ang pila.

Ang pinipilahan ay ang murang NFA rice na 2 beses sa isang linggo lang meron. Taob ang pelikulang KathNiel sa haba ng pila.

P27 lang ang kilo. Doble nito ang presyo ng maayos na klase ng commercial rice. Kaya talagang pipilahan.

Ang pamilya ni Norma na may apat na anak, 10 kilo sa isang linggo ang konsumo nilang bigas. Mahigit P500 'yun kada linggo. Sa bigas pa lang.

Kaya kahit limitado lang sa 3 kilo kada tao ang puwedeng bilhin sa NFA store ay pinagtitiyagaan itong pilahan ni Norma.

Ang masakit, inabot ng cutoff si Norma. Mula alas-otso ng umaga hanggang alas-dose ng tanghali, apat na oras na tiniis ang ngawit sa pagkakatayo, gutom, uhaw at init pero wala siyang naiuwing murang bigas.

"Naiyak po talaga ako. Panlima na ako sa pila e. Kaso cutoff na nga raw. Magbubukas daw ulet nang alas-tres ng hapon. Panibagong paghihintay na naman. Hindi ko na nga po nasundo 'yung bunso ko sa school e. Tapos wala ring nangyari," naiiyak na namang kuwento ng ginang.

Ito ang tunay na sitwasyon ng maraming Pinoy ngayon. Kaya sana, bago humirit ang mga opisyal ng gobyerno ng mga salitang hindi totoong sumasama ang ekonomiya ng bansa ay lumabas muna sila sa kalye at tanungin ang mga ordinaryong tao.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

Date: SEPTEMBER 25, 2018 Page: 8

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Customs donates more rice to typhoon victims

By EVELYN MACAIRAN

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) Enforcement and Security Service yesterday donated another 374 sacks of rice and more than 5,040 tins of luncheon meat to the victims of Typhoon Ompong through the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Ronald Reonal, DSWD-National Response and Logistics Management Service representative, accepted the donations in the ceremonial turnover during the BOC's flag-raising ceremony yesterday morning.

"To help our *kababayans* who were affected by the recent calamity that devastated several areas in Northern Luzon, the Bureau of Customs decided to provide our fellow Filipinos with humanitarian aid through the DSWD," Commissioner Isidro Lapeña said in a statement.

This is the fourth time the BOC made a donation to help victims of the recent typhoon pursuant to the order of Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III for the agency to identify goods that could be donated to the typhoon victims.

Last week, the Manila International Container Port (MICP) also gave 109 packages of emergency survival blankets, 153 packages of face masks, 350 boxes of bed sheets, blankets and towels and 1,332 boxes of brand new clothes.

Customs Commissioner Isidro Lapeña inspects the sacks of rice donated by the BOC to victims of Typhoon Ompong yesterday.
EDD GUMBAN

Aside from these goods from the ESS and MICP, the Port of Cebu also donated 14 containers of rice that were forfeited in favor of the government. The Port of Zamboanga also gave at least 6,921 bags of glutinous rice to DSWD.

Meanwhile, the FilComBei, a Filipino non-profit socio-civic group in Beijing, China, was able to raise more than P90,000 in cash donations to help the victims of Typhoon Ompong that hit the Philippines on Sept. 15, leaving at least 95 dead and an estimated P14.27-billion damage to agriculture and infrastructure in Cagayan Valley and Cordillera Administrative Region.

Through the WeChat messaging app, FilComBei was able to collect donations from those who wanted to help the typhoon victims. It also contributed more than P20,000 from its "Tulong Fund."

FilComBei is a non-profit socio-civic group that aims to make the spirit of *bayanihan* alive among Pinoys in Beijing.

– With Charmie Joy Pagulong

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

Date: September 25, 2018 Page: 2

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Public warned vs landslides as Paeng approaches

By **HELEN FLORES**

Residents in areas recently ravaged by Typhoon Ompong have been advised to remain vigilant against landslides as the approaching Typhoon Paeng is expected to bring rains.

Although Paeng (international name Trami) was forecast to be weaker than Ompong (Mangkhut), it is still expected to bring light to moderate rains over Northern Luzon, which was hit by deadly landslides two weeks ago.

"Paeng is weaker than Ompong. But we're not saying that we can be complacent," Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) administrator Vicente Malano said at a press conference yesterday.

