

MANILA BULLETIN:

Marcos tells DA: Streamline processes to lower prices

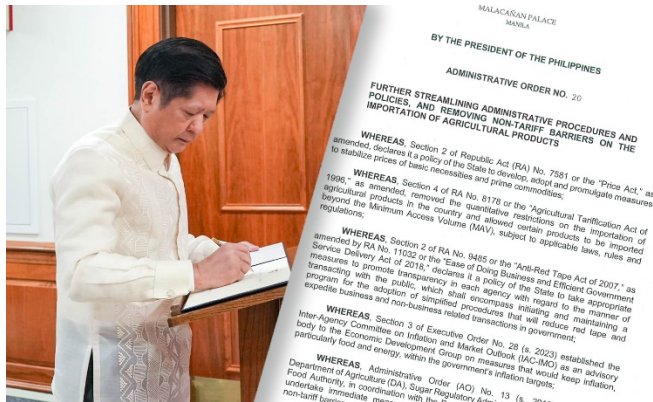
BY ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS

Apr 21, 2024 07:31 AM

AT A GLANCE

- President Marcos ordered the DA, to work with either the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) or the Department of Finance (DOF) to streamline procedures and requirements in the licensing of importers, minimize the processing time of applications for importation, and exempt licensed traders from submission of registration requirements.

President Marcos has ordered the Department of Agriculture (DA) to promote ease of doing business in their procedures, particularly to remove non-tariff barriers on the importation of agricultural products, to lower prices, and to ensure supply.



File photos

Marcos said this in his Administrative Order (AO) No. 20, signed by Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin on April 18, which took effect immediately.

In his AO, the President emphasized that administrative constraints and non-tariff barriers cause the continued increase of domestic prices of agricultural commodities despite existing measures.

He added that it was important for the DA to undertake measures aimed at further streamlining administrative procedures and policies on the importation of agricultural products, as well as removing non-tariff barriers to address increasing domestic prices of agricultural commodities.

Non-tariff barriers are policy measures, other than customs tariff, that restrict trade, including but not limited to quotas, import licensing systems, regulations, and red tape.

"It is imperative to further streamline administrative procedures to foster transparency and predictability of policies on the importation of agricultural products in order to help ensure food

security, maintain sufficient supply of agricultural goods in the domestic market, and improve local production," President Marcos said.

President Marcos ordered the DA, to work with either the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) or the Department of Finance (DOF) to streamline procedures and requirements in the licensing of importers, minimize the processing time of applications for importation, and exempt licensed traders from submission of registration requirements.

The DA, following consultations with the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Committee on Tariff and Related Matters, is also tasked to facilitate the importation of certain agricultural products beyond the authorized MAV and reduce or remove administrative fees.

Marcos ordered the DA to streamline procedures and requirements for the issuance of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance (SPSIC), and take concrete steps to improve logistics, transport, distribution, and storage of imported agricultural products.

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) is mandated to prioritize unloading and releasing imported agricultural products, subject to the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA), and other applicable laws, rules, and regulations of the bureau.

President Marcos ordered the DA, DTI, BOC, Philippine Competition Commission, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Justice (DOJ), the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), and the Philippine National Police (PNP) to form a "Surveillance Team" led by the Agriculture Department to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the AO.

The Surveillance Team is tasked to monitor the importation and distribution of agricultural products and prevent illegal price manipulation acts and other unfair anti-competitive commercial practices, among others.

The DA, DTI, DOF, BOC, and the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) are directed to jointly submit a quarterly report on the status of the implementation of the AO to the President through the Office of the Executive Secretary and the Inter-Agency Committee on Inflation and Market Outlook (IAC-IMO).

The IAC-IMO, established through Executive Order No. 28 (series of 2023), is an advisory body of the Economic Development Group on measures that would keep inflation, particularly food and energy, within the government's inflation targets.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/4/21/marcos-tells-da-streamline-processes-to-lower-prices>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Abalos: P39 per kilo rice being sold at NCR 'Super Kadiwa' stores

BY CHITO CHAVEZ

Apr 21, 2024 01:46 PM



Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary “Benhur” Abalos Jr. prodded the public to take advantage of the P39 per kilo rice and other highly discounted quality produce being offered at the “Super Kadiwa” stores in Metro Manila.

