## **Sardine industry** questions basis for **SRP** price controls

THE Canned Sardines Association of the Philippines (CSAP) said the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) needs to allow price increases to help the industry recover its costs, and noted that the Price Law is silent on the government's preferred manner of price-setting, the suggested retail price (SRP) scheme.

"We understand that the DTI needs to perform a balancing act for both the manufacturers and the consumers. However, we are concerned that another round of fuel price hikes would drive up production costs by 3.5%," CSAP **Executive Director Francisco** J. Buencamino said in a state-

"The industry does not want a repeat of what happened during the height of the pandemic where the suggested retail price (SRP) was not adjusted for years and caused the canned sardine industry to suffer huge losses," he added.

The CSAP said an SRP bulletin is an "act of price con-

trol," noting the measure's vagueness on trigger events that warrant the imposition of a prevailing price or ceiling price, which are the only valid forms of price control recognized by the Price Act, according to the association's reading

Republic Act No. 7581 or the Price Act was passed to ensure reasonable prices for various necessities and prime commodities sold to the public.

"The SRP is recommendatory in nature so it should not be limiting the industry from implementing sound price adjustments, especially today when the odds are working against us," Mr. Buencamino

"There is no provision in the Price Act requiring retailers to wait for the agency's prior approval before implementing any price increase," he added.

The CSAP said it expects to meet with the DTI within the week to discuss the matter. – Luisa Maria Jacinta C. Jocson

# Bol, DENR tap software company to spur dev't of cold chain industry

THE Board of Investments (BoI) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) signed a memorandum of understanding with Insight Supply Chain Solutions Corp. (InsightSCS Corp.) to develop solutions that will support the development of an integrated supply chain in the Philippines.

In a statement released on Thursday, Bol Governor Marjorie Ramos-Samaniego described the understanding, signed on Feb. 28, as a "crucial first step" to promote investment in the cold chain in-

Ms. Ramos-Samaniego added that the partnership is considered a "milestone" for food security after the pandemic.

Under the partnership, the software company will develop a digital platform known as DeliverE 2.0: Cold Chain Integrated Supply Chain, which will allow real-time monitoring of cold chain assets and stored produce, enabling tracking and supply-demand forecasting for perishable produce.

"(We) will collaborate with InsightSCS in the development of DeliverE 2.0 to produce pertinent data, specifically a dashboard to locate existing cold storage service providers, present current and forecasