CLIPPINGS FOR SATURDAY, MAY 28, 2022

A. SEC. WDD QUOTED

MANILA BULLETIN
Proposed rice sale to poor contradicts RTL – farmers

PILIPINO STAR NGAYON
Magtatagumpay si BBM sa food production kung…
Editoryal: DA department of Angat

PEOPLE'S JOURNAL TONIGHT
Dar urges SUCs to help boost food security

B. DA FAMILY

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
Rice tariff collection reaches over P7B

MANILA BULLETIN
SoKor, PH build N. Ecija agri center to boost farm productivity
Zamboanga City in Red Zone over ASF infection

THE MANILA TIMES
Group questions govt on RTL claims

C. AGRI-RELATED STORY

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
'Ube fiesta' to be held held in Germany
MPIC expanding into agri, tourism

MANILA BULLETIN
Gov't raises P7.3 billion in 5 months from tariff on imported rice – DOF

MANILA STANDARD
'Agri-Agra Law repeal to boost agri, economy'

BUSINESS MIRROR
Palace EO extends lower tariffs on pork and rice until December

BUSINESS MIRROR
BOC collects P5.3 billion from pork imports from April 9 to May 13 '22

PEOPLE'S JOURNAL
Korea Embassy, KOICA lead groundbreaking of $5.78M agri mechanization center in PH

PEOPLE'S JOURNAL TONIGHT
PH, Korea projects to increase agri production

D. FOREIGN STORY

No stories

MANILA BULLETIN

Date: 28 MAY 2022 Page: B-3

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Proposed rice sale to poor contradicts RTL – farmers

By BERNIE CAHILES-MAGKILAT

The Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) cautioned the Department of Agriculture (DA) against unilaterally selling rice buffer stocks to poor consumers, as this contradicts the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL), which lifts the volume ceiling in rice importation and replacing it with high tariff wall.

Under a plan broached recently by DA Secretary William Dar, private retailers will be mobilized to sell rice stocks of the National Food Authority (NFA) at ₱27 per kilo primarily to beneficiaries of the government's Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).

The FFF clarified that, under the RTL, the NFA's buffer stocks can be used only "for emergency situations and to sustain the disaster relief programs of the government during natural or man-made calamities". The implementing rules of the RTL also allow the agency to unload additional stocks, only if these are aging out to deteriorate.

"The DA and NFA will be violating the law if they pursue their proposal without the justifications stipulated by the RTL. We must remember that the law took away NFA's original mandate to stabilize or influence rice prices and limited the agency's role to maintaining buffer stocks for emergencies. The law has to be amended first before NFA can start selling subsidized rice again to consumers.", said Raul Montemayor, FFF National Manager.

The FFF also questioned the need for the proposed scheme in the light of claims by the country's economic managers that the RTL was successful in bringing down the prices of rice.

"The RTL's proponentspromised that rice prices would go down if we allow imports to come in freely without any restriction and competition from the government. Why are they now proposing to bring back NFA rice?", said Montemayor.

The FFF added that the NFA would lose at least ₱11.60 for every kilo of rice sold at ₱27 per kilo, if it buys palay from farmers at ₱19 per kilo. "This loss does not yet include the NFA's processing, marketing and overhead costs," added Montemayor.

With that, the FFF urged President-elect Bongbong Marcos to immediately call for the review and amendment of the RTL in order to remove legal impediments to providing cheaper rice to poor consumers while protecting farmers from excessive imports and rising fertilizer and other production costs.

Another option to help the poor sector is for the incoming administration to look into the feasibility of increasing the cash transfers to 4Ps beneficiaries instead of distributing rice to poor consumers.

This would free the government from logistical headaches and the corruption and leakages that have hounded similar programs in the past.

The FFF added that selling NFA rice at a very cheap price could inadvertently depress farmgate prices, which will in turn force government to again allocate scarce resources to prop up palay prices through NFA buying.

Pilipino Star
NGAYON
Diyaryong disente ng masang intelihente

Date: 28 MAY 2022 Page: 4/5

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Magtatagumpay si BBM sa food production kung...

PRAYORIDAD ni president-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. na palakasin ang food production upang matugunan ang kakulangan ng pagkain. Ngunit maisakatuparan lamang ito kong maglululklok siya ng tamang tao na nakaiintindi sa pagtatanim, pangingisda at paghahayupan. Kung ang itatalaga niya sa Department of Agriculture (DA) ay walang nalalaman sa mga nabanggit, hindi magtatagumpay ang kampanya sa food production.

Samantala, ipinahayag naman ni Agriculture Sec. William Dar na aangkat ng galunggong ang Pilipinas upang mapunan ang kakulangan sa mga pamilihan. Hindi lamang isda ang inaangkat kundi pati agricultural products mula China, Vietnam at Thailand.

At habang umaangkat ng gulay at isda, bumabaha naman ang smuggled na gulay mula sa China na nagpapabulok sa mga aning gulay ng mga taga-Benguet at iba pang manananim ng gulay sa mga lalawigan sa Northern Luzon.

Sa tingin ko may "pera-perang' usapin sa pagpapalusot ng mga gulay na idinadaan mismo sa bakuran ng Bureau of Customs (BOC). May permit umano na galing mismo sa tanggapan ng DA ang isinusungalngal sa mga Customs examineers kaya naipupuslit ito kahit na ipinagbabawal.

Kapag nakalusot ang mga ito sa BOC babaha ang smuggled goods sa mga pamilihan at siguradong madedehado ang mga local products. Bukod kasi sa mas malalaki at mukhang sariwa dahil sa chemical na taglay nito, super baba pa ang presyo kumpara sa halaga ng aning gulay ng mga local na magsasaka.

Ganyan din ang problema ng mga local na mangingisda. Sa mahal ng gasolina ngayon halos hindi na nasusulit ang kanilang gastos sa paglalayag. Hindi naman kaila sa lahat

(Sundan sa pahina 5)

BANAT NI BATUIGAS... *Mula pahina 4*

na naglalayag ang mga mangingisda nang mahigit limang oras bago marating ang kawan ng isda sa laot. At oras na makahuli naman sila ng isda ay binabarat naman ito ng mga middlemen at negosyante kaya kuluntoy ang mga mangingisda.

Sa mga aqua culture naman, mabigat din ang kinakaharap dahil super taas sa ngayon ang feeds at fertilizers. Katulad na lamang sa problema ng mga taga-Roxas, Capiz na ang fertilizer ay umaabot na sa P3,000 kada sako. Ang bangus ay inaalagaan nila ng anim na buwan bago nila anihin. Mahal din ang yelo, petrolyo at transportation expenses kaya hilahod din ang mga fish pond owners. Kapag gumamit naman sila ng feeds para sa kanilang mga alagang isda tiyak na halos tutubo nalang sila ng katiting sa bawat kilo. Noong nakaraang Abril 17, binaha ang lalawigan ng Capiz matapos manalasa ang Bagyong Agaton. Umapaw ang mga palaisdaan at palayan

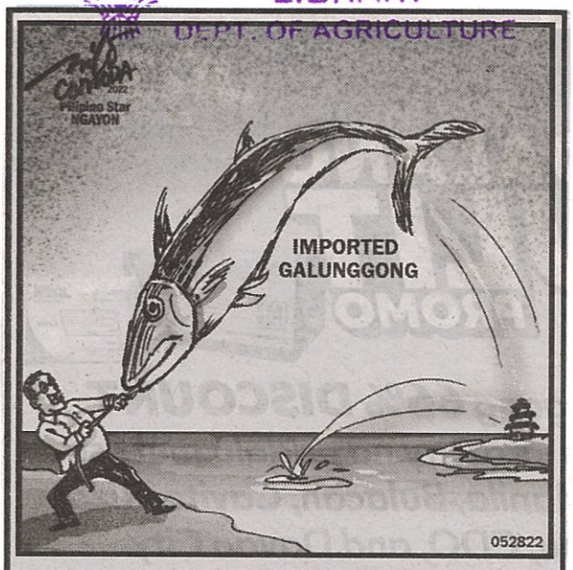
subalit wala man lang ayudang ipinagkaloob ang Duterte administration kaya baon sa utang ang mga magsasaka at mangingisda.

Kaya hiling nila kay president-elect Bongbong Marcos na magtalaga ng Agriculture secretary na marunong sa agrikultura. Dapat sipain din ang mga bugok sa DA at walisin ang mga smuggler sa BOC.

Pilipino Star
NGAYON
Diyaryong disente ng masang intelihente

Date: 28 MAY 2022 Page: 4

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE



Editoryal

DA: Department of Angkat

DAPAT baguhin na ang pangalan ng Department of Agriculture (DA) at gawin nang Department of Angkat. Kasi naman, angkat dito, angkat doon ang ginagawa ng kagawarang ito. Naturingang Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka pero wala nang ginawa kundi umangkat ng bigas, asukal at ngayon naman ay isda. Nakakahiya na isang agricultural na bansa ang Pilipinas pero umaasa sa imported na bigas at asukal. Malawak ang karagatan pero umaangkat ng galunggong. Sa darating na panahon, baka mga gulay na ang angkatin. Sa kasalukuyan, ini-smuggle pa ang gulay (carrots, sibuyas, bawang) kaya hindi pa umaangkat.