PAGASA assistant weather services chief Rene Paciente urged residents in the mountainous areas in Northern Luzon to avoid areas that are highly susceptible to landslide.

"The soil in the Cordilleras is already saturated. It is possible that even moderate rains or thunderstorms can cause landslides. People should vacate areas that are prone to landslides," Paciente said.

Rescue and retrieval operations are ongoing in the landslide-hit village of Ucab in Itogon, Benguet.

Ompong, the strongest cyclone to hit the country this year, left at least 88 people dead and billions of pesos worth of damage to agriculture in Northern Luzon.

PAGASA senior weather forecaster Aldczar Aurelio said scattered light to moderate rains and thunderstorms are expected over extreme Northern Luzon today ahead of Paeng's expected passage over the area.

PAGASA also warned against big waves over the northern and eastern seabords of Luzon and eastern seaboard of the Visayas due to Paeng.

On Thursday, light to moderate to at times heavy rains are expected over the western section of Luzon including Metro Manila, and in Western Visayas due to the southwest monsoon, which will be enchanced by Paeng.

The typhoon, which normally gathers strength over the sea, is forecast to pass near Batanes and Babuyan Group of Islands by Friday, bringing occasional heavy rains and strong winds.

PAGASA may raise tropical cyclone warning signals over extreme Northern Luzon by Thursday.

– With Rainier Allan Ronda

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER
Date: SEPT. 25, 2018 Page: 2

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Palace eyes total dismantling of fish cages in Laguna Lake

By **GENALYN D. KABILING**

Malacañang has called on the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) to look into the possible dismantling of all fish pens and fish cages in Laguna de Bay to give it a chance to recover from congestion.

Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque issued the statement after brushing aside the complaints of some fisherfolk and fish pen operators about the LLDA's restrictions in the lake waters in Rizal and Laguna.

The LLDA recently issued Resolution 540 adopting a revised fishery zoning and management plan in the Laguna de Bay, including a limited area for fish pens and cages.

"We stand by the decision of the LLDA. Ang dapat nga mangyari dyan ay tanggalin na sila lahat dahil kinakailangan talagang pangalagaan ang Laguna Lake. If the LLDA has merely limited, dapat nga pag-aralan kung dapat i-revoke na completely ang fish pens (What is really needed is to remove all of them because we need to take care of Laguna Lake. If the LLDA has merely limited, it should study if the fish pens should be completely revoked)," Roque said during a news conference in Malacañang.

"Ang tingin ko na walang basehan ang hinihingi nila. Ang dapat pa nga siguro mangyari (I think their request has no basis. What should happen) is to have further restrictions to give the lake an opportunity to recover," he added.

He noted that former Environment Secretary and now party-list Rep. Lito Atienza previously advocated the dismantling of all fish pens to allow the lake's recovery and rehabilitation.

The Bangus Industry Stakeholders and Dealers Alliance recently wrote a letter to President Duterte seeking his intervention to address the supply and price problems of bangus or milkfish.

The group claimed that the LLDA policies have disrupted the growth of bangus, reporting a 78.8 percent decline in production in the quarter of the year. It also reportedly complained of the LLDA's alleged lack of foresight and expertise to manage the fishing industry in the Laguna lake.

In 2016, the President ordered the dismantling of the big fish pens and cages in Laguna de Bay, saying the poor fishermen must be given priority in the use of the lake.

Duterte also announced plans to convert the Laguna de Bay into a vibrant eco-tourism zone. He said his government intends to address the negative impact of the watershed reduction, land conversion and pollution in Laguna Lake.

THE DAILY tribune
Without fear or favor

Date: SEPT. 25, 2018 Page: 4

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

A loser's advice on rice pricing

"Critics should read the TRAIN law thoroughly or have someone with a higher intelligence quotient explain it slowly.

BYSTANDER
Dean de la Paz

The following advice on ways to reduce the retail price of rice and perhaps tame the more encompassing challenge of high inflation are all unsolicited. Some are irrelevant. Some reveal a pathetic lack of understanding. Others are impotent. All is simpleminded and betray an insidious agenda.

Among the advice proffered by an opposition politico to Rodrigo R. Duterte, only one makes some sense. But only where we fill in huge gaps in the proposal.

