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Fuel surcharge spikes to Level 8 on April 1-15

MANILA – Fuel surcharge jumps to Level 8 on April 1-15 2026 as a result of the continued volatility of fuel prices, the Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) posted on its website on Tuesday.

Fuel surcharge is the extra fee that airlines may collect in addition to the base fare to cover the costs incurred from oil price volatil-

ity.

Under Level 8, fuel surcharge for domestic flights could range between PHP253 to PHP787, while it is between PHP835.06 to PHP6,208.98 for international flights, depending on the distance.

This is a stark contrast with the Level 4 fuel surcharge the country has been implement-

ing since August 2025.

Under Level 4, the fuel surcharge ranges from PHP117 to PHP342 for domestic flights, and from PHP385.70 to PHP2,867.82 for international flights, depending on the distance.

In a statement on Tuesday, low-cost carrier AirAsia Philippines acknowledged that any increase in

travel cost may affect passengers.

“For our part, AirAsia Philippines continues to implement operational efficiencies to help mitigate the impact on travelers,” it said.

In an advisory dated March 16, CAB Executive Director Carmelo Arcilla said the adoption of the 15-day
(Turn to p.2)

PhilHealth pushes electronic records adoption for YAKAP

MANILA – The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) is requiring the use of electronic medical records (EMR) as it expands its Yaman ng Kalusugan Program (YAKAP) to ensure safe, accurate and high-quality healthcare services for its members.

In a statement on

Tuesday, the state insurer said the shift to digital records is a key component of the program, which aims to provide Filipinos with comprehensive and preventive care.

“To deliver on that promise, participating clinics and hospitals must use electronic medical records — so

doctors can accurately track patient health history, avoid errors, and ensure continuity of care,” it said.

“These systems also protect the program from potential abuse, so its benefits reach those who truly need them,” it added.

PhilHealth noted that
(Turn to p. 2)

DSWD to open 4th Pag-abot Program processing center in Cavite

MANILA – More vulnerable families and individuals in street situations (FISS) will be protected from hazardous and untoward incidents as the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is set to open a new Pag-abot Program processing center in Bacoor City, Cavite.

“As part of the efforts to reach out to more families and individuals who live on the streets, the DSWD, through its Field Office (FO) 4-A

(Calabarzon), recently signed a Deed of Usufruct Agreement with the City Government of Bacoor to set up a new processing center in the locality,” DSWD spokesperson Assistant Secretary Irene Dumlao said in a news release on Tuesday.

The partnership was formally signed by DSWD 4-A Assistant Director for Administration Alkent Bacolod and Bacoor City Mayor Strike Revilla at the S.T.R.I.K.E. Gymnasium on March 9.

The Deed of Usufruct grants the DSWD the temporary rights to establish a Pag-abot Regional Processing Center in Barangay Poblacion (formerly Barangay Camposanto).

“Considering Calabarzon’s proximity to Metro Manila, the establishment of the new Pag-abot processing center will enable the DSWD to provide various immediate interventions, using a rights-based approach, to reach out to people living and staying

on the streets in the Southern Tagalog region, one of the highly urbanized areas in the country,” Dumlao said.

Started by the DSWD in 2023, the Pag-abot Program was institutionalized in January 2024 through Executive Order 52, signed by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

The program provides a wide array of comprehensive interventions, as well as opportunities, to improve the social and economic status and



COSTS. Aircraft of various airlines at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in this undated photo. The Civil Aeronautics Board on Tuesday (March 17, 2026) said fuel surcharge will increase from April 1-15, 2026 as a result of the extreme volatility of fuel prices to date given the developments in the Middle East. (PNA file photo by Cristina Arayata)



REACH OUT PROGRAM. The Department of Social Welfare and Development’s Pag Abot Program reaches out to individuals living on the streets in this undated photo. The DSWD said Tuesday (March 17, 2026) it is set to open a new Pag-abot Program processing center in Bacoor City, Cavite to help more families in a street situation. (DSWD Oplan Pag-Abot Program Facebook)

fundamental rights of FISS.

These interventions
(Turn to p.2)

FUEL... FR. P. 1

price monitoring and implementation cycle for the imposition of fuel surcharge seeks to mitigate the impact of fuel price surge on air travel costs.

