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NPC readies charges vs PhilHealth officials for data leak

BIZ BUZZ



The government's data privacy watchdog has apparently seen merit in sanctioning the highest officials of Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) for the data leak back in October that involved over 180 million records of personal data of its members.

A copy of a yet-to-be-released public report from the National Privacy Commission seen by Biz Buzz showed that the government agency's complaints and investigation division had recommended charges against PhilHealth's executive committee.

This includes the president and CEO of the state insurer, as well as the chief operating officer,

chief information officer, data protection officer, corporation information security department, and the information technology management department.

The NPC unit cited their supposed failure to protect sensitive personal information of millions of PhilHealth members and employees.

These officials, according to the NPC report, violated Sections 20, 21(a), 22, and 26 of the Data Privacy Act (DPA), adding that it is now seeking accountability for these violations and the need for corrective measures to strengthen data security within the state insurer.

The NPC report also said that under Section 26(a) of the DPA, those found guilty of providing access to personal information due

to negligence will face penalties that include imprisonment of one to three years and a fine ranging from P500,000 to P2 million.

Moreover, those found to be providing access to sensitive personal information due to negligence may result in a three to six year imprisonment and a fine ranging from P500,000 to P4 million, added the NPC report. —**ALDEN M. MONZON**

All eyes on El Niño

One of the biggest problems that the Philippines will face next year is the El Niño phenomenon, along with the attendant threats of external price and supply shocks.

Given this scenario, Agriculture Secretary **Francisco Laurel Jr.** rallied the Department

of Agriculture (DA) staff to be extra vigilant to head off these threats to food security.

"We have a big mission next year—a very big mission. The entire Philippines is watching us," Laurel said.

"And because the country's attention is focused on us, we have to perform well. Let's perform and prove our critics wrong," he told DA employees.

Earlier, the Department of Science and Technology warned of a strong El Niño event that could affect 65 of the 81 provinces by May.

It also flagged the possibility of moderate to severe drought, a condition where rainfall is below normal for three consecutive months, affecting those areas thus pulling down crop production.

Laurel, who assumed the top DA post in November, reiterated the agency's commitment to raise agricultural output and lower the cost of producing food.

The DA said it had started to implement initiatives to deal with the adverse effects of the expected drought.

These include strengthening irrigation facilities, adopting alternative rice planting methods that require less water, animal dispersal and providing alternative livelihood to farmers and fishers. —**JORDEENE B. LAGARE**

Filinvest invests in Dumaguete

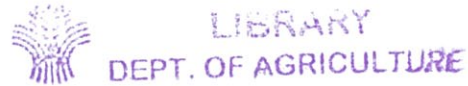
Gotianun-led Filinvest Land, one of the country's biggest property developers, is going be-

yond investments in Dumaguete City, where its 1.9-hectare integrated township is rising.

Around 1,800 Dumaguete City students are testament to this after the the builder provided a state-of-the-art filtration system that ensures clean drinking water at the South City Elementary School (SCES) in Barangay Mangnao, Dumaguete City.

John Paul Escario, Filinvest Land area manager for Visayas, said the water system was thanks to the "collaborative efforts" between the company and Barangay Mangnao "as we engage the community to address critical needs."

"This timely donation stands as a beacon of hope for our local learners as we ensure access to clean and safe drinking water for SCES," he said. —**MIGUEL R. CAMUS INQ**



Ban on pig products from Singapore lifted

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) has lifted a temporary ban on pig products originating from Singapore as cases of African swine fever (ASF) have ended with no additional outbreaks.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. issued Memorandum Order (MO) 74 allowing the entry or importation of domestic and wild pigs, and their products originating from the said country.

This was supported by a self-declaration report by Singapore

to the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) that all cases of ASF had ended, were resolved, and that there were no additional outbreaks.

"In accordance to (sic) the provisions of Chapter 15.1 of the WOAH Terrestrial Animal Health Code, the Republic of Singapore is now free from ASF virus," the memo signed by Laurel states.

Based on the DA's evaluation, the risk of contamination from domestic and wild pigs, and their

products — including pork meat, pig skin, porcine processed animal proteins and semen — originating from Singapore is negligible.

