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Roni Sanjiao  
MANILA BULLETIN  
DECEMBER 19, 2023

## Proactive measures needed to address impending El Niño

**T**he recent warning from Science and Technology Secretary Renato Solidum about the anticipated impact of a strong El Niño, "affecting around 65 provinces with drought and six provinces facing a dry spell by the end of May (of 2024)," is a call for swift and proactive action.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. highlighted the urgency of the situation, emphasizing the necessity for "closer collaboration" between the government and the private sector to address the potential consequences of El Niño.

"I do not mean to frighten anyone... but it is a serious problem. We are familiar with the capabilities of both the private sector and public sector. Put us together and there's much that we can do," the President said. "Let us continue to work together so that we can provide our people with the best quality services that they truly deserve."

In light of El Niño's projected persistence until the second quarter of 2024, Marcos stressed the need to prioritize the repair of water pipes to prevent leakages and complete ongoing water supply projects. He also called for intensified vigilance from concerned government agencies overseeing the construction of water supply facilities, particularly in regions grappling with water scarcity.

"What we need to do is to prepare, further capacitate ...so that should the El Niño extend to the second quarter of next year, we are still at the very least able to supply potable water, especially in the urban areas; (and) we are able to supply our agriculture," he said. "We also have to be thinking about our hospitals. Hospitals cannot operate without water and with the onset of a drought, that will become more important as it goes on."

Aside from calling on the support of the private

sector, the President also reported that the El Niño Task Force has been reorganized, as part of the extensive efforts to ensure food, water, and power security amid the weather phenomenon.

"I have created under the Office of the President a Task Force El Niño. There already exists one... but we will change its structure," Marcos said. "I think [of] a more serious and a more extensive effort because we really have to get everybody involved to be able to prepare, to make sure we can minimize, alleviate, and adapt to climate change."

The El Niño Task Force was reconstituted in May this year, in response to the President's call for a "whole-of-government" and "whole-of-nation" approach to address El Niño. He emphasized the importance of public awareness and education on El Niño, encouraging an info campaign to inform people about the situation. He also called for collective action at the household, farm, and industrial levels, urging citizens to contribute to water conservation efforts.

"I call on the Department of Agriculture, the NIA (National Irrigation Administration) to assess the farmers' needs to accelerate the construction of irrigation facilities from existing water sources. We must be prepared to address the effects of El Niño," Marcos said.

This early call for preparedness is a crucial step to mitigate the potential disastrous consequences of El Niño. History has shown that lack of preparation can risk lives, livelihoods, and food security. In an era where technology provides the tools to anticipate challenges and there is enough data to assess the situation accurately, there are no excuses for being unprepared, such as acting "wet behind the ears" when the dry spell starts.



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## Govt data: Fish catch from WPS slipped in recent years

By JASPER EMMANUEL Y. ARCALAS [@jearcalas](#)

**T**HE country's fish catch from the West Philippine Sea has been declining in recent years due to a confluence of factors, including "overfishing" involving foreign vessels encroaching in the "disputed" waters.



# BusinessMirror

A broader look at today's business

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Latest Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) data showed that the country's fisheries production in the West Philippine Sea declined by 7.38 percent to 273,520.97 metric tons (MT) from 295,332.05 MT recorded in 2021.

The BFAR computed the fisheries production in the West Philippine Sea by combining the production data of marine capture fisheries of both municipal and commercial fisheries sectors in the entire Region 1, Bataan, Zambales, National Capital Region, Batangas, Cavite, Palawan and Occidental Mindoro.

The above-mentioned areas in the country are the ones facing the West Philippine Sea directly. Based on historical Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) data, the same dataset used by BFAR, the country's fisheries output in the West Philippine Sea last year was the lowest in at least seven

years, according to BUSINESSMIRROR computations.

Historical PSA data analyzed by the BUSINESSMIRROR showed the Philippines's fish catch from the West Philippine Sea was at least 30,000 MT lower than the average production of at least 300,000 MT from 2018 to 2021.

BFAR data showed that bulk of the country's fish catch from the West Philippine Sea is captured by municipal fishers at 170,622.25 MT, followed by commercial fishers at 102,898.72 MT.

## Foreign vessel presence

PHILIPPINE Chamber of Agriculture and Food Inc. President Danilo V. Fausto attributed the decline in the fish caught by Filipino fishermen in the West Philippine Sea to "overfishing" by both foreign and local fishermen.

Nonetheless, Fausto argued that the country's West Philippine Sea

fish output could have been higher if only Filipino fishermen were the ones catching within the territories.

"It can be higher if we are the only ones in that area. The problem is that territory is being disputed by several countries including China and Vietnam. Our production could be more," Fausto told the BUSINESSMIRROR.

Government documents showed BFAR has monitored 305 vessels within the Philippines's Exclusive Economic Zone in the West Philippine Sea from 2022 to 2023.

Of 305 vessels, about 39 were identified as military operations while the remaining 266 were identified as fishing vessels from Vietnam, China, Taiwan and the Philippines.

BFAR recorded 49 Philippine-flagged fishing vessels in the area during the period which were from regions 12, 3, 4-B, 1, and the National Capital Region.

Meanwhile, majority of the foreign vessels monitored—or 144—were identified as from China while 71 were from Vietnam and two were from Taiwan.

## Confluence of factors

BFAR Spokesperson Nazario C. Briguera said the "challenges" posed by foreign vessels in the West Philippine Sea could be among the reasons behind the decline in the country's fish catch in the body of water.

Briguera said no concrete study so far "directly" attributes the decline in the Philippine's fisheries output in the West Philippine Sea

to the foreign vessels present in the area.

"It could mean reduced catch result [because of the] inability to fully utilize sustainably the area. Again, it is not a direct attribution but it could be a possible reason," he told the BUSINESSMIRROR.

"Because if there is no challenge, in particular in Bajo de Masinloc, because of these incidences, [the fishermen cannot ramp up their work] and that would mean reduced fishing efforts and activities," he added.

Briguera also cited other possible reasons behind the drop in fish catch such as inclement weather that reduced fishermen's fishing days; and the implementation of the closed fishing season, particularly in Palawan area. The "intensified" efforts of the state against the use of *hulbot-hulbot*, a destructive fishing gear, could also have impacted fish output in the West Philippine Sea, he added.

## Beyond fish catch

FISHERIES output in the West Philippine Sea accounts for about 6 to 7 percent of the country's annual fisheries production. The figure, however, does not capture the entire importance of the country's resources in the West Philippine Sea, Briguera said.

He explained that the West Philippine Sea is critical in the country's overall fisheries production as it serves as a breeding ground and birthplace of various fish that

SEE "Govt," A2

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## Bigas dagdag-bawas sa presyo

BUMABA ang presyo ng well-milled rice ngunit nagmahal naman ang presyo ng regular-milled rice sa mga palengke at special rice sa Metro Manila, ayon sa monitoring ng Department of Agriculture.

Ayon sa DA, P40-P55 per kilo na lamang ang presyo ng local well-milled rice kahapon mula sa P45-P58 per kilo nung katapusan ng Nobyembre. Ang local regular milled rice naman ay P38-P54 per kilo na mula sa P33-P52 per kilo noong Nobyembre.

Nagmahal naman ang presyo ng baboy samantalang bumaba naman ang presyo ng manok. Ayon sa price monitoring ng DA, P255-P360 per kilo ang kasim at P285-P390 per kilo naman ang liempo kahapon mula sa P250-P340 per kilo ng kasim noong Nobyembre at P280-P400 naman sa liempo. Ang isang kilo ng ma-

nok ay P140-P200 kahapon samantalang P140-P220 ito noong Nobyembre.

Nagmura naman ang presyo ng bangus na P250 per kilo ang pinakamahal kahapon mula sa P270 nung Nobyembre. Ang tilapia ay P100-P160 per kilo at ang local na galunggong naman ay P200-P310 per kilo kahapon. Nung Nobyembre, ang

tilapia ay P110-P160 per kilo at ang galunggong ay P180-P300

**Abante**  
**NEGOSYO**

per kilo.

Bumaba ang presyo ng kamatis sa P30-P90 per kilo mula sa P50-P100 noong Nobyembre.

Ang pulang sibuyas ay P120-P220 per kilo kahapon mula sa P150-220 per kilo nung Nobyembre at ang bawang ay P120-P220 per kilo kahapon mula sa P120-P180 per kilo noong Nobyembre. (Bileen Mencias)

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# INFLATION UPTICK SEEN WITH STRONG EL NIÑO

STORY BY RONNEL W. DOMINGO

The likelihood that the weather phenomenon will become a 'historically strong' event in the next two months has increased, threatening the production of major crops like rice and corn.

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# Inflation uptick seen with strong El Niño, says BSP official

**FROM A1**

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**  
@RonWDomingoINQ

The likelihood that the ongoing El Niño weather phenomenon will become a “historically strong” event in the next two months has increased, with the probability raised to 54 percent from just 35 percent as assessed just a month ago, according to the US Climate Prediction Center (US CPC).

If this comes to pass, the current El Niño will potentially be among the five worst El Niño events since 1950, the scientific agency said.

One of these is the El Niño occurrence in 2015-2016, which the World Bank said inflicted \$325 million or about P18 billion in damage and production losses to the Philippine agriculture sector.

El Niño brings lower than normal rainfall or even drought

to areas in the Philippines, threatening production of major crops like rice and corn. Reduced output will in turn lead to higher prices.

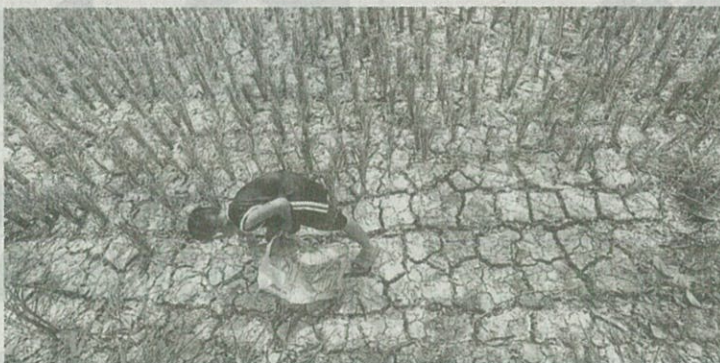
The phenomenon occurs on average every two to seven years, and can last nine to 12 months, according to the Geneva-based World Meteorological Organization.

State meteorologists officially declared the onset of this latest El Niño event on July 4 this year and it would likely persist until January 2024.

## Wary

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) is particularly wary of the impact of El Niño as this will mean an uptick in inflation just when the rate of increase in the prices of basic goods and services has been inching closer to the government’s target range of 2 to 4 percent.

This is important for the BSP, one of whose main tasks is to shepherd inflation within



**PARCHED** In this photo taken in May, a boy walks through a parched rice field in Tanza, Cavite, as the state weather bureau issued an El Niño alert. —**MARIANNE BERMUDEZ**

what the central bank considers an acceptable range of growth in prices. The BSP does this mainly by tweaking interest rates on money borrowed from banks.

BSP Senior Assistant Governor Iluminada Sicat said at a press briefing that a strong El Niño was expected to add 0.02 percentage point to monthly inflation readouts.

“Inflation could temporarily accelerate above the target [range in the second quarter] due to the impact of El Niño weather conditions and also due to the lagged impact of wage adjustments in 2023,” Sicat said.

Inflation was pegged at 4.1 percent in November, down from a peak of 8.7 percent recorded last January.

El Niño, according to a US CPC bulletin, is expected to continue through the northern hemisphere winter, but with a 60-percent chance of dissipating into a “neutral” scenario—when there is neither El Niño nor its twin and opposite, La Niña—as early as April.

“Based on the latest forecasts, there is now a 54-percent chance of a ‘historically strong’ El Niño during the November-January season,” the CPC said.

## Securing food supply

According to Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno, intensified efforts to increase agricultural productivity will be supplemented by measures to improve importation of needed goods.

This is to help secure food supply amid global threats of El Niño and other natural calamities, trade protectionism by other countries, and geopolitical tensions.

Related to this, President

Marcos has approved another yearlong extension—to Dec. 31, 2024—of Executive Order (EO) No. 10, which temporarily reduces import duties on key commodities including rice, corn and pork.

The extension of EO 10 was based on the recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority board, which Economic Planning Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said would help ensure an adequate supply of agricultural commodities and maintain stable and affordable prices, thereby better managing potential inflationary pressures.

Last week, Balisacan said that the government could not, and would not, be complacent, as the Philippines continued to have the highest inflation rate among Southeast Asian peers.

“This is amid our many risks, including the El Niño phenomenon and the simmering geopolitical tensions that may increase uncertainty and disrupt supply chains,” Balisacan said. INQ





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# THE PHILIPPINE STAR

TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

## DTI relaunches halal slaughterhouse

By CATHERINE TALAVERA

As part of the government's effort to develop the country's halal industry, the Department of Trade and Industry relaunched the halal-ready slaughterhouse in Tanauan City in Batangas.

"This relaunching marks a significant leap forward in our goal of reinforcing halal infrastructure in Calabarzon. Through the Philippine Halal Export Development and Promotion Board and the Special Task Force created to grow the industry, we will ensure the development of the halal industry and enhance the halal economy within the country," Trade Secretary Alfredo Pascual said.

The Tanauan slaughterhouse received a joint funding from the DTI through the Shared Service Facility (SSF) program, in partnership with the Tanauan local government unit.

Pascual said the relaunching is part of the DTI's goal and mandate to develop and promote the halal industry to position the Philippines as the most halal-friendly trade and investment hub in Asia-Pacific.

"We are eyeing a bigger share of the \$7-trillion global halal market. The scope is vast, from halal food, pharmaceuticals, halal friendly tourism, and Islamic finance to modest fashion and halal cosmetics. Halal is for everyone, as halal food is healthy and hygienic," said Pascual, who also chairs the Philippine Halal Export Development and Promotions Board.

Tanauan Mayor Nelson Collantes recognized the significance of the slaughterhouse in boosting the local government's business environment and its potential to create employment opportunities within the constituency. He also expressed his commitment to the advancement and promotion of their local halal industry within the region.

On the sidelines of the relaunch, a halal awareness

seminar at Tanauan Institute was also conducted, empowering local stakeholders and propelling the Philippines into the global halal arena.

Through this seminar, participants gained knowledge and tools to actively champion the halal industry, complemented by halal-certified products live presentations, according to the DTI.

The seminar was a part of the halal training and stakeholders consultation, which aims to empower MSMEs and cooperatives through engaging workshops, informative sessions, and collaborative discussions.

In addition, it also focused on crafting a comprehensive roadmap for the halal industry in Calabarzon, a crucial step in positioning Philippine halal enterprises on the global economic stage.

The strategic plan is focused on global competitiveness, digitization, and inclusivity, including the establishment of the Regional Halal Coordinating Council (RHCC).

The presented plan also encompasses initiatives for capacity building, job creation, Islamic finance and investment, food security, tourism and export opportunities.

Moreover, Pascual emphasized the critical role of partnerships in maximizing the potential of the Philippine halal industry.