Papaalis na si DA Sec. William Dar sa Hunyo 30, kasabay ni President Duterte pero bago umalis, pinayagan pa nitong makapag-angkat ng 38,695 tonelada ng galunggong sa China. Noong nakaraang Pebrero umangkat na ang bansa ng 19,000 tonelada ng galunggong. Ang katwiran ni Dar, kulang ang supply ng galunggong dahil naapektuhan ng Bagyong Odette na nanalasa noong Disyembre 2021. Pero sabi ng mga lokal na mangingisda, wala namang kakulangan sa isda. Pinapatay umano ng ginagawang pag-aangkat ang pinagkakakitaan ng mga lokal na mangingisda.

Noong nakaraang Pebrero rin, asukal naman ang sinasabing aangkatin ng DA ngayong 2022. Ayon sa Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA), 200,000 metrikong tonelada ng asukal ang aangkatin ngayong taon para ma-stabilize ang presyo. Ayon sa SRA, nagkaroon ng kakulangan sa suplay ng asukal dahil sa Bagyong Odette. Nalugi umano ang sugarcane sector ng P1.15 bilyon. Pero sabi ng mga sugar producers, masyado raw malaki ang inaangkat ng SRA. Dapat daw 50,000 metriko tonelada hanggang 150,000 lamang ang aangkatin.

Ano pa bang agri products ang aangkatin ng DA maliban sa bigas, gulay, asukal at isda? Anong nangyayari sa bansa na ang inihahain sa hapag ay mga pagkaing inani sa ibang bansa. Malawak ang lupang sakahan at karagatan pero umaangkat.

Hindi pa inihahayag ni president-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ang kanyang agriculture secretary. Sana makahanap siya ng taong mamumuno sa agriculture na ang isipan ay nakatuon sa pagpapayaman sa sariling ani at hindi umaasa sa ani ng ibang bansa. Hanapin niya ang taong magpaparami sa bigas para matupad ang pangako niya noong kampanya na magiging P20 bawat kilo ang bigas.

PEOPLES JOURNAL Tonight

Date: 28 MAY 2022 Page: 7

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Dar urges SUCs to help boost food security

By CORY MARTINEZ

DEPARTMENT of Agriculture (DA) Secretary William Dar urged the state universities and colleges (SUCs) to help the sector combat the impending challenges to food security worldwide through upscale research on a massive level for six urgent agricultural areas of concern.

Dar appealed in view of the warning of global experts about the impending food crisis.

Dar said that the SUCs can step in and upscale their research on a massive level for six urgent areas of concern: 1) balanced fertilization; 2) urban and peri-urban agriculture; 3) local feeds formulation and production; 4) aquaculture and mariculture; 5) food mobilization; and 6) climate resiliency.

"We are really exhausting all means to stop in its tracks the insidious threat to our productivity brought on by scarce and expensive fertilizers," Dar said.

With the high prices of fertilizers and to prevent the drop in harvests, the DA is combining different interventions such as distributing fertilizer subsidies, talking with fertilizer-manufacturing countries, and embracing a balanced fertilization strategy.

Dar also encouraged the SUCs to be creative and integrate aquaponics in vertical farming systems, stressing that dwindling agricultural lands should not limit food production.

"All available urban spaces must host food production technologies designed and developed by our SUCs," he said, adding that the planting systems could be adapted by every "plantito" and "plantita".

He added that the SUCs could help explore and experiment with corn alternatives to develop as animal feed while boosting local corn productivity, currently at 60% sufficiency.

The SUCs, in partnership with DA and NIA (National Irrigation Administration), are also urged to explore big dams, irrigation areas, and other sites for aquaculture as aquaculture and mariculture are considered the new frontiers of protein production.

In terms of food mobilization, Dar suggested developing policy and logistical innovations to reduce reliance on fuel and long-haul transport to bring more farmers' produce to the consumers' tables.

"We don't want to be caught unaware by the severe damage of climate change, which can wreak our productivity. We have to keep designing systems, such as greenhouse and other typhoon-resilient technologies that will help us cope," Dar said.

Dar also recognized the SUCs' efforts in developing various technologies and reminded them that their outputs also need to impact their host provinces positively.

"Filipino universities are excellent germination banks of scientific ideas, innovation, and inventions. But these have to yield impacts and outcomes that our fellow Filipinos can see and feel," he said.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

Date: 28 MAY 2022 Page: B1

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Rice tariff collection reaches over P7 B

Duties collected from rice imports went up by 18.5 percent to P7.35 billion as of the middle of May from P6.2 billion in the same period last year and is nearing the yearly goal of P10 billion for the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) of palay farmers.

Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero also said import volume jumped by 43 percent to 1.26 million metric tons from 883,068 MT.

On the other hand, Guerrero said the value of rice imports fell by 17 percent to P16,710 per MT from P20,126 per MT.

For the year, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization expects rice prices to pick up due to recovering demand from Asian nations.

For the rest of the year, the Bureau of Customs needs to collect just P2.65 billion in tariffs to generate the P10 billion needed by the RCEF.

The RCEF receives an annual budget of P10 billion that agriculture offices deploy for programs and projects to raise the competitiveness of rice farmers.

Half of the funding at P5 billion goes to the Philippine Center for Postharvest and Mechanization for the procurement of new equipment.

Another P3 billion is deployed to the Philippine Rice Research Institute for the development, propagation and promotion of inbred seeds to be given out to palay farmers.

Likewise, the RCEF injects P1 billion into state-run banks to finance a credit line for rice farmers and their cooperatives and another P1 billion into several agencies to come up with research on modern farming techniques and rice crop production.

Guerrero said the government has also raised P5.3 billion in duties from the importation of meat swine as of May 13.

This translates to a net gain of at least P200 million against the forgone revenue of P5.1 billion from reduced tariffs on imported pork.

Last year, President Duterte issued Executive Order 134 cutting the rate of pork duty to 10 percent for imports within the quota and 20 percent for those outside the quota for the first three months of effectivity.

The tariffs then went up to 15 percent and 25 percent, respectively, for the succeeding nine months.

Pork tariffs were supposed to revert to their original rates of 30 percent within the quota and 40 percent outside the quota in May.

However, the President last week approved EO 171, keeping the tariff rates at 15 percent and 25 percent, respectively, to mitigate the impact of supply constraints caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

– **Elijah Felice Rosales**

MANILA BULLETIN

Date: 28 MAY 2022 Page: 3

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

SoKor, PH build N. Ecija agri center to boost farm productivity

By BETHEENA V. UNITE

An agricultural mechanization center that will increase agricultural productivity of farmers will be established in Nueva Ecija with the help of the South Korean Embassy in the Philippines.

The implementation of the $5.78-million Agricultural Machinery Design and Prototyping Center (AMPDC) at the PHilMech compound begins following the groundbreaking ceremony on May 25.

According to the embassy, the center will accelerate mechanization in the agricultural sector by enhancing local technological capacity to design, develop and manufacture agricultural machineries.

"The Republic of Korea supports the Philippines' agricultural technological innovation including R&D (research and development) that can help increase agricultural productivity and generate higher incomes for Filipino farmers," the South Korean Embassy said Friday, May 27.

The center's establishment is also "part of Korea's efforts to build a stronger academic partnership between Korea and the Philippines."

The grant project (2021-2027) includes the establishment of the AMPDC, development of new agricultural machinery technologies and prototypes, dispatch of Korean experts, and providing capacity building to PHilMech and technicians.

It is under the partnership of Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (DA-PHilMech), the Korean Embassy, and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

"In the end, it aims for farmers to have better access to quality and more affordable agricultural machineries which are locally manufactured," KOICA stated.

During the groundbreaking ceremony, KOICA Country Director Kim Eunsub signified Korea's commitment to continuously support the agriculture sector of the Philippines as agriculture and rural development is one of the priority sectors of KOICA in the country.

MANILA BULLETIN

Date: 28 MAY 2022 Page: 3

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Zamboanga City in Red Zone over ASF infection

By LIZA ABUBAKAR-JOCSON

ZAMBOANGA CITY — The Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) has placed Zamboanga City under Red Zone status due to the proliferation of Asian Swine Fever (ASF) cases in at least five barangays.

The areas affected include Canucutan, Pasonanca; Sitio Udjung, Bunguiao; Sitio Lower and Upper Mangusu; Sitio Presa in Curuan; and Sitio Corote in Manicahan.

The Office of the City Veterinarian (OCVET) tried to contain the infection by implementing depopulation in affected areas.

At least 100 hogs had been culled, while 37 affected hog raisers were given assistance by the government.

The OCVET followed provisions under City Ordinance No. 566, the ordinance to prevent and control Zoonotic and non-Zoonotic Transboundary Animal Diseases in Zamboanga City.

OCVET personnel are continuously monitoring unusual death of hogs in other areas.

The local government is calling on swine raisers to report any mortality and disease conditions to the OCVET, and to avoid slaughtering sick or dead animals to avoid food poisoning and contamination.

The government also banned the use of swill feed for hogs.

The Manila Times®

Date: 28 MAY 2022 Page: B2

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Group questions govt on RTL claims

BY EIREENE JAIREE GOMEZ

THE Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) said that while the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL) had some positive impact on the country's rice sector, what the government reports on the law's benefits are "half-truths" backed by "deceptive" claims.

In a position paper, Leonardo Montemayor, board chairman of the Federation of Free Farmers (FFF), presented their stand over the economic effects of the RTL, or Republic Act (RA) 11203, as President-elect Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. is yet to make a pronouncement on the law.

The Rice Tariffication Law removed restraints on the importation, exportation and trading of rice. Restraints on imports were replaced by tariffs. Also, RA 11203 removed the National Food Authority's (NFA) control over rice importation and allowed unimpeded imports by the private sector.

RA 11203 also created the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund that the country's economic managers claimed lowered rice prices, curbed inflation, provided additional support to farmers and reduced government losses.

However, what the government reports to the public is not the whole truth, Montemayor said. "As they claim, rice prices really dropped by as much as P7 per kilo from their peak in 2018. But this was not solely due to RTL. Even before the law took effect in March 2019, prices had already gone down by P3.50 per kilo with the arrival of emergency imports that were approved by the government in late 2018," he said.

Montemayor accused the country's economic managers for being "intellectually dishonest" by limiting their comparison to prices in 2018, when prices were abnormally high due to the rice crisis.

"They must be aware that prices during the first three years of RTL practically matched, on the average, prices during the more normal years of 2016 and 2017. But they do not divulge this fact, because it will mean that consumers did not fare better under RTL and that the promised cheaper rice — resulting from unbridled imports — did not truly materialize," he explained.

For his part, Agriculture Secretary William Dar said the artificial rice shortage in 2018 was due to the NFA's mistimed imports, which resulted in rice inflation. However, he defended that "the RTL now corrects such instances by removing NFA's monopoly on rice importation . . . [The] RTL was created in the spirit of avoiding another shortage and improving the competitiveness of our local rice farmers."

But economic managers are to be blamed for the rice crisis in 2018, FFF said, accusing that it was their cabal within the NFA council that repeatedly rejected requests from NFA management to replenish agency stocks with imports, until the agency ran out of rice and prices got out of hand. "Then they used the crisis to justify the speedy passage of RTL. And when rice prices went down, they heralded the success of the law in solving a problem that they, themselves, actually created," Montemayor said.

At the same time, Montemayor emphasized that the government's assertion that the Rice Tariffication Law reduced rice-based inflation is also "highly misleading."

"Zero inflation in rice merely means that prices have not changed relative to a previous period. Even with zero inflation, consumers are not better off, because they are still paying the same high prices for rice as in 2016 and 2017," he pointed out, noting that the poor are worse off under a liberalized rice trading regime as it stopped NFA from selling P27 per kilo regular rice in public markets.

"Importers, in turn, elected to bring in the more expensive premium grades of rice, which gave them a higher profit margin. Poor consumers now have no choice but to pay P10 more per kilo to get regular rice from commercial traders," added Montemayor.

For Dar, however, the RTL being signed into law came at a "good" time or in February 2020 because the pandemic hit the country in March of the same year and there were fears of major commodity shortages. "Vietnam, a major source of our rice, imposed a temporary export ban. So the liberalized regime also permitted us to explore other sources such as India. Thankfully, the shortage did not come to pass even at the height of the lockdowns," he said in a statement to *The Manila Times*.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

Date: 28 MAY 2022 Page: 2

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

'Ube Fiesta' to be held in Germany

By JANVIC MATEO

The *ube* sensation is coming to Germany.

The Philippine consulate in Frankfurt will organize an "*Ube* Fiesta" at St. Augustin town near the city of Bonn on June 4 to showcase different food creations and other Filipino dishes and drinks using purple yam.

"The *Ube* Fiesta in Germany aims to promote and raise awareness of *ube* as a sustainable, healthy, organic, versatile and next-trend product from the Philippines," the consulate said on the event website.

"The campaign/festival aims to highlight the characteristics of *ube* that coincide with German sustainability, culinary and social responsibility values through the showcase of special dishes and beverages which make use of *ube* as an ingredient," it added.

Ube food vendors, bakers and enthusiasts from Germany are expected to attend the event.

The consulate said *ube* has become popular in the international culinary scene, citing the rise of sustainable and fair trade produce.

"For Filipinos, *ube* is not just a trend. Filipinos have particularly passed down sweet and savory recipes with *ube* for generations. Its many forms have been part of Filipinos' fiesta banquets and special occasions," it added, citing the annual Bohol *Ube* Festival as an example.

According to the consulate, *ube* is part of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's list of 39 high potential crops that can contribute in achieving the zero hunger goal.

Ube, it added, is considered as one of the Future Smart Foods (FSFs) that are nutrition-dense, climate-resilient, economically viable and locally available or adaptable.

"Rediscovering hidden treasures of neglected and under-utilized species such as *ube* and the creation of an enabling environment for the promotion, production, marketing and consumption of FSFs assures healthy diets for the future," said the consulate.

The event, which will be held as part of Philippine Independence Day activities, will also feature cultural presentations and an art exhibition in partnership with the Filipino mission in the Archdiocese of Cologne.

Ube Fiesta will be held at the Steyler Missionare, St. Augustin, North Rhine Westphalia from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

THE PHILIPPINE STAR
TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

Date: 28 MAY 2022 Page: B5

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

MPIC expanding into agri, tourism

By IRIS GONZALES

Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC), the listed infrastructure and tollways conglomerate chaired by Manuel V. Pangilinan, is looking into expanding into new areas such as agriculture and strengthening its presence in logistics, tourism and renewable energy.

During the company's annual stockholders' meeting, Pangilinan said logistics is a good area to continue growing given the strong demand for e-commerce while agriculture is an important area to expand into as well to reduce the country's dependence on food imports.

In the area of tourism, Pangilinan said prospects are rosy especially with mobility restrictions easing. He reiterated that MPIC had just raised its stake in Landco Pacific Corp., making the upscale real estate developer now a 100-percent owned subsidiary of MPIC.

The move will strengthen the presence of MPIC in real estate aside from its existing 38 percent stake in Landco and will also mark the conglomerate's return as a major property developer.

MPIC immediate past president and CEO Jose Ma. Lim, who retired from the company effective last year, said during the meeting that MPIC is developing two new biogas plants.

"We will also be expanding in biogas. We have started the process for two plants and we are starting two more," Lim said.

In 2018, MPIC signed an agreement with Dole Philippines for the design, construction and operation of biogas facilities for Dole's canneries in South Cotabato, Mindanao.

During yesterday's meeting, Pangilinan said the company is optimistic on prospects of recovery, along with the recovery of the economy.

On infrastructure, Lim said the conglomerate is looking forward to working with the new administration of president-elect Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on strengthening the country's infrastructure projects.

MPIC reported a consolidated core net income of P3.1 billion for the first quarter, up 23 percent from P2.5 billion a year earlier.

The company benefited from continued economic recovery and intensified election-related activities in the country. Toll road traffic is now close to pre-pandemic levels, and power consumption has considerably increased as more industries ramp up operating capacity.

Reported net income attributable to the parent company, however, was lower by 19 percent to P5.7 billion for the first quarter as a result of the sale of Global Business Power and Don Muang Tollways (DMT) in the first quarter of 2021.

MANILA BULLETIN

Date: 28 MAY 2022 Page: B-1

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Gov't raises ₱7.3 billion in 5 months from tariff on imported rice – DOF

Taxes collected by the Bureau of Customs (BOC) from rice importation rose by double-digit in nearly five months, the Department of Finance (DOF) reported.

In a report to Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III, the Customs bureau said the agency raised ₱7.35 billion in duties from rice imports from Jan. 1 to May 13, 2022, an increase of 18 percent from ₱6.2 billion in the same period last year.

This amount is already 73 percent of the ₱10-billion fund earmarked yearly for the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) to finance the modernization of the agriculture sector and raise the incomes of palay growers.

Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero said the tax collections as of May 13 came from 1.26 million metric tons of rice shipments entering the country. The 1.26-MT importation was also 43.3 percent higher than the 883,068 metric tons registered during the same period in 2021, Guerrero said.

Under Republic Act (RA) No. 11203 or the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL), tariffs collected from rice imports go to the RCEF. Collections in excess of the ₱10-billion fund go to the Rice Farmer Financial Assistance (RFFA). The law took effect on March 5, 2019.

Guerrero said the value of rice continued to drop, posting a decline of 17 percent from ₱20,126 per metric ton in the January 1 to May 13 period of last year to ₱16,710 per metric ton in the same period this year.

In addition, Guerrero said that tax collections from pork importation already reached ₱5.3 billion as of May 13, overtaking the estimated amount of foregone revenues as a result of the earlier presidential directives lowering the import tariffs on pork.

Guerrero said there were a total of 330 million kilogram of pork imported port from April 9, 2021 when these presidential orders were implemented up to May 13 this year. Out of this volume, 102 million kilograms were processed from January 1 to May 13.

From April 9, 2021 to May 13, Guerrero said the Customs estimated that it lost ₱5.1 billion in expected import duties from pork shipments during the period.

President Duterte had issued executive orders (EOs) that took effect starting April 7, 2021 to lower pork import tariffs and increase the allowable import volumes of the meat. These directives were meant to check inflation by boosting the supply of pork and stabilizing its retail prices in the domestic market after the outbreak of the African Swine Fever (ASF) had hurt domestic hog production.

EO 128, which lowered pork import tariffs to 5 percent within its minimum access volume (MAV) and 15 percent outside MAV for the first three months, took effect from April 7 to May 14, 2021.