While Singapore is not accredited to export any swine-related commodities to the Philippines, the entry of pork products was still banned in March 2023 via MO 20.

Senior Undersecretary Domingo Panganiban signed that memorandum, noting that there was still a need to prevent the entry of any ASF-susceptible products that

might enter the country through hand-carried products from international vessels or any other possible routes.

The first local ASF outbreak was confirmed by the DA to have started in July 2019. As of November 29, ASF is currently present in 18 provinces of nine regions.

The provinces are Abra, Cagayan, Nueva Vizcaya, Aurora, Bataan, Nueva Ecija, Zambales, Mindoro Oriental, Romblon, Camarines

► **Singapore B2**

■ **SINGAPORE**
FROM B1

Ban

Norte, Camarines Sur, Masbate, Sorsogon, Negros Oriental, Misamis Occidental, Sultan Kudarat, Agusan del Norte and Surigao del Sur.

The latest WOAH report said that from January 2021, ASF had been reported in five world regions and 52 countries.

The animal disease has then affected more than 1 million pigs and more than 29,600 wild boars, with more than 1.6 million animal losses.

Before the ASF hit the Philippines, the swine population of the country was estimated at around 13 million heads in 2019. This has gone down to around 10 million, with pork having to be imported to fill the demand gap.

**JANINE ALEXIS
MIGUEL**



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Regional fish port deliveries rise

BY JANINE ALEXIS MIGUEL

REGIONAL fish ports in the country recorded the highest fish deliveries so far this year in November despite the implementation of closed fishing season.

The Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) said fish unloading during the month totaled 49,718.434 metric tons (MT), 54.9 percent higher than the 32,091.03 MT delivered in

the same month last year.

"General Santos Fish Port Complex (PFDA-GSFPC) continues to contribute the largest chunk of the volume of fish unloading," the PFDA said, unload-

ing 24,377.649 MT or "almost half of the total unloading record for the month."

The Navotas Fish Port Complex, meanwhile, transported 19,404.97 MT of fish to its clients and stakeholders.

The Zamboanga Fish Port Complex and the Davao Fish Port Complex also both posted an increase in their fish unloading tallies during the month.

The Mindanao ports unloaded 1,157.45 MT (a 19.67-percent

increase) and 440.39 MT (121.57 percent higher) of fishery products, respectively.

The Buluan Fish Port Complex also delivered 1,144.4 MT of fish to its consumers, and the Sual Fish Port with 82.57 MT of fish delivered to consumers in November.

Fish deliveries at the Iloilo Fish Port Complex and the Lucena Fish Port Complex, meanwhile, dropped to 1,652.7 MT and 1,458.32 MT of fish, respectively.

The PFDA attributed the decline to weather disturbances such as scattered rain showers and thunderstorms.

Ports still managed to post higher deliveries in November despite the closed fishing season implemented in the same month.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources on November 15 announced a three-month pause in fishing in Zamboanga Peninsula and in the Visayan Sea.

The closed fishing season is

done annually to conserve and protect economically important species during their spawning period.

For the third quarter of 2023, the PFDA reported that fish ports delivered a total of 123,813.37 MT of fish to consumers, higher by 2.27 percent from the 121,062.55 MT unloaded in the second quarter of this year.

The average daily unloading during the period was equivalent to 1,345.80 MT of fish.

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P20/K bigas sa 2024, hirit sa DA

Umaasa si National Unity Party (NUP) President at 2nd District Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Raymund Villafuerte na maikokonsidera ni Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., sa P20 kada kilo ang bigas sa pagpasok ng taong 2024.

Ayon kay Villafuerte, dating gobernador ng Camarines Sur, ito'y sa gitna na rin ng pangako ng administrasyon ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr., na makapagbenta ng P20 kilo ng bigas para makatulong sa mga mahihirap.

Ang Camarines Sur ay isa sa Top 10 sa bansa sa mga probinsyang may malawak na palayan at masaganang ani.

Sinabi ni Villafuerte na ang pagbababa ng retail cost ng bigas ay bunga ng commitment ni Speaker Martin Romualdez na matulungan ang administrasyon ni Pangulong Marcos na makamtan ang hangarin para sa abot

kayang presyo ng bigas.

