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COLD CUTS



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NEW OFFICE ADDRESS: 39 Malingap Street, Teacher's Village East, Quezon City
Telephone 8942-3282 | Email info@ccaphils.org | www.ccaphils.org

Gov't prioritizes agri sector for steady food supply

Danessa Rivera | *The Philippine Star* | 29 July 2022

The Philippine agriculture sector has become a high priority under the Marcos administration with a mandate to the Department of Agriculture (DA) to raise local production amid the impending food crisis.

Agriculture stakeholders have criticized the previous administration for having implemented policies that prioritized the excessive importation of some agricultural products such as meat, fish, sugar and rice amid supply and price pressures.

This is on top of the impact of typhoons on agricultural lands, the African swine fever (ASF) on the hog sector, the bird flu on the poultry sector, and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the government is focused on importation, local producers were left discouraged, driving the sector's productivity to decline.

6 more DOTr officials sworn into office

Zacarian Sarao | *Inquirer.net* | 26 July 2022

MANILA, Philippines – Six officials who President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. appointed as officials of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and its attached agencies – the Land Transportation Office (LTO), Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), and Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) – were sworn into office on Tuesday.

According to DOTr in a statement, the officials who assumed their new posts were the following:



Kim Robert de Leon as DOTr Undersecretary for Administration, Elmer Francisco Sarmiento as Undersecretary for the Maritime Sector, and Atty. Timothy John Batan as Undersecretary for Planning & Project Development.

This year, more challenges await the agriculture sector and the new administration due to the brewing food crisis triggered by the Russia-Ukraine war, which disrupted the global supply chain and drove commodity prices to skyrocket amid high fuel and input costs.

The sector is also besieged by a shortage in sugar supply, stunted quality of chicken, reduced palay production.

With the problem besetting the sector perceived as severe, President Marcos has taken over the DA, albeit temporarily, to reorganize the department and rebuild the agricultural value chain to increase production and ensure food self-sufficiency.

During his inaugural speech on June 30, President Marcos further stressed that agriculture ranks high in his administrations' priority list as the sector "cries for urgent attention that its neglect and misdirection now demands."

[Pilmico launches 4th breeder farm in NEcija](#)

Eireene Jairee Gomez | *The Manila Times* | 28 July 2022

PILMICO Animal Nutrition Corp., the food and agribusiness subsidiary of the Aboitiz Group, has launched its fourth Breeder and Nursery Farm located in Talugtog, Nueva Ecija.

In a statement, Pilmico said the farm is expected to have an additional capacity of 2,500 sow level, which can produce 4.7 million kilograms of pork meat annually.

The facility was built to augment the supply of local pork in line with their desire to strengthen the food security of the Philippines, said William Paradies, first vice president of Pilmico.



[Pork, chicken imports to continue – Marcos](#)

Jocelyn Montemayor | *Malaya Business Insight* | 31 July 2022

PRESIDENT Marcos Jr. yesterday said the government will continue to import pork and chicken because the current supply is insufficient, despite his preference to increase production of the agricultural products over importation.

Marcos, who is also agriculture secretary, reiterated the country is short on “protein,” citing swine flu disease that affected pork farms.

On poultry, he said production is not high because feeds are also lacking.

[DA lifts temporary import ban on Belgian poultry products](#)

Jasper Arcalas | *Business Mirror* | 01 July 2022

The Philippines lifted its temporary import ban on Belgian poultry products after the European country regained its bird flu freedom status.



[PBBM initiative to boost fishery sector lauded](#)

Jasper Arcalas | *Business Mirror* | 26 July 2022

Aquaculture and fisheries leaders on Tuesday lauded President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.’s plan of prioritizing local fish production, encouraging them to pour more investments in the sector to produce cheaper source of protein.

Food security advocacy group Tugon Kabuhayan said the “vision” laid out by Marcos in his first State of the Nation Address (Sona) on boosting local food production was “doable” and “timely.”

“A more pro-local producer policy would greatly help our goal of making fish cheaper and more accessible for everyone,” the group said in a news statement issued on Tuesday.

Straight from the blast freezer

Asia Warehousing & Cold Chain Show 2022 | BITEC Bangkok | 25 July 2022