EO 134, which superseded EO 128 and took effect on May 17 last year, set tariffs on pork imports under the MAV to 10 percent for the first three months, and 15 percent in the next nine months.

For imports outside the MAV, the tariff rates were set at 20 percent for the first three months and 25 percent for the succeeding nine months. (Chino S. Leyco)

Manila Standard

Date: 28 MAY 2022 Page: A3

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

'Agri-Agra Law repeal to boost agri, economy'

By Julito G. Rada

THE move of the legislature to repeal the Agri-Agra Law will boost financing for the agricultural sector and benefit the economy in general, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said Friday.

The BSP has commended both chambers of Congress for ratifying the Bicameral Conference Report on the conflicting provisions of Senate Bill No. 2494 and House Bill No. 6134, entitled "The Agriculture, Fisheries, and Rural Development Financing Enhancement Act of 2022."

This measure repeals the Agri-Agra Law and is expected to unlock financing for the agricultural financing ecosystem and for rural community development requirements. The enrolled bill will soon be transmitted to Malacañang for the President's signature.

"The BSP has long pushed for the repeal of Republic Act No. 10000 to make it more responsive to the financing needs of farmers, fisherfolk, and agri-based micro, small, and medium enterprises," BSP Governor Benjamin Diokno said in a statement.

He said the measure adopts a holistic approach to private sector financing by recognizing that rural community beneficiaries are part of a wider social and economic support system.

Beyond extending credit, the repeal aims to further capacitate farmers and fisherfolk, modernize their operations, and integrate them into profitable domestic and export-oriented value chains.

BusinessMirror
A broader look at today's business

Date: 28 MAY 2022 Page: 13

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Palace EO extends lower tariffs on pork and rice until December

By Jasper Emmanuel Y. Arcalas

TO cushion the impact of the Ukraine-Russia conflict on domestic food prices and supply, President Duterte extended lower tariffs on pork and rice until the end of the year. The President has also lowered corn tariffs to as low as 5 percent and coal tariffs to zero until the end of the year.

Duterte signed Executive Order (EO) 171 series of 2022 last May 21 that kept the lower tariff rates on pork and rice and reduced the tariffs on imported corn and coal. The EO, however, was only uploaded to the Official Gazette website on May 26.

Duterte's signing of the EO was a few days before his power to modify tariff rates lapsed since Congress resumed session last May 23. The President can only modify tariff rates when Congress is not in session.

In the EO, Duterte noted the on-going conflict between Ukraine and Russia has pushed "worldwide prices" of various commodities including corn to "multi-year highs."

He added that increase in prices of oil products, corn and fertilizers "generated a corresponding sharp increase in domestic prices of commodities and energy," which resulted in "upward pressures" in the country's inflation.

"There is a need to temporarily maintain the reduced tariffs on imported rice and pork products to attain the objectives of EO Nos. 134 and 135, capitalize on the gains already achieved by these measures, for the purpose of augmenting the supply of these products in the country, diversifying the country's market sources and maintaining affordable prices, towards ensuring food security," he said.

Duterte explained that he also reduced the tariffs on imported corn and coal "to mitigate and stabilize the impacts of inflationary pressures" brought about by the Ukraine-Russia crisis. He noted that lowering the tariff rates on these two commodities would allow the country to expand its supply sources and reduce prices of key commodities.

Under EO 171, the in-quota tariff rates on imported pork shall remain at 15 percent while out-quota tariff rates would be at 25 percent. The uniform 35-percent tariff on imported rice shall remain in effect until the end of the year.

For corn, imports within the minimum access volume (MAV) or in-quota shall be slapped with a 5 percent tariff while out-quota volume will be levied with a 15-percent tariff rate. Imported coal products shall have zero tariff rates for the duration of the EO 171.

The BusinessMirror broke the story last month that the Committee on Tariff and Related Matters recommended to Duterte the reduction of corn tariff rates and the extension of current duties on pork and rice to mitigate the impact of global economic challenges on domestic food prices. ***(Related story: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/04/25/govt-turns-to-tariff-tweaks-vs-inflation/)***

The Philippine Association of Meat Processors (PAMPI) earlier noted that the reversion to higher tariff rates on imported pork could have inflationary effect since the country still reels from lower pork supply and high retail prices of meat the product due to consequences of African swine fever (ASF) devastation to local pig farms. ***(Related story: https://businessmirror.com.ph/2022/05/18/meat-processors-seekeo-to-keep-imported-pork-tariffs-at-low-rates/)***

BusinessMirror
A broader look at today's business

Date: 28 MAY 2022 Page: A4

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

BOC collects ₱5.3 billion from pork imports from April 9 to May 13 '22

By Bernadette D. Nicolas

THE Bureau of Customs (BOC) estimated that it lost P5.1 billion from April last year up to mid-May this year during the effectivity of the presidential directives lowering pork import tariffs.

Customs Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero reported to Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III the agency has collected P5.3 billion from a total volume of 330 million kilograms (kg) of pork imports from April 9 to May 13 this year.

Out of this volume, 102 million kg were processed from January 1 to May 13 this year.

To recall, President Duterte issued executive orders (EO) to lower pork import tariffs and increase the allowable import volumes of meat in a bid to boost pork supply and stabilize retail prices in the domestic market after the domestic hog production was hit by the outbreak of the African swine fever.

EO 128, which lowered pork import tariffs to 5 percent within its minimum access volume (MAV) and 15 percent outside MAV for the first three months, took effect from April 7 to May 14, 2021.

Prior to EO 128, tariff rates for pork imports were at 30 percent (in-quota) and 40 percent (out-quota).

EO 134, which superseded EO 128 set tariffs on pork imports under the MAV to 10 percent for the first three months, and 15 percent in the next nine months.

For imports outside the MAV, the tariff rates were set at 20 percent for the first three months and 25 percent for the succeeding nine months.

The one-year effectivity of EO 134 started on May 18 last year, according to Customs Memorandum Circular 102-2021.

Meanwhile, Guerrero also reported that it collected a total of P7.35 billion in duties from rice imports since the start of this year up to May 13.

This is higher by 18.6 percent or P1.15 billion from last year's collection of P6.2 billion in the same period.

This amount is already 73 percent of the P10 billion fund earmarked yearly for the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) to finance the modernization of the agriculture sector and raise the incomes of palay growers.

The rice import tariffs came from the 1.26 million metric tons (MT) of rice shipments that entered the country. The volume is 43.3 percent higher than 883,068 MT in the same period last year.

Under Republic Act (RA) No. 11203 or the Rice Tariffication Law, which took effect in March 2019, tariffs collected from rice imports go to the RCEF.

Collections in excess of the P10 billion funds go to the Rice Farmer Financial Assistance.

Guerrero said the value of rice continued to drop, posting a 17-percent decline from P20,126 per MT in the January 1 to May 13 period last year to P16,710 per MT during the same period this year.

PEOPLE'S JOURNAL
Everybody's Newspaper

Date: 28 MAY 2022 Page: 2

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Korea Embassy, KOICA lead groundbreaking of $5.78M agri mechanization center in PH

THE Korean Embassy and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) launched the groundbreaking of a $5.78million project to establish the Agricultural Mechanization Center in Nueva Ecija.

In a statement, the Republic of Korea said it supports the Philippines' agricultural technological innovation including research and development (R&D) that can help increase agricultural productivity and generate higher incomes for Filipino farmers.

The Center will accelerate mechanization in the agricultural sector by enhancing local technological capacity to design, develop and manufacture agricultural machineries.

Korea is also supporting a $15million project to establish the Agricultural Biotech Research Center at the University of the Philippines at Los Banos (UPLB).

This center aims at improving agricultural competitiveness through increased use of agricultural science and technology as well as strengthening academic partnerships on genomics research between Korea and the Philippines.

The Korean Embassy will continue to partner with its Philippine agricultural stakeholders to support agricultural growth and ensure food security for the benefit of Filipinos, it added.

On April 28, the first Philippines and Korea's joint science and technology committee agreed to implement two joint research projects.

The R&D projects on indoor farming and rapid intensification of cyclones will be jointly implemented by Korean and Filipino researchers.

Cristina Lee-Pisco

PEOPLES JOURNAL Tonight

Date: 28 MAY 2022 Page: 8

LIBRARY
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

PH, Korea projects to increase agri production

By CRISTINA LEE-PISCO

THE Korean Embassy and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) have launched the groundbreaking of a $5.78 million project to establish the Agricultural Mechanization Center in Nueva Ecija.

In a statement, the Republic of Korea said it supports the Philippines' agricultural technological innovation including research and development (R&D) that can help increase agricultural productivity and generate higher incomes for Filipino farmers.

The center will accelerate mechanization in the agricultural sector by enhancing local technological capacity to design, develop and manufacture agricultural machineries.

Korea is also supporting a $15million project to establish the Agricultural Bio-tech Research Center at the University of the Philippines at Los Banos (UPLB).

This center aims at improving agricultural competitiveness through increased use of agricultural science and technology as well as strengthening academic partnerships on genomics research between Korea and the Philippines.

The Korean Embassy will continue to partner with its Philippine agricultural stakeholders to support agricultural growth and ensure food security for the benefit of Filipinos, it added.

On April 28, the first Philippines and Korea's joint science and technology committee agreed to implement two joint research projects.

The R&D projects on indoor farming and rapid intensification of cyclones will be jointly implemented by Korean and Filipino researchers.