Instead of the one-month cycle, the shorter period shall allow faster response to market changes reducing the lag between actual

fuel costs and applicable fuel surcharge, he said.

Airlines wishing to impose or collect fuel surcharge must file their application with his office on or before the effectivity period, or on April 1.

The applicable conversion rate is USD1 is to PHP58.11. (PNA)

DSWD... FR. P. 1

include medical assistance, food aid, transportation and relocation assistance, livelihood opportunities, transitory family support packages, and emergency financial and transitory shelter assistance, among others.

To connect with

DA eyes rice price cap amid oil shock

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture on Tuesday said it is weighing a price ceiling on imported rice as global tensions push up shipping and farm input costs.

In a statement, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the DA is looking at the legality of imposing a price ceiling at this time and, if legally permissible, will be recommended to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. as part of package of actions to deal with impact of the latest oil shock.

“We are studying the imposition of a price cap on imported rice, possibly PHP50 per kilo,” he said, noting that it would keep retail prices in check without dragging down farmgate prices for palay.

However, the DA chief said a similar ceiling on locally produced rice is unlikely for now, as he warned that premature controls could trigger a price collapse just as Filipino farmers are enjoying improved palay

the program or refer someone in need, interested parties can reach the DSWD Pag-abot Program via their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/DSWDPagabot/>, email them at pagabotcms@dswd.gov.ph, or call their hotline at 8-931-9141. (PNA)

prices during the current harvest cycle.

“We may impose a price cap on local rice after the harvest to avoid profiteering,” Tiu Laurel said.

The government’s caution comes as geopolitical tensions ripple through global commodity markets.

Concerns over Iran’s moves to control tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz amid its conflict with the United States and Israel have driven oil prices higher, pushing up fertilizer, fuel, and freight costs.

The impact is already showing in rice imports, as freight rates have doubled, pushing the landed cost of the widely imported DT8 variety close to USD500 per metric ton, according to the DA.

Despite the higher costs, Tiu Laurel said retail prices of PHP60 to PHP65 per kilo being reported in some markets are “bordering on profiteering.”

To tame prices, the DA directed state-run firms such as Food Terminal

PhilHealth... FR. P. 1

the requirement is not merely procedural but a key measure to ensure that every Filipino who visits a YAKAP clinic receives the quality care they deserve.

It explained that its provider payment model is designed to cover the operational costs of delivering care under YAKAP standards, including investments in digital infrastructure.

It said it is currently studying how these costs can be appropriately reflected to support healthcare providers during the transition.

Despite the shift, PhilHealth assured that no eligible member will lose access to YAKAP services as it continues to work with partner healthcare providers to ensure a smooth transition to EMR systems and uninterrupted service.

June-July rollout

PhilHealth said it is targeting June and July for the full transition to EMRs.

“Sa ngayon po, ang ating plano is by June, we will decommission the e-Konsulta and by July dapat po mayroon nang EMR record iyong ating, or EMR iyong ating mga accredited YAKAP clinics (Currently, our plan is by June, we will decommission the e-Konsulta and by July, there should be EMR record, or EMR already for accredited YAKAP clinics),” PhilHealth Primary Care Benefits Divi-

Inc. and Planters Products Inc. to sell rice at PHP45 to PHP48 per kilo.

FTI and PPI have already begun selling in Metro Manila and may expand to Southern Luzon, Cebu and other major cities. (PNA)

sion chief Dr. Israel Francis Pargas said at a Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon interview on Tuesday.

“Well, ang electronic medical records po, ibig sabihin lang po niyan, iyong lahat po ng ating record being a patient ay nandoon po sa isang sistema or sa isang electronic platform na kung saan at anytime puwede po natin siyang makuha at makita (Well, electronic medical records simply mean that all of our records as a patient are stored in one system or on an electronic platform, where they can be accessed and viewed anytime),” Pargas said.

He said the system is interoperable, allowing healthcare providers to track patient history efficiently and avoid errors or duplication in treatment.

The shift to EMR comes as PhilHealth expands YAKAP services beyond basic check-ups, medicines, and laboratory tests to include cancer screening and a broader list of medicines.

To support healthcare providers, Pargas explained that the agency is organizing an EMR expo to connect clinics, hospitals, and service providers, enabling transparency in pricing and system selection.

“We are now discussing this with our Department of Health, kung ano ang supporta na maaari nilang ibigay because sa ngayon po ang DOH ay mayroong ginagamit na EMR for the government facilities (What support they can provide, because at present the DOH is using an EMR for government facilities). We call it iClinic,” Pargas said.

He clarified that only about 400 private hos-

pitals are currently accredited under YAKAP, countering reports that as many as 800 facilities could be affected by the EMR requirement.

He said PhilHealth remains open to discussions with healthcare groups, including the Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines Inc., to address concerns, he said.

While the June-July timeline will be followed, Pargas said transitional arrangements may be issued if some facilities fail to meet the deadline.

“PhilHealth will come out [with a] transitional guidelines in order to make sure na wala pong service provision na mapuputol (that no service provision will be cut),” he said.

According to the PhilHealth, the adoption of EMR is necessary as enrollment in the YAKAP program continues to grow, with around 25 million

Filipinos already registered.

The state insurer does not directly subsidize EMR systems as the cost of digital infrastructure is already factored into payments to healthcare providers.

“Kasama po siya sa computation ng operational cost to make their operations more efficient (It is included in the computation of operational costs to make their operations more efficient),” Pargas said.

He assured that all accredited facilities already have some form of digital record system, with the transition focusing on replacing e-Konsulta with more robust EMR platforms.

He also encouraged Filipinos to enroll in YAKAP-accredited facilities to benefit from government’s campaign for preventive care. (PNA)

CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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Jobseekers attend Army Local Recruitment Activity

A total of 31 jobseekers participated in the Local Recruitment Activity spearheaded by the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager in partnership with the Army Recruitment Office of Luzon on March 2, at the New Provincial Government Center, Trece Martires City.

The activity aimed to provide aspiring applicants an opportunity to pursue a career in military service and contribute to national security. SGT Reinaldjay S. Motea of the Philippine Army served as the resource speaker, sharing valuable insights about the recruitment process, qualifications, and the responsibilities of serving in the military.

Out of the 31 participants, 28 successfully qualified to take the Armed Forces of the Philippines Service Aptitude Test (AFPSAT) a significant step toward joining the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The recruitment activity highlights the continued commitment of the provincial government, through OPPEM, to connect jobseekers with meaningful career opportunities while supporting the nation’s defense services.--- OPIO



Medical Mission provides vital care to local residents of Magallanes

A total of 626 residents benefited from a medical mission conducted in Brgy. Poblacion III, Magallanes, Cavite on March 4, providing essential healthcare services to members of the community.

The activity was carried out through the collaborative efforts of the Office of the Provincial Governor and the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (OPHO), with the assistance of medical professionals from GEAMH and the support of Barangay Health Workers, ensuring the smooth and successful delivery of healthcare services to residents.

Also present during the activity were 8th District Board Member Jasmin Maligaya-Magallanes and Municipal Mayor Janessa Ann M. Maligaya-De Ramayo, together with members of the Sangguniang Bayan, who showed their support for initiatives that promote the health and well-being of the community.

During the medical mission, 457 residents received free medical consultations and treatment. Meanwhile, 123 individuals underwent Fasting Blood Sugar (FBS) testing to monitor their blood glucose levels, while 46 residents availed of Electrocardiogram (ECG) services to assess their heart health.

Denture fitting services under the Libreng Pustiso Program was also conducted during the activity to help selected residents improve their oral health.

The initiative reflects the continued commitment of local leaders to ensure that accessible and responsive healthcare services reach communities across Cavite.--- OPIO



The Fire Prevention Month Kick-off Celebration was successfully held recently, at Cavite State University (CvSU) in Indang, Cavite, spearheaded by the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) – Cavite in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officer (OPDRMO). The activity gathered students, faculty members, and government representatives in a collective effort to strengthen awareness on fire safety and preparedness.

The program commenced with an opening message from FCINSP Michael John V. Escaño, Provincial Chief- Special Rescue Force who emphasized the importance of fire prevention awareness. He underscored that the observance of Fire Prevention Month serves as a reminder for communities and institutions to remain vigilant and proactive in preventing fire-related incidents through proper knowledge, preparedness, and cooperation.

