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PH eyes chicken egg exports to Singapore

DUE to stable local production, Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol is confident the Philippines is capable enough to supply Singapore with much-needed chicken eggs.

Singapore's traditional supplier is Malaysia. Eggs imported from Malaysia make up nearly three quarters of Singaporeans' egg consumption.

But earlier this week, Malaysia's Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs announced the country was looking into limiting or stopping the export of eggs to secure ample supply for domestic demands.

However, Singapore's Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) in a Thursday statement said it had a "wide range of alternative sources" for eggs. One of these is the Philippines, Piñol said.

"I have already directed our International Affairs Division [of the Department of Agriculture] to set a meeting between me and the Singapore Ambassador to the Philippines next week or at least before the end of the year," Piñol said in a statement on Friday.

He said egg exporting would serve as a window of opportunity for Filipino egg producers who have been complaining of low egg prices and oversupply.

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said the country's chicken egg production in the third quarter of the year jumped 9.94 percent to 133.72 thousand metric tons (TMT) from 121.63 TMT a year ago.

Top chicken egg producers during the July-September period were Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon), Central Luzon and Central Visayas, which accounted more than half of the volume of the total chicken egg production.

However, the average farmgate price of chicken eggs was pegged at P4.43 per piece, a 3.84-decline from the average price in 2017.

Piñol said that during the planned meeting with Singaporean ambassador to the Philippines Kok Li Peng, he would also discuss an aborted plan to export pork and other agricultural products such as vegetables from Bukidnon and dressed chicken.

EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ

THE DAILY tribune
Without fear or favor

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Misamis fishermen level up

By Kuhlin Ceslie Gacula

A group of fishermen in Misamis Oriental are looking forward to ramp up their operation soon after the Department of Agriculture granted them financial assistance to acquire new equipment and facility that would enable them to do commercial fishing.

Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol bared Friday that the fishermen will soon have their own 20-ton fishing boat, an ice-making facility and a refrigerated van after their representatives sought help from the department.

Leaders of nine associations of fishermen, together with Mayor Angelo Capistrano Jr. of Salay, Misamis Oriental, on Wednesday visited Piñol and gave him a signed petition seeking financial support for the purchase of a semi-commercial fishing vessel they could use beyond the 15-kilometer municipal waters.

Under the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, fishing activities using passive or active gear and vessels of between 3.1 gross tons and up to 20 tons is considered "small-scale commercial fishing."

"The fishermen said they set up three '*payaos*' or fish aggregating device in an area beyond the 15-kilometer limit which is teeming with fish," Piñol said.

Piñol added since the fishermen do not have a fishing boat capable of sailing to that distance, they had to agree to a sharing arrangement with commercial fishing boats.

PILIPINO MIRROR
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DA, SMFI STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP WITH LAUNCH OF FARMERS' TRAINING PROGRAM

TAGBILARAN CITY – The partnership between SM Foundation and the Department of Agriculture is strengthened with the launching of the Kabalikat sa Kabuhayan Farmers' Training Program at the Bohol Agricultural Center to coincide with the launching of the Bohol Fish Market and Tienda recently.

Agriculture Secretary Manny Pinol was in Tagbilaran City as part of his Biyaheng Bukid, an initiative that takes him to different places in the country and enables him to interact with farmers and fishermen, and consult with local government executives on issues related to agriculture and fisheries. At a press conference, Pinol stressed on making Bohol a food secured province through the initiative of local leaders and the local government units in collaboration with the national government and private organizations. One of the programs that would help make farmers self-reliant in food and empower them to become entrepreneurs is the Farmers' Training Program.

The KSK Farmers' Training Program launch and orientation was attended by Ms. Cristie S. Angeles, the SMFI AVP of Outreach and Livelihood Programs and Harbest Agribusiness Corporation President Arsenio "Toto" Barcelona, who briefed the guests and participants on the season-long dual tech program.

The Department of Agriculture is one of the program partners in the training program. At the launch, DA Region 7 DA7 HVCDP Coordinator Susan Kintanar helped organized the farmers and LGUs in support of KSK.

MANILA BULLETIN
THE NATION'S LEADING NEWSPAPER
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Various infra projects worth ₱12B expected in Mindanao next year

By **ANTONIO L. COLINA IV**

DAVAO CITY — Around ₱12 billion in various infrastructure projects will be implemented in Mindanao next year, said Sherwin Manual, Mindanao information unit head of Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP).

In an interview, Manual said they expect the massive implementation of at least 172 infrastructure subprojects in several areas in Mindanao in 2019, mostly farm-to-market roads, bridges, potable water supply facilities, and irrigation systems.

He said the ₱12-billion budget would come from the ₱14.853 billion in accumulated budget of the PRDP from 2014 until 2022 for infrastructure projects which have yet to be implemented pending compliance of all documentary requirements.

Manual said the PRDP-Mindanao has so far completed ₱2.2 billion in infrastructure projects.

PRDP-Mindanao deputy project director Engr. Danilo Alesna said they aim to increase by at least five percent the annual income of farmers, a seven-percent increase in the value of marketed output, a 20-percent increase in access of farmers to the services of the Department of Agriculture, and a 30-percent increase in income of direct beneficiaries of their enterprise development programs.

The PRDP is a six-year (2014-2020) development platform of the national government, which seeks to partner with the local government units (LGUs) and the private sector in providing key infrastructures, facilities, technology and information.

But with additional funds of $450 million, or equivalent to ₱23.66 billion, approved this year, Alesna said the World Bank has committed to extend PRDP up to 2022.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

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Australia provides P23 M for agriculture recovery

By LOUISE MAUREEN SIMEON

The Australian government has provided P23 million in assistance to help Northern Luzon farmers recover from the typhoon that hit the country three months ago.

Australia provided AUD600,000 or P23 million to assist 2,000 farming families in Cagayan, the most affected province hit by Typhoon Ompong in September.

"We are supporting farmers to rebuild their livelihood, and we are assisting their families with cash and in-kind support to help them get back on their feet," Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Amanda Gorely said.

Australia's emergency assistance is being implemented in partnership with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations World Food Program (WFP).

FAO will distribute fertilizers to the farming families to complement the Department of Agriculture's provision of rice and vegetable seeds as alternative short-term income source while, waiting for the next harvest season early next year.

It will also provide technical support through production-related training to help farmers' families who missed the harvest season in October due to the typhoon.

"The Australian government's contribution is critical and timely in helping the affected farming families. If not immediately addressed, this may lead to food insecurity and malnutrition, and more financial difficulties as these farmers try to recoup and recover from their losses," FAO Representative in the Philippines Jose Luis Fernandez said.

Meanwhile, WFP will roll out an emergency cash-based program to address food security and nutrition needs of the farming families.

The program will provide one-off cash support representing 10 days of the minimum wage for agricultural workers in the area.

Typhoon Ompong damaged nearly P27 billion in the agriculture sector, now the highest recorded five years after Yolanda ravaged the Visayas region.

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Abante
UNA SA BALITA

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Mga magsasaka sa Cagayan tatanggap ng tulong-pinansyal

Nakatakdang tumanggap ng tulong mula sa mga international organization ang mga magsasaka sa Cagayan na naapektuhan ng Bagyong Ompong.

Ayon sa United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), magsasagawa sila ng pagbibigay ng mga fertilizer at production-related training bilang suporta sa mga magsasaka habang hinihintay ang tulong mula sa Department of Agriculture (DA) para sa susunod na panahon ng ani.

Magbibigay naman ang United Nations World Food Programme ng cash assistance na katumbas ng sampung araw ng minimum wage para sa magsasaka sa Cagayan.

Bukod pa ito sa P23 milyong emergency assistance na handog ng Australian government para sa 2,000 pamilya ng mga magsasaka sa nasabing probinsya.

Bibigyan din ang DA sa mga magsasaka ng mga binhi ng gulay at palay upang makapagsimula muli matapos masalanta ng bagyo noong Setyembre. **(Allan Bergonia)**

PEOPLE'S JOURNAL
Everybody's Newspaper

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BSP tames inflation forecasts

BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas' (BSP) policy-making Monetary Board (MB) on Thursday dialed back slightly the inflation assumption for 2018-20 after latest forecasts suggest more restrained inflationary pressures in the next two years.

To date, the 2018 inflation forecast is now at 5.2 percent from 5.3 percent during the rate-setting meet of the Board last November 15.

The latest 2019 forecast is down to 3.18 percent from 3.5 percent and in 2020, at 3.04 percent from 3.3 percent.

In a briefing, BSP Assistant Governor Francisco Dakila Jr. said risks to inflation have become more balanced given the deceleration of domestic rate of price increases despite concerns about the global economic growth path.

Other factors that bode well for domestic inflation are the decline in global oil prices and the stabilization of the peso, he said.

Last November, inflation fell to 6 percent from the nearly 10-year high of 6.7 percent last September to October.

Authorities expect the continued deceleration of inflation due to the total of 175 basis points hike in the BSP rates this year and the non-monetary measures implemented since last September, such as the boosting of rice supply through the release of rice stocks in all National Food Authority (NFA) warehouses nationwide.

Dakila said food prices are expected to continue to normalize as issues on rice supply are being addressed and the proposed rice tariffication is up for discussion by the Bicameral Conference Committee.

He also noted the "significant decline in oil prices", which was a major contributor to the elevated inflation rate in the first three quarters of this year.

He said the price of global crude oil is expected to go down to around USD63 per barrel in 2019 after hitting more than USD80 per barrel last October.