Sa report ng Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) nitong nakalipas na mga araw, sinabi dito na ang average na retail price ng regular-milled rice nitong Disyembre ay nasa P48.84 kada kilo kung saan ang market price ay nasa P52.66 sa Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) at ang pinakamababa ay nasa P43.79 sa Western Visayas.

Samantala, upang makamtan ang nasabing mithiin ay nakipagpulong na si Laurel sa mga gobernador ng 10 lalawigan na itinuturing na pinakamalaking prodyuser ng palay na kinabibilangan ng Nueva Ecija, Isabela, Maguindanao del Sur, Pangasinan, Cagayan, Bukidnon, Tarlac, CamSur, North Cotabato at Iloilo. Ang nasabing mga lalawigan ay nasa 48% ang kabuuang produksyon ng palay. (Joy Cantos)

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REASON TO BE OPTIMISTIC

OCEANA CITES REFORMS IN HABITAT PROTECTION, FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

By Jane Bautista
@janebautistaINQ

International advocacy group Oceana has lauded key government partners, the artisanal fisheries sector, academe and civil society organizations for helping achieve key milestones in ocean governance this year despite the “dismal” state of fisheries in the country.

Although the Philippines has a “progressive” legal system designed to protect human and environmental rights, the state

of fisheries remained bleak with the continuous illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, and destruction of marine habitats, the organization said.

But amid these challenges, Oceana vice president Gloria Estenzo Ramos noted that there was a “reason to be optimistic” with the reforms in habitat protection and fisheries management in the past year.

“The Christmas season is not just a time for celebration and reunions but also affords us

moments to pause and reflect if our actions in the past months and years have contributed significantly to make real reforms in ocean governance based on science and the law,” she said in a Christmas message.

Among the accomplishments that Ramos cited was President Marcos’ directive in June ordering the full implementation of the vessel monitoring system on all commercial fishing vessels.

“This is a significant step

to ensure that the 15-kilometer zone from the shore, called municipal waters, is kept off limits from commercial fishing operations,” she said.

The move was welcomed by fisherfolk groups like Pamalakaya, which said that the Fisheries Administrative Order No. 266 would “regulate the unsustainable and often destructive method of fishing of commercial vessels.”

“Commercial fishing vessels usually swarm the 15-kilometer municipal waters, outcompeting

and overwhelming the traditional and backward fishing methods of small fishers,” it said.

Ramos also cited the House of Representatives for approving on third reading House Bill No. 7767, or the Integrated Coastal Management/Coastal Greenbelt Bill that would require the restoration of mangrove forest areas and the establishment of local coastal greenbelt zones across the country.

“For the Philippines, [which] has one of the longest coastlines in the world, man-

groves are our frontiers against storm surges and other climate change threats to coastal communities apart from carbon sequestration,” she said.

Oceana likewise noted the Bureau of Fisheries’ acknowledgment of the importance of sardines, which accounts for 15 percent of the country’s total fish catch, after it ordered the full implementation of the 2020 National Sardines Management Plan in all 12 Fisheries Management Areas nationwide. [INQ](#)



Ngayong araw na ito ay ise-share ko ang simple at madaling pagtatanim at pag-aalaga ng ampalaya sa timba.

Ang ampalaya ay napakaraming taglay na health benefits sa ating katawan.

Napakadaling patubuin at alagaan ng ampalaya kapag napatubo na ay palagian lamang lagyan ng pataba, regular na patubigan at sa loob ng 2 dalawang buwan ay magsisimula nang magkaroon ng bunga.

kapag tatlong pulgada na ang laki o nasa 15 days na ay pwede ng i-transplant, pero ako ay direct planting ang aking ginagawa.

Sa isang timba o paso ay maaaring maglagay o magtanim ng dalawang buto ng ampalaya.

Kapag nasa isa Linggo hanggang dalawang Linggo na mula sa pagkakatanim ay i-cultivate ang lupa at maglagay ng natural na pataba, tulad ng vermicast, chicken

tanim na ampalaya.