One of the highlights of the event was the simulation exercise actively participated in by CvSU - College of Criminal Justice students, safety officers of BFP-Cavite, PNP- Indang, OPDRMO and Indang MDRMO. The activity demonstrated proper emergency response procedures during fire incidents, allowing students to experience firsthand the importance of coordination, quick response, and adherence to safety protocols during

emergencies. The exercise aimed to equip participants with practical knowledge that can help minimize risks and protect lives and property in case of fire.

During the program, CvSU President, Dr. Ma. Agnes P. Nustro delivered an inspiring message, expressing her support for initiatives that promote safety awareness within educational institutions. She highlighted the role of universities in shaping responsible and safety-conscious individuals, noting that preparedness and awareness are essential in building resilient communities.

Representing Governor Francisco Gabriel “Abeng” Remulla, Chief of Staff Ferdinand Belamide conveyed the provincial government’s continued support for programs that promote disaster preparedness and public safety. He reaffirmed the commitment of the provincial leadership to strengthen partnerships with agencies such as the Bureau of Fire Protection to ensure that communities across Cavite remain informed and prepared in times of emergencies.

The kick-off celebration concluded with a message from SFO4 Rocel D. Labis, Municipal Fire Marshall – Indang Fire Station, who encouraged everyone to take an active role in promoting fire safety not only during the month-long observance but throughout the year. She reiterated that fire prevention is a shared responsibility and that continuous education and cooperation among communities are vital in safeguarding lives and properties.--- OPIO

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
TRECE MARTIRES CITY

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-015-26

CHINA BANK SAVINGS, INC.
Mortgagee,
-versus-

SPOUSES GEOFFREY G. SABELALA
AND AIRA B. SABELALA,
Mortgagors/Barrowers

X-----X

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by Petitioner/Mortgagee, CHINA BANK SAVINGS, INC., with business address at CBS Building, No. 314 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City against the Mortgagors/Borrowers, SPOUSES GEOFFREY G. SABELALA and AIRA B. SABELALA, with residence and postal addresses at (1) 219 F, Brgy. St Purok 6-A, Brgy. Lower Bicutan, Taguig City; (2) 64 VP Cruz St. Purok 05, Brgy. Lower Bicutan, Taguig City (3) 42 Barangay St., Purok 06-A, Brgy. Lower Bicutan, Taguig City, and (4) Blk. 13, Lot 10, Westwood Phase 3, Brgy. Pasong Camachile, General Trias, Cavite, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness wich as of January 15, 2026 amounts to **ONE MILLION SEVENTY-ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED NINETY-FOUR PESOS and 79/100 (Php1,071,994.79)**, Philippine Currency, inclusive of interest, penalties and other charges as of said date but exclusive of all other charges incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on **March 25, 2026** at 10:00 o'clock in the morning until 12:00 o'clock noon, at the main entrance of the Government Center Building located at the Provincial Capitol Compound, Trece Martires City, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following described property with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE No. 057-2022007553

Lot No.10 Block No. 13 Plan No. Pcs-04-031444
Portion of: Block 17, Pcs-04-029302; Lot 1930, FRS-04-005921; Lot 1931, FRS-04-005433; Lot 3049, SFDM Estate, Decree No. 4270, LRC Record No. 5964

Location: Barangay of Tapia, City of Gen. Trias, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon

Boundaries:

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT (S)
1-2	NE	Lot 12, Block 13, Pcs-04-031444
2-3	SE	Road Lot 17, Pcs-04-031444
3-4	SW	Lot 8, Block 13, Pcs-04-031444
4-1	NW	Lot 9, Block 13, Pcs-04-031444

Area: FIFTY (50) SQUARE METERS, more or less
All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above-stated time and date.

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said time and date, it shall be held on **APRIL 8, 2026** without further notice.

Prospective bidders/buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the said property and encumbrances thereon, if any there be.

Trece Martires City, February 27, 2026.