Malaking katipiran po ito para sa ating mga kababayan sa Metro Manila dahil sa halagang P39.00 lamang ay makakabilika na ng isang kilong bigas (This is a huge discount for our countrymen in Metro Manila because at the price of only P39.00, one kilo of rice can be purchased),” Abalos said.

With these highly-discounted offers, Abalos invited the public to support the “Super Kadiwa” project to help local farmers.

The DILG explained that “Super Kadiwa’ is a limited offering of the Kadiwa ng Pangulo, started in April this year and will open until the end of June in various local government units (LGUs) in the National Capital Region (NCR).”

“Kadiwa ng Pangulo is a market linkage facilitation program aimed at making agri-products and other basic commodities accessible and affordable to the poor,” it added.

The DILG explained that the program seeks to establish an additional market for farmers and fisherfolks to directly sell their products and increase their income, while also bringing down the prices of food commodities in the market as the concept eliminates the role of middlemen.

“‘Super Kadiwa’ platforms were opened last April 15-16 in San Antonio, Parañaque City; Central, Quezon City; Tunasan, Muntinlupa City; Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City; San Juan City Hall; Pamplona Tres, Las Piñas City; Santo Tomas, Pasig City; Caloocan City Hall; Navotas City Hall;

Poblacion, Pateros; and, Dulong Bayan, City of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan. The same were also launched at Employee's Park, Taguig City Hall; People's Park, Malinta, Valenzuela City; Manila City Hall, Inner Court, Antonio Villegas St., Ermita on April 16-17, 2024," the DILG noted.

Abalos said the "Super Kadiwa" store project was organized by the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the DILG.

The DILG chief stated that the centerpiece product in the "Super Kadiwa" stores is rice "that sells for as low as P39 per kilo which is way cheaper than those being sold in the mainstream markets."

"Kadiwa is a good platform for our local farmers to market their products but more than that, it is a venue for us to show our support by purchasing their produce na matagal nilang pinaghirapang itanim (that they worked hard for a long time to plant)," Abalos stressed.

Abalos also assured that the 'Super Kadiwa' will soon be staged in other parts of the country giving more Filipinos access to a cheaper-priced rice brand.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/4/21/abalos-p39-per-kilo-rice-sold-at-ncr-super-kadiwa-stores>

MANILA BULLETIN:

Marcos orders gov't agencies to support anti-hunger, nutrition efforts

BY BETHEENA UNITE

Apr 21, 2024 01:43 PM

President Marcos has directed all government agencies to support efforts mitigating hunger and promoting proper nutrition in the country.



President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr.

Through Memorandum Circular No. 47 signed by Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin on April 19, Marcos ordered all government agencies and urged all local government units (LGUs) to support the implementation of the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) program.

“It is imperative for all government agencies and instrumentalities to support the continues and effective implementation of the EPAHP Program to bolster government efforts towards attaining zero hunger, food and nutrition security, and sustainable agriculture,” the President said.

The EPAHP is one of the banner programs of the Task Force on Zero Hunger, which aims to institutionalize efforts to mitigate hunger and promote food and nutrition security by linking community based organizations (CBOs) to prospective markets and providing credit assistance to support food production, processing and distribution.

Task Force Zero Hunger is tasked to ensure the effective implementation of the EPAHP Program, as it is mandated to carry out measures in coordination with the relevant government agencies.

It was established through Executive Order (EO) No. 10 s. 2020, as amended by EO 27 s. 2023.

The measures include efforts to strengthen institutional feeding programs of partner agencies; extend credit assistance to support food production, processing and distribution in partnership with government financial intuitions; and link participating CBOs to prospective markets.

The task force is also mandated to enhance provision of farm production technologies and extension of services to government-assisted family farms and rural based-organizations, as well as enhancing the sustainability of the EPAHP Program through implementation of policies that will engage private sector, and institutionalize mechanisms in LGUs.