Timed when government is busy dealing, rather competently we might add, with the crisis wrought by a super typhoon and where such competence is arrayed against gross and fatal ineptitude before and after typhoon "Yolanda," these suggestions might well be taken in an altogether different light. Advice neither compelled by altruism nor empathy but by politics.

The first was to "Instruct that Minimum Access Volume (MAV) be increased to 1.5 million metric tons." The second was "to allow any and all in the private sector to import rice."

This approximate MAV doubling has no quantitative basis. The 1.5 mmt is not founded on any measurable economic order quantity (EOQ) given current supply levels. EOQ is a function of production, demand and current supply. Given recent importations, supply is a moving target. Since current supply is fluid, there are two unknowns. The proposed 1.5 mmt is either conjured from nothing or simply a mindless doubling.

Taken with the second suggestion to allow private sector importations, both are anachronistic and irrelevant. Here's why.

Increasing the amounts on quantitative restrictions is anachronistic and irrelevant considering current tarrification measures that already increase access to inexpensive supplies of rice. Next time, do the homework.

If the sourcing was done through MAV as advised, the incremental costs would further burden government finances and simply reward hoarders who have created artificial shortages and then waited as the undersupply compelled government to adjust the MAV to fill in the gaps.

The third suggestion was to "Proactively ask Jollibee, McDo (McDonald's), Mang Inasal, SM, grocery and supermarket chains and all large users to independently source and import their own needs so they don't share in the national stockpile."

This panders to patronage politics and unequal protection. Self-sourcing for businesses is inefficient and creates sectoral cost squeezes forcing these establishments to increase prices or to apply cost saving measures ranging from retrenchment to the delivery of inferior or lower quality products. We must remember that while these constituents might be more resilient to inflation, they are as much victims of high prices as are consumers.

The fourth suggestion is to "consider adding all farmer families to the CCT (Conditional Cash Transfer) program."

Since the suggestion targets "all farmer families," how do dole outs bring down the price of imported rice?

The fourth suggestion is to "Repeal TRAIN as it pertains to fuel and other basic commodities."

"Among the advice proffered by an opposition politico to Rodrigo R. Duterte, only one makes some sense.

The incremental tax on fuels from TRAIN has relatively little impact on farmgate rice prices compared to the more severe impact of global geopolitics and devaluation over which we have little control of. Moreover, the price of basic commodities directly impacted by TRAIN is limited to sugar-based beverages. Critics should read the TRAIN law thoroughly or have someone with a higher intelligence quotient explain it slowly.

The last suggestion, while blanketed in tedious prose and convoluted logic, makes some sense. We quote it verbatim. "Promote industrialized farming so we increase capital investment (capex, technology, economies of scale) in agriculture."

Unfortunately, this not only requires a cataclysmic paradigm upheaval in local agriculture that would, in Thanos-like fashion, result in a sixth extinction and mass displacement of small-scale farmers, negating any upsides of agrarian reform and taking years before being viable, but it would also not address the current high price of rice.

Pilipino Star
NGAYON
Diyaryong disente ng masang intelihente

Date: SEPT. 25, 2018 Page: 13

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

P70 kada kilo ng bangus, pwede-BISDA

Posibleng bumagsak ng P70.00 hanggang P100.00 ang kada kilo ng bangus kung pakikinggan lamang umano ni Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang apela ng industriya ng bangus.

Sa ipinadalang liham ng Bangus Industry Stakeholders and Dealers Alliance (BISDA), umapela sila kay Pangulong Duterte na bawiin o kanselahin ang Board Resolution No. 540 ng Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) at pakinggan ang rekomendasyon ng maliliit na mangingisda sa Rizal at Laguna na ang ikinabubuhay ay ang mga bangus sa Laguna de Bay.

Ang nasabing resolusyon ay ang paggawa ng bagong mapa sa lawa ng Laguna kung saan ang labis na maaapektuhan ay ang mga maliliit na mangingisda na kanilang ikinabubuhay.

Ayon sa BISDA, ang naunang Board Resolution No.518 at No.525 ng LLDA ang naging sanhi ng malawakang pagbagsak ng produksyon ng bangus sa 78 porsyento, base sa datos ng Philippine Statistics Authority, matapos ipatupad ito na sumira at nagpaliit ng pangisdaan na ngayon ay 5,124 hektraya na lamang mula sa lawak na 12,500.

Sinabi ni Atty. Joel Dizon, spokesman ng BISDA, ang dalawang resolusyon ng LLDA ang bumulabog sa normal breeding, stocking ng bangus sa nakaraang taon kaya't nasira ang mga lehitimong fishpen sa lawa ng Laguna at bumagsak ang ani ng maliliit na mangingisda at fishpen operator.

Idinagdag pa ng mga samahan na kung maibabalik ang dating lawak na kanilang pinagtataniman ng bangus fingerlings at hindi sila bubulabugin ng LLDA sa kanilang lehitimong aquaculture farms, ay maibaba nila ang presyo ng bangus para sa hapag-kainan ng mahihirap na Pilipino.

ABANTE / PAGE: 2

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

MGA FISH PEN SA LAGUNA DE BAY, WASAKIN - PALASYO

TINABLA ng Malacañang ang panawagan ng mga nag-aalaga ng bangus sa Laguna de Bay na dapat bawiin ang resolusyon ng Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) na naglilimita sa pagtatayo ng fish pen sa lugar.

Sinabi ni Presidential Spokesman Harry Roque, suportado nila ang desisyon ng LLDA at walang basehan ang hinihingi ng bangus growers na nalilimitahan ang kanilang produksyon.

"We standby the decision of the LLDA. Dapat nga tanggalin na silang lahat diyan dahil kailangang pangalagaan ang Laguna Lake," ani Roque.

Batay sa resolution 540 ng LLDA, nilimitahan ang pagtatayo ng mga fish pen na mula 12,500 ay magiging 5,000 na lamang.

Sinabi ni Roque na mismong kasamahan niya sa Kongreso ang nagsabing dapat alisin na ang lahat ng baklad sa Laguna Lake para maka-recover ito at maibalik ang dating hitsura ng Laguna Lake.

"If LLDA has merely limited, eh dapat nga pag-aralan iyan kung dapat bang i-revoke na completely lahat iyang mga fish pen diyan sa LLDA to give the lake an opportunity to recover," dagdag pa ni Roque.

Nauna rito ay nanawagan ang bumubuo ng Bangus Industry Stakeholders & Dealers Alliance (BISDA) sa ginawang pagpapatanggal ng malalaking fish pen sa Laguna de Bay.

Iginiit ng grupo na bumagsak ang produksyon ng bangus nang 78% nang dahil sa resolusyon ng LLDA na magbawas ng fish pen sa lawa para mabigyan ito ng panahong makarecover katulad ng ginawa ng pamahalaan sa Boracay.

Sabi ni Benjie Antonio ng BISDA, wala namang direktiba mula kay Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na bawasan ang mga fish pen sa Laguna Lake, hindi tulad ng utos nito sa Boracay.

Sinabi ng grupo na hindi ang mga pakain nila sa bangus ang nagpapadumi sa lawa.

Ayon sa datos ng Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), bahagya lamang ang ibinagsak ng produksyon ng bangus sa unang kalahating taon ng 2018. Mas kaunti ayon sa PSA nang 2.14% ang produksyon ng bangus sa first half ng taon kumpara sa unang kalahating taon ng 2017.

Nang tanungin sa BISDA ang malalaking fish pen owner sa LLDA, sinabi ni Sonny San Jose na may karapatan ang mga investor sa Laguna de Bay na kumita.

Isa sa mayayamang investor ng fish pen sa Laguna Lake ay ang pamilyang Del Rosario na may-ari ng Fishermall pero hindi matukoy ni San Jose kung gaano kalaki ang palaisdaan nito.

Dati ring may fish pen ang pamilya ng yumaong General Mariano Filart pero binenta na ng pamilya ang kanilang palaisdaan sa lawa.

Ayon sa BISDA, nasa 5,124 ektarya lamang ngayon ang mga fish pen sa lawa mula sa dating 12,500 ektarya. **(Aileen Taliping/ Eileen Mencias/ Dolly Cabreza)**

Balita

Date: SEPT. 25, 2018 Page: 15

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

₱18B sa agri napinsala ng 'Ompong'

Tinatayang aabot sa P18-bilyon halaga ng agrikultura at imprastruktura ang napinsala ng bagyong 'Ompong' sa Northern Luzon at sa mga karatig-lalawigan nito.