ANDRES B. ESPINA
Sheriff IV

Copy furnished:
BUENAVENTURA PAGTAKHAN CONSTANTINO MANGROBANG ROSELL AND ASSOCIATES

Counsel for the Mortgagee
12th Floor, China Bank Savings Inc. Building
314 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

SPS. GEOFFREY G. SABELALA & AIRA B. SABELALA

(1) 219 F, Brgy. St Purok 6-A, Brgy. Lower Bicutan, Taguig City
(2) 64 VP Cruz St. Purok 05, Brgy. Lower Bicutna, Taguig City
(3) 42 Barangay St. Purok 06-A, Brgy. Lower Bicutan, Taguig City,
(4) Blk. 13, Lot 10, Westwood Phase 3, Brgy. Pasong Camachile, General Trias, Cavite

Published at: Cavite News Publishing
Dates: March 5, 12, & 19, 2026

WARNING: It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this Notice of Extra Judicial Sale on or before the date of sale.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
TRECE MARTIRES CITY

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-054-26

CHINA BANK SAVINGS, INC.
Mortgagee,
-versus-

SPS. ARTHURO A. SOLIS AND ANNALYN U. SOLIS
Mortgagors/Barrowers

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TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE No. 057-2024004437

Lot No.40 Block No. 17 Plan No. Psd-04-248018

Portion of: Block 20, Pcs-04-030746
Location: Barangay of Tanauan, Mun. of Tanza, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon

Boundaries:

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT (S)
1-2	SE	Lot 37, Block 17, PSD-04-248018
2-3	SW	Lot41, Block 17, PSD-04-248018
3-4	NW	Road Lot 9, PSD-04-248018
4-1	NE	Lot 38, Block 17, PSD-04-248018

Area: FORTY FOUR (44) SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above-stated time and date.

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said time and date, it shall be held on **APRIL 8, 2026** without further notice.

Prospective bidders/buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the said property and encumbrances thereon, if any there be.

Trece Martires City, February 27, 2026.

JOANNAH AVIGAIL C. TIMKANG
Sheriff IV

Copy furnished:

BUENAVENTURA PAGTAKHAN CONSTANTINO MANGROBANG ROSELL AND ASSOCIATES

Counsel for the Mortgagee
12th Floor, China Bank Savings Inc. Building
314 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

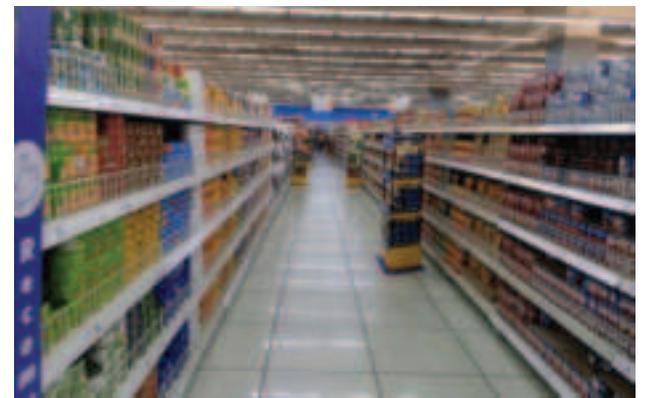
SPS. ARTHURO A. SOLI AND ANNALYN U. SOLIS,

(1) Lot 13, Blk. 1, Suburban Heights, Brgy. San Juan, Cainta, Rizal
(2) Block 17, Lot 40, Phirst Park Homes Tanza, Ph3, Batch 3, Brgy. Tanuan, Tanza Cavite

Published at: Cavite News Publishing
Dates: March 5, 12, & 19, 2026

WARNING: It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this Notice of Extra Judicial Sale on or before the date of sale.

Manufacturers: No price increases in next 30 to 60 days



MANILA – Manufacturers of basic and prime commodities have committed to keep prices at current levels for the next 30 days, amidst the impact of higher oil prices.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in a news release issued Tuesday night, said Trade and Industry Secretary Ma. Cristina Roque had a meeting with 21 manufacturers on Monday.

It said the meeting was attended by those who are into the production of canned sardines, bread, bottled water, instant noodles, coffee, canned meat, toilet soap and candles.

“Within the next 30 days, prices are expected to remain stable, with no increase anticipated for canned sardines such as Unipak, 555, Ligo, Lucky 7, Fresca, Morjon, Golden Town, and Mega; bread products such as Pinoy Tasty and Pinoy Pandesal; bottled water such as Wilkins and Nature’s Spring; toilet and laundry soaps such as Safeguard Pure White, Tide Bar Original Scent, and Green Cross Pure White; condiments such as

Datu Puti’s soy sauce and vinegar, and Lorins’ Patis; processed canned meat of CDO; and candles from Liwanag,” the DTI said.