"Our collective endeavors will amplify our market intelligence and bolster our branding efforts, particularly in promoting trade and investments. Through our whole-of-government approach, I am very optimistic that we could achieve our overarching objective of P230 billion in halal trade and investments and over 120,000 job opportunities in the next five years," he said.

In October, the DTI announced the nine-government inter-agency taskforce that would create a roadmap, which will position the Philippines as the most Halal-friendly trade and investment hub in Asia-Pacific.

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# THE PHILIPPINE STAR

TRUTH SHALL PREVAIL

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## Phl eyes durian trade boom

By DANESSA RIVERA

Durian trade, which is new to the Philippines, is seen to offer ample commercial opportunities to exporters given its high price and market niche, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

In its durian global trade overview, the FAO said durian is an exceptionally high-value crop and has been experiencing vibrant growth over the last two decades.

Based on its data, durian global trade has increased more than tenfold between 2003 and 2022, reaching a peak of 930,000 metric tons (MT) in 2021.

The FAO report also cited high average trade unit values of durian, reaching annual aver-

ages of around \$5,000 per MT in 2021-2022.

The tropical fruit also reached an average global trade value of approximately \$3 billion per annum in 2020-2022, "placing this commodity firmly ahead of fresh mangoes and pineapples," the FAO said.

"These figures suggest that trade in durians could offer ample commercial potential for exporters, including low-income countries, provided quality assurance, post-harvest handling and transportation of these highly perishable fruits can be managed efficiently and cost-effectively," the UN agency said.

"In high-income markets such as the European Union and the United States of America, much

of the market potential will be contingent on making these fruits more accessible to the consumer and strengthening consumer awareness," it said.

The bulk or 94 percent of the durian traded is from Thailand, while Vietnam and Malaysia account for three percent.

Meanwhile, small export quantities also originate in the Philippines and Indonesia.

In terms of destination, China is the leading importer of durian, procuring an estimated annual average of 740,000 MT during 2020-2022, equivalent to around 95 percent of world imports, the FAO said.

"China sets strict requirements on imports of durian, and currently only permits imports from

Turn to B3

### Phl eyes From B1

Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines and Malaysia. According to available industry information, for supplies qualifying for import into China, growers and packaging units must provide documented proof of meeting the required phytosanitary and quality standards, including records of pest control and product traceability, which makes it very difficult for new exporters to gain access to the Chinese market,"

it said.

The Philippines recently bagged a \$2-billion fruit export deal with China, including an initial \$260-million Philippine durian shipments.

These durian fruits were ordered by Chinese companies, including Dole (Shanghai) Fruits and Vegetables Trading Co., Ltd./Dole China, Prestige International Co. Ltd., Shanghai Goodfarmer Group, and the Dashang Group.

Apart from China, the Philippines has been export-

ing fresh durian to Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam. Meanwhile, the country exports frozen durian to Korea, Malaysia, among others.

From 2017 to 2021, the country's durian production saw an average growth rate of 2.9 percent, based on data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

In 2021, durian output reached 73,867.42 MT, down

6.3 percent from 78,815.99 MT.

Davao Region produced 77.5 percent of the total durian production, 63.7 percent of the total bearing trees and 49.1 percent of total area planted.

The FAO also highlighted the challenge in the trade of durian, which is "still regarded as a novelty or niche product."

The UN agency said its high perishability "renders transport of fresh produce to distant markets difficult and means that import require-

ments relating to phytosanitary standards and product safety can often not be met."

It also noted the lack of consumer awareness and high unit prices as obstacles to expanding its market reach.

"Overall, the fruit remains of relatively minor importance when compared to the export quantities of other tropical fruits, particularly bananas, pineapples, mangoes, and avocados," FAO said.



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## DTI reopens Halal-ready slaughterhouse in Tanauan

By KHRISCIELLE E. YALAO

In a bid to promote the Halal industry in the country, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the local government of Tanauan, Batangas have reopened the Halal-ready slaughterhouse in the city.

