

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

## **DA gears up for La Niña; greater agri damage than El Niño expected**

**BY JEL SANTOS**

May 10, 2024 11:59 AM

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In preparation for the heavy rains from the arrival of the La Niña phenomenon, the Department of Agriculture (DA) has directed its field offices across the country to prepare for adverse effects of heavy downpour, which it said, is expected to cause greater agricultural damage than the El Niño.

“Nag-El Niño reporting pa rin tayo pero nasa La Niña watch na tayo (We're still doing El Niño reporting, but we're already on La Niña watch). And we are already preparing, the regional field offices have been instructed by the Secretary to prepare for the La Niña,” DA Assistant Secretary for Operations U-Nichols Manalo said during an interview on Thursday, May 9.

La Niña’s agricultural damage, according to the DA, is expected to be way higher than the damage caused by the dry spell.

On May 2, the DA said El Niño damage to agriculture has swelled to P5.90 billion, affecting 113,585 farmers and fisherfolk. The government had provided a total of P2.18 billion in interventions for devastated farmers and fisherfolk.

“Mas malaki yung damage ng La Niña [kumpara sa damage ng El Niño] ( The damage caused by La Niña is bigger compared to the damage caused by El Niño),” he said, citing past episodes of the two weather phenomena.

Manalo said the agriculture department has been coordinating with farmer groups for drainage water management for farms.

The DA is now looking into areas that have been affected by La Niña in its past 16 episodes in the country, he added.

“When we had this El Niño, ang pinaka-message is water management. I-manage mo ang available irrigation water. Ngayon, maraming tubig nadadating because of La Niña (When we had this El Niño, the main message was water management. You need to manage the available irrigation water. Now, there's a lot of water coming because of La Niña),” he said.

“So same pa rin. Water management pa rin, lalo na yung drainage management naman sa mga farms. So how we prepared for the El Niño, closer coordination with the farmer groups kasi silang nasa baba, with the local government units and also with our counterpart from other government agencies (So it's still the same. Water management is still important, especially drainage management on farms. So how we prepared for the El Niño, closer coordination with the farmer groups because they are the ones on the ground, with the local government units, and also with our counterparts from other government agencies).”

In the Philippines, above-average rainfall is usually brought about by La Niña. This may result in an upsurge in flooding, landslides, and agricultural damage.

La Niña is not all bad as it replenishes water reserves and helps agriculture in areas where crops depend on regular rainfall.

[https://mb.com.ph/2024/5/10/da-gears-up-for-la-nina-greater-agri-damage-than-el-nino-expected#google\\_vignette](https://mb.com.ph/2024/5/10/da-gears-up-for-la-nina-greater-agri-damage-than-el-nino-expected#google_vignette)

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# **NFA chief eyes CCTVs in warehouses, regular rotation of personnel in sensitive posts**

**BY JEL SANTOS**

May 11, 2024 02:50 PM

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National Food Authority (NFA) acting Administrator Larry Lacson

National Food Authority (NFA) acting Administrator Larry Lacson bared his plan on Saturday, May 11, to install closed-circuit television cameras (CCTVs) in their warehouses and to subject NFA personnel holding sensitive positions to regular rotation.

In a radio interview, Lacson stated that he has initiated numerous procedural changes to prevent the corruption incidents that previously occurred in the NFA.

“Lahat ng mga warehouses natin, we will put up CCTVs na nakikita hanggang sa central office para lahat ng mga galaw ng mga stock nakikita po, na-mo-monitor in real-time (In all of our warehouses, we will install CCTVs that can be seen up to the central office so that all movements of stocks are observed and monitored in real-time),” he said.

“Sa dami po ng technology ngayon, kailangan po natin gamitin ang technology para po magkaroon tayo ng control mechanism (With the abundance of technology today, we need to utilize it to establish control mechanisms),” he added.

Lacson said he would institute regular rotations for NFA personnel in sensitive positions to prevent them from becoming overly familiar with their clients.

“[We will implement] regular rotation ng mga tao na humahawak ng sensitive na position. Hindi kailangang magkaroon ng anomalya bago mo i-rotate. I-rotate mo on a regular basis para walang na-cre-create na rapport sa mga kliyente—walang familiarity (We will implement regular rotation of people handling sensitive positions. There doesn't need to be an anomaly before you rotate them. Rotate them on a regular basis to avoid creating rapport with clients—no familiarity),” he said.

According to the NFA chief, they hadn't set the duration of the rotation of personnel yet.

“Gusto ko regular [ang rotation], at least siguro isang taon lipat ka, pinakamaximum dalawang taon lipat ka (I want it to be regular rotation, at least maybe every year you move, maximum of two years you move),” Lacson went on.

Regular rotation of NFA personnel, he said, serves not only as a means to stop corruption but also as a way of developing well-rounded individuals.

“Kapag umikot po iyan sa ibang lugar, mas marami po ang na-a-absorb nilang kaalaman, mas magaling na po ‘yan para sa pagdating ng araw marami tayong pool ng magagaling na pwede pong umangat sa matataas na posisyon (When they rotate to different places, they absorb more knowledge, which makes them better-equipped for the future when we have a pool of competent individuals who can rise to higher positions),” the NFA chief explained.

Lacson, who served as director of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) from July 2009 to August 2010, has been appointed as officer-in-charge (OIC) of the NFA following a controversy that hit the agency over rice buffer stock. He was unanimously chosen by the NFA Council.

It is worth noting that Lacson is the second OIC appointed by the NFA Council this year after the Ombudsman suspended former NFA OIC Piolito Santos on March 12. He was suspended over his alleged links to the “improper sale” of NFA rice buffer stocks.

Santos was appointed by the NFA Council on March 6.

On March 4, the Ombudsman suspended 139 NFA officials and employees over their alleged involvement in the “improper sale” of rice buffer stock.

It can be recalled that Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said that there is no need for a significant overhaul within the agencies of the agriculture department following recent rulings by the Office of the Ombudsman that resulted in the removal of heads of the NFA and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/5/11/nfa-chief-eyes-cct-vs-in-warehouses-regular-rotation-of-personnel-in-sensitive-posts>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# **3,000 individuals receive AICS financial aid in Negros Occidental**

**BY GLAZYL MASCULINO**

May 11, 2024 01:20 PM

BACOLOD CITY – A total of 3,000 individuals in Negros Occidental received P9-million worth of financial assistance under the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Sen. Imee Marcos led the distribution of the AICS in La Carlota City where beneficiaries from fourth and fifth districts of the province gathered on Friday, May 10.



**SEN. Imee Marcos leads the payout of financial aid under the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) to 3,000 beneficiaries in La Carlota City, Negros Occidental on Friday, May 10, with Gov. Eugenio Jose Lacson (sixth from left) and Vice Gov. Jeffrey Ferrer (fifth from left). (Glazyl Masculino)**

She was assisted by Gov. Eugenio Jose Lacson and Vice Gov. Jeffrey Ferrer, who both thanked her for coming to the province to personally lead the payout.

A total of 1,638 recipients were from the fourth district, composed of 500 from La Carlota City, 200 in Bago City, 236 each in the towns of Valladolid, San Enrique, and Pontevedra, and 230 in Pulupandan town.

There were 1,362 beneficiaries in the fifth district – 200 in Himamaylan City, 236 each in the towns of Moises Padilla and Isabela, and 230 each in the towns of Hinigaran, La Castellana, and Binalbagan.

Marcos said that beneficiaries were tricycle drivers, farmers, fisherfolk, and market vendors. They each received P3,000 in cash aid, she added.

She said that these sectors have been greatly affected especially during the pandemic and the ongoing El Niño phenomenon.

Everything is expensive. Vendors could not pass it on. Rice is expensive and with the oil price hike, tricycle drivers are affected, she added.

In a press conference after the event, Marcos said that as immediate assistance to farmers and fisherfolk affected by the dry spell, the Department of Agriculture will extend P5,000 to each badly affected rice farmers and P3,000 each for displaced fisherfolk.

“Negros is a very large agricultural area,” Marcos said.

She urged local executives to help DA with the listing of affected farmers and fisherfolk to update their status.

Prior to the AICS distribution, Marcos, with celebrity Ella Cruz, led the awarding of the winners of the basketball clinic and cheer dance competition in La Carlota City.

She had a closed-door meeting with mayors in the province after the press conference.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/5/11/3-000-individuals-receive-aics-financial-aid-in-negros-occidental>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# **Livestock and Aquaculture Philippines 2024 happening on May 22-24**

Leading the way in driving business opportunities and industry growth

**BY MB BUSINESS**

May 11, 2024 09:34 AM



From left: Ms. Rungphech 'Rose' Chitanuwat, Country General Manager of Informa Markets in the Philippines; alongside Usec. Deogracias Victor Savellano, Undersecretary for Livestock at the Department of Agriculture; and Dr. Jonathan Vergara Sabiniano, Program Director of the National Livestock Program, showcasing commitment to advancing Livestock Philippines and Aquaculture Philippines 2024.

Informa Markets in the Philippines is set to host again the Livestock Philippines and Aquaculture Philippines this year, highlighting innovation and technology to improve the agricultural economy particularly the livestock and aquaculture industries. Now on its annual year cycle, the events are ready to showcase technology and cutting-edge product display from market-leading exhibitors, and a knowledge-sharing platform through a series of conferences and industry forums that will enable participants and visitors to link up with technology providers and emerging markets.

The theme "Harnessing Innovation and Technology for Sustainable Farm Development" for this year's Livestock Philippines and Aquaculture Philippines editions could serve as a stimulus for advancing both sectors within the agriculture industry. By emphasizing technology and innovation, these events have the potential to elevate these sectors as key drivers of rural development and employment opportunities, showcasing a commitment to sustainable practices alongside technological advancements.

“Unlocking the vast potential of the Philippine livestock and aquaculture subsectors can be achieved by enabling the stakeholders and actors to gain access to the latest in technologies and markets, among many others. And this is one of the primary objectives of the annual Livestock Philippines and Aquaculture Philippines trade show - to make it a knowledge-sharing platform,” said Ms. Rungphech Chitanuwat, the Country General Manager of Informa Markets in the Philippines.

The Department of Agriculture, in its capacity as the key government partner of Livestock Philippines and Aquaculture Philippines, reaffirms its commitment to the shows in presenting technological advancements to local farmers and fisherfolk to improve their agricultural production and make it more profitable. Aligned with the Department of Agriculture's mandate of "*Masaganang Agrikultura, Maunlad na Ekonomiya*," these events play a vital role as a strategic avenue for fostering partnerships between the public and private sectors and providing them with technological resources for the advancement and modernization of agriculture in the Philippines.

The three-day event offers a significant opportunity for stakeholders, industry professionals, farmers, business owners, and buyers within the Philippine livestock and aquaculture sectors to deepen their knowledge of technological advancements and market trends. Some of the important areas such as safeguarding farms through secure biosecurity, animal health, sustainable swine and poultry production, aquaculture trends and outlook will be discussed in in-depth details. Apart from the exhibition, participants can engage in various programs that are free of charge such as the following:

- **Technical Seminars** – Exhibitors provide in-depth technical discussions tailored for the livestock and aquaculture market.
  - **Livestock Conference** – Agencies within the Department of Agriculture, including the Bureau of Animal Industry, National Dairy Authority, Philippine Carabao Center, Agricultural Training Institute, and National Meat Inspection, cover relevant topics in the agricultural sector.
- **Aquaculture Conference (May 23, 2024)** – A dedicated conference focusing on the aquaculture sector brings together industry professionals to share knowledge, discuss critical aquaculture topics, exchange expertise, and explore innovative industry solutions.
- **Biosecurity Asia Forum (May 23, 2024)** - An exclusive forum dedicated to discussing biosecurity practices, government policies, and other biosecurity strategies and approaches to different sectors featuring speakers from Thailand, Singapore, and the Philippines
  - **Sustainability Forum (May 24, 2024)** – This forum aims to raise awareness of sustainability, particularly focusing on sustainable approaches in the livestock, poultry, ruminant, and aquaculture sectors. The events' sustainability partners, Prestige Paper Products and Central Luzon State University are featured to host their respective panel discussion that drives the campaign towards sustainability.
  - **ASEAN Associations Roundtable** - An expert dialogue on swine and layer sectors between invited associations from various countries like Malaysia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

Ms. Chitanuwat said that the staging of the abovementioned conferences and forums demonstrates the strong commitment of Informa Markets and the Department of Agriculture to make Livestock Philippines and Aquaculture Philippines 2024 very relevant to the two sectors, which face numerous challenges but have vast potential including ensuring food security for the entire nation, generating jobs, and creating more viable investment avenues.





From left: Ms. Rungphech 'Rose' Chitanuwat, Country General Manager of Informa Markets in the Philippines; Usec. Deogracias Victor Savellano, Undersecretary for Livestock at the Department of Agriculture; and Dr. Jonathan Vergara Sabiniano, Program Director of the National Livestock Program.

Livestock Philippines is set to host again the Livestock Philippines Recognition. This recognition aims to acknowledge companies, associations, cooperatives, and organizations that have significantly contributed to the advancement of the livestock and aquaculture industries in their own simple ways. These entities are recognized for their conscientious efforts in fostering growth and creating livelihood opportunities within the community.

Moreover, within the exhibition hall, there are educational attractions that are open to visitors at no cost. These include the Eggcellent Corner, presented by the Batangas Egg Producers Cooperative, showcasing the Philippine Egg Roadmap, and highlighting the various advantages of eggs. Additionally, the Sustainability Square aims to promote awareness of sustainability practices and their positive impact on the livestock and aquaculture industries.

Aside from its hosted livestock conference, the Department of Agriculture will feature a pavilion that shows 10 agencies such as the National Livestock Program, Bureau of Animal Industry, National Meat Inspection, National Dairy Authority, Philippine Carabao Center, International Training Center on Pig Husbandry, Agricultural Training Institute, Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards, Philippine

Council for Agriculture and Fisheries, and the Land Bank of the Philippines to offer support and guidance to attendees on various industry matters.

“The Department of Agriculture for supporting Livestock Philippines and Aquaculture Philippines 2024, for it clearly shows their commitment to enhancing to make the two subsectors competitive and sustainable,” Ms. Chitanuwat said.

The Livestock Philippines and Aquaculture Philippines 2024 will be held at the World Trade Center in Pasay City from May 22 to 24, 2024. The events offer free admission, granting visitors convenient access to the exhibition and a variety of seminars over three days. Trade buyers, veterinarians, animal health practitioners, and local farmers with a keen interest in the event are welcome to attend. The pre-registration process has been further streamlined to provide visitors with a seamless registration experience and can be accessed at this link <https://ers-th.informa-info.com/lsp24>.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/5/11/livestock-and-aquaculture-philippines-2024-happening-on-may-22-24>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Ocean Month: Think blue, keep marine ecosystems healthy

BY MANILA BULLETIN

May 11, 2024 00:04 AM



“The month of May is the peak fishing season in the Philippines, an appropriate occasion for direct beneficiaries to show their support for management initiatives pertaining to the oceans.” This was among the rationale for Presidential Proclamation 57, signed in 1998, declaring May as the month of the ocean in the Philippines.

The direct beneficiaries of the sea are not only those who derive income from it – the fishermen, and a wide variety of coastal businesses – but all humans and animals who benefit from a healthy ocean.

The Philippines, being an archipelago, is blessed with vast coastal and ocean resources which provide economic and ecological benefits. It has one of the world’s most diverse marine biodiversity with an extensive system of coral reefs sprawling over more than 27,000 square kilometers. Coral reefs are known as the “rainforest of the sea” where 25 percent of the ocean’s fish rely on for shelter, food and reproduction. Any activity such as plastic pollution and rising ocean temperatures cause a ripple effect that will affect the health and growth of our food supply.

The importance of healthy oceans cannot be over-emphasized. This year, the Month of the Ocean campaign launched by the Climate Change Commission (CCC) focuses on the theme “Develop a sustainable and equitable blue economy.”

“The campaign aims to inform, educate, and inspire action among Filipinos and the global community to address ocean-related issues and to cultivate a deep appreciation for the ocean's role in climate action,” CCC said.

“Oceans are the lifeblood of our planet, and also our frontline against climate change. Our actions today will determine the health of our oceans tomorrow. We all have a role to play in ensuring their protection and sustainability,” said CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the agency mandated to lead the yearly celebration with the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), launched the campaign in San Fernando City, La Union last week. A forum and lectures on laws governing the use of the foreshore areas, salvage zones and coastal waters, ocean resources and its conservation were held by DENR-1 for stakeholders and students.

Government action is needed to implement laws to conserve our marine ecosystem, such as the Extended Producer Responsibility Act (Republic Act No 11898) which lapsed into law in July 2022. The law requires large enterprises to recover a specific portion of their waste from packaging, or face large fines.

The country's solid waste problem still persists. Reports have shown that many people do not have access to proper waste disposal facilities, and garbage collection still remains a problem in many areas. Waste eventually ends up in the ocean and affects the coral reefs, polluting the source of food and shelter of marine life. And the cycle continues.

The importance of the sea to the economy and the livelihood of Filipinos is recorded in the reports of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). In a report published in October 2023, the country's “ocean economy grew by 21.1 percent in 2022, posting a gross value added of ₱857.74 billion from ₱708.10 billion in 2021.”

“The top three marine-based industries with highest growth were coastal accommodation and food and beverage services activities (248.3 percent), coastal recreation (161.7 percent), and offshore and coastal mining and quarrying (56.3 percent).”

For the rest of the month of May, think “blue.” It is our responsibility to protect our oceans and marine resources.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/5/11/ocean-month-think-blue-keep-marine-ecosystems-healthy>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# **Basic goods manufacturers implement voluntary price freeze**

**BY BERNIE CAHILES-MAGKILAT**

May 10, 2024 04:58 PM

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Several manufacturers of basic necessities and prime commodities (BNPCs) have voluntarily implemented a 60-day price freeze on select basic goods to address rising prices and mitigate the impact of El Nino on consumers, according to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

In a statement released Friday, May 10, the DTI said that the voluntary price are being implemented on select stock keeping units (SKUs) of canned meat, processed milk, and bottled water, until July 10 this year (60 days).

The price freeze followed after DTI Secretary Alfredo E. Pascual met the BNPC manufacturers for a second "Kapihan with CPG" meeting to tackle prices on basic consumer goods. BNPCs include canned sardines, processed milk, coffee, bottled water, processed and canned meat, condiments, and toilet soap.

Specific items in the price freeze includ: Wilkins Distilled Bottled Water, Viva Mineralized Bottled Water, CDO Luncheon Meat, CDO Meat Loaf, Bingo Corned Beef, Bingo Beef Loaf, CDO Beef Loaf, 555 Meat Loaf, Argentina Meat Loaf, Argentina Corned Beef, Argentina Beef Loaf, 555 Beef Loaf, Birch Tree Full Cream Milk, Instant Mami Chicken na Chicken, and Instant Mami Beef na Beef.

Pascual commended Century Pacific Food, Inc. (CPFI), CDO Foodsphere, Inc., and Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines Inc. (CCBPI) for their prompt response and commitment to ensuring access to affordable basic goods. The Department expects to receive more advisories from other manufacturers of similar nature.

In the same meeting, the DTI chief also apprised manufacturers and retailers of the Department's commitment to combat profiteering, hoarding, and cartels through its intensified monitoring efforts across the supply chain, and implementation of the "farm-to-fork" strategy.

The "farm-to-fork" strategy covers the partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Clark International Airport Corporation to establish and support the Clark Mega Food Hub and the Nueva Vizcaya Agricultural Terminal (NVAT)—in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development-Strengthening Private Enterprises for the Digital Economy (USAID-SPEED).

Pascual proposed establishing a direct linkage program between farmers and retailers to further streamline the supply chain and potentially lower costs. He encouraged the cooperation of retailers in pursuing this specific initiative.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/5/10/basic-goods-manufacturers-implement-voluntary-price-freeze>

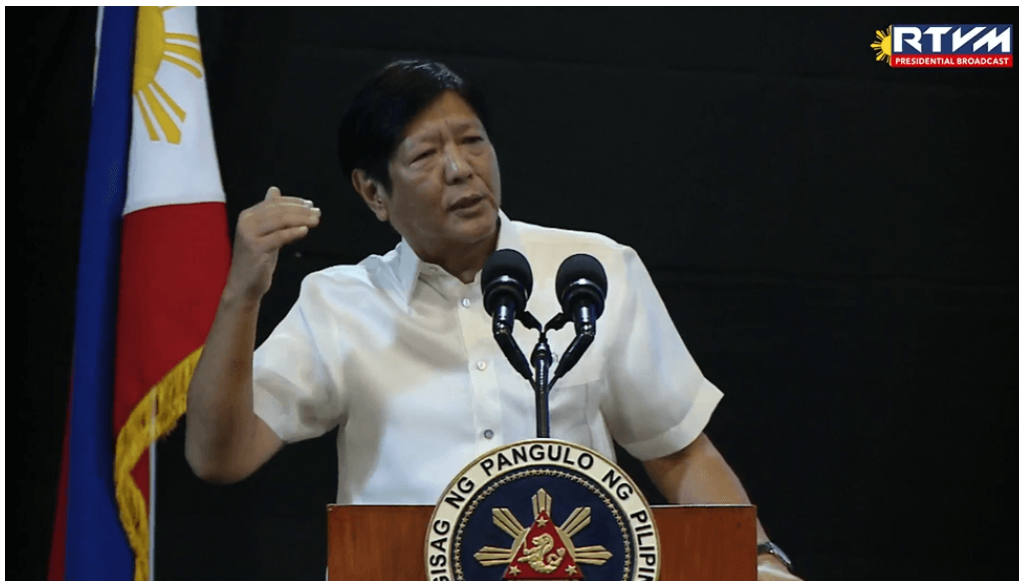
**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Marcos not aware of P50-rice sold in Kadiwa stores; insists it must only be at P29 per kilo

**BY BETHEENA UNITE**

May 10, 2024 01:46 PM

President Marcos said he is not aware that rice is sold at P50 per kilo in Kadiwa Center instead of the usual P29 per kilo.



Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. (RTVM Screenshot)

Marcos reminded that Kadiwa stores should only be selling rice for P29 per kilo, adding the P50 per kilo rice must have come from other sources, not the government-run Kadiwa.

"Hindi ko alam 'yan dahil ang Kadiwa pinagbibili natin..chineck ko nga. Nagpapabili tayo — ang binebenta natin na bigas is 29 pesos kaya't hindi ko alam yung 50 pesos (I am not aware of that because we are selling rice at P29 in Kadiwa, so I do not know about the P50-rice)," he said when asked in an interview in General Santos City why there aren't P20 per kilo of rice in Kadiwa Center, but instead P50 per kilo.

"Baka hindi sa amin galing yun, baka sa ibang source yun kasi Kadiwa, 29 pesos ang presyo namin (It might not be from us, it might have come from other sources because at Kadiwa, the price is at P29)," Marcos added.

Kadiwa Centers are put up by the Department of Agriculture where famers, fisherfolks, and local producers can directly sell their goods without going through middlemen, eliminating additional expenses before their produce reaches the markets.

Goods sold in Kadiwa stores are supposed to be cheaper than those sold in the markets.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/5/10/marcos-not-aware-of-p50-rice-sold-in-kadiwa-stores-insists-it-must-only-be-at-p29-per-kilo>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Marcos donates P100 M to aid El Niño-hit farmers, fisherfolk in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato

BY ARGYLL CYRUS GEDUCOS

May 10, 2024 10:18 AM

## AT A GLANCE

- Marcos said each beneficiary would receive P10,000. This means there would be 10,000 beneficiaries from both provinces.
- The assistance from the Office of the President is on top of the other financial support the beneficiaries would be getting from different agencies.

President Marcos assured the public that the government is always ready to help them as he turned over P100 million in check assistance to the provincial governments of Sultan Kudarat and Cotabato to assist the farmers, fisherfolk, and their families who were severely affected by the El Niño phenomenon.



*EL NIÑO AID — President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. turns over P50 million worth of assistance from the Office of the President to the provincial government of Sultan Kudarat to assist the farmers, fisherfolk, and their families affected by El Niño. (RTVM Screenshot)*

The provincial governments each received P50 million from the President during the distribution of assistance in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat on Friday morning, May 10.

In his speech, the President said the funds came from the Office of the President (OP) and each beneficiary would receive P10,000. This means there would be 10,000 beneficiaries from both provinces.

According to Marcos, his visit to Sultan Kudarat aimed to ensure that the beneficiaries would get the assistance allotted to them. He hoped they would use the cash aid to expedite their recovery from the effects of El Niño.

He likewise told them the government is always ready to assist those needing government support.

"Hindi lang po ito minsanan po na pagbigay ng tulong. Patuloy po ito (This is not a continuous endeavor)," Marcos said.

"Ito'y isang bahagi lamang ng malawakang programa upang tiyakin na ang mga nasalanta, ang mga naging biktima, ang mga nahihirapan dahil sa tagtuyot na dala ng El Niño ay patuloy na nasususportahan (This is a part of a bigger program that aims to ensure that all those affected by the drought brought by the El Niño are getting the support they need)," he added.

The Chief Executive assured the public that the government would do everything to assist the farmers and fisherfolk affected by the dry spell.

"Hindi po namin kayo kinakalimutan. Lagi kaming nakabantay sa inyong kalagayan (We have not forgotten you. We are always monitoring your situation)," he said.

"Asahan ninyo, lahat ng kayang gawin ng inyong pamahalaan ay gagawin upang maging mas maginhawa ang inyong mga buhay (Rest assured that we will do what we can to make your lives more comfortable)," he added.

According to President Marcos, the assistance from the Office of the President is on top of the other financial support the beneficiaries would be getting from different agencies.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) would distribute P5,000 to farmers under the Rice Competitive Enhancement Fund (RCEF) in addition to seeds, fertilizer, pumping equipment, and other pieces of machinery.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), would hand over P10,000 under its Assistance to Individuals in Crisis (AICS) program. This is in addition to the food packs given to those affected by the extreme drought.

A total of 583 beneficiaries, meanwhile, would get around P4,000 from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) under its Tulong Paghanapbuhay sa ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) program.

The Department of Trade Industry (DTI) is set to give grant certificates worth P940,000 to three farmers' groups, while the Technical Education And Skills Development Authority (TESDA) would distribute 21 livelihood toolkits and allowance for its scholars.

The office of House Speaker Martin Romualdez gave away five kilos of rice to those who attended the distribution of assistance.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/5/10/marcos-donates-p100-m-to-aid-el-nino-hit-farmers-fisherfolk-in-sultan-kudarat-cotabato>



**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Farms in Tanay, Rizal boost LGU's agritourism campaigns this summer

**BY NEL ANDRADE**

May 11, 2024 12:17 PM

Vegetable farms, pineapple farms, dragon fruits farms and cacao plantations remain the favorite destinations of both local and foreign tourists when they visit the agriculture-rich town of Tanay in Rizal province, especially during this summer months.

The office of Tanay Mayor Rafael “Lito” Tanjuatco said tourists continue to visit farms and farm resorts, both in the lowland and upland villages in the municipality, during the dry months of the year to enjoy the view of nature and the cool breeze that surround the places, and indulge in the food and the agriculture products that are served and harvested in the facilities.

Vegetable and flower gardens in lowland communities and cacao farms and fruit farms in upland barangays in Tanay are among the favorite places of visitors in Tanay.

One such place in the upland Barangay Cayabu, the Palaya Eco-Natural Farm, keeps on welcoming tourists to their farm resort that boasts of the sprawling 68-hectare agriculture area, home to some 36,000 posts of dragon fruit plants, and other vegetable products.



*(photo by Nel Andrade/Manila Bulletin)*

At the entrance to the farm resort, visitors are welcomed by rows of greenhouses where leafy greens and cherry tomatoes are propagated.

Once inside, the visitors are greeted with several types of accommodation facilities such as teepee-type kubo, native nipa hut cottages and rooms for those who want to enjoy the relaxing scenery, with flowers and ornamental plants all over the place.

The owner of the farm resort, Mr. Josh Colesio, and the members of his family envision the farm to be the largest dragon fruit plantation in the country while helping their farmers sustain their livelihood.



***Rows of dragon fruit plants/posts are everywhere in the Palaya Natural Farm (photo from Palaya Natural Farm's Facebook page)***

Colesio said the farmland uses natural fertilizers from indigenous materials, fermented plants and fruit sprays while cultivating the land using natural soil treatments. He said the facility's natural farming practices have benefits such as environmental sustainability, cultural preservation, resilience to climate change and animal welfare.



***Greens at the farm facility of the Colesios (photo courtesy of the resort's Facebook page)***

Visitors can also enjoy the All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) rides with options of short to adventure rides such as river crossing and side trip to the dragon fruit farm. They can also enjoy off road drive aboard the ATV as an added activity in the area in the nearby river, along with horseback riding and tree planting.



***Tourists enjoy the ATV ride in a river in Barangay Cayabu in Tanay (photo by Nel Andrade/Manila Bulletin)***

Along the river, visitors may stroll or take a dip or make a quick swim in the refreshing water to cool off and beat the summer heat.

The house restaurant that serves buffet meals and a coffee shop are ready to offer healthy meals and beverages to visitors.

Mr. Jeff Pino of the office of the mayor told Manila Bulletin that tourists will find Palaya Eco Natural Farm and other similar facilities in the upland villages of Tanay, the proper place to visit especially in the coming Mother's Day, May 12, as these farm resorts and lodging accommodations in one place offer a relaxing ambiance for all mothers and their family members as well.

As a gift to mothers, Palaya Natural Farm is waiving the entrance fee for all mothers until May 12.

Other agriculture sites that tourists may visit this summer include the pineapple plantations in Barangay Madilaydilay, a farming community near the Tanay-Laguna boundary and the RNC Organic Farm of couple Romeo and Nancy Casco in Barangay Plaza Aldea, and other vegetable and fruit farms that can be found in the upland villages in Tanay.

Visitors are encouraged to coordinate with the tourism office of the local government unit for guidance on how to go to the sites.

This coming Mother's Day, the municipal government said tourists, especially the commuters, may now easily reach Tanay town proper via the mini buses that ply the route Tanay Grand Terminal in Tanay to Starmall at EDSA-Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City as the Eastern

Rizal AUV Transport and Multi-Purpose Cooperative has started its transport service to this part of Rizal Province since May 1.



*(photo from Tanay Municipal Government's Facebook page)*

With the easy access to Tanay via public transportation, the municipal government is hoping that the tourist arrivals in the town, especially the agricultural sites, will continue to increase this year.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/5/11/farms-in-tanay-rizal-boost-lgu-s-agritourism-campaigns-this-summer>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Task force counting remaining weeks of El Niño; 276 areas under state of calamity

**BY RAYMUND ANTONIO**

May 11, 2024 11:30 AM

With the El Niño phenomenon still expected to persist in the remaining weeks of May, Communications Assistant Secretary Joey Villarama, spokesperson for Task Force El Niño, underscored the need to prepare and evaluate its impact on agriculture, water supply, power generation, and food security.



*A farmland is all dried up due to the absence of rain amid the El Niño phenomenon. (File Photo/MANILA BULLETIN)*

During the Bagong Pilipinas briefing on Friday, May 10, the official also disclosed that a total of 276 cities and municipalities are now under the state of calamity due to the effects of El Niño.

“Kahit po sinabi ng PAGASA na pahupa na po ang El Niño eh mayroon pa po tayong ilang linggo sa buwan ng Mayo para po makapaghanda pa rin po at maabatan po ang epekto ng El Niño in terms of iyong ating food supply, water supply, pati iyong ating electricity (Even if PAGASA said that the El Niño is waning, there are still a few weeks left in May to get ready and minimize the effects of El Niño in terms of our food supply, water supply, and electricity),” he said.

PAGASA, the country's weather bureau, stands for Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

“So, hangga’t nandiyan pa po at hindi pa po tini-terminate iyong El Niño at magta-transition na tayo nga to La Niña in the coming months eh dapat po ay listo pa rin tayo at maghanda pa rin po tayo (So, until El Niño is still present and hasn’t been terminated and we will transition to La Niña in the coming months, we still need to be alert and prepared),” Villarama added.

In the same briefing, the official also said that 276 Philippine cities and municipalities have so far have declared a state of calamity due to the effects of El Niño.

Included in that figure are nine different provinces and the entire Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) region.

Villarama shared that many of the provinces that declared a state of calamity are in Mindanao, which includes South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, and Zamboanga Peninsula.

He added that President Marcos himself visited the Mindanao provinces because they are the ones firstly affected by El Niño.

However, he stressed the need to continue preparing for the extreme heat brought by El Niño because of its impact.

“So, kahit sinabi po ng PAGASA na pahina na po ang epekto ng El Niño, nandiyan pa rin po iyong damang init na may epekto sa kalusugan, may epekto po sa agrikultura, pati sa ating fishing industry (So, even if PAGASA said that the effects of El Niño have weakened, the extreme heat is still there that affects health, agriculture, and even the fishing industry),” Villarama said.

“Kaya kailangan pa rin tayong magbantay at may posibilidad po na makakaapekto pa rin ang matinding init at tagtuyot sa ating mga probinsiya sa mga susunod pang linggo (That’s why we need to monitor and there’s a possibility that the extreme heat and drought still have effects on our provinces in the coming weeks),” he added.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/5/11/task-force-counting-remaining-weeks-of-el-nino-276-areas-under-state-of-calamity>

**MANILA BULLETIN:**

# Hog raisers affected by ASF get aid from Bohol prov'l gov't

**BY CALVIN CORDOVA**

May 10, 2024 06:13 PM

CEBU CITY – Hog raisers in Bohol affected by African Swine Fever (ASF) received financial assistance from the provincial government.

A total of P757,000 were given to the affected hog raisers in Purok 5, Barangay Mayacabac and Purok 2, Barangay Mariveles in Dauis.



**GOV. Aris Aumentado distributes financial assistance to hog farmers from Dauis, Bohol affected by African Swine Fever. (Contributed photo)**

Gov. Aris Aumentado led the distribution of financial assistance on Thursday, May 9, at the ceremonial hall of the provincial capitol in Tagbilaran City.

Affected hog raisers had to depopulate their swine as part of the containment measures employed by the Provincial Inter-Agency ASF Task Force.

A total of P457,000 from the indemnification fund was given to 30 hog raisers for 101 culled hogs, 77 of which were breeders or sows at P5,000 each and 24 were weanlings at P3,000 each.

The governor also turned over P10,000 for each family under the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations program of the Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development.

The affected hog raisers will also receive P5,000 for each culled hog from the indemnification fund of the Department of Agriculture.

Aumentado thanked the hog raisers for cooperating with the measures taken by the ASF Task Force.

“We are thankful for the cooperation even if the protocols are difficult. We know that this is your livelihood that helped you send your children to schools or built something to live in,” said Aumentado.

According to Dr. Stella Marie Lapiz, provincial veterinarian, one month of daily disinfection in the depopulation site as well as in index case premises is currently being conducted.

She reminded swine farmers that raising of hogs shall be strictly prohibited within three months after the last disinfection.

At the end of three months, a “sentinel” or sample pig shall be raised in the index area for the next three months, with blood sample collection for ASF testing done every 21 days.

Hog raising can then resume once fully cleared in the evaluation after the six-month period, she added.

Provincial Administrator Asteria Caberte announced that the provincial government is working out a livelihood intervention through the Provincial Cooperative Development Office to provide pig pens to equip hog raisers with the proper facilities and to ensure biosecurity requirements for hog raising.

As the ASF response continues, the OPV remains in close coordination with the Dauis Municipal ASF Task Force as an ASF team will be stationed in the municipality for testing of all pigs that will be transported outside of the town.

Under Executive Order No. 17 issued by Aumentado, all pigs must test negative in the RT-PCR test before they can be transported outside of Dauis.

The cash aid for ASF affected families is intended to encourage early reporting which is crucial to the ASF response.

The provincial government has been exerting efforts to protect the province’s P6-billion hog industry comprising 48,000 hog raisers, 80 percent of them backyard raisers.

<https://mb.com.ph/2024/5/10/hog-raisers-affected-by-asf-get-aid-from-bohol-prov-l-gov-t>



**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# DA prepares for more destructive La Niña

[Bella Cariaso](#) - The Philippine Star

May 11, 2024 | 8:30am



President Marcos hands over cash assistance to farmers affected by El Niño, during the distribution of financial aid under the Socio-Civic Projects Fund, at the Universidad de Zamboanga Summit Center in Zamboanga City last Thursday. Beneficiaries included thousands of farmers and fisherfolk from the Zamboanga Peninsula.

Roel Pareño

**MANILA, Philippines** — The Department of Agriculture (DA) is preparing for a “more destructive” La Niña even as El Niño continues to affect the agriculture sector.

At a press conference yesterday, Agriculture Assistant Secretary U-Nichols Manalo noted that the DA has started its La Niña preparations by looking into areas severely affected by La Niña in the past.

“For the past 25 years, based on our record, we have had at least eight El Niño, meaning the current El Niño that we are experiencing is the eighth. For La Niña, if ever it will arrive, it will be the 17th. As early as now, we are preparing,” Manalo said.

“You do the math, the damage is bigger for La Niña and it is always on rice, corn and high value crops,” Manalo said.

He added that like with El Niño, they are focusing on the management of water for irrigation during La Niña, when there will be an excess of water.

The DA is currently coordinating with concerned local government agencies and local government units (LGUs) to prepare for the threat of La Niña, he said.

“Again, it follows the original instruction that it will be a whole-of-government approach, not only DA and it is science-based,” Manalo added.

President Marcos on Thursday urged LGUs to brace for the impact of La Niña.

“Be prepared at all times. Let’s be aware of the needs of our constituents and make programs that will definitely help our countrymen,” he added.

Presidential Communications Office Assistant Secretary Joey Villarama also urged LGUs to identify flood-prone areas.

He said Task Force El Niño has been discussing preparations, including the building of water impounding facilities or rain catchment systems in the country.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said that La Niña still has a 60 percent chance of developing by June to August this year.

La Niña is characterized by unusually cooler than average sea surface temperature and is associated with above normal rainfall conditions that may bring adverse impacts such as floods and landslides.

The ongoing El Niño continues to weaken, but state climatologists said the hotter and drier conditions still persist with neutral conditions anticipated from April to July.

A transition to the southwest monsoon could also cause rains over the western portion of the country from May to September.

The declaration of the rainy season will be upon the onset of the southwest monsoon.

PAGASA said that for the month of May, one to two tropical cyclones may enter the country and other weather systems could include easterlies, localized thunderstorms, intertropical convergence zone, a low-pressure area and a ridge of a high pressure area.

Below normal rainfall conditions will likely still be experienced in most parts of Luzon and the Visayas.

Meanwhile, more El Niño-hit provinces in Mindanao received cash and other assistance from the government yesterday as areas declaring a state of calamity due to extreme heat and dry conditions now number 276 cities and municipalities.

President Marcos led the distribution of financial assistance to farmers and fisherfolk in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato and General Santos City.

The President assured affected residents the administration would exhaust all resources to help them recover from the impact of El Niño on their livelihood.

He extended P10,000 from the Office of the President to each affected farmer, fisherfolk and their families along with the P5,000 cash assistance from the DA under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund-Rice Farmers Financial Assistance. — **Romina Cabrera, Helen Flores**

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/05/11/2354213/da-prepares-more-destructive-la-nia>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

# Makers freeze prices of select items until July 10

[Louella Desiderio](#) - The Philippine Star

May 11, 2024 | 9:00am



In a statement yesterday, the DTI said several manufacturers have decided to voluntarily implement a price freeze on select stock keeping units of bottled water, canned meat and processed milk until July 10.

STAR / File

**MANILA, Philippines** — Some manufacturers are implementing a voluntary price freeze until July to help address the impact of El Niño on prices of goods, according to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

In a statement yesterday, the DTI said several manufacturers have decided to voluntarily implement a price freeze on select stock keeping units of bottled water, canned meat and processed milk until July 10.

Those included in the voluntary price freeze are Wilkins Distilled Bottled Water, Viva Mineralized Bottled Water, CDO Luncheon Meat, CDO Meat Loaf, Bingo Corned Beef, Bingo Beef Loaf, CDO Beef Loaf, 555 Meat Loaf, Argentina Meat

Loaf, Argentina Corned Beef, Argentina Beef Loaf, 555 Beef Loaf and Birch Tree Full Cream Milk.

The voluntary price freeze is being implemented following the meeting of Trade Secretary Alfredo Pascual with manufacturers of basic necessities and prime commodities last May 3, to discuss how to address the risk of increasing prices due to El Niño.

Pascual commended Century Pacific Food Inc., CDO Foodsphere Inc. and Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines Inc. for the move showing their commitment to help ensure access to affordable basic goods.

“The Department expects to receive more advisories from other manufacturers of similar nature,” the DTI said.

Earlier, the DTI said several manufacturers and retailers have expressed openness to implementing a voluntary price freeze.

Under the Price Act, prices of basic goods are automatically frozen at prevailing prices up to 60 days in an area declared to be under a state of calamity.

During the recent meeting with manufacturers and retailers, Pascual emphasized the DTI’s commitment to combat profiteering, hoarding and cartels by stepping up its monitoring across the supply chain and implementation of the “farm-to-fork” strategy.

The “farm-to-fork” strategy involves the partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Clark International Airport Corp. for establishing the Clark Mega Food Hub and the Nueva Vizcaya Agricultural Terminal in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development-Strengthening Private Enterprises for the Digital Economy.

To further streamline the supply chain and potentially bring down costs, Pascual also proposed establishing a direct link between farmers and retailers.

## Price control call

Sen. Francis Tolentino’s urgent call to the DTI for price control in the face of a severe dry spell has been approved, as confirmed on Friday by DTI Assistant Secretary Amanda Marie Nograles.

“With the positive response of the DTI to our suggestion to impose price control because of El Niño, the prices of certain commodities will be controlled even without the government declaration of a state of calamity,” Tolentino said.

Nograles informed Tolentino that the DTI immediately called for a meeting to look into price control by freezing the prices of some commodities and invited manufacturers to get their response.

“We discussed the possibility of some sort of voluntary price freeze of manufacturers as one form of bayanihan because we are experiencing El Niño and inflation,” she said.

Nograles thanked Tolentino for suggesting a price freeze on some commodities because the consumers are feeling the brunt of the El Niño phenomenon, while the government has not declared a state of calamity.

The DTI executive said they expect to announce the full list next week.

<https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2024/05/11/2354209/makers-freeze-prices-select-items-until-july-10>

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR:**

**FREEMAN CEBU BUSINESS**

# **Q1 GDP: Agri sector remained stagnant**

**FULL DISCLOSURE** - **Fidel Abalos** - Agence France-Presse

May 11, 2024 | 12:00am

Today, we are complaining about the long dry spell and its consequential challenges. As if we aren't aware that it will certainly come. Frankly, we are always well informed about calamities way ahead of time. Actually, we can't blame the government for the lack of it. The problem really is our capabilities of cushioning the impact of these calamities. In typhoons and droughts, for instance, we know how devastating these are. Yet, it seems that we are too helpless. More often, we can only hope and pray that typhoons will be weaker and droughts will be shorter.

To recall, in May, last year, PAGASA issued an "El Niño alert" saying that "the weather phenomenon might emerge between June and July at 80 percent probability and might persist until the first quarter of 2024." It seems, however, that the drought last year wasn't worse as expected and we were able to weather the impact of such phenomenon then.

PAGASA, however warned then that the problem was, while the dry spell and drought were forecasted to only persist until the first quarter of this year, they were already expecting then that it will last until the end of the second quarter. True enough, it did. In fact, we are still in the midst of it.

To the affluent families, it is just a matter of turning on their air conditioner unit 24/7 and using their gensets if there are power outages (which would likely happen in a prolonged dry spell). That's it, and life will go on. To the farmers, however, it is a lot different. It is about their livelihood. Obviously, as such will be disastrous and render farmers (especially, the small ones) penniless. So that, it is disheartening sometimes that there are people who do not see it that way.

For instance, in May, last year, as concerns of El Niño started to build up, NEDA Sec. Balisacan simply told us that "rice production could decrease by double digits." That "agriculture's contribution to the country's economy as measured by gross domestic product (GDP) is "roughly 10%, so that, "contraction in agriculture caused by El Niño may not deeply impact the economy." Lest we forget, he also expressed earlier "the need for the country to liberalize the agriculture sector to allow the timely importation of crucial farm products whenever necessary."

Thus, as the first quarter GDP growth figures will show, for the major economic sectors (on a quarter-on-quarter basis), the industry and services rose by 2.6% and 1.0%, respectively. The agriculture, forestry and fishing dropped by 0.3%.

Knowing fully well that the agriculture sector is just a single-digit contributor to our economy, we can't help but agree with Sec. Balisacan that the performance in the agriculture sector will have a minimal impact on the economy. However, apart from just solely relying on imports for our shortages, hopefully, Sec. Balisacan will not just trivialize agriculture's contribution to GDP but have the same degree of preference for the improvement of the agriculture sector. Indeed, as trivializing it will have a lasting negative impact to the agriculture sector and food security. Needless to say, the unbearable food costs especially to poor families.

Truth to tell, on Tuesday, the PSA reported "that the country's inflation quickened to 3.8% due to food and transport costs." It is a no-brainer. At the current exchange hovering around P57 to a US dollar, food prices will simply shoot up. Therefore, reliance on importation isn't sustainable at all, production is.

Let us not blame the long dry spell for our miseries. Desert-filled countries in the middle east have extended dry seasons. Yet, they are living normal lives. For one, as early as in the 1980s, recognizing their insufficient supply of water, Israel embraced a technology that addressed such predicament. The drip system or water diet.

Knowing fully well that leaves only need sunlight and roots need water, they simply water the roots in small drips. Thus, a pale of water will have a longer reach. On the other hand, knowing that plants only need soil to stand on, due to the lack of land for agriculture, Singapore embraces hydroponics. Using some pipes, they made their roof decks their farms. Moreover, other countries, don't use paddies, they are using lakes and rivers to grow rice in floating rafts.

Indeed, there are a lot of farming technologies that we can embrace. To make these work, the government must also provide low-cost loans and the necessary infrastructure, such as, farm to market roads, irrigation, storage facilities, transport equipment, packing and processing facilities.

<https://www.philstar.com/the-freeman/cebu-business/2024/05/11/2354275/q1-gdp-agri-sector-remained-stagnant>



**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER:**

# **DA: Agriculture damage due to El Niño hits P6.3 billion**

By: [Luisa Cabato](#) - Reporter / [@luisacabatoINQ](#)

[INQUIRER.net](#) / 03:23 PM May 11, 2024

MANILA, Philippines — The agricultural damage caused by the El Niño phenomenon has already reached P6.3 billion, Department of Agriculture spokesperson Arnel De Mesa said on Saturday.

“Naglabas kami kahapon ng latest bulletin sa El Niño. Ang latest damage now is P6.3 billion, pinakamalaki pa rin sa sektor ng palayan at P3.3 billion. Ang ating maisan ay P1.9 billion, at ang ating high-value commercial crops ay P1 billion,” De Mesa said at the Saturday News Forum in Quezon City.

(We released the latest bulletin on El Niño yesterday. The latest damage now is P6.3 billion, still highest is the rice sector at P3.3 billion. Our corn crops are at P1.9 billion, and our high-value commercial crops are at P1 billion.)

The highest reported damage was in Mimaropa with P1.7 billion, followed by Western Visayas with P1.5 billion, and the Cordillera Administrative Region with almost P800 million.

De Mesa noted that 60,000 hectares of land were damaged by the El Niño so far, which is half of the 120,000 hectares projected by the DA.

“Yung huling nilabas din na report ng PSA (Philippine Statistics Authority), 100,000 metric tons ‘yung naging reduction sa production ng palay in the first quarter, which is similar dito...’yung projection namin is 134,000 metric tons,” he added.

(The latest report from the PSA also showed a reduction of 100,000 metric tons in rice production in the first quarter, which is similar to our projection of 134,000 metric tons.)

While the circumstances are less than ideal, De Mesa said the figure is relatively smaller compared to the estimated 500 to 600 metric tons of reduced rice production whenever a typhoon hits the country.

“Nagkaroon ng effectivity ‘yung mga interventions na ginawa natin at isa pa rin naman is... ‘pag may El Niño talagang very minimal o walang bagyo na dumadaan,” he said.

(The interventions we implemented have become effective, and another factor is... during El Niño, there are usually very minimal or no typhoons passing through.)

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1939590/da-agriculture-damage-due-to-el-nino-hits-p6-3-billion>



Since we previously helped spearhead the roadmaps for the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), we were asked to recommend a comprehensive standard outline guide for the DA.

We then combined the DTI outline with one developed by the late Dr. Rolando Dy of the University of Asia and the Pacific. The combined outline was thereafter approved for implementation.

Unfortunately, this outline was not followed. Furthermore, the critical appendix that would help ensure action was not implemented. This appendix specified the high priority action plans, alongside recommended budgets and accountabilities, within a two-year time frame.

In addition, public-private roadmap implementation teams were never formed.

These days, the roadmaps are just lying around—with the desired highest priority short-term actions not known, never carried out.

Throughout all this, however, the private sector had not been asked for their involvement.

Unlike at the DTI, where the private sector pays for the roadmap formulation and there is a focal person identified in the implementation team, no such “ownership” is felt by the private sector in the fully government-funded agriculture roadmaps.

Since the success of our agriculture exports depend largely on “doing the right thing,” we must immediately revisit both roadmap formulation and the implementation process. A private sector representative must take the lead, ideally attaching his or her signature to the roadmaps to ensure ownership and responsibility, or co-chair (together with the government representative) the implementation team. An absolute necessity is the inclusion of the appendix, which should contain priority action plans, recommended budgets and accountabilities identified for the next two years.

## Three categories

These roadmaps should fit into three new categories previously discussed with the private sector at the Export Development Council. New suggestions have been given following these categories.

The first recommendation is to give attention to our large export winners. Five of these account for more than two-thirds of our exports. They still have big untapped potential.

Unfortunately, these sectors are now encountering major threats to their market shares from competing countries giving full support to their produce. These include coconut, bananas, pineapple, tobacco, tuna and other selected fishes.

The second recommendation is to promote already promising, but still underutilized, products like seaweed, crustaceans and mollusks, mango, biscuits, and condiments.

The third recommendation is to develop and nurture emerging products like bamboo, cacao, coffee, calamansi, ube, livestock, and poultry.

Each of these categories will require an agriculture roadmap, which should, as I have been highlighting since day one, involve the private sector.

Only with private sector participation in governance will these roadmaps prove effective. Only until then can we attain our goal of true agriculture development.

<https://business.inquirer.net/458175/ph-products-with-big-untapped-potential>

# **El Niño causes P6.3-B agriculture damage — DA**

By Charles Dantes

May 11, 2024, 6:42 pm

The agricultural damage brought by the impact of El Niño has reached P6.3 billion, according to Department of Agriculture (DA) Assistant Secretary and spokesperson Arnel De Mesa.

“The largest (damage) is still in the rice sector at P3.3 billion, followed by corn at P1.9 billion, and our high-value commercial crops at P1 billion,” De Mesa said during a Saturday news forum in Quezon City.

“If we look at our projection of losses due to El Niño, when PAGASA told us that there will be an El Niño, we estimated that around 120,000 hectares will be damaged. The latest report shows it’s around 60,000,” he added.

According to the Agriculture official, the most significant damage reported was in Region IV-B (Mimaropa), totaling P1.7 billion, followed by Region VI (Western Visayas) at P1.5 billion, and the Cordillera Administrative Region at nearly P800 million.

He added that the accumulated loss of 100,000 metric tons in rice crop production due to the drought has been significantly smaller compared to the damages caused by tropical storms, which range from 500,000 to 600,000 metric tons.

“Our interventions have been effective and, also, when there’s El Niño, there have been very few or almost no typhoons passing through from the last quarter of last year until now, causing no significant damage to our agricultural sector,” De Mesa said.

[https://manilastandard.net/news/314445792/el-nino-causes-p6-3-b-agriculture-damage-da.html?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR1GKuvvYxunok5A8cD8Wzgpr5\\_p0ZFnpGrtbEzEUgZca3jUHJMt5Om2FAE\\_aem\\_AfjXrd-rqfKCVX5pRiYEbxnkM3shV4nQdLuE-mpm-j32TT0yt6Lzqw\\_SXZRgX9tr4hl-IcceN-xbUEKQWkfgeXXz](https://manilastandard.net/news/314445792/el-nino-causes-p6-3-b-agriculture-damage-da.html?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR1GKuvvYxunok5A8cD8Wzgpr5_p0ZFnpGrtbEzEUgZca3jUHJMt5Om2FAE_aem_AfjXrd-rqfKCVX5pRiYEbxnkM3shV4nQdLuE-mpm-j32TT0yt6Lzqw_SXZRgX9tr4hl-IcceN-xbUEKQWkfgeXXz)

**MANILA STANDARD**

# Young Luzon farmers complete Yabong Bootcamp

By Manila Standard Business

May 11, 2024, 7:40 pm

The Young Agripreneurs Building Opportunities, Nurturing Growth (YABONG) Bootcamp, a collaborative effort by East-West Seed Philippines (EWPH) and the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), successfully concluded on May 9, 2024.

The program culminated in a pitching session, graduation ceremony, and innovation fair held at SEARCA in Los Baños, Laguna.

Twenty young and enthusiastic farmers from Luzon, nearly half of them women, participated in the bootcamp.

Participants delved into practical farming techniques like seed management, understanding soil nutrients, and managing pests and diseases. They also gained valuable experience in cross-pollination, mulching, transplanting, trellising, pruning, and vine management.

Beyond technical skills, the bootcamp focused on empowering young farmers as business owners while emphasizing the importance of developing comprehensive business plans, including strategies for marketing, fundraising, and managing cash flow.

Over the course of the three-month program, they spent 21 sessions crafting innovative business improvement plans for their farms.

[https://www.manilastandard.net/business/314445829/young-luzon-farmers-complete-yabong-bootcamp.html?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMATAAR35dNsBZB0B6JCRU3iW1anpqTUgBSmPRSq5dW4181IgHSvi4ci1MgP8vG4\\_aem\\_AfiU6E046BTaWW6SotADP9EBg4fMy2dGYX6aRypsEeCtmK9dzCyAbBwVhq1KVD5cJROGcsTfcsvry3\\_CwdsRNAqE](https://www.manilastandard.net/business/314445829/young-luzon-farmers-complete-yabong-bootcamp.html?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMATAAR35dNsBZB0B6JCRU3iW1anpqTUgBSmPRSq5dW4181IgHSvi4ci1MgP8vG4_aem_AfiU6E046BTaWW6SotADP9EBg4fMy2dGYX6aRypsEeCtmK9dzCyAbBwVhq1KVD5cJROGcsTfcsvry3_CwdsRNAqE)

# More El Niño affected folk in Mindanao get assistance



MINDANAO SWING. President Marcos Jr. leads the distribution of aid to farmers and fishermen affected by El Niño in Sultan Kudarat. The aid package includes financial assistance from the DSWD, irrigation support and fertilizer from the Department of Agriculture, and employment assistance from the Department of Labor and Employment. TESDA also provided livelihood kits, while the Office of the House Speaker provided rice.

By Charles Dantes & Maricel Cruz

May 11, 2024, 12:45 am

President Marcos extended P100 million in financial assistance to Sultan Kudarat and Cotabato provinces on Friday for those affected by the El Niño phenomenon.

During the ceremonial turnover at the Sultan Kudarat Sports and Cultural Center, President Marcos handed P50 million each to Sultan Kudarat Gov. Datu Pax Ali Mangudadatu and Cotabato Gov. Emmylou Mendoza.

“This is my purpose here right now, not just to provide assistance, but to promise that the government is with you in fighting the bad effects of El Niño,” President Marcos told the gathering.

The assistance includes P10,000 in presidential aid for affected farmers, fisherfolk, and residents, along with P5,000 from the Department of Agriculture (DA) under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund-Rice Farmers Financial Assistance.



Additionally, the DA provided seedlings, fertilizers, and machinery.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) provided P10,000 in assistance through its crisis program, while Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) gave roughly P4,000 to 583 beneficiaries under its Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) program.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) distributed certificate grants worth over P40,000, and the Technical Education Skills Development Authority (TESDA) provided 21 livelihood toolkits and allowances to scholars.

Speaker Martin Romualdez also contributed five kilos of rice to each resident.

“Our visit today is to show our support during this crisis, and to ensure that government assistance and services will reach you who truly work hard for your family and for the country,” President Marcos said.

In another part of Mindanao, over 80 members of the House of Representatives showed up in Zamboanga City to show solidarity and support for President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s Bagong Pilipinas Serbisyo Fair (BPSF) held in the city on Friday.

Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, who is the leader of the 85 lawmakers along with local host Majority Leader Manuel Jose Dalipe, said he is very pleased with the turnout of lawmakers in the said Serbisyo Caravan, proving the “unprecedented unity” of government officials in the program.

“We are truly happy with the unity we see among our lawmakers who attended the Zamboanga City BPSF. It is inspiring to see more than 80 legislators with us in Congress to personally show their support for a program that brings government services closer to our citizens,” said Romualdez, the leader of the 308-strong House of Representatives.

The Zamboanga City BPSF leg is the 16th installment of the service caravan that aims to visit all 82 provinces of the Philippines and bring together over 400 government services and cash aid programs worth P580 million to 111,000 beneficiaries in the city.

“Never before have we witnessed such overwhelming solidarity among representatives from across all regions of our country. The presence of more than 80 District and Partylist representatives here underscores the commitment of the House of Representatives to serve as true champions of the Filipino people,” Romualdez declared.

This display of unity in the BPSF, he added, is proof of the solidarity of the Legislature with President Marcos in passing important pieces of legislation that will benefit every Filipino. This harmony, he added, enables lawmakers to enact meaningful reforms and initiatives under the President's leadership.

"We see the dedication of our representatives in Congress to personally see how every law that passes through Congress and every program that we fund benefits the Filipino people," Romualdez said.