Sa datos ng National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), aabot sa P4.4 bilyon ang halaga ng nasira sa imprastruktura habang nasa P14.3 bilyon naman sa agrikultura.

Partikular na tinukoy nito ang Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, at Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

Naapektuhan din ng bagyo ang 171,932 magsasaka sa CAR habang aabot sa 117,685 kabahayan ang nawasak sa apat na rehiyon sa bansa.

Bukod dito, aabot naman sa 2.1 milyong katao ang naapektuhan ng bagyo, o katumbas ng mahigit kalahating milyong pamilya.

Beth Camia

PILIPINO MIRROR
FILIPINO MIRROR MEDIA GROUP CORPORATION
• SALAMIN NG KATOTOHANAN •

Date: SEPTEMBER 25, 2018 Page: 2.

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

BANTAY PRESYO

ABANGAN ANG BANTAY PALENGKE PATROL SA 60 PALENGKE AT MANALO NG SORPRESANG REGALO

	Paco Market Paco, Manila	Bernabe Market Parañaque City	Pio del Pilar Market Makati City	Martinez Market Mandaluyong City	Novaliches Market Quezon City
BIGAS: (kada kilo)					
Sinandomeng	48.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	48.00
Dinurado	56.00	54.00	58.00	56.00	54.00
Jasmine	54.00	56.00	60.00	58.00	56.00
Wagwag	44.00	45.00	45.00	44.00	44.00
KARNE: (kada kilo)					
Baboy	220.00	220.00	220.00	220.00	220.00
Baka	320.00	320.00	320.00	320.00	300.00
Manok	160.00	150.00	140.00	160.00	160.00

GULAY: (kada kilo)					
Carrots	140.00	110.00	120.00	120.00	110.00
Kalamansi	70.00	60.00	45.00	40.00	50.00
Kamatis	100.00	90.00	90.00	100.00	100.00
Patatas	90.00	90.00	100.00	100.00	90.00
Petsay	90.00	90.00	90.00	100.00	90.00
Repolyo	140.00	110.00	120.00	140.00	120.00
Sibuyas	100.00	100.00	100.00	90.00	100.00
Sitaw	90.00	80.00	80.00	90.00	90.00
Talong	100.00	90.00	90.00	90.00	100.00

DISCLAIMER: Ang anumang pagbabago sa presyo pagkatapos na mailathala ito ay hindi pananagutan ng *PILIPINO Mirror.*

BusinessWorld
INCREASE YOUR BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE™

Date: SEPT. 25, 2018 Page: 4/52

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

AFP

THIS PICTURE taken in Kampar on Aug. 18 shows a palm oil farmer transporting palm oil seeds in Kampar, Riau province. Indonesian palm oil farmer Kawal Surbakti says his livelihood is under attack, but the threat is not from insects or hungry orangutans eating his prized crop.

Proposed EU palm oil ban sows bitter seeds for Southeast Asian farmers

PART 1 OF 2

BusinessWorld
INCREASE YOUR BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE™

Date: SEPT. 25 2018 Page: 4/S2

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

PART 2 OF 2

LANGKAT/IJOK, Indonesia — Indonesian palm oil farmer Kawal Surbakti says his livelihood is under attack, but the threat is not from insects or hungry orangutans eating his prized crop.

Half a world away, the European Parliament is moving to ban the use of palm oil in biofuels, while British grocer Iceland has announced it will stop using the commodity over concerns that it causes widespread environmental destruction.

Losing the key European market worries small farmers like Mr. Surbakti and millions of others in Indonesia and neighboring Malaysia — the world's top two producers — as prices drop for an oil found in everything from biscuits and sweets to cosmetics and vehicle gas tanks.

"I've suffered serious losses," the 64-year-old Mr. Surbakti said from his two-hectare (five acre) farm on Indonesia's Sumatra island.

"Before, I could save up a little money but now I can't even do that."

Across the Malacca Strait in Malaysia, grower Mohamad Isa Mansor issued a dire prediction as he plucked reddish-orange fruits from his trees.

"If the EU succeeds in the ban, I'm dead," he said at his small plantation in the coastal town of Ijok.

"Without this crop we will be living in poverty. It is the source of income for thousands of people (here)," he added.

'VICTIMS OF BIG CORPORATIONS'

Europe is one of the world's biggest palm oil consumers, along with India and China.