The ceremony last Dec. 13 was led by DTI Undersecretary Ana Carolina P. Sanchez representing DTI Secretary Alfredo E. Pascual and Tanauan City Mayor Nelson Collantes.

The Tanauan slaughterhouse is jointly funded by the DTI under its Shared Service Facility (SSF) program and the Tanauan local government.

In a message, Pascual said the relaunch of the slaughterhouse is an important step towards "reinforcing Halal infrastructure in CALABARZON."

"Through the Philippine Halal Export Development and Promotion Board and the Special Task Force created to grow the industry, we will ensure the development of the Halal industry and enhance the Halal economy within

the country," he added.

Pascual noted that the agency is looking to obtain a bigger share of the \$7 trillion global Halal market which is composed of ventures in Halal Food, pharmaceuticals, Halal-friendly tourism, Islamic Finance, to modest fashion and Halal cosmetics.

Meanwhile, Collantes said the slaughterhouse will help the city's economic sector and help boost job opportunities for residents.

Other attendees to the launch namely Malaysian Ambassador Dato Abdul Malik Melvin Castelino and Philippine Ambassador to Brunei Marian Jocelyn R. Tirol-Ignacio expressed their support for the agency's efforts to expand the local Halal industry and commitment to bilateral ties.

"Our collective endeavors will amplify our market intelligence and bolster our branding efforts, particularly in promoting trade and investments. Through our whole-of-government approach, I am very optimistic that we could achieve our overarching objective of ₱230 billion in Halal trade and investments and over 120,000 job opportunities in the next five years," said Pascual.

Aside from the launch of the slaughterhouse, a Halal awareness seminar was also conducted at the Tanauan Institute to educate stakeholders on the Halal industry, particularly micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and cooperatives.

A comprehensive roadmap for the Halal industry in the region was also discussed and presented by DTI Deputy Executive Director Dimnatang Radia.





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## Demand to boost PH meat imports

POULTRY meat imports are expected to end the year higher in the Philippines and other countries due to high demand for cheaper products, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said.

"Increases in poultry meat imports are expected for China, Mexico, the European Union, Malaysia, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, as well as in the Republic of Korea, the Philippines and South Africa, due to high demand for lower-cost meat products and lively food services sales," the FAO said.

Poultry meat imports for Asia are expected to hit 8.07 million metric tons this year, higher by 1.71 percent from the 7.9 million MT logged in 2022.

Exports of meat in the region, meanwhile, were forecast to drop by 2.65 percent to 3.3 million MT from last year's 3.39 million MT.

The UN agency has said that global poultry meat trade could reach 16.3 million MT by end-2023, up by 0.7 percent from 16.18 million MT posted the previous year.

In terms of poultry meat output, FAO said the global tally could reach 142 million tonnes this year,

► Imports B3

## ■ IMPORTS FROM B1

## Demand to boost

growing by a slower 1 percent compared to last year.

The agency said it was "underpinned by higher input costs and widespread highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) or bird flu outbreaks."

"Moreover, increased white broiler chicken prices in early 2023 led profit margins to rise despite the continued high feed costs, lifting production by 4 percent in the first nine months of 2023," it said.

The country's overall meat production for 2023 is estimated to hit 2.96 million MT, 2.6 percent higher from the previous year's 2.8 million MT.

Overall meat imports, meanwhile, are expected to drop by 8.07 percent in 2023 to 1.09 million MT from 1.18 million MT last year.

This import contraction, as well as in other countries such as the United States, Angola, Japan and others, will weigh on the global meat trade.

Global trade in meat and meat products is expected to hit 41.4 million MT this year, down 0.8 percent from the 41.7 million MT posted in 2022.

JANINE ALEXIS MIGUEL





Ngayon araw na ito ay ibabahagi ko sa inyo ang isang natatanging gulayan ng isang pulis major na plantito na tinawag na "Gulayan sa Bahay Kubo ng Kwatro."