Ang magandang lupa na pagtataniman ng ampalaya ay 60 percent buhaghag na lupa, 20 percent ay vermicast or chicken manure at 20 ay carbonized rice hull o ipa ng palay o kaya ay cocopeat.

Tandaan lang po na laging i-apply ang TLC-

tungkol sa step by step na pagtatanim, pag-aalaga at sikreto ng pagkakaroon ng magandang tanim na halaman.

Para sa iba pang tips at sikreto sa pagtatanim ng iba't ibang uri ng halaman ay maaari po kayong manood at makinig ng aking TV at Radio program na Masaganang Buhay



Ang
Magsasakang
REPORTER

ni MER LAYSON

Gulay na kontra sa diabetes...

PAGTATANIM NG AMPALAYA SA TIMBA



May bunga na after 2-months na pagkakatanim sa timba.

Ilan pa sa taglay na health benefits sa ating katawan ng ampalaya ay may mataas na nutrients, high in fiber, good source of antioxidants na tumutulong para maiwasan ang pagkakaroon ng sakit na cancer. Nagpapababa rin ito ng cholesterol levels sa katawan, mataas ang vitamin at minerals, carbohydrates, protein, phosphorus, magnesium, calcium at marami pang iba.

Ilan lang po iyan sa napakaraming taglay na health benefits sa ating katawan ng ampalaya.

Sa pagtatanim ng ampalaya ay mas magandang direkta sa lupa, pero pwede rin sa malaking paso at timba tulad ng aking ginagawa.

Ang iba ay ipinupunla muna ang mga seeds o buto ng ampalaya at

manure, carabao manure, rabbit manure or compost.

Kapag nasa 25 to 30-days na mula nang maitanim ay mag-spray ng Fermented Plant Juice (FPJ) at patuloy na i-cultivate ang lupa malapit sa pinagtaniman para malayang makagala ang mga ugat nito para makakuha ng nutrients ayon sa kanyang pangangailangan.

Gagawin ang cultivation ng lupa isang beses sa isang linggo hanggang lumaki at bumaging na ang tanim. Lagyan ng tulos at balag para roon gumapang ang sanga ng ampalaya.

Once a week din mag-spray ng Oriental Herbal Nutrients (OHN) para walang lumapit na insekto na maaaring manira sa ating mga

Tender Love and Care sa pagtatanim ng mga halaman at prutas tulad ng ampalaya.

Sa loob lamang ng dalawang buwan ay magsisimula nang maulaklak at magbunga ang ampalaya kaya mag-spray ng Fermented Fruit Juice once a week para lahat ng bulaklak ay matutuloy sa bunga.

Bukod sa ampalaya ay maraming tanim ang Magsasakang Reporter na iba't ibang gulay at fruitrees, pero patuloy pang nagtatanim dahil sa paniniwalang ang pagkakaroon ng seguridad sa pagkain ay dapat magsimula sa ating tahanan, "FOOD SECURITY STARTS AT HOME."

Milyun-milyon ngayong ang nagugutom, maraming kabataan ang dumaranas ng malnutrition, ang pagtatanim at pagkain ng gulay at prutas ang solusyon.

Nawa po ay nakapag-share ako ng kaalaman at impormasyon ngayong araw na ito tungkol sa pagtatanim, pag-aalaga ng ampalaya.

Panoorin po ninyo ang mga video tutorial ko sa aking Youtube Channel na ANG MAGSASAKANG REPORTER

tuwing Linggo, alas-7:00 hanggang alas-8:00 ng umaga sa OnePH Signal TV, Channel 1 ng TV-5. Mapapakinggan din po sa Radyo Singko 92.3 News FM.

Sa ngayon ay nasa season 12 episode 13 na ang Masaganang Buhay at mataas ang ratings nito kaya taus-puso po akong nagpapasalamat sa inyong lahat na sumusupporta at nanonood ng TV show na Magsasakang Reporter.

Maaari rin kayong manood at mag-subscribe sa aking Youtube Channel na ANG MAGSASAKANG REPORTER at Facebook page, profile at Tiktok na Mer Layson 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 mga tanim na ampalaya ng Magsasakang Reporter sa timba.