Aside from Speaker Romualdez, Dalipe, and Zamboanga City 1st District Rep. Khymer Adan Olaso, a total of 82 other lawmakers attended the Zamboanga City BPSF, bringing the total to 85. Second in terms of attendance is the Agusan del Norte BPSF with 62 lawmakers present, followed by the Benguet BPSF with 60.

House leaders like Senior Deputy Speaker Aurelio Gonzales, Jr., Deputy Speaker David Suarez, Deputy Speaker Yasser Balindong, and Deputy Majority Leader Erwin Tulfo led the other lawmakers in attending and supporting the Zamboanga BPSF.

Rep. Lani Mercado-Revilla and her son Rep. Bryan Revilla were also present, to represent Sen. Ramon Revilla, Jr. in the event. Aside from many veteran lawmakers, neophyte lawmakers like Reps. Zia Alonto Adiong, Margarita Nograles, Cheeno Miguel Almario, and Ramon Rodrigo Gutierrez also showed up to show their support for the BPSF.

"The decision of these lawmakers to witness firsthand how the Marcos administration is bringing government services directly to the people speaks volumes about their dedication to serving the nation," Romualdez said.

"I hope that in our next Service Fairs, more legislators will come so that they can see the benefits of our government-funded programs."

**Editor's Note:** This is an updated article. Originally posted with the headline "Marcos extends P100M worth of assistance to El Niño-hit folks in Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato."

[https://www.manilastandard.net/news/314445405/marcos-extends-p100m-worth-of-assistance-to-el-nino-hit-folks-in-sultan-kudarat-cotabato.html?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR3lSr8MwXnSzk846Y4MnbwdW2aYHfEaVIkZdTUqpGoBVUv7bu9LOSgDTRI\\_aem\\_AfjF63TpONtILbLRitDp2fsM4S7Nm1KTNhCV1D75\\_hy9-r6-WooAexjULozHtq5fAqQaVlaUqNpT9TXIfDjljXyT](https://www.manilastandard.net/news/314445405/marcos-extends-p100m-worth-of-assistance-to-el-nino-hit-folks-in-sultan-kudarat-cotabato.html?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR3lSr8MwXnSzk846Y4MnbwdW2aYHfEaVIkZdTUqpGoBVUv7bu9LOSgDTRI_aem_AfjF63TpONtILbLRitDp2fsM4S7Nm1KTNhCV1D75_hy9-r6-WooAexjULozHtq5fAqQaVlaUqNpT9TXIfDjljXyT)

# Rice stocks down nearly 11% — PSA

By Janine Alexis Miguel

May 11, 2024

THE country's rice stocks went down by 10.9 percent to 1.64 million metric tons (MT) at the start of April from last year's figure, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority.

In a report dated Wednesday, domestic inventory of rice as of April 1 was said to have reached 1.64 million MT, lower than the 1.84 million MT recorded a year earlier.

On a monthly basis, rice stocks were 20.2 percent higher compared to the previous month's 1.37 million MT.

Rice stocks held by the three subsectors all posted decreases during the month: National Food Authority (NFA) by 58 percent; commercial sector by 9.1 percent; and household sector by 7.6 percent.

The volume of rice held by the NFA fell to 41,560 MT from the 99,030 MT recorded in 2023. However, a 0.7-percent growth was posted in comparison to 41,290 MT on March 1.

Commercial inventory also dropped, to 662,600 MT from 728,730 MT. It was, however, higher by 5.1 percent from the month-earlier 630,290 MT.

Household stocks also decreased to 938,010 MT compared to the 1.01 million MT logged a year earlier.

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Last week, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said that rice production may recover in the following months as the El Niño is

seen to weaken, predicting lower rice prices driven by cheaper rice in the international market.

The DA also urged the Congress to restore some of the NFA's power as part of its recommendation in amending Republic Act 11203 or the Rice Tariffication Law.

Among the recommendations include restoring the NFA's power to import rice to ensure adequate supply and stable prices for the staple.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said that allowing the NFA to import rice, but only with approval from his office, would allow the agency to become a "price stabilizer" while avoiding the controversies that have plagued the food agency.

As of May 9, prices of local well-milled rice ranged from P48 to P55 kilo, while regular milled rice were priced from P46 to P52 per kilo.

[https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/05/11/business/top-business/rice-stocks-down-nearly-11-1945654?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR0xPV9woQs1J16SI51bItkWeSGtwCCbUr8kgfosiucQxDxblYRVXe1X1sw\\_aem\\_Afj8A7TFmyIZsn4mqHvuu9MhI1WorhanOCaKJuWAmhfnS44OS8ihX1ug3hkA2oPp3QpMrW9sR5wNBbF0e-CNtWNI](https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/05/11/business/top-business/rice-stocks-down-nearly-11-1945654?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR0xPV9woQs1J16SI51bItkWeSGtwCCbUr8kgfosiucQxDxblYRVXe1X1sw_aem_Afj8A7TFmyIZsn4mqHvuu9MhI1WorhanOCaKJuWAmhfnS44OS8ihX1ug3hkA2oPp3QpMrW9sR5wNBbF0e-CNtWNI)

# Govt underspending stalls Q1 growth

By Niña Myka Pauline Arceo

May 11, 2024

GOVERNMENT underspending impeded the Philippine economy's potential for higher growth in the first quarter of this year, analysts said.

Bank of the Philippine Islands senior economist Emilio Neri said the economy could have expanded by 6.4 percent in the first three months of the year if the government had ramped up spending.

He noted that the government "continues to underspend," with growth of government final consumption expenditure at just 1.9 percent after last year's disappointing 0.6-percent spending growth.

First quarter gross domestic product (GDP) expanded to 5.7 percent in the first quarter of this year — up from 5.5 percent in the last three months — but lower than the 6.4 percent recorded in the previous year and the 5.9-percent median in a Manila Times poll of economists.

All major economic sectors posted expansion during the period, with agriculture, forestry and fishing, and industry growing 0.4 percent, 5.1 percent, and 6.9 percent, respectively.

For his part, Pantheon Macroeconomics economist Miguel Chanco said that the stability offered by government spending in the first quarter is not consistent.

"The cushion provided by government spending in Q1 (first quarter) isn't reliable from one quarter to the next," Chanco said.

He observed that the budget authorities are facing challenges in meeting their recently adjusted target of a 5.6-percent budget deficit as a percentage of GDP for 2024.

Despite growth expanding below expectations, Chanco said that the first-quarter results were stronger than anticipated, leading to an upward revision of their full-year GDP growth forecast.

Growth projection was revised to 5.2 percent, up from 4.8 percent previously but still representing a drop from 5.6 percent last year.

Moreover, BMI Country Risk and Industry Research retained its growth forecast of 6.2 percent for this year.

"As we expected, domestic demand struggled in the first quarter... [with] fixed capital formation contributed just 0.5 percentage points (pp) to headline growth," BMI said.

"Meanwhile at 3.5 pp (percentage points), the contribution from private consumption was the lowest since 2011, excluding the pandemic," it added.

It emphasized that the improving labor market could drive growth in the upcoming quarter.

BMI indicated that they anticipate further declines in unemployment, which should bolster household income growth.

[https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/05/11/business/top-business/govt-underspending-stalls-g1-growth/1945658?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR27UeegOxU5KSpQL04ff4UvsLWucTBEbr8NMOp-GQPnf4i-cb65fi6rMl4\\_aem\\_AfjROspfcNQDs\\_o00gwZwwnNAHaJO\\_h9IVcbXVDXfvBBYns\\_7aDo\\_eq8quOkrCuYAnALZya61iw3y2Fi16mTERU8](https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/05/11/business/top-business/govt-underspending-stalls-g1-growth/1945658?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAR27UeegOxU5KSpQL04ff4UvsLWucTBEbr8NMOp-GQPnf4i-cb65fi6rMl4_aem_AfjROspfcNQDs_o00gwZwwnNAHaJO_h9IVcbXVDXfvBBYns_7aDo_eq8quOkrCuYAnALZya61iw3y2Fi16mTERU8)

# Mindoro agriculture losses reach P700M

By Ire Joe Laurente

May 11, 2024

**CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro** – The agriculture sector in the province has incurred around P700 million worth of products and damage to infrastructures because of the scorching heat.

In a status report, provincial agriculture officer Christine Pine said that as of May 8, 2024, losses from the impact of El Nino were estimated at P702,623,838.94.

Primarily affected are the towns from the second district.

According to the report, a copy of which was furnished to The Manila Times, the towns of Bulalacao, Mansalay, Bongabong, Pinamalayan and Bansud which are all from the district were severely affected, while Naujan in the first district also reported losses.

Affected products are red onions, melons, banana, cassava, sweet potato, taro, rice, eggplants, ampalaya, squash, tomato pepper, string beans, peanut, mungbean, sweet potato, corn, papaya, bottle gourd, and native pechay.

The municipal agriculture office of Bulalacao said that losses incurred by farmers in the town reached P420,055,600, with planters of red onion losing P325,400,000 and banana planters losing P63,855,000. The town of Mansalay reported losses amounting to P200,320,442.75 where rice farmers are the heavy losers amounting to P61,374,942.75.

The agriculture office of Bongabong reported P52,329,622.23 losses with rice farmers suffering the most while in the town of Bansud,

P10,364,872.50 were lost, with corn farmers suffering the most. Pinamalayan town reported farm losses reaching P7,022,665, with rice farmers losing P6,859,665.

The town of Naujan reported losses amounting to P4,530,636 of corn products.

Pine told The Times on Friday, May 10, that they are still gathering reports from the other towns in the province as her office is deploying their staff to collect data.

The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office said that they would be conducting consultations with the affected communities if there is a need to declare a state of calamity.