It is also directed to adopt Community Participation Procurement to encourage CBOs to participate in the EPAHP Program, and construct, repair and improve irrigation facilities and appurtenant structures in irrigable areas in the countryside.

https://mb.com.ph/2024/4/21/marcos-tasks-government-agencies-to-support-anti-hunger-nutrition-efforts#google_vignette

MANILA BULLETIN:

Ombudsman orders filing of graft charges vs ex-DA undersecretary, ex-BFAR national director

BY JEFFREY DAMICOG

Apr 21, 2024 03:21 PM

The Office of the Ombudsman (OMB) has approved the filing of graft charges before the Sandiganbayan against two former Department of Agriculture (DA) officials over the alleged anomalous 2018 contract for the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources' (BFAR) Integrated Marine Environment Monitoring System Project Phase II (PHILO Project).

Ordered charged in a resolution approved by Ombudsman Samuel R. Martires were former DA undersecretary for fisheries Eduardo B. Gongona and former BFAR national director Demosthenes R. Escoto.

Gongona and Escoto will be charged with two counts of violations of Section 3(e) of Republic Act (RA) 3019, the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act; one count of violation of Section 3(g) of RA 3019; and one count of violation of Section 3(j) of RA 3019.

Also ordered charged before the anti-graft court was Simon Tucker of SRT Marine Systems Solutions, Ltd.

On the other hand, the OMB dismissed the complaints against former DA assistant secretary Hansel O. Didulo and Richard Hurd of SRT “for lack of probable cause.”

The filing of the charges was recommended by Graft Investigation and Prosecution Officer II Cezar M. Tirol II.

“Escoto, Gongona and Tucker had apparently schemed to ultimately award a contract to SRT-UK that is disadvantageous to the government. The series of events that came prior the award are circumstantial evidence proving that an irregularity had been committed and they are probably guilty thereof,” the OMB said in its resolution.

Under the BFAR’s PHILO Project that was supposed to be funded by the French government through a loan grant, vessel monitoring system (VMS) satellite transmitters and transceivers were sought to be purchased and used to monitor fishing vessels operating within and beyond the Philippine exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

One of the requirements set by the French government in the loan agreement was that participants in the bidding process must be companies based in France.

After the first bidding process did not push through due to “an issue concerning the mode of procurement to be used for the Project”, BFAR held a second round of bidding on Dec. 20, 2017 and awarded the contract to one of the two bidders, SRT-France, but was later declared by the French Embassy as unqualified since it was incorporated in France only on Nov. 15, 2017 without manufacturing and engineering facilities as well as having no recorded activities in the European country..

SRT-France, a subsidiary of SRT-United Kingdom (SRT-UK), secured the contract on the third round after BFAR canceled the French loan, increased the budget for the procurement from

P1,675,889,000 to P2,097,819,000, and raised the number of VMS transceivers to be procured from 1,800 to 5,000 units.

However, the OMB found that the total number of commercial fishing vessels that have to be monitored was 3,736 based on 2017 records which was “evidently an excess of 1,264 units.”

Despite being ineligible, the OMB said “Escoto and Gongona, while in the exercise of their official functions as Chairman of the BAC (Bids and Awards Committee), and as Head of the Procuring Entity, respectively, and in conspiracy with Tucker, clearly gave unwarranted benefit or advantage to SRT-France and SRT-UK.”

The OMB also found that the series of events that led to the selection of the winning bidder to be “circumstantial evidence proving that the contract for the PHILO Project was, at the very instance, meant by Escoto and Gongona to be awarded to SRT-UK.”

“The sudden creation of SRT-France a month before the second bidding; the permission to SRT-France to participate in the bidding despite knowledge that will have to depend on SRT-UK’s technical, professional and financial capabilities; the sudden termination of the award to SRT-France for some baseless reason; and the immediate request for the cancellation of the French Laon by DA-BFAR in order to remove the French-related conditions—all these paved the way for SRT-UK to participate in the bidding—a bidding for a project with an expanded scope and increased project cost,” the OMB also said in its resolution.