It also announced that “prices of brands such as Lucky Me, Ho-Mi, Argentina, Lucky 7, 555, Swift Premium, Wow! and Shanghai will remain at their prices for 60 days.”

Also, officials of companies such as Kopiko, Nescafe, San Mig coffee 3-in1 and Export candle “have pledged to maintain current prices with no price increase for the time being.”

The press release explained that “since the latest Suggested Retail Price Bulletin released by the DTI last February 2025, it covers a total of 191 Shelf-Keeping Units (SKUs).”

“We recognize the financial strain faced by consumers while also acknowledging the cost pressures confronting manufacturers. Our priority remains to ensure fair and reasonable pricing. We thank our manufacturing partners for their commitment and shared concern for Filipino consumers,” Roque said. (PNA)

SAY NOT TO DRUGS

Quezon activates price monitoring councils to safeguard supply, prices of essential goods

LUCENA CITY, Quezon (PIA) — The Provincial Government of Quezon has ordered the activation of Local Price Monitoring and Coordinating Councils (LP-MCCs) across the province to closely monitor the supply and pricing of essential goods, effective Friday, March 13.

The directive is in line with an earlier memorandum order issued by Governor Angelina Tan, directing the provincial government to adopt fuel conservation measures in response to global fuel supply disruptions and price volatility.

The order is aligned with the national government's call for local government units to implement measures that would mitigate the impact of rising fuel costs, which have been linked to heightened geopolitical tensions in the Middle East that continue to affect the international energy market.

Under the order, the LPMCCs will be responsible for monitoring the supply, distribution, and prices of basic necessities and prime commodities in markets throughout the province. The councils will also coordinate with concerned agencies and local officials to ensure that goods remain available to the public at fair and affordable prices.

DA eyes rice price cap amid oil shock

MANILA — The Department of Agriculture on Tuesday said it is weighing a price ceiling on imported rice as global tensions push up shipping and farm input costs.

In a statement, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the DA is looking at the legality of imposing a price ceiling at this time and, if legally permissible, will be recommended to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. as part of package of actions to deal with impact of the



According to the provincial government, the initiative aims to protect consumers from unjustified price increases, hoarding, profiteering, and cartel activities while ensuring that essential goods remain sufficient and accessible to residents of the province.

Provincial officials emphasized that the activation of the councils will strengthen monitoring mechanisms at the local level and help maintain market stability amid global economic uncertainties.

For Mapoy Dela Cruz, a resident of Lucena City, the provincial government's move to monitor the supply and price of essential goods is an important step to prevent businesses from taking advantage of the situation.

"Magandang hakbang po ito upang mabantayan ang mga posibleng manamantala sa presyo ng latest oil shock.

"We are studying the imposition of a price cap on imported rice, possibly PHP50 per kilo," he said, noting that it would keep retail prices in check without dragging down farmgate prices for palay.

However, the DA chief said a similar ceiling on locally produced rice is unlikely for now, as he warned that premature controls could trigger a price collapse just as Filipino farmers are enjoying improved palay prices during the current

bilihin kasabay ng pagtaas ng presyo ng gasolina. Para po sa provincial at national government, sana po ay mahigpit ninyo itong bantayan upang maprotektahan ang kapakanan naming mga mamimili," Dela Cruz said.

The Department of Energy earlier ordered the strict compliance of oil companies with fuel pricing regulations and anti-hoarding policies. In coordination with local government units and the Philippine National Police, the DOE continues its nationwide monitoring and enforcement actions against gasoline stations reportedly imposing excessive petroleum price adjustments.

Meanwhile, the Department of Trade and Industry has intensified the monitoring of prices and the supply of goods nationwide as it anticipates increases as fuel prices continue to rise. (FC, PIA4A)

harvest cycle.

"We may impose a price cap on local rice after the harvest to avoid profiteering," Tiu Laurel said.

The government's caution comes as geopolitical tensions ripple through global commodity markets.

Concerns over Iran's moves to control tanker traffic through the Strait of Hormuz amid its conflict with the United States and Israel have driven oil prices higher, pushing up fertilizer, fuel, and freight costs.