[https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/05/11/regions/mindoro-agriculture-losses-reach-p700m/1945725?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMATAAR1--ldpylY-dMJhbtJ7PyjFSEyGrGONRrjVck7jzsSlrjC3aT4rxP-DqA\\_aem\\_AfipKXIHcMIRIWD\\_cCf2pflD4dv2m9b27nDSB-FLXG7EUn4ai2wOwi2uwc6ZXWXunXh9pFmCaQCHGI8BpqM-1ZuI](https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/05/11/regions/mindoro-agriculture-losses-reach-p700m/1945725?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMATAAR1--ldpylY-dMJhbtJ7PyjFSEyGrGONRrjVck7jzsSlrjC3aT4rxP-DqA_aem_AfipKXIHcMIRIWD_cCf2pflD4dv2m9b27nDSB-FLXG7EUn4ai2wOwi2uwc6ZXWXunXh9pFmCaQCHGI8BpqM-1ZuI)



# Expansion of NFA powers opposed

By Javier Joe Ismael

May 11, 2024

SEN. Imee Marcos expressed reservation over the proposal to expand the powers the National Food Authority (NFA) to include direct importation and retailing of rice.

Marcos added that allegations of corruption hounded the NFA through the years, and granting it more powers could only lead to over-importation, overpricing, smuggling, missing bargeloads of rice, kickbacks, favoritism, and other graft practices.

Marcos said that in March, the Office of the Ombudsman ordered a six-month preventive suspension of 139 NFA officials, including NFA Administrator Roderico Bioco, due to alleged disadvantageous sale of rice buffer stocks.

In a matter of days, the senator added, Bioco's temporary replacement, Piolito Santos, and acting department manager for operations, Jonathan Yazon, were also suspended, due to alleged anomalous practices.

"The nonsense in the NFA never stopped. I admit I have a sentimental attachment to the NFA because it was established and formed by my father. During that time, it seemed to work with Kadiwa, with FTI (Food Terminal Inc.), a whole buying and distribution system. They couldn't buy anything, even the stocking, the buffer supply of the Philippines," Marcos said.

Marcos added that the better way to deal with the current rice emergency is to implement government-to-government importation sans the NFA and the formation of a presidential commission on rice sufficiency, extending by six years, or up to 2031.

[https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/05/11/news/national/expansion-of-nfa-powers-opposed/1945699?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAR0q\\_IcdSFEEsK0OsvZxOMkLars3YAso0Wi2e4QLss3RqL7-0kIulPDyMIQ\\_aem\\_Afg\\_iCqdHMmXso2LtxmB5eJXk-bmWH\\_cHQ2GsF8v\\_H32bor3V2P2qWXWzYv5MSWEQoXviI6lK5nmDaeG3CDoW5N](https://www.manilatimes.net/2024/05/11/news/national/expansion-of-nfa-powers-opposed/1945699?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAR0q_IcdSFEEsK0OsvZxOMkLars3YAso0Wi2e4QLss3RqL7-0kIulPDyMIQ_aem_Afg_iCqdHMmXso2LtxmB5eJXk-bmWH_cHQ2GsF8v_H32bor3V2P2qWXWzYv5MSWEQoXviI6lK5nmDaeG3CDoW5N)

# SOARING RICE PRICES

May 11, 2024



**ABANTE TONITE**

# **NFA bantayan, maraming pera `yan – Senado**

May 11, 2024

Nagpaalala si Senate Minority Leader Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III na dapat higit pang bantayan ang National Food Authority (NFA) sa gitna ng isinusulong na panukalang amiyendahan ang Rice Tariffication Law (RTL).

Sa ilalim ng panukala, ibabalik sa NFA ang mandato na direktang makapagbenta ng bigas sa mga pamilihan para bumaba ang presyo nito.

Paliwanag ni Pimentel, bagama’t nagkaroon na ng pagbabago sa mga personalidad at namumuno sa NFA ngunit kailangan pa rin aniya bantayan ito dahil nasa P9 bilyon ang binibigay sa ahensiya para sa buffer stock.

“Hindi ko naman sinasabi na puro katiwalian pagbalik kasi nagbago na ang mga personality d’yan pero kailangan pa ring bantayan talaga kasi ngayon nga na hindi naman siya bumibili at nagbebenta ng bigas for trading, P9 bilyon na ang minimum na binibigay sa NFA, P9 bilyon na `yun supposedly buffer stock na `yan. I’m sure hindi `yan nauubos..maraming pera d’yan sa NFA kaya magbantay din tayo, baka hindi naubos `yung P9 bilyon kaya nakaisip na mag-trading para maubos naman,” sabi ni Pimentel.

Sa pag-amiyenda ng RTL, naniniwala si Pimentel na kailangan pa umanong pag-aralan ng mabuti ang panukala dahil sa halip na umabante ay tila naging paatras ang bansa sa gagawing pagbabago sa RTL.

Hindi rin aniya garantiya na makakalusot sa Senado ang panukala kahit na maglabas pa ng sertipikasyon si Pangulong Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos para bilisan ang pag-amiyenda sa RTL.

Pasado na sa komite ng Kamara de Representantes ang panukala at nagpahayag ng kahandaan ang Pangulo upang sertipikahan ito. (Eralyn Prado)

[https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/05/11/nfa-bantayan-maraming-pera-yan-senado/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAAR0pdOSKTFQmnbe2RoXPghVNaJgdYXJQkNtrGUhCGHrpHjNSxjsGuV0zIk\\_aem\\_AfhTVoCdWZZC2MHd0RDaBe9sa2xkzd34mjUro\\_p3qi8zFS9lo62MtBua5MwW\\_S2kajT\\_mMqRr6iBtrUkNy3VTFSIE](https://tonite.abante.com.ph/2024/05/11/nfa-bantayan-maraming-pera-yan-senado/?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAAR0pdOSKTFQmnbe2RoXPghVNaJgdYXJQkNtrGUhCGHrpHjNSxjsGuV0zIk_aem_AfhTVoCdWZZC2MHd0RDaBe9sa2xkzd34mjUro_p3qi8zFS9lo62MtBua5MwW_S2kajT_mMqRr6iBtrUkNy3VTFSIE)

**ABANTE:**

## **PBBM pinasalamatan ng Zambo Sur gov. sa tulong sa mga magsasaka, mangingisda**

- [Abante News](#)
- [May 11, 2024](#)



Batid ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. na ang presidential cash aid ay dapat ipagkaloob sa Filipino farmers at fisherfolk sa pagiging ‘backbone’ ng ekonomiya ng bansa sa kabila ng pagiging pinakamahirap na sektor ng bansa.

Ito ang sinabi ni Zamboanga del Sur Governor Victor Yu na pinasalamatan ang Pangulo sa personal na paghahatid ng “Presidential Assistance to Farmers, Fisherfolk and Families” ng kanyang tanggapan sa lalawigan sa kanyang pagbisita sa Mindanao.

“I would like to thank the President, very concerned siya. Nakikita ko ‘yung care niya sa farmers natin. In fact, during our meeting, sabi niya, ‘Agriculture-

based tayo na bayan. Paano ma-improve ang economy natin kung hindi natin matulungan ang mga farmers na pinaka-poorest sector of our country?””  
pahayag ng gobernador sa isang panayam sa radyo.

“Very grateful and very thankful kami na mismong Pangulo ang pumunta sa region namin, nagbigay ng tulong, especially sa mga magsasaka natin. [He] expressed concern sa mga farmers natin and fisherfolk,” dagdag ng provincial chief executive.

Bilang tugon sa epekto ng El Niño sa agrikultura, nagsagawa si Presidente Marcos ng non-stop visits noong Huwebes at Biyernes upang magkaloob ng tulong sa mga magsasaka at mangingisda sa Zamboanga Peninsula, Sultan Kudarat, Cotabato, General Santos, South Cotabato, at Sarangani Province.

Pinangunahan ng Pangulo ang pamamahagi ng P60 million na financial assistance at iba’t ibang government services sa mga magsasaka at mangingisda sa Zamboanga Peninsula, P100 million sa Sultan Kudarat at Cotabato, at P110 million sa General Santos, South Cotabato at Sarangani.

Nagpahayag din ng suporta si Sultan Kudarat Governor Datu Pax Ali Mangudadatu sa Bagong Pilipinas brand of governance ng Pangulo, at sinabi na, “Bagong Pilipinas is the best Philippines we can ever give to the Filipino people.”

“When I received the call last week na darating ang ating mahal na Pangulo [sa ating lalawigan], nasabi po talaga natin na “Man of Words and Man of Action” [ang ating Pangulo]. Kaya tayo po sa Sultan Kudarat ay tunay na mapalad,” anang gobernador.

“From the bottom of our hearts, Mr. President, kami po ay nagpapasalamat sa inyong suporta, sa inyong tiwala, at sa inyong pagmamahal sa sambayanang Pilipino,” dagdag pa niya.

Sinabi rin ni General Santos City Mayor Lorelie Pacquiao sa Pangulo na, “ang iyong pagkilala sa mga pakikibaka at balakid na nararanasan ng ating mga magsasaka at mangingisda ay nagpapakita ng inyong tunay na pangangalaga at pagmamahal sa kapakanan ng lahat ng miyembro ng ating lipunan.”

Gayundin ay tiniyak ni General Santos City Rep. Loreto Acharon kay Presidente Marcos na “101-percent” na sinusupportahan nila ang kanyang administrasyon at ang kanyang brand of governance.

“Ipinangangako po ng ating mga constituents namin ni Mayor Lorelie Pacquiao na kami ay 101-percent susuporta sa iyong administrasyon, sa lahat ng iyong adhikain, sa lahat ng iyong programa, proyekto, iyong mga ninanais na tayo ay magkaroon ng Bagong Pilipinas. Kakampi niyo kami. Great ally niyo kami,” sabi ni Rep. Acharon.

<https://www.abante.com.ph/2024/05/11/pbbm-pinasalamatan-ng-zambo-sur-gov-sa-tulong-sa-mga-magsasaka-mangingisda/>