Earlier, the OMB had dismissed Escoto as BFAR national director. The dismissal carries with it the cancellation of eligibility, forfeiture of retirement benefits, and perpetual disqualification to hold public office.

https://mb.com.ph/2024/4/21/ombudsman-orders-filing-of-graft-charges-vs-ex-da-undersecretary-ex-bfar-national-director#google_vignette

THE PHILIPPINE STAR:

Philippines to hold biggest international food trade show

The Philippine Star

April 21, 2024 | 12:00am



The 17th edition, themed “It’s a Salu-Salo. Find the Best Flavors and Ingredients Here,” organized by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM), is also creating an opportune space to echo today’s consumer insights for multifaceted food choices under FAST Catch – where products render Functional, Authentic, Sustainable elements and some Twist in the way we prepare and think about certain eats. This comes on the heels of a growing global consumer shift toward more nutritious, organic, ethical and standardized products and practices.

STAR / File

MANILA, Philippines — The 17th International Food Exhibition (IFEX) Philippines, the country’s biggest international trade exhibition for food and ingredients, is set to showcase on May 10 to 12 more than export-ready quality products from hundreds of exhibitors and key players in the food community.

The 17th edition, themed “It’s a Salu-Salo. Find the Best Flavors and Ingredients Here,” organized by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions

(CITEM), is also creating an opportune space to echo today's consumer insights for multifaceted food choices under FAST Catch – where products render Functional, Authentic, Sustainable elements and some Twist in the way we prepare and think about certain eats. This comes on the heels of a growing global consumer shift toward more nutritious, organic, ethical and standardized products and practices.

A taste for FAST blends

As part of the Flavor Finds show features of IFEX Philippines 2024, selections under FAST Catch will highlight emerging food and beverages in four ways:

- Functional – pertains to food supplemented by health-enhancing properties, such as naturally fiber-rich and vitamin-rich, anti-inflammatory, and mood-regulating, among others. Prime examples of these products that promote well-being are organic teas, fruit or vegetable-based beverages, fresh food, and select grains; ?
- Authentic – reflects aspects of a people's identity, regional practice, or adheres to processes or materials that prioritize culture and quality in equal measure. These include ?heirloom grains, pre-colonial crops like ube or purple yam, and local single origin products;
- Sustainable – puts premium on environmental health, including mitigation of food waste. Under this category are food and ingredients that are highly adaptable to climate conditions to ensure continuous supply – all of which are essential to food security. Expect to find fresh varieties and products made of coconut, banana, mangoes and pineapples in this section. These fruits are part of the Premium 7– the country's top export food products based on supply.
- Twist – favors an array of food and drinks that have been reimagined to make eating more convenient, fun and inviting to consumers, including those with certain food preferences. On-the-go or ready-to-eat items, produce mimicking meat or seafood and other vegan-friendly creations represent this line. ?

Discovering. Engaging. Connecting.

Aside from FAST, buyers and visitors can explore thousands of food offering from IFEX Philippines 2024 exhibitors and partners in two major spaces: Trade Hall and Marketplace – where local and global flavors from established and new SMEs engaged in the food industry await buyers and foodies alike. The Trade Hall, in general, is a food exhibition focusing on the interests of trade buyers, which include direct sourcing experience, business-matching activities, daily food samplings and meetings with food exporters and suppliers. This hall is also home to the Open House, where private and

public partners present their development and promotion programs and initiatives that champion the food SMEs.

Participating event partners include the Department of Agriculture , Department of Trade and Industry Halal Industry Development Office and Plant-Based Association of the Philippines. ?

<https://www.philstar.com/business/2024/04/21/2349198/philippines-hold-biggest-international-food-trade-show>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Marcos orders DA to ease import process of agri products

By: [Faith Argosino](#) - Reporter / [@FArgosinoINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 04:04 PM April 21, 2024



President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. —MALACAÑANG PHOTO

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has ordered the Department of Agriculture (DA) to undertake measures easing the administrative procedures on importing agricultural products and removing non-tariff barriers “to address increasing domestic prices of commodities.”

“It is imperative to further streamline administrative procedures to foster transparency and predictability of policies on the importation of agricultural products in order to help ensure food security, maintain sufficient supply of agricultural goods in the domestic market, and improve local production,” Marcos said in a statement released by the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) on Sunday.

His order is also in line with the four-page Administrative Order No. 20, signed by Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin on April 18, which emphasized the persistence of administrative constraints and non-tariff barriers causing “continued increase of domestic prices of agricultural commodities despite existing measures.”

Based on the explanation provided by the PCO, non-tariff barriers are “policy measures, other than customs tariff, that restrict trade, including but not limited to quotas, import licensing systems, regulations, and red tape.”

Aside from this, Marcos likewise instructed DA, along with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) or the Department of Finance (DOF), to ease the procedures and requirements “in the licensing of importers, minimize processing time of application for importation, and exempt licensed trades from submission of registration requirements,” among others.

Meanwhile, the chief executive also ordered the DA, DTI, Philippine Competition Commission, and law enforcement agencies to create a surveillance team tasked to ensure the implementation of the AO.

Other agencies included in this team are the Bureau of Customs, the Department of Interior and Local Government, the Department of Justice, the National Bureau of Investigation, and the Philippine National Police.

Moreover, the agricultural agencies, along with DTI, DOF, and BOC, are required to submit a quarterly report on the AO’s implementation.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1931943/marcos-orders-da-to-ease-import-process-of-agri-products>

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:

Nonprofit partners help farmers innovate, raise productivity

By: [Andrea D. Gregorio](#) - [@inquirerdotnet](#)

[Philippine Daily Inquirer](#) / 02:10 AM April 21, 2024



UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES World Vision Philippines aims to improve the lives of low-income communities by providing entrepreneurial opportunities and educating them about smart farming technologies. —CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

In the agricultural sector, where challenges abound, the intervention of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) can be pivotal. Two NGOs, World Vision Philippines and Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation (NWTf), seek transformative change by equipping farmers with the tools, technologies and skills needed to run successful agribusiness ventures.

World Vision Philippines rolled out Agricultural Innovation Development (AID) project to foster an entrepreneurial mindset among farmers and diversify their income. It also aims to introduce smart farming technologies to optimize productivity.

NWTF is empowering farmers through its Balik Panguma Initiative, which seeks to provide access to a stable food supply. To strengthen agricultural-related businesses, NWTF promotes responsible entrepreneurship and teaches farmers efficient agricultural practices.

In 2023, these two purpose-driven NGOs participated in Citi Foundation's first-ever Global Innovation Challenge, a funding model that aims to help nonprofit organizations expand solutions to address social and economic challenges in low-income communities.

Citi Foundation received more than 1,000 proposals from organizations operating in more than 80 countries. A total of \$25 million was provided to selected 50 organizations around the world to boost efforts toward food security and promote financial stability of impoverished families.

Due to their groundbreaking proposals, World Vision Philippines and NWTF were awarded a \$500,000 grant last year to scale up operations and amplify their impact.

“Philanthropic capital plays a critical role in the marketplace of social solutions and Citi Foundation's Global Innovation Challenge is designed to help new ideas grow and scale,” says Brandee McHale, president of Citi Foundation and head of Citi Community Investing & Development.



Provision for children

Families are better equipped to provide for their children’s most basic needs—shelter, food, clothing and medical care—when they have stable sources of income.

Children-focused organization World Vision Philippines aims to support poor farming households through Project AID. Acting national director Jun Godornes describes it as “a clear project that will entail the development of an act to curate agricultural-related activities.”

“The budget will also be used to construct smart greenhouses, so we’re using that to make sure that the produce, the crops, are more climate-resilient. We’re trying to maximize whatever technology is out there and bringing it to Moises Padilla.”

According to Godornes, a lot of farmers in the municipality of Moises Padilla, Negros Occidental, do not own land. World Vision wants to provide them with opportunities to plant high-value crops other than sugarcane.

The funds will also be used to set up market pods or light commercial vehicles that will carry different produce. With the expertise of licensed agriculturalists and robotics organizations, they can innovate smart farming technologies.

“Farmers’ associations will be introduced to smart farming technologies that will build their confidence in scaling up the way they do farming,” says Careen Sampil, World Vision Visayas program manager.

They are also partnering with universities to educate the youth about smart farming technologies. The target beneficiaries are 5,000 individuals, 3,000 of whom will undergo the agripreneur program, while 2,000 will participate in the smart farming technology program.