Manila Standard

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Imee wants expanded 3Ps for farmers

By Rey E. Requejo

ILOCOS NORTE Gov. Imee Marcos on Friday bewailed the marginalization of farmers and fishermen in the government's multi-billion-peso Pantawid Pamilya Program.

"Many of our farmers and fisherfolk are not included in the barangay lists of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program [4Ps] recipients even if they are the poorest of the poor because they reside in far flung communities hardly reached by welfare programs and are rarely visited by government social workers," said Marcos, the only local executive running for senator in next year's midterm elections.

The 4Ps is a human development measure of the national government that provides conditional cash grants to the poorest of the poor, to improve the health, nutrition, and the education of children aged 0-18. It is patterned after the conditional cash transfer schemes in Latin American and African countries, which have lifted millions of people around the world from poverty.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development is the lead government agency mandated to implement the 4Ps. This year, DSWD got a budget of P89 billion to implement its flagship program.

"Farmers and fisherfolk are the most vulnerable to adverse climactic conditions. Walang ani, walang nahuhuling isda, walang kinikita pag tag-ulan o bumabagyo. So they do not earn enough to feed their families and improve their living conditions," she added.

Marcos strongly proposed that a new program, "Pantawid Kita," specifically for the benefit of farmers and fisherfolk, must be created as a distinct component of the Pantawid Pamilya program to provide monthly basic income to farmers and fisherfolk in such amounts equivalent, at least, to those given to regular 4Ps beneficiaries.

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GALUNGGONG MULA CHINA NA MAY 'FORMALIN' NAKUMPISKA

NAKUMPISKA ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) ang halos 2,000 kilong frozen galunggong mula China na isinilid sa mga kahon nang magsagawa ang ahensiya ng buy bust operation sa Navotas City kamakailan.

Nasa 1,800 kilo lang ang nakumpiska sa operasyon pero may 70 container vans na may sariling freezer pa ang iniimbentaryo, na pinag-iimbakan ng higit 1,000 toneladang produkto.

Pinagbibili ng P580 ang kada kahon na may lamang 10 kilong isda.

Nahuli ang limang suspek kabilang ang tatlong mga Chinese.

Nang pasukin ng mga tauhan ng NBI ang bentahan, walang naipakitang importation permit ang mga naaresto pati ang nagpakilalang may-ari ng storage facility.

Ayon kay Noel Bocaling, officer-in-charge ng NBI Bulacan, nakatanggap sila ng impormasyon na ibinebenta nang tingi ang mga isda kahit dapat para sa canning o processing ang mga ito. Dagdag niya, sa mga wet market gaya sa Navotas ibinebenta ang mga galing dito.

Maaaring smuggled o ipinuslit sa bansa ang mga ito kung walang mga importation permit.

Dagdag ni Bocaling, posible ring may panganib sa kalusugan ang mga isda dahil ginamitan umano ito ng kemikal na formalin bago isilid sa freezer para mapigilan ang pagkabulok nito.

Sabi naman ng isa sa naaresto, hindi rin niya inaalam kung saan nanggaling ang mga ibinebenta nilang isda dahil tagaayos lang umano siya ng resibo.

Kakasuhan ang limang naaresto pati ang may-ari ng imbakan ng large-scale agricultural smuggling sa ilalim ng Republic Act (RA) 10845, at ng paglabag sa RA 8550 o ang Fisheries Code.

Iniimbestigahan din ng NBI kung paano nakarating sa Kamaynilaan ang mga isda bagama't sa Mindanao madalas pinoproseso ang isdang pangdelata.

Inaalam din kung may iba pang grupo o opisyal ng gobyerno na sangkot dito.

Ikinatuwa naman ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) ang naging resulta ng operasyon ng NBI.

"That's economic sabotage... Nagkakaroon ng artificial supply, magkakaroon ng effect sa pricing and that can be taken advantage of by some manipulators na traders para ma-tinker ang presyo," ani BFAR director Eduardo Gongona.

Nitong Agosto, pinayagan ng pamahalaan ang pag-aangkat sa bansa ng galunggong sa kabila ng babala ng ilang grupo na maaaring huli rin ang mga isda sa West Philippine Sea.

Remate
ANG DIARYO NG MASA

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Formalin-tainted galunggong seized

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) confiscated Wednesday night 1,800 kilos of round scad locally known as "galunggong" which was allegedly tainted with formalin in Navotas City.

Police also arrested three Chinese women and two Filipinos after they failed to show authorities their import permits.

Authorities seized the round scad from freezers inside 70 container vans at the Navotas Fish Port after the fish tested positive for formalin.

The freezers allegedly came from China.

According to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, a box containing 10 kilos of formalin tainted-round scad can be sold for only ₱50.

Police are now tightening the security around the port following the incident. **(Minka Tiangco)**