



KONSULADO PANLAHAT NG PILIPINAS

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE PHILIPPINES

AGANA, GUAM

PRESS RELEASE

16 April 2008

PR-BSM-28-2008

RP will not run out of rice supply – President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

In her latest statement on the rice supply situation, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo assured today that there is enough supply of the staple to meet the needs of the people.

The country's rice supply is "secure for the foreseeable future," she said.

The President made the assurance at the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA)-Cabinet Group meeting held this morning at the Department of Justice (DOJ) in Ermita, Manila.

She also pointed out that the country's inventory of rice continues to be beefed up by acquisitions of the commodity by the National Food Authority (NFA).

"Total contracted quantity of NFA rice from the Dec. 2007-March 2008 bidding is 1.2 million metric tons," of which 50 percent of the total, or 600,000 metric tons, have already arrived in the country, she said.

In addition, another 66,000 metric tons are in transit to the Philippines while a separate shipment of 30,600 metric tons was being loaded at road ports.

"NFA is set to bid for additional rice stocks on May 2, subject to the approval of the Government Police Procurement Board," the President said.

In a phone patch interview with the President during the NEDA-Cabinet Group meeting, local government officials reported that the rice supply in their respective areas was adequate -- thanks to the bountiful summer harvests.

Abulog, Cagayan Mayor Aline Alfonso said farmers in her municipality were looking at a 85 percent increase in their harvests. This will translate to an additional production of .4 MT over last year's harvest of 5 MTs.

Governors Rodolfo del Rosario of Davao del Norte; Ma. Valentina Plaza, Agusan del Sur; Josephine Sato, Occidental Mindoro, all reported increases in the rice harvest in their provinces.

They also thanked the President for providing their provinces with certified palay seeds, post harvest facilities and vital irrigation projects.