UN exec: War-driven energy price spikes highlight value of renewables

BAKU — The disruption of global energy supplies is being felt worldwide, the UN's top climate change official warned on Monday, as conflict in the Middle East drives oil and gas prices sharply higher — echoing the market turmoil triggered by the war in Ukraine, according to the UN's official website.

Speaking at the 2026 Green Growth Summit in Brussels, Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), said the volatility underscored the strategic value of renewable energy.

"Renewables turn the tables," he said during a keynote address to the event, which brings together European climate and environment ministers alongside businesses, investors and other key stakeholders.

"Sunlight doesn't depend on narrow and vulnerable shipping straits, wind blows without massive taxpayer-funded naval escorts [and] renewable energy allows countries to insulate themselves from global turmoil and to sidestep might-is-right politics."

Indeed, renewable energy also delivers on people's top priorities across the continent: security, well-paid jobs, better health and

The impact is already showing in rice imports, as freight rates have doubled, pushing the landed cost of the widely imported DT8 variety close to USD500 per metric ton, according to the DA.

Despite the higher costs, Tiu Laurel said retail prices of PHP60 to PHP65 per kilo being reported in some markets are "bordering on profi-

relief from rising living costs, he added.

"Fossil fuel dependency is ripping away national security and sovereignty and replacing it with subservience and rising costs," he said, adding that the reality is what most voters are demanding, climate action delivers at scale.

"Renewables and resilience keep bills down and create far more jobs," he said.

"Cutting out fossil fuel pollution cleans our air, improving health and quality of life."

"Some responses to the fossil fuel crisis, incredibly, argue for doubling down on the cause of the problem and slowing the shift to renewable energy even though it is clearly cheaper, safer, and faster to market," he said.

"This is completely delusional because history tells us, this fossil fuel crisis will happen again and again," Stiell said, adding that fossil fuel dependency means economies, household budgets and business bottom lines are "at the mercy of geopolitical shocks and price volatility in a chaotic world".

His message to ministers meeting in Brussels was simple: Meek dependence on fossil fuel imports will leave Europe forever lurching from crisis to crisis, with households

teering."

To tame prices, the DA directed state-run firms such as Food Terminal Inc. and Planters Products Inc. to sell rice at PHP45 to PHP48 per kilo.

FTI and PPI have already begun selling in Metro Manila and may expand to Southern Luzon, Cebu and other major cities. (PNA)

and industries literally paying the price.

The UNFCCC chief noted the bloc is more reliant on fossil fuel imports than almost any other major economy, which cost the continent over €420 billion in 2024 alone.

Pointing out that in 2025, renewables overtook coal as the world's top electricity source, and over USD2 trillion was invested in clean energy — double that of fossil fuels — he said "the opportunities are immense."

As a leader in climate action and ambition, Europe's efforts, including its Emissions Trading Scheme, is driving investment and innovation, with the continent's companies at the forefront of clean industries and growth.

That includes SSAB, Maersk and Holcim, which are leaders on green steel, shipping and cement, and Siemens, Schneider and IPS, which are pioneers in wind power, energy storage and electro-tech services.

"Europe can permanently seize the multi-trillion-euro goldmine of investment that's just getting started by embracing green growth, drawing on your many strengths, [including] education, strong institutions, smart regulation, social justice and innovation and intellectual property, and by backing it up with plans and policies."

Last century, when a continent reeling from war came together to build the foundations of integration, energy was top of the list because countries understood that secure and affordable supplies, achieved through cooperation, were the basis of peace and prosperity, he said. (AZERTAC)

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P20 BBM rice program now serving more groups in Bacoor City

CITY OF BACOOR, Cavite (PIA) — More residents in Bacoor City are set to benefit from the government's P20 rice program as the Department of Agriculture (DA) Calabarzon and the Bacoor City government rolled out the expanded "Benteng Bigas, Meron Na!" initiative.

Around 2,500 Bacooreños were able to purchase P20-per-kilo rice during the ceremonial selling held on March 6, which also signaled the start of regular rice distribution by the Bacoor local government unit for qualified residents.

Residents were also registered in the P20 Benteng Bigas Masterlist Registry System (PBBMRS), a web-based application developed by the Information and Communications Technology Service of the Department of Agriculture (DA-ICTS) to facilitate the registration of program beneficiaries.

