

**CLIPPINGS FOR SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2022**

**A. SEC. PBBM QUOTED**

**THE MANILA TIMES**

**Three big mistakes President Marcos has made**

**PEOPLES JOURNAL**

**Agri growth Marcos priority**

**B. DA FAMILY**

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

**Youth involvement in agri pushed**

**ABANTE TONITE**

**P33M bangus naglutangan sa Taal lake**

**C. AGRI-RELATED STORY**

*No stories*

**D. FOREIGN STORY**

*No stories*





## Three big mistakes President Marcos has made

First of 2 parts

WITH most leaders and media highlighting the positive and downplaying the negative in assessing the first year and one month in office of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ahead of his second State of the Nation Address at the joint session of Congress on July 24, let's be different and talk about the mega-miscues.

The least problematic and easiest to correct of the three policy boondoggles is holding on to the Agriculture portfolio for over a year when food production and prices should have been far better managed to contain inflation than a chief executive doubling up as Department of Agriculture (DA) secretary can.

Rice and other edibles make up the largest component of the consumer price index, and the rate of increase in the CPI is inflation. The inflation rate, in turn, strongly influences two other numbers crucial to economic growth and well-being as well as business investment: interest and exchange rates.

If a full-time DA secretary or officer in charge (OIC) had more closely monitored and expertly managed food production, distribution and trade, promptly countering spikes and shortages spawned by cartels and calamities, inflation would surely have been lower, maybe by 1 percentage point or so. That would have trimmed lending rates and peso-dollar conversion, with significant benefits for the economy and enterprises.

Marcos backers would argue that the President, being DA secretary, gave the department and the agricultural sector direct Palace attention and action. Well, he could have given that very same top-level focus on food even with a different DA chief.

Marcos could have held the



REPUBLIC  
SERVICE

RICARDO  
SALUDO

same meetings with the agency as he did the past year and issued the same orders and policies. In short, he could still have set DA directions even with a full-time DA secretary or OIC.

The big positive difference, of course, is that the Agriculture head office would have a dedicated head monitoring, troubleshooting, and accelerating DA operations, especially food initiatives, even while President Marcos attends to a host of other state matters or goes on his almost monthly overseas trips. And the DA secretary or OIC would have far more authority and clout to get the department and its attached agencies, especially the National Food Authority, moving as the Chief Executive wants.

Let's hope the President named at least an Agriculture OIC yesterday. That would greatly help in making food more available and affordable, benefiting tens of millions of Filipinos, especially the poor, and boosting business and jobs with more favorable inflation, interest and exchange rates.

### Rocking the super-coalition

Marcos Mistake No. 2 is the break-up of the super-coalition of national political parties he formed with his running mate, Vice President Sara Duterte. With his immense presidential clout, Marcos could have repaired the breach caused by the demotion of Pampanga lawmaker and former president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo as senior deputy speaker of the House of Representatives on the false claim that she sought to unseat her long-time ally, Speaker

Ferdinand Martin Romualdez.

Besides preserving the nation's most dominant political alliance in decades, what should have further spurred Marcos to squelch this intrigue is the utter nastiness of dragging first lady Marie Louise "Liza" Araneta Marcos into the controversy. The bizarre lie that Representative Arroyo mounted the failed House coup purportedly because some unnamed congressman, surely fictional, told her that the first lady supported the move insults both women.

If she were indeed told that the President's better-half backed her as speaker, Arroyo would have immediately called the first couple to verify the claim and been told it was a canard. But that whole story never happened. No congressman ever told the former president any such lie, and if anyone had engaged in such dumb deception, the most seasoned active politician in the country would never have fallen for it.

But the schemers against Arroyo went ahead anyway, and Marcos let it happen. Indeed, his apparent leniency with his own Cabinet and other agency heads — no one has been fired for such debacles as repeated airport shutdowns and the tanker oil spill — probably convinced the plotting congressmen they risked no Malacañang censure.

Result: The machinations against Arroyo, a top ally and adviser of Vice President Duterte, prompted the VP to denounce "political toxicity [and] execrable political powerplay" and resign from the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats (Lakas-CMD) party that backed her election bid.

Fears of coalition infighting and breakup were clear soon after VP Sara's Lakas exit, with an instant chorus of leading congressmen and political parties extolling Speaker Romualdez

and affirming support for the ruling alliance. Their intended message: the administration coalition is solid and invincible.

Anyone buying that PR line clearly isn't a seasoned political watcher. In gauging the true fallout from the Gloria-Sara episode, expert analysts would wait for next year's jockeying by candidates for the 2025 elections and the poll results. For one thing, to ensure they don't miss out on allocations, smart politicians would not break with the dominant alliance until after the 2024 national budget is law.

But expect grassroots maneuvering during the barangay (village) and Sangguniang Kabataan elections in October if the Supreme Court sticks to its decision voiding the law postponing the polls. And one has to see whether administration bills and initiatives will still command near-total support in the coming months and years. Plus: moves against political factions and figures seen as potential VP allies — and they are not few after six years of the Rodrigo Duterte presidency — cannot but roil the political climate.

Why did the Marcos camp do this? Its erstwhile super-coalition could have enjoyed unprecedented cohesion and clout throughout his rule, then coasted to another election landslide with Sara and a running mate from his faction, even his cousin Speaker Romualdez. Moving against the VP now not only undermines a hugely advantageous alliance but also gives the opposition a popular leader with years to amass support and resources.

The geopolitical reason behind shaking a dominant coalition capable of sweeping reform and continued poll triumph is Marcos' biggest political and governance mistake.

We'll discuss it on July 23.



Date: July 16, 2023 Page: A2



**LIBRARY**  
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

## AGRI GROWTH MARCOS PRIORITY

PRESIDENT Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. underscored on Saturday the importance of investing in the development, productivity, and modernization of the country's agricultural sector.

In a speech delivered by Presidential Assistant for Northern Luzon Assistant Secretary Ana Carmela Remigio during the 36th Cordillera Day Commemoration, President Marcos said it is important to prioritize and push for the development of agricultural land as it will provide not only crops to the farmers but will create multiple effects on the entire country.

"As President and concurrent Agriculture Secretary, I am relentlessly pushing and prioritizing the development of our agri-

cultural lands. I cannot emphasize it enough, but we really need to invest in the development, productivity, and modernization of our agricultural sector," Marcos said.

"By building infrastructure and improving market linkages of our farmers, our farmlands will yield not only crops, but also opportunities that create ripples of positive effects throughout our nation," the chief executive added.

The President was not able to attend the ceremony due to bad weather.

President Marcos urged the people to continue supporting the government's pursuit of providing a better, brighter and more productive life for everyone as he emphasized that

his administration will continue finding ways to provide them quality life.

Citing the achievements of the Cordillerans, President Marcos urged the residents to continue supporting the government's efforts in improving and uplifting their lives through various projects including the laying down of fiber optic cables to improve communications and access to the internet. President Marcos also urged the Cordillerans to support the programs of the Regional Development Council of the Cordillera Administrative Region, which are geared towards inclusive development without destroying the region's natural heritage.

PCO

Date: July 16, 2023 Page: 83



LIBRARY  
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

## Youth involvement in agri pushed

By **DANESSA RIVERA**

There is a need to realign engagement strategies targeting the youth, particularly out-of-school youth, to get them into the agriculture sector, according to a study by the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice).

PhilRice said there is a mismatch between the current youth engagement strategies and the reasons for straying away from the sector.

"This mismatch is likely to result in disastrous consequences given that there are major issues such as the cultural perceptions on agriculture that

are not really being addressed. Nonetheless, three key advocacies appeal to young people: food security, health and wellness, and community building," PhilRice social scientist Teresa Joi de Leon, the paper's main author, said.

She said the review of literature on the topic from 2011 to 2021 showed that the chance is high for young people to stay in agriculture if their issues with it such as employment and income will be addressed.

Analyzing 21 articles published in ProQuest and Google Scholar, De Leon and her team – Louie Ge-

rard Orcullo and Dr. Jaime Manalo IV– concluded that the government primarily spearheads youth and agriculture initiatives, encompassing a range of programs from scholarships to community development.

Notably, engagement initiatives in the country between 2011 and 2021 appeared to be particularly prominent in Mindanao.

The team also observed that mixed qualitative and quantitative methods were used in conducting the Philippine youth and agriculture studies. However, she stressed that the out-of-school youth is underrepresented in the literature.

# Abante TONITE

MABILIS SA BALITA

Date: July 16, 2023 Page: A 2



LIBRARY  
DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

## **P33M bangus naglutangan sa Taal Lake**

Patay na nang maglutangan ang tinatayang 300 tonelada ng bangus na nasa Taal Lake.

Batay sa mga naunang ulat, tinatayang nasa P33 million ang halaga ng bangus na namatay sa Batangas.

Nabatid kay Bureau of Fish and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Regional Director Sammy Malvas na posibleng dahil sa pagbabago ng temperatura

ng lawa kaya nasawi ang mga bangus.

Wala pang impormasyon ang BFAR kung kailan magiging normal ulit ang Taal Lake para maging ligtas ang mga isda.

Kasabay nito ay nagpaalala ang BFAR sa mga may-ari ng fishcage sa lugar na kunin na ang kanilang mga isda tulad ng bangus at tilapia para hindi na madamay pa sa fish kill. (RP)