“This is promising for all the farmers associations. At the same time, it will strengthen partnerships with the local government units in Moises Padilla,” says Sampil. “We’ve seen and experienced the all-out support of the LGUs (local government units), especially the Department of Agriculture, the DTI (Department of Trade and Industry), the academe.”

On a global scale, World Vision launched a campaign called “Enough,” which aims to alleviate child hunger and address the inequitable food system caused by conflicts and climate change.

“In alignment with that, we thought that this (Project AID) would be a good showcase to use technology and capacitate people on the ground—the communities that we serve—and use that as a means to help them improve their way of planting, diversifying income and also providing entrepreneurial opportunities,” says Godornes.

Achieving food security

NWTF will use the \$500,000 grant to implement the “Balik Paguma Initiative” to educate communities on the best agricultural-related techniques and methods to ensure a consistent food supply and proper nutrition. “Balik Paguma is the right solution toward

achieving food security for our farmers. This is a step forward ... We are excited about it,” says director for operations Gilbert Stephan Maramba.

Maramba says agricultural production is challenging because it’s dependent on different variables, such as marketing channels and technology. But thanks to the grant, they can expand their portfolio and network of partners.

“Basically, the core of the program centers around education—education to our farmers about new technologies, about good farming practices on the field to better their yield and at the same time, produce more nutritious products,” says Balik Panguma project head Maria Nicole Baroy, who is also NWTF’s client services department manager.

“The starting point is really training, finding good training measures for our farmers and new farmers we find along the way ... Hopefully, we can deliver marketing linkages at the end of the day. Our goal is to create a circular economy in the process,” adds Baroy.

Baroy says that El Niño and crop losses are some of the challenges they are facing now. However, they are finding ways of scheduling the education programs for farmers in the two areas they are covering—Negros and Panay.

“Another challenge that we may look into in the future would be retaining some of our beneficiaries within the project. Farmers do have a different perspective in terms of business and moving forward. Even the partners would agree that in order to move forward, it’s a matter of behavioral change,” Baroy shares.

Maramba adds that the biggest obstacle is how to make a business concept that would help agricultural ventures become profitable and help farmers on a long-term basis. “It can be augmented through food technology; increasing production without increasing much of the cost; or the marketing channels. If we could increase the farm-gate prices... then that would be better for the farmers,” says Maramba.

“With Citi, we’re grateful for this one because they really gave us a chance to pilot something where we can learn more from. For us, we don’t see this as something that ends at a two-year mark. This is something we want to learn from and possibly move it forward to the future and see what we can do better,” says Baroy.

During the two-year grant period, World Vision Philippines and NWTf will have access to a learning community led by nonprofit design studio IDEO.org. The two NGOs will be able to discuss best practices and exchange insights via a digital platform. —

CONTRIBUTED

<https://business.inquirer.net/455540/nonprofit-partners-help-farmers-innovate-raise-productivity>

REMATE:

PBBM sa DA: Proseso gawing simple para sa mas mababang presyo

April 21, 2024 14:00



MANILA, Philippines- Ipinag-utos ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr., sa Department of Agriculture (DA) na isulong ang madaling pagnenegosyo sa bansa base sa kanilang pamamaraan partikular na ang pag-alis sa non-tariff barriers sa importasyon ng agricultural products, para maibaba ang presyo at tiyakin ang suplay.

Inihayag ito ni Pangulo sa Administrative Order (AO) No. 20 na nilagdaan ni Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin noong Abril 18, na kagyat na naging epektibo.

Sa kanyang AO, binigyang-diin ng Pangulo na ang “administrative constraints at non-tariff barriers” ang dahilan ng patuloy na pagtaas ng domestic prices ng agricultural commodities sa kabila ng umiiral na hakbang.

Idinagdag pa nito na mahalaga para sa DA na magsagawa ng hakbang na naglalayong i-streamline ang “administrative procedures and policies” sa importasyon ng agricultural products, at maging ang pag-alis ng non-tariff barriers para tugunan ang tumataas na domestic prices ng agricultural commodities.

Ang non-tariff barriers ay policy measures, bukod pa sa customs tariff, na higit na ang kalakalan kabilang na ang subalit hindi limitado sa quota, pag-angat ng licensing systems, regulasyon at red tape.