According to the city government, around 200,000 Bacooreños are expected to benefit from the P20 rice program, which prioritizes vulnerable sectors such as senior citizens, persons with disabilities (PWDs), 4Ps beneficiaries, solo parents, farmers, fisherfolk, public transport drivers, minimum wage earners, and public school teachers and



non-teaching staff.

Other groups, including teachers, jeepney drivers, students, house helpers, and the city government's job order workers, will also be included among the beneficiaries as endorsed by Bacoor City Mayor Strike Revilla.

According to Assistant Secretary for Agribusiness, Marketing, and Consumer Affairs Atty. Genevieve E. Velicaria-Guevarra, the program's scope has been expanded in its second rollout in Bacoor City to allow more residents to benefit.

Meanwhile, Efren Capacite, a resident of Barangay Niog III, expressed gratitude after purchasing 10 kilograms of rice at the subsidized price. He said that as a senior citizen whose wife is currently ill, the program greatly helps reduce their household expenses.

Farmers' groups in Cavite were also allowed to sell their products through KADIWA, which was part of the activity.

DA Calabarzon reaffirmed its commitment

to assist local government units in the region in rolling out the Benteng Bigas, Meron Na! program to benefit more residents and help ensure food affordability for vulnerable sectors. (FC, PIA)

La Salle eliminates Ateneo in UAAP softball

MANILA – De La Salle University eliminated Ateneo de Manila University, 11-0, on Tuesday in the UAAP Season 88 softball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Malate, Manila.

The Green Batters scored four runs in the first two innings and made seven more in the third to put the game away for good.

La Salle also swept Ateneo this season after pulling off an 18-0 win in the first round last Feb. 28.

"I said, let's regroup again. When we lost to UP, it hurt. We really needed to get straight to the second round so we could get back to our target of being in the top two because that

UE fencers secure UAAP women's title, Dalmacio claims 4th MVP award

MANILA – University of the East pocketed two more gold medals Monday night to rule the women's division in the UAAP Season 88 fencing tournament at the Makati Coliseum.

UE defeated De La Salle University, 44-40, in the team epee final, and University of Santo Tomas, 46-42, in the team sabre final.

"It's both happy and sad; happy because we got the championship back, but sad because it's my last. So, I hope that in the next seasons, my teammates, I hope they don't let go of this championship that we won," said UE's Queenie Dalmacio, who beat Kim Shaznee Tuy in their sabre duel.

UE settled for second to University of Santo Tomas in the girls division.

"They should still train; they shouldn't give up. They shouldn't let the championship go away again. I feel sorry for the girls, but I know they can get it back.



Just fight," commented Dalmacio, who also earned a fourth MVP title.

Lia Gillana powered UST to a 45-39 victory in the sabre team final over UE, which was spearheaded by MVP Opa Cantantan.

"I felt overwhelmed, because all my hard work and effort paid off. Sometimes I even travel two hours after school, and back home, I'm doing my assignments. It was very hectic," said Gillana.

The whole team was left in awe after achieving a first-ever title.

"It still hadn't sunk in; it still feels unreal. Even though we already have the trophy," said Gillana.

UE had won gold medals in the foil events last Sunday to dominate the men's and boys' divisions.

Winning three titles was a fitting tribute to program head Amat Canlas in his final season with UE.

"They should take care of the dynasty we started because this is not something that can be done lightly. We started from nothing, the roots of UE are deep and this is not something that can be done lightly as a champion," said Canlas, who also serve as national team coach.

"From me until the present, our dynasty has continued. So when I leave, whoever replaces me, they should just continue," he added.

Meanwhile, UP finished as runner-up in the women's division with three gold, one silver and two bronze medals. Nana Carbonell won two golds in foil.

UST was third (0-2-2) followed by La Salle (0-2-1).

In the men's division, La Salle finished second with a 1-2-3 record followed by UP (1-2-2).

UE ranked second in the girls division with a 3-1-3 card, while Ateneo made it to the podium for the first time with one silver and four bronzes.

Guest team PAREF Southridge had a runner-up finish in the boys' division with a 1-0-2 slate followed by De La Salle Zobel (1-0-1). (PNA)

Ateneo, winless after six games, battles Adamson University on Saturday at 9 a.m. and University of the Philippines on Tuesday at 11 a.m. (PNA)

"The score showed that it was just breaks of the game. After we trained,