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DA, FTI officials sacked over 2022 onion deal

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THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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MATI CITY FACILITY 'HAS POTENTIAL' TO GROW BIGGER

## FISH PORT OPENS IN DAVAO ORIENTAL'S 'TUNA HIGHWAY'

**By Meg J. Adonis**  
**@MegINQ**

The Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) inaugurated a new fish port in Mati City this week as it promised an additional source of livelihood

for residents in the capital of Davao Oriental.

According to the PFDA, Mati's first fish port will serve as a postharvest facility to handle and distribute fish and fishery products in the city.

"Mati City is a very strate-

gic location to build a fish port because it is located along the eastern seaboard and is a tuna highway. With this, there is a big potential for Mati City fish port to be a bigger fish port," said Glen Pangapalan, PFDA acting general manager.

The fish port houses a market hall, harbor area, fish landing and "other necessary components of a postharvest facility."

While the main sources of livelihood in Mati are copra and coconut byproducts, residents also earn from fishing

and tourism.

Pangapalan said the new fish port could improve economic trade and activity while boosting the city's tourism.

The facility is expected to sustain the incomes of fishery-based households and enterprises.

Apart from the Mati facility, PFDA also established fish ports in Navotas City, General Santos City, Davao City, Zamboanga, Iloilo City, Lucena City, Bulan in Sorsogon, Camaligan in Camarines Sur and Sual in Pangasinan. **INQ**



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## 2 officials sacked over onion deal

The Ombudsman on Friday dismissed two officials of the Department of Agriculture and the Food Terminal Inc. (FTI) over a questionable procurement of onions from a cooperative in 2022. Agriculture Assistant Secretary for consumer affairs Kristine Evangelista was cited for grave misconduct, while FTI vice president for operations John Gabriel Trinidad III got the boot for gross neglect of duty.

—STORY BY JULIE M. AURELIO AND MEG J. ADONIS

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# DA, FTI officials sacked over 2022 onion deal

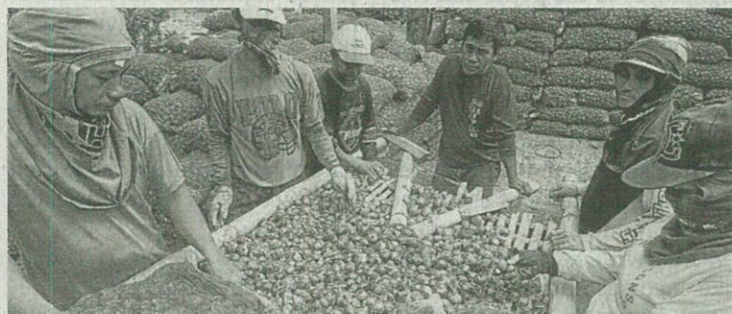
By Julie M. Aurelio  
and Meg J. Adonis  
@Team\_Inquirer

The Ombudsman on Friday dismissed two officials of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Food Terminal Inc. (FTI) over the latter's questionable procurement of onions from Bonena Multipurpose Cooperative in 2022.

The Ombudsman dismissed DA Assistant Secretary for consumer affairs Kristine Evangelista for grave misconduct and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service, and FTI vice president for operations John Gabriel Trinidad III for gross neglect of duty and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service.

Their dismissal also included the cancellation of their civil service eligibility, forfeiture of retirement benefits and perpetual disqualification for re-employment in the government service.

In a 26-page resolution, the Ombudsman also junked the same administrative raps against DA Senior Undersecretary Domingo Panganiban, FTI president Robert Tan, DA Chief Accountant Lolita Jamela, DA Administrative Officer Eunice Biblanias and FTI budget division head Juanita Lu-



**PRICEY BULBS** Farmers in Bayambang, Pangasinan, sort out freshly harvested onions before transporting them to market, in this file photo. —WILLIE LOMIBAO

alhati were dismissed for insufficiency of evidence.

Criminal charges against the five said officials were also dismissed for lack of probable cause.

The administrative raps against Tan were dismissed as he will be a witness in the case.

### Falsification of documents

The Ombudsman also recommended the filing of graft and falsification of documents charges against Evangelista, Trinidad, Bonena chair Israel Reguyal, Benedict Libres, Marlon Pagsisihan, Jocelyn Jane, Rossul Batadhay, Romy Jimeno, Charlito Ylanan, Francisco Laplana III, Arnold Osorio, Angelo Lajom, Randy Santos,

Erickson Cortez, Ruben Bautista, Vince Lorenzo, Windell Glenn Canaan and AJ Bamala.

In late 2022, prices of red onions went up to P600 per kilogram from P180 per kg due to the shortage of red onions in the local market.

The DA's Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service then introduced the Kadiwa Food Mobilization Project in which agri-fishery commodities were directly brought to Metro Manila without going through middlemen and allotted P140 million for the project.

The DA entered into a memorandum of agreement with the FTI on a Kadiwa Food Hub proj-

ect while the FTI also entered a deal with Bonena for the delivery of 8,845 sacks of onions at 28 kg per bag.

### 'Not corrupt'

But Evangelista maintained that she was "not corrupt" despite the Ombudsman's dismissal.

"Everyone I worked with knows I am not corrupt ... This can be proven by the farmers and other stakeholders with whom I have previously worked," Evangelista said in a statement sent to reporters.

Evangelista insisted that she was able to extend aid to farmers, farmworkers, vendors and consumers during her four-year tenure.

"I believe that there is a solution to the food crisis we are facing and [the government] has the responsibility to implement programs to protect and serve every Filipino," she said.

"If we continue what we have started, we will be able to solve the food crisis," Evangelista added.

In December 2022, the price of locally produced red onions sold in Metro Manila soared to P380 per kg from P180 per kg in 2021. INQ





**BAGONG PILIPINAS**  
*Tagapagtataguyod ng Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan*

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**Shellfish Bulletin No. 25**  
Series of 2023  
26 October 2023

Shellfishes collected and tested from Sapián Bay (Ivisan and Sapián in Capiz; Mambuquiao and Camanci, Batán in Aklan); coastal waters of Pilar; President Roxas; Roxas City in Capiz; coastal waters of Gigantes Islands, Carles in Iloilo; coastal waters of Dauis and Tagbilaran City in Bohol; and Dumanquillas Bay in Zamboanga del Sur are still positive for Paralytic Shellfish Poison (PSP) or toxic red tide that is beyond the regulatory limit. Moreover, Lianga Bay in Surigao del Sur; and coastal waters of San Benito in Surigao del Norte are now positive for red tide toxin.

**All types of shellfish and *Acebes* sp. or alamang gathered from the areas shown above are NOT SAFE for human consumption.** Fish, squids, shrimps, and crabs are safe for human consumption provided that they are fresh and washed thoroughly, and internal organs such as gills and intestines are removed before cooking.

The following areas continue to be **FREE from toxic red tide**: coastal waters of Cavite, Las Piñas, Parañaque, Navotas, Bulacan, and Bataan (Mariveles, Limay, Orion, Pilar, Balanga, Hermosa, Orani, Abucay, and Samal) in Manila Bay; mariculture areas in Infanta, coastal waters of Bolinao, Anda, Alaminos, Sual, and Wawa, Bani in Pangasinan; mariculture areas in Rosario, and Sto. Tomas in La Union; coastal waters of Pampanga; Masinloc Bay in Zambales; Pagbilao Bay, Pagbilao, and coastal waters of Walay, Padre Burgos in Quezon; Honda, and Puerto Princesa Bays, Puerto Princesa City, and coastal waters of Inner Malampaya Sound, Taytay in Palawan; coastal waters of Milagros, and Mandaon in Masbate; Sorsogon Bay, and Juag Lagoon, Matnog in Sorsogon; coastal waters of Panay in Capiz; coastal waters of Borongan, San Dionisio in Iloilo; coastal waters of Altavas, Batán, and New Washington in Batán Bay, Aklan; coastal waters of E.B. Magalona, Talisay City, Silay City, Bacolod City, Hinigaran, and Victorias City in Negros Occidental; Tambobo, and Silt Bays, Siaton; and Bais Bay, Bais City in Negros Oriental; coastal waters of Daram, and Zumarraga, and Villareal Bay in Samar; coastal waters of Guluan in Eastern Samar; coastal waters of Leyte, Calubian, Ormoc, Sogod, Carigara Bay, and Cancabato Bay, Tacloban City in Leyte; coastal waters of Biliran Island; Tantanang Bay in Zamboanga Sibugay; Murcielagos Bay in Zamboanga del Norte and (Sapang Dalaga, and Baliangao) in Misamis Occidental; Panguil Bay, Tangub City, and coastal waters of Ozamiz City in Misamis Occidental; coastal waters of Baroy in Lanao del Norte; Taguines Lagoon, Benoni, Mahinog in Camiguin; Balite, and Pujada Bays, Mati City in Davao Oriental; Malalag Bay in Davao Occidental and Davao del Sur; coastal waters of Nasipit in Agusan del Norte; and coastal waters of Hinatuan, Cortes, and Bislig Bay in Surigao del Sur.

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Do not harvest  
Do not sell  
Do not buy  
Do not eat

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## Ombudsman orders filing of raps vs DA exec



Evangelista

By ELIZABETH MARCELO

The Office of the Ombudsman has ordered the filing of graft and falsification charges against suspended Department of Agriculture (DA) assistant secretary Kristine Evangelista, Food Terminal Inc. (FTI) vice-president for operations John Gabriel Benedict Trinidad III and 16 other individuals in connec-

tion with the alleged profiteering and price manipulation of onions late last year.

In a 26-page resolution, the dispositive portion of which was obtained by the media yesterday, the ombudsman said it found probable cause to indict Evangelista and Trinidad with violation of Section 3 (e) of Republic Act 3019 or the Anti-Graft and

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## Ombudsman From Page 1

Corrupt Practices Act and falsification of documents as defined and penalized under Article 172 of the Revised Penal Code.

Also ordered charged with Evangelista and Trinidad were 16 individuals from the DA, FTI and Bonera Multipurpose Cooperative: Israel Reguyal, Benedict Libres, Marlon Pagsisihan, Jocelyn Jane, Rossul Batadhay, Romy Jimeno, Charlito Ylanan, Francisco Laplana III, Arnold Osorio, Angelo Lajom, Randy Santos, Erickson Cortez, Ruben Bautista, Vince Lorenzo, Windell Glenn Canaan and A.J. Bamala.

The ombudsman, on the other hand, dismissed the charges against DA senior undersecretary Domingo Panganiban, DA administrative officer V Eunice Biblanias, DA officer-in-charge chief accountant Lolita Jamela, FTI president and chief executive officer Rob-

ert Tan and FTI Budget Division head Juanita Lualhati "for lack of probable cause."

"The resolution of this case is without prejudice to the conduct of fact-finding investigation against other public officers and private individuals responsible for the irregularities in the said project," the ombudsman's resolution read.

Meanwhile, in a separate decision also released yesterday, the ombudsman has ordered Evangelista's dismissal for administrative offenses of grave misconduct and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service.

Trinidad was likewise ordered dismissed for administrative offenses of gross neglect of duty and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service.

Aside from their dismissal, the ombudsman also imposed against them the accessory penalties of cancellation of civil service eligibility, forfeiture of retirement benefits

and perpetual disqualification from holding public office.

The ombudsman said that in the event Evangelista and Trinidad are already separated from the DA and FTI, respectively, the dismissal is convertible to a fine equivalent to their salary for one year. The ombudsman said the fine "may be deductible from the respondent/s retirement benefits, accrued leave credits or any receivable from his/her office."

The ombudsman, on the other hand, dismissed the administrative charges against Panganiban, Biblanias, Jamela and Lualhati due to "insufficiency of evidence."

The administrative case against Tan, meanwhile, was dismissed following the ombudsman's approval of his manifestation to become state witness and provide additional information relevant to the prosecution of the cases in court.

The ombudsman has yet to release to the media the full copy of its two rulings.



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## Ombudsman readies charges vs DA execs, private individuals in 2022 'onion mess'

By CZARINA NICOLE ONG-KI

The Office of the Ombudsman (OMB) is now preparing criminal charges that will be filed before the Sandiganbayan against Department of Agriculture (DA) Assistant Secretary for Consumer Affairs Kristine Y. Evangelista and 17 others over the shortage and spiraled prices of onion in 2022.

In a separate decision, the OMB ordered the dismissal of Evangelista and John Gabriel Benedict C. Trinidad III, vice president for operations of Food Terminal Inc. (FTI), for Grave Misconduct and Conduct Prejudicial to the Best Interest of the Ser- ► 10

vice, and Gross Neglect of Duty and Conduct Prejudicial to the Service, respectively.

"The principal penalty of dismissal from the service is imposed pursuant to Section 46(A)(1) and (3), Rule 10 of the Revised Rules on Administrative Cases in the Civil Service, and shall carry with it the cancellation of eligibility, forfeiture of retirement benefits, and perpetual disqualification for re-employment in the government service," the OMB said in its decision.

### Dismissed

Meanwhile, all the criminal charges against DA Senior Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban, President and Chief Executive Officer Robert S. Tan of FTI, Chief Accountant Officer-in-Charge Lolita M. Jamela, Administrative Officer V Eunice F. Biblanias, and Budget Division Head Juanita G. Lualhati were dismissed for lack of probable cause.

The administrative charges against Panganiban, Biblanias, Jamela, and Lualhati were also dis-

missed for insufficiency of evidence. In the case of Tan, the administrative charge against him was also dismissed since he will be a witness in the case.

Aside from Evangelista and Tan, also to be charged criminally were Bonena Multi-Purpose Cooperative representative Israel C. Reguyal, Benedict P. Libres, Marlon S. Pag-sisihan, Jocelyn Jane, Rossul Batad-hay, Romy Jimeno, Charlito Ulanan, Francisco V. Laplana III, Arnold Osorio, Angelo Lajom, Randy Santos, Erickson Cortez, Ruben Bautista, Vince Lorenzo, Windell Glenn A. Canaan, and AJ Bamala.

The OMB said that the DA monitored a recorded price increase in onions by the end of 2022, with prices ranging from ₱180 per kilogram to ₱600. The price increase was triggered by a shortage of supply of onions.

It said that to help, the government implemented the KADIWA Food Mobilization Project (FMP) worth ₱140 million, wherein agri-fishery commodities from the pro-

duction areas are directly brought to the National Capital Region (NCR) without going through middlemen.

It also said that the DA even implemented the FTI distribution hub, which would process and pack the agricultural commodities before going to the NCR.

But Ombudsman Samuel R. Martires, in an interview, said that the DA officials "manipulated the price of onions" when they left the purchase of onions to the FTI.

"Nakakalungkot isipin na sa kahirapan ng tao at tayo ay nakakabangon pa lamang sa pandemic ng Covid-19 at nagsisimula tayong makahinga ng unti-unti ay etong mga taong nagsasamantala, creating an artificial shortage of onions when ang daming onions naman (It is sad that amid poverty and while we just started to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and we are just starting to breathe properly, these people took advantage and created an artificial shortage of onions when we actually have a lot of onions)," he said.



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## NIA partners with US firm for PH rice project

THE National Irrigation Administration (NIA) has partnered with Omstrom Climate Solutions Inc. for the development of a climate-smart rice project in the country.

Omstrom Climate, a North American company providing carbon management solutions, shall provide funds for the implementation of The Climate-Smart Rice Project in Upper Pampanga River Integrated Irrigation Systems (Upriis).

"The project is eyed for immediate implementation until December 2028 with the goal of contributing to the achievement of rice security and resiliency in

the country," NIA said on Thursday.

"This can be achieved by increasing water productivity in national irrigation systems while reducing carbon emission in irrigated rice cultivation," it added.

NIA Acting Administrator Eddie Guillen, Omstrom Climate President and Chief Executive Officer Phill Cull, and International Land Use Director Jane Boles signed the memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the project on Oct. 20, 2023.

The agency said the primary objective of the project is to promote a wide-scale and sustained adoption of alternate

wetting and drying technology in irrigated areas.

This will be done through Upriis with the provision of capacity-building activities and financial incentives with farmer partners.

For its part, Omstrom Climate will manage all fund releases for the project in accordance with existing government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

It will also identify the required resources of the NIA Upriis staff participating in the project.

"With the signing of the MoU between NIA and Omstrom Climate, NIA looks forward to the re-

alization of its vision of making the Philippines a climate-smart and climate change-resilient nation," NIA said.

The project is in line with the 7-Point Strategic Policy Agenda of NIA that falls under the Climate Smart Irrigators Association Farming System.

Other points of the agenda are irrigation infrastructure development, irrigators capacity building, management and governance, monitoring and evaluation, capability building of human resources, and strategic communication and advocacy.

JANINE ALEXIS MIGUEL





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## DA exec pinasisibak ng Ombudsman sa sibuyas deal

Pinasisibak sa tungkulin ng Office of the Ombudsman si Department of Agriculture (DA) Assistant Secretary for Consumer Affairs Kristine Evangelista kaugnay ng umano'y maanomalyang transaksyon sa pagsusuplay ng sibuyas sa Kadiwa stores ng DA.

Una nang pinasuspindi ng 6 na buwan ng Ombudsman noong Agosto si Evangelista at iba pang opisyal ng DA dahil sa paglabag sa Anti-Graft and Corruption Practices Act at paglabag sa Procurement Law dulot ng kakulangan ng suplay ng sibuyas sa mga pamilihan dahilan para magkaroon umano ng manipulasyon sa presyo nito at kuwestyonableng pagbili ng sibuyas ng FTI mula sa Bonena Multi-Purpose Cooperative.

Bukod kay Evangelista, nasuspindi rin dito sina DA Administrative Officer V Eunice Biblanias, DA OIC-Chief Accountant Lolita Jamela, Food Terminal Inc. (FTI) Vice President for Operations John Gabriel Benedict Trinidad III, at FTI Budget Division Head Juanita Lualhati.

Ang limang opisyal ng DA kabilang si DA Senior Undersecretary Domingo Panganiban at FTI President Robert Tan ay nahaharap sa grave misconduct, gross neglect of duty at conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service may kinalaman sa kasunduan sa pagsusuplay ng sibuyas.

Sa ipinalabas na desisyon ng Ombudsman kahapon, napatunayan umano nito na si Evangelista ay guilty sa kasong grave misconduct at con-

duct prejudicial to the best interest of service.

Pinasisibak din ng Ombudsman si Trinidad ng FTI matapos mapatunayang guilty sa gross neglect of duty at conduct prejudicial to the best interest of service.

Absuwelto naman sa kasong administratibo sina Panganiban, Biblanias, Jamela, at Lualhati dahil sa kakulangan ng ebidensiya na nagdidiin sa kanila sa kaso.

Samantala nakakita

din ang Ombudsman ng probable cause para idin sa kaso si Evangelista at Trinidad kabilang ang ibang indibidwal dahil umano sa pagsasabwatan.

Ang kasong kriminal naman laban kina Panganiban, Tan, Jamela, Biblanias, at Lualhati ay dinismis ng Ombudsman dahil sa kakulangan ng probable cause.

Dinagdag ng Ombudsman na ang naturang mga personalidad ang lumikha "artificial shortage" sa sibuyas. (Angie dela Cruz)





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### PhilFIDA to hold Nat'l Fibercrops Summit

THE Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA) under the Department of Agriculture (DA) has announced that it will organize this year's National Fibercrops Summit, aimed at addressing the multifaceted implementation challenges facing the fibercrop industry.

The National Fibercrops Summit will take place on November 14, 2023 at the DA-BSWM Convention Hall in Diliman, Quezon City. Its theme, "HIBLA BIDA!!!," promises to be a significant milestone, highlighting priority fibercrops including abaca, cotton, pina, salago, and silk.

"PhilFIDA's commitment to driving innovation, growth, and prosperity within the fibercrop sector is encapsulated by this year's theme, signifying the importance and centrality of fibercrops in the Philippine economic and agricultural landscape," the agency said.

"HIBLA BIDA!!!" embodies the ideas that these fibercrops are not only intrinsic to the nation's heritage but also integral to its future economic viability, competitiveness, and sustainability.

Aside from critical discussion on issues in the industry such as fiber quality, market demand, and trade regulations, the summit will also serve as platform to exhibit a diverse array of products derived from priority fibercrops. PCO





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## P20 per kilong bigas ibebenta sa Cebu

NAKATAKDANG magbenta ng P20 per kilong bigas ng National Food Authority (NFA) at P40 naman sa commercial rice para sa mga mahihirap na indibidwal sa Cebu.

Sa kanyang ulat sa Malacañang, sinabi ni Department of Agriculture (DA) Undersecretary Arnel de Mesa, bahagi ito ng pagsisikap na matugunan ang layunin ng gobyerno na ibaba

ang presyo ng bigas para sa mga ordinaryong mamamayan.

Ayon kay De Mesa, ang P20 per kilong bigas ay ilalarga sa 'Sugbo-Merkadong Barato' sa Cebu, para sa limang araw na trading hub na magbenta ng mga murang lokal na produkto.

Katulad aniya ito sa konsepto ng Bigasan ng Bayan na binuksan sa Negros Occidental ka-

makailan sa tulong ng Federation of Irrigators Association of Central Negros-Bago River Irrigation System.

Sa ilalim ng konsepto, maglalaan ng 10% ng kanilang ani ang mga miyembro ng pederasyon upang ibenta ng mas mura sa mga senior citizen, mahihirap at mga taong may espesyal na pangangailangan. (Aileen Taliping/Prince Golez)



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## DA usec, 3 pa absuwelto sa Ombudsman

# AGRI ASEC, PAGE 2 FTI EXEC SIBAK SA SIBUYAS SCAM



Asec Kristine Evangelista FTI VP John Gabriel Trinidad III

## AGRI ASEC, FTI EXEC SIBAK SA SIBUYAS SCAM

IPINAG-UTOS ng Office of the Ombudsman na sibakin sina Department of Agriculture (DA) Assistant Secretary for Consumer Affairs Kristine Evangelista at Food Terminal Inc. (FTI) Vice President for Operations John Gabriel Benedict Trinidad III.

Kaugnay ito sa nakitang anomalya umano sa kasunduan ng isang supplier ng sibuyas sa Kadiwa store ng DA na naging dahilan para sumipa ang presyo ng naturang produkto noong 2022.

Base sa desisyon ng Ombudsman

umano si Evangelista sa grave misconduct habang negligence of duty naman kay Trinidad na parehong "conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service".

Nakakita rin umano ng probable cause ang Ombudsman upang kasuhan sina Evangelista at Trinidad kasama ang ilan pang opisyal ng DA at FTI dahil sa paglabag sa Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act at "falsification by private individuals and use of falsified documents".

Nauna nang sinuspinde ng Ombudsman sina

Evangelista sa loob ng anim na buwan dahil sa labag sa batas na pagbili ng mga sibuyas mula sa Bonena Multipurpose Cooperative.

Samantala, ibinasura naman ang mga kasong isinampa laban sa mga kapwa akusado na sina DA Senior Undersecretary Domingo Panganiban, DA Administrative Officer V Eu-

nice Biblanias, DA OIC-Chief Accountant Lolita Jamela, at FTI Budget Division head Juanita Lualhati dahil sa kakulangan umano ng probable cause.

Ibinasura rin ang mga kaso laban kay FTI President Robert Tan matapos na pumayag umano ito na tumestigo para sa prosekusyon. (Natalia Antonio)





## NEDA boosts gov't, university collaboration on inflation policies

Academic institutions and government agencies should collaborate in creating technologies that acquire data on crops to help establish inflation policies, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) said.

"The various technologies we discussed have significant potential to enhance our understanding, management, and policy-making for the agricultural sector," NEDA Assistant Secretary Reynaldo R. Cancio said during a conference.

Participants from government agencies and universities shared the use of satellite images, drones, and artificial intelligence to generate agricultural data, such as crop planting areas, expected crop yields, and

flood risk areas.

This information, NEDA said, may be used in monitoring the supply situation and outlook on agriculture.

NEDA, which chairs the Inter-agency Committee on Inflation and Market Outlook (IAC-IMO), has been exploring the use of satellite-based technologies to inform inflation management policy as it can deliver data quickly.

The IAC-IMO is tasked with formulating and recommending policies to bring inflation back on target and manage it more effectively.

Recommendations from this inter-agency committee are elevated to the Economic Development Group

for further discussions and endorsement to the president.

Meanwhile, another series of forums with technology developers is envisioned to develop a harmonized and streamlined arsenal of remote-sensing technologies.

"We look forward to working together with all of you so that we can have a stronger and more advanced agricultural sector—a better Philippines where our fellow countrymen can enjoy a matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay," Cancio said.

Earlier, multiple study visits were initiated by NEDA to explore technologies that can conduct rice and crop data through satellite images. (Xander Dave Ceballos)





## Karneng baboy, iba pang frozen product bawal sa barko

Hindi papayagang ikarga sa mga pampasaherong barko at roll-on-roll off (Ro-Ro) vessels ang mga karne ng baboy at iba pang frozen products na mula sa baboy.

Ito ang inihayag sa public briefing ni Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) Spokesperson Eunice Samonte dahil sa nangatiling banta ng African Swine Fever (ASF) sa mga baboy.

Ayon kay Samonte, may

mga ordinansa ang ilang local government unit (LGU) sa Mindoro, Bohol, Negros Oriental at Siquijor na nagbabawal sa pagpasok ng mga produktong gawa sa baboy sa kanilang probinsya.

Iniwasan lamang aniya ng mga nabanggit na LGU ang panganib na makarating sa kanilang mga lalawigan ang ASF dahil tiyak na magdudulot ito ng malaking problema.

Sa katunayan, ayon kay Samonte, mayroon silang nasabat na mga nagdala ng longanisa sa Batangas Port papuntang Mindoro at hindi pinayagang ibiyahe ang mga ito.

Nilinaw ng opisyal na karne ng baboy lamang ang bawal at hindi kasali dito ang ibang meat products tulad ng karne ng baka o manok. **(Aileen Taliping)**