“It is imperative to further streamline administrative procedures to foster transparency and predictability of policies on the importation of agricultural products in order to help ensure food security, maintain sufficient supply of agricultural goods in the domestic market, and improve local production,” ayon kay Pangulong Marcos.

Ipinag-utos din ng Pangulo sa DA na makipagtulungan sa Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) o sa Department of Finance (DOF) na i-streamline ang ‘procedures at requirements’ sa paglilisensya sa importers, bawasan ang processing time ng aplikasyon para sa importasyon at pag-exempt sa licensed trades mula sa pagsusumite ng registration requirements.

Ang DA, kasunod ng konsultasyon sa National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Committee on Tariff and Related Matters, ay inatasan na bilisan ang importasyon ng ilang agricultural products sa labas ng authorized MAV at bawasan o alisin ang administrative fees.

Ipinag-utos din ng Chief Executive sa DA na i-streamline ang pamamaraan at requirements para sa pagpapalabas ng Sanitary and Phytosanitary Import Clearance (SPSIC), at gumawa ng konkretong hakbang para mapahusay ang “logistics, transport, distribution, at storage ng imported agricultural products.”

Samantala, binigyan naman ng mandato ang Bureau of Customs (BOC) na iprayoridad ang “unloading at releasing imported agricultural products” alinsunod sa Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA), at iba pang applicable laws, rules, and regulations ng burokrasya.

Ipinag-utos ng Punong Ehekutibo sa DA, DTI, BOC, Philippine Competition Commission, Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Justice (DOJ), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), at Philippine National Police (PNP) na bumuo ng “Surveillance Team” na pangungunahan ng Agriculture Department upang tiyakin ang epektibo at episyenteng implementasyon ng AO.

Ang Surveillance Team ay may tungkulin na i-monitor ang importasyon at distribusyon ng agricultural products at pigilan ang illegal price manipulation acts at iba pang hindi patas na anti-competitive commercial practices, bukod sa iba pa.

Inatasan naman ang DA, DTI, DOF, BOC, at Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) na sama-samang magsumite ng quarterly report sa kalagayan ng implementasyon ng AO sa Pangulo sa pamamagitan ng Office of the Executive Secretary at Inter-Agency Committee on Inflation and Market Outlook (IAC-IMO).

Ang IAC-IMO, itinatag sa pamamagitan ng Executive Order No. 28 (series of 2023), ay isang advisory body ng Economic Development Group sa hakbang na magpapanatili sa inflation, partikular na sa pagkain at enerhiya sa loob ng inflation targets ng gobyerno. **Kris Jose**

<https://remate.ph/pbbm-sa-da-proseso-gawing-simple-para-sa-mas-mababang-presyo/>

REMATE:

Mahigit 1.7M katao apektado ng El Niño

April 20, 2024 15:49



MANILA, Philippines – Aabot sa 1.7 milyong indibidwal ang apektado ng El Niño phenomenon, sinabi ng Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) nitong Sabado, Abril 20.

Ang mga ito ay mula sa Regions 2, 3, Mimaropa, 5, 6, 7, 9, 12 at Cordillera Administrative Region, ayon kay DSWD spokesperson and Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs Irene Dumlao sa panayam ng DZBB.

“Batay sa patuloy na pagmo-monitor ng DSWD through our field offices, babantayan natin ang movement or development ng families and affected persons,” ani Dumlao.

“Medyo tumataas po ang biling ng mga apektado,” dagdag pa niya.

Sa ngayon ay wala pa namang inilikas o nawalan ng tirahan dahil sa El Niño.

Ani Dumlao, patuloy ang pamimigay ng DSWD ng family food packs at financial assistance, sa mga apektadong residente.

“Unang-una, ang DSWD ay mayroong mga ibinabahagi na family food packs. Ito ay bahagi ng humanitarian response doon nga sa mga lugar na naapektuhan ng El Niño. Lalo na ‘yung mga pamilya na nakakaranas ng kakulangan sa pagkain dahil sa tagtuyot o severe drought,” aniya.