About half of the palm oil used last year in Europe was for biofuels that ended up in gas tanks, according to environmentalists.

Indonesia and Malaysia have threatened retaliatory sanctions on European products over the proposed palm oil ban, which calls for a complete phaseout from biofuels by 2030. The legislation is awaiting a final vote and member state approval.

As the diplomatic row smoulders, Indonesian grower Selamet Ketaren says he and other small farmers — the backbone of the industry — are pawns at the mercy of land-clearing multinational firms that buy their crops.

"Smallholder farmers like us are just victims of the big corporations," said Mr. Ketaren, who has been growing palm oil since the mid-'80s.

Environmentalists accuse the multibillion-dollar industry of destroying huge swathes of rainforest home to indigenous communities, orangutans and other threatened species.

Critics say that palm oil development also contributes to climate change through deliberate forest-clearing fires, which release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and lung-clogging smog into the region's air.

Many under-pressure firms made "no deforestation" pledges, but activists say they are tough to monitor and frequently broken in the vast jungles of Sumatra and Borneo island.

This week, Greenpeace said a group of Indonesian palm oil firms that supply major international brands including Unilever and Nestlé have cleared an area of rainforest almost twice the size of Singapore in less than three years.

But Malaysian farmer Mansor rejects the depiction of growers as an environmental threat.

"(The EU) says we cut down the forest. But my land is on peat soil — there was rubber growing here before," he said.

"How can the EU claim that I'm killing the earth?"

'NEGATIVE CAMPAIGNS'

An EU ban would threaten the livelihoods of 650,000 smallholders and over 3.2 million Malaysians who rely on the industry, according to the Malaysian Palm Oil Council.

"The policies that the EU is proposing to introduce will harm Malaysia's rural communities and reduce incomes for Malaysian families," said Douglas Uggah Embas, deputy chief minister of Sarawak state on Borneo island, home to many smallholders.

Some three million people in Indonesia — the world's biggest palm oil exporter — are estimated to be working in the sector and many more depend on their income.

While it hopes to tap other markets, the Indonesian Palm Oil Association said that a slowdown in China and "negative campaigns" against palm oil could hurt the bottom line.

Malaysian grower Muhamad Ngisa Kusas fears that political decisions made in Europe will lead to poverty, crime and could push desperate people into the arms of religious extremists in the two Muslim-majority countries.

"If the EU bans comes into effect, the price of palm oil will surely plunge. Then we smallholders are doomed," said the 78-year-old.

"The EU had better think very carefully about this action." — ***AFP***

Malaya
Business Insight

Date: SEPT. 25, 2018 Page: A6

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Soybeans extend declines

SINGAPORE- Chicago soybean futures slid for a second session on Monday as fears of a prolonged trade war between Washington and Beijing weighed on the market with new tariffs taking effect.

Corn slid, but the market was trading close to its highest since Sept. 12 with prices underpinned by strong demand and rains delaying harvest in parts of the US Midwest.

The Chicago Board Of Trade most-active soybean contract was down 0.8 percent at $8.40-3/4 a bushel, having closed down 0.4 percent on Friday.

Corn slipped 0.4 percent to $3.56 a bushel, having climbed earlier in the session to $3.58 a bushel, matching Friday's highest prices, which were the loftiest since Sept. 12.

Wheat dipped 0.1 percent to $5.21 a bushel, having closed down 0.4 percent in the previous session.

Soybeans are under pressure as market attention is focused on the massive US crop and the ongoing trade dispute with China, the world's top soybean buyer.

Rains slowed corn harvest in the northwestern Midwest last week, supporting prices.

"The wet weather prompts some concerns itself. The delay though makes it more likely that crops can be affected by cold snaps," said Tobin Gorey, director of agricultural strategy, Commonwealth Bank of Australia. -***Reuters***

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Date: SEPT. 25, 2018 Page: A13

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

New African swine fever outbreak in Inner Mongolia

BEIJING —China's northern region of Inner Mongolia has reported a new outbreak of African swine fever, the agriculture ministry said on Monday, as authorities struggled to contain the highly contagious disease. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs said a slaughterhouse in the city of Hohhot reported the outbreak, adding that four pigs were infected with African swine fever and two had died. China has banned the transport of live hogs and pig products from regions bordering provinces where African swine fever has been reported. —REUTERS