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WALA KAYO SA MAMA KO!

SEN. RISA MONTIVEROS

Marami akong inaasahang marinig sa dating na State of the Nation Address (SONA) ni Pangulo, hindi lang bilang mambabatas, higit bilang mama ng tahanan. Bakit dapat tayong makialam o maging aware dito? Lahat ng ating kinakaharap na pagsubok bilang mama — mula sa pagtatrabaho sa labas ng bahay, pagba-budget para sa pamilya, kinabukasan ng ating mga anak—lahat ng ito ay nakasalalay sa kung ano ang prayoridad at kasalukuyan nang ginagawa ng administrasyon.

Sinabi sa nakaraang survey na ang usapin sa inflation ang pangunahing isyu ng mga Pilipino sa ngayon. Dati, wala halos ang nakakaunawa sa salitang ito. Pero ngayon, ito na ang top of mind ng bawat Pilipino dahil ramdam ng bawat isa ang pagtaas ng presyo ng bilihin. Kung dati na

Mga dapat nating marinig sa SONA

kakapuno pa ng isang malaking cart ang P1,000, ngayon ni hindi yata mapuno kahit ang maliit na basket sa mga pamilihan. Ang dating malaking burger na nabibili sa labas, lumiit na nang lumiit, pati ang ulam sa karinderya, iisang sandok na ang serving. Ganito karamdam ang epekto ng inflation sa bawat pamilya at manggagawa. Parang hindi na sapat ang 'unity' o pagkakaisa na pangako noong halalan. Ang 'unity', para sa karaniwang Pilipino, ay hindi nakapagpababa ng presyo ng bilihin. Hindi nakapagparami ng trabaho. Hindi tayo naiahon mula sa resesyon at pandemya.

Gusto nating marinig sa SONA: Ano ang gagawin nila para habulin ang naging napakabilis na pagtaas ng presyo ng bilihin habang usad-pagong ang pagtaas ng kita at hindi nadagdagan ang disyenteng pagkakakitaan?

Pati sana ang mataas pa ring presyo ng kuryente sa bansa. Kumpara sa Vietnam na mas mababa lang ng kaunti ang populasyon kayente kaya hindi nila nararanasan ang rotational blackouts.

Dapat ding pag-ibayuhin pa ang suporta sa ating mga magsasaka at mas lagyan ng ngipin

ang pagsugpo sa smuggling. Dahil sa smuggling, iilan lang ang nagkokontrol ng presyo ng mga bilihin, halimbawa sa sibuyas at asukal. Kung sana walang smuggling, mas magiging abot-kaya ang presyo at pati ang ating mga magsasaka, maeengganyo silang palaguin pa ang kanilang mga pananim dahil kumikita sila at ramdam na suportado ng gobyerno.

Mali rin ang prayoridad pagdating sa edukasyon. Hindi English at ROTC ang makakatugon sa mga krisis sa learning at literacy. Kailangan ng whole-of-government approach sa edukasyon at siguraduhin na napupunta ang budget sa mga importanteng programa ng Kagawaran.

Sana ay magkaroon din ng maraming disyenteng trabaho at hindi lang sinasabi nilang jobs-of-last resort. Hindi lang ito para sa ating henerasyon, kundi para sa ating mga anak. Para saan pa't pinag-aaral natin sila ngayon kung wala silang makukuhang magagandang oportunidad pagka-graduate nila.

Dapat maging mapagmatyag tayo sa mga sasabihin ni Presidente sa SONA dahil dito nakasalalay ang kinabukasan ng ating mga anak at ng buong bansa.



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DA REGION 2 PREPARES FOR EL NIÑO

TUGUEGARAO CITY: Officials of the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office 2 (DA-RFO2) said the agency has started implementing measures to mitigate the effects of the El Niño phenomenon in Region 2 (Cagayan Valley).

This is in response to the forecast by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) that the El Niño phenomenon will affect the country in the coming months.

DA-RFO2 executive director Narciso Edillo said plans are in place to ensure a steady food supply in the region for the remainder of the year.

In its action plan, Edillo said the DA-RFO2 has already submitted to the DA Central Office for possible funding the actions and programs to be undertaken to address the pressing issues.

"To execute our logistics and lined up activities in the vulnerable areas, we have allocated P2.5

million from the regular funds under the rice, corn, high value crops development, and livestock programs," he said.

The DA-RFO2 has also proposed activities such as regional coordination meetings and training; massive dissemination of information, education and communication materials; provision of irrigation systems; buffer stocking of seeds and other agricultural inputs; crop insurance; and provision of drugs, biologics and feeds, among others.