“In fact, ang DSWD ay nakapamahagi na nang mahigit P58 million worth of family food packs dito sa mga lugar na naapektuhan,” dagdag ni Dumlao. *RNT/JGC*

<https://remate.ph/mahigit-1-7m-katao-apektado-ng-el-nino/>

MANILA STANDARD

Joint DA-WB mission to review rural development project

By Othel V. Campos April 21, 2024, 8:15 pm

A joint mission from the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the World Bank (WB) will assess the progress of two projects under the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP). The review will be held from April 22 to May 9, 2024.

The World Bank team will assess how well the projects are meeting its goals. This includes checking on finances, how the fund is being spent and how contracts are awarded.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. and WB country manager Ndiame Diop will lead the three-week mission with a kick-off meeting and opening of the DA-PRDP Exhibit at the DA Central Office in Quezon City.

The exhibit will showcase the PRDP's 10-year evolution, major accomplishments, success stories and the products of its supported rural enterprises.

Experts from the DA and World Bank will discuss key areas like managing finances, sharing knowledge and evaluating project success.

The team will also visit project sites in the Visayas and Mindanao to see the progress firsthand and meet with local officials involved in the projects.

The mission also includes a discussion on using digital tools to improve agriculture. This aims to bring together government officials and private companies to develop new digital solutions for farms and businesses.

The mission will conclude on May 9, 2024 with a final meeting where the WB will share its findings and recommendations, along with an overall assessment of the projects' performance.

The review is conducted twice a year to ensure that World Bank-funded projects are on track in the delivery of optimized objectives.

<https://www.manilastandard.net/business/314438186/joint-da-wb-mission-to-review-rural-development-project.html>

Marcos to DA: Ease importation of agri products

By Kristina Maralit

April 21, 2024

MANILA, Philippines: President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has issued an Administrative Order directing the Department of Agriculture (DA) to come up with additional measures to further streamline procedures and policies on the importation of agricultural products to keep prices low and ensure food security.

AO No. 2, signed on behalf of the President by Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin on April 18, ordered the removal of non-tariff barriers to address increasing domestic prices of agricultural commodities.

"It is imperative to further streamline administrative procedures to foster transparency and predictability of policies on the importation of agricultural products in order to help ensure food security, maintain sufficient supply of agricultural goods in the domestic market, and improve local production," Marcos said in the AO.

Non-tariff barriers are policy measures that restrict trade, including but not limited to quotas, import licensing systems, regulations and red tape.

The chief executive ordered the DA to coordinate with the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Finance in simplifying procedures and requirements in the licensing of importers, minimize processing time of application for importation, and exempt licensed trades from submission of registration requirements.

He also directed the agency to consult with the National Economic and Development Authority's Committee on Tariff and Related Matters to facilitate the importation of certain agricultural products beyond the authorized Minimum Access Volume and reduce or remove administrative fees.

<https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/04/21/news/marcos-to-da-ease-importation-of-agri-products/1942606>

1.7 milyong katao naapektuhan ng El Niño

[Angie dela Cruz](#)

April 21, 2024 | 12:00am

MANILA, Philippines — Umabot na sa 1.7 milyong katao ang apektado ng mainit na panahon dulot ng El Niño phenomenon sa Regions 2, 3, Mimaropa, 5, 6, 7, 9, 12 at Cordillera Administrative Region.

Ayon kay DSWD spokesperson at Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs Irene Dumlao, patuloy ang pagsubaybay at pagbabantay ng ahensiya sa mga pamilyang apektado ng tag-init at mapaglaanan ng tulong ang mga ito kung kinakailangan.

Sinabi ni Dumlao na nagkakaloob na rin sila ng family food packs at financial assistance sa mga pamilya na apektado ng El Niño.

Anya, may higit P58 milyong halaga ng family food packs at financial assistance ang naihatid na sa mga apektadong lugar.

Kabilang ang mga magsasaka sa matinding naapektuhan dahil sa hindi magandang ani na resulta ng mainit na panahon gayundin ang mga mangingisda na hindi gaanong makapaglayag dahil sa tindi ng init.

<https://www.philstar.com/pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2024/04/21/2349294/17-milyong-katao-naapektuhan-ng-el-nio>