Ang aking tinutukoy na pulis na plantito ay si Maj. Philipp Ines, tagapagsalita ng Manila Police District at hepe ng Public Information Office ng MPD.

Bata pa lamang si Maj. Ines ay kinahiligan na niya ang pagtatanim

para magtanim ng gulay at prutas at kung paano alagaan ang isang halamanan.

Umani ng positibong imahe sa MPD ang programang "adopt a vegetable plant," ni Maj. Ines.

Hanggang mailapat sa Headquarters si Maj. Ines at gawing tagapagsalita ng MPD at Chief ng PIO ay ipinagpatuloy nito ang pagtatanim.

Aniya, despite na napaka-busy na niya sa kanyang bagong po-

Ines ay nagtayo na rin sila ng kanyang misis na si Emmalyn Sacdalan Ines ng negosyong pagkain na ang pangalan ay Pelayo's Crispy Pata Store.

Karamihan sa mga gulay at pang-sahog na

Crispy Pata, Sisig at Patatim.

Sa darating na araw ng Linggo, December 24, 2023 ay mapapanood ninyo ang pana-yam kay Maj. Philipp Ines at farm tour sa rooftop garden sa programang Masaga-



## Pulis Major na Plantito... Gulayan sa Bahay Kubo ng Kwatro



Ang iba't ibang tanim na gulay ni Maj. Philipp Ines.

ng iba't ibang uri ng gulay at prutas.

Hanggang maging pulis at ma-assign sa MPD Station 4 ay ipinagpatuloy nito ang pagtatanim.

Gumawa ng maliit na kubo saka tinanim ang paligid nito at naging luntian na tinawag na "Gulayan sa Bahay Kubo ng Kwatro."

Bukod sa pagtatanim ay bihasa rin at masarap magluto sa Maj. Ines ng iba't ibang uri ng putahe, lalo na ng gulay na siyang kinagigiliwan sa kanya ng misis niya at mga reporter na kaibigan nito lalo na ang mga taga MPD Press Corps.

Si Maj. Ines din ang nagpasimula at nagpalaganap ng programa na "Adopt a vegetable plant" sa mga pulis Maynila.

"Noong naka-assign ako sa MPD-Station 4 ay sinimulan namin ang programa na dapat ang bawat isang pulis ay magtanim ng gulay sa aming prinsinto. Nilalagyan namin ng pangalan ang kanilang mga tanim na dapat ay kanilang alagaan at palakinhan hanggang mapakinabangan," ani Maj. Ines.

Aniya, mahihiya ang isang pulis, dahil nakabandera ang kanilang pangalan kapag ang kanilang tanim ay bansot, payat at hindi nagbunga.

Dahil doon ay nagkaroon ng motibasyon at edukasyon ang kanyang mga kasamang pulis

sisyon ay nagagawa pa rin niya ang magtanim sa kanilang rooftop.

"Stress reliever ko na ang pagtatanim, makakatipid na ako, masustansiya pa ang pagsasaluan ng aking pamilya," pahayag ni Maj. Ines.

Tuwing kailangan namin ng gulay at mga pang-sahog sa ano mang lutuin ay aakyat lang ako sa rooftop namin at kukuha gulay, tulad ng siling

iniluluto sa Pelayo's ay mula sa mga tanim ni Maj. Ines.

Sa ngayon ay may 13-branch na sa Metro Manila ang Pelayo's Crispy Pata Store at ang pinaka latest ay ang sangay sa Blumentrit Sampaloc.

Sa mga nais bumili o umorder sa Pelayo's ay tawagan lamang sila sa 0995-1830130, 0917-6515081 at 0922-8301814 o per-

nang Buhay TV at Radio Show ng Magsasakang Reporter.

Samantala, para sa iba pang tips at sikreto sa pagtatanim ng iba't ibang uri ng halaman sa pamamagitan ng organikong pamamaraan ay maaari po kayong manood at makinig ng aking TV at Radio program na Masaganang Buhay tuwing Linggo, alas-7:00 hanggang alas-8:00 ng umaga sa OnePH Cignal TV, Channel 1 ng TV-5. Mapapakinggan din po sa Radyo Singko 92.3 News FM.

Maaari rin kayong manood at mag-subscribe at mag-follow sa aking Youtube Channel na ANG MAGSASAKANG REPORTER at Facebook na Mer Layson at Facebook page na Ang Magsasakang Reporter, TV host Vlogger para sa iba pang kaalaman at impormasyon sa pagtatanim ng iba't ibang uri ng halaman sa pamamagitan ng organikong pamamaraan.

Tuwing araw ng Martes ay regular ninyong mababasa ang aking kolum dito sa **Pilipino Star Ngayon (PSN)** ng Star Group of Publications.

Sa mga tanong at komento ay maaari ninyo akong i-text, huwag po tawag, sa 09178675197. STAY SAFE, HAPPY FARMING, GOD BLESS US ALL.



Ang Magsasakang Reporter at Major. Philipp Ines

labuyo, panigang, bell pepper, sitaw, patola, talong, okra, kamatis, lettuce, labanos, petsay, mustasa at iba pa," sabi pa ni Maj. Ines.

Hinihikayat ni Maj. Ines ang lahat na magtanim na rin ng sariling pagkain na hindi maranasan kagutuman. Dahil masarap magluto si Maj.

sonal na bumisita at kainin sa kanilang store na makikita sa Triangle Apartelle Unit Com5, Blumentrit cor. Dimasalang Road, Brgy 493 Zone 49 District IV, Sampaloc Manila.

Tiyak na magugustuhan ninyo ang masarap at masustansiyang luto sa Pelayo's, tulad ng





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## Soybeans ease

SINGAPORE- Chicago soybean futures lost ground on Monday, with the market declining for the first time in three sessions as expectations of rains in Brazil weighed on prices, although robust demand for US cargoes limited the fall in prices.

Wheat fell around 1 percent and corn slid.

"The weather is looking better for Brazilian soybeans," said a Sydney-based grains trader. "It is not as terrible as what we saw a few weeks ago, but China keeps buying, which is a supportive factor."

The most-active soybean contract on the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) was down 0.5 percent to \$13.09-3/4 a bushel.

CBOT corn lost 0.5 percent to

\$4.80-1/2 a bushel and wheat gave up 1 percent to \$6.23-1/4 a bushel.

The market is weighing the prospects for soybean production in Brazil, where rains are expected to ease the heat and dryness in key cropping areas, which could improve yields.

However, Brazilian soy farmers are now facing a dearth of seeds as suppliers have run out of the main cultivars, the head of seed company Boa Safra Sementes said.

On the demand front, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) on Friday confirmed export sales of US soybeans for an eighth consecutive trading session, saying that 447,500 metric tons were sold to unknown destinations and another 134,000 metric tons to China. - Reuters





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Domestic demand for US beans also looked solid. Monthly data from the National Oilseed Processors Association showed that the US soybean crush in November rose to its second-highest level on record, exceeding expectations.

Soybeans have fallen from over \$15 a bushel at the start of the year, but clawed back from a two-year low of \$12.51 in October.

In the wheat market, speculators had by Dec. 12 slashed their net short in CBOT futures and options to 69,529 contracts, the smallest in 17 weeks, and traders said they bought again on Friday.

A run of large sales of US wheat to China triggered a flurry of short covering that drove futures to a four-month high of \$6.50 a bushel on Dec. 6, but plentiful supply, particularly from Russia, has kept prices under pressure.

US exports of soft red winter wheat are set to exceed exports of hard red winter wheat for the first time in 2023-2024.

Argentina's 2023/2024 wheat harvest is, meanwhile, likely to get a boost after a strong showing in the southern agricultural region, the Buenos Aires grains exchange said. — **Reuters**