"We are also looking at allocating more funds from our expected savings to augment agricultural inputs in the affected areas in the region," Edillo said, adding that in collaboration with local government units (LGUs), consolidation of drought damages in the provinces is being undertaken.

On Wednesday, July 19, DA-RFO2 officials met with all provincial, city and municipal agriculturists in the region to tackle

issues and concerns on El Niño phenomenon and the Masagana Rice Industry Development Program.

"This is a convergence meeting with our partner national agencies to help the agri-fishery sectors meet its goal to sustain a food-secured region and all over the Philippines," Edillo said.

During the meeting, Edillo urged the agriculturists to partner with farmers to start working on mitigating measures to lessen damages and losses before the El Niño phenomenon hits hard in the coming days.

While everyone is going to be affected by the phenomenon, he told agriculturists to "encourage farmers to plant early, as much as possible, during this wet season."

Edillo also cited President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the concurrent DA secretary, in his push for the revival of the Masagana Program to raise the level of production of

important commodities including rice, and to strengthen the value chain from the farmers up to the consumers.

He explained that the President wants to revive this program, especially on rice for export to nearby countries to boost farmers' income.

Dr. Roberto Busania, DA-RFO2 technical director for Operations and Extension, also said there is a need for more funding for the proposed inclusion of the Agri-Fisheries as Assessment Criteria for the Awarding of the Seal of Good Local Governance or SGLG for LGUs.

Busania said there is limited support for the agriculture sector considering that the sector should be on top priority.

"We are hoping that more funds will be allocated for the agri-fishery sectors by [at least] 10 percent from the National Tax Allotment as a share of every LGU," he added.

LEANDER C. DOMINGO

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NO MORE BIRD FLU

IOWA, NORTH DAKOTA POULTRY IMPORT BAN LIFTED

By **Jordeene B. Lagare**
@jordeenelagare

The Philippines is now allowing the entry of poultry products from Iowa and North Dakota as the two American states have been cleared of bird flu.

In a memorandum order, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said it has lifted the ban on the importation of poultry and wild birds and their products, including poultry meat, day-old chicks, eggs and semen from these two states effective immediately.

The agency said both Iowa and North have been cleared of bird flu and the risk of contamination from importing these commodities was now "negligible."

The import ban was lifted as the United States reported

to the World Organization for Animal Health that all cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza in both states have been resolved and "no additional outbreaks are reported."

Major supplier

In April last year, the DA temporarily banned poultry imports from four US states—Missouri, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa—due to numerous outbreaks of bird flu.

"The rapid spread of H5N1 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in the United States of America in a short period of time since its first laboratory detection necessitates a wider coverage of trade restriction to prevent the entry of HPAI virus and protect the health of the local poultry population,"

the DA had said in a previous memo.

Philippine and American veterinary authorities reached an agreement in 2016 that a state-wide ban would only be imposed if there were three or more counties affected by bird flu in said state.

The DA lifted the ban on the importation of poultry products from Missouri in August last year.

The United States is among the country's major suppliers of meat and meat products.

As of June this year, the United States exported 100.13 million kilograms of meat and meat products to the archipelago, data from the Bureau of Animal Industry showed.

Chicken topped the list with 74.04 million kg, followed by pork totaling 17.88 million kg. INQ

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DA TO REVIEW CERTIFICATION FOR ANIMAL REARING PRACTICES

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is reconvening a technical working group to improve the process for issuing a good animal husbandry practices (GAHP) certification.

In a special order, the DA said it was recomposing the technical working group to improve the implementation of the GAHP Certification Program.

The group is responsible for assisting the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) director in the development of effective policies. It is also tasked to review current issuances related to the GAHP Certification Program and to identify and revise areas that need to be updated or amended.

Aside from collecting industry data and information, the group needs to consult and collaborate with industry stakeholders.

It will also review all recommendations gathered in the certification and formulate and recommend policies.

"The GAHP-TWG shall meet at least twice a year or as the need arises to discuss matters

and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the implementation of [the] GAHP Certification Program," the DA said.

Good animal husbandry practices refer to the set of good practices and minimum requirements for raising or rearing animals.

These are needed to ensure that the farming practices of an establishment will result in produce that is safe and fit for human consumption.

At the same time, these aim to guarantee health safety and comfort to both farm workers and animals while preventing the entry of animal diseases.

Industry players such as backyard and commercial pig-gery farm owners and poultry raisers, goat raisers, cattle raisers and carabao raisers are enjoined to follow good animal husbandry practices to ensure food safety and quality, protect and promote the welfare of animals, health and safety of farm workers and support environmental management.

—JORDEENE B. LAGARE/INQ

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NEWS BRIEF

Fishing ban sa Pola, inalis na

Pinapayagan na ni Naujan Oriental Mindoro Governor Humerlito Dolor ang lahat ng water activities sa bayan ng Pola.

"There are more or less 10 series of tests conducted by BFAR both on the oil and grease levels at saka 'yung level ng PAH, ang maganda lang doon during last test na inilabas nila, very clear na ang level ng oil and grease ay within the standards, at 'yun namang PAH level no detection na because of that puwede nang i-lift at 'yun ang last straw para masabi natin na ang Oriental Mindoro ay buo na, on the way to recovery na," ayon kay Dolor.

Ito ay kasunod ng ipinatupad na fishing ban ng halos limang buwan dahil sa oil spill kung saan ang Pola ang pinakaapektado.

Lumabas sa pagsusuri ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources o BFAR na wala nang langis at grasa sa dagat na sakop ng bayan.

Samantala, nilinaw naman ni Pola Mayor Jennifer Cruz na pangangisda pa lamang ang kanyang papayagan. (Natalia Antonio)

Abante TONITE

MABILIS SA BALITA

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Puslit na karne nasilat sa resto, grocery

Nasa 700 kilo ng 'hot meat' ang kinumpiska sa dalawang mini grocery at isang restaurant sa Pasay City.

Ayon kay Dennis Solomon, ng Department of Agriculture Inspectorate and Enforcement Division, nasa P500,000 ang halaga ng nakumpiskang smuggled frozen na peking duck, pigeon, black at yellow chicken,

pork at beef.

Ang isang black chicken ay nabebenta sa halagang P500 hanggang P750.

Ang mga ito ay kinumpiska sa Fei Chang Fresh Distribution Mini Mart sa Barangay 76 at Food Penguin mini grocery sa Cartimar, Pasay gayundin ang kalapit nitong restaurant na Onn Kee Roast Duck.

Ang mga ito ay nakalagay sa plastic at karton na may Chinese character.

Pawang mga Chinese nationals ang may-arin ng tatlong sinalakay ng establisimyento na tumangging humarap sa mga awtoridad.

Ang mga karneng nakumpiska ay susunugin dahil walang garantiyang ligtas itong kainin. (Betchai Julian)

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Penal colony agri-hubs tutulong para sa food security ng Pinas - DA

MAGSISILBING blue print para makamit ang food security sa bansa ang planong i-transform ang nakatiwangwang na penal colony lands sa productive agriculture hubs.

Sinabi ni Department of Agriculture Gerald Glenn Panganiban, director ng Bureau of Plant Industry ng DA, na ang tagumpay ng DA-DOJ (Department of Justice) Reformation Initiative for Sustainable Environment for Food Security (RISE) ay magsisilbi rin bilang model para matamo ang ambisyosong layunin na Zero Hunger na itinakda ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. Through the DA-DOJ RISE Project, idle prison lands will soon be transformed into booming agriculture hubs with bustling vegetable farms, rice and corn fields, dairy pastures, fisheries, and agricultural support facilities," ayon kay Panganiban.

"This project can serve as a blueprint for developing similar agri-hubs to feed communities across the Philippines," dagdag ni Pangulong Marcos.

Ang paglagda sa tripartite memorandum of agreement na kamakailan lamang natapos sa pagitan ng DA-DOJ at Bureau of Corrections ay sinaksihan mismo ng Pangulo.

Sa naging pahayag ng Pangulo sa naturang event, binigyang diin ng Chief Executive ang food security at Zero Hunger bilang twin policy priorities ng kanyang administrasyon.

Isa sa pangunahing layunin ng DA-DOJ RISE Project, ayon sa kasunduan ay "to develop land areas and resources into productive agricultural camps or food production centers to contribute to the country's food security".

Ang unang agriculture hub sa ilalim ng RISE Project ay itatayo sa 501-hectare plot ng Iwahig Prison at Penal Farm sa Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

Ang pangunahing pagkain na tutubo at lalago on-site ay ang bigas, mais, cashews, at sari-saring gulay. Kabilang sa proyekto ang tilapia fishery at ang dairy production area.

The way to achieve food security and zero hunger in the Philippines is to modernize our farming tools and processes and boost agricultural production," ayon kay Panganiban.

"RISE agri-hubs will serve as important incubators of agricultural innovation and progress towards achieving the priority agriculture objectives of the President", lahad pa nito.

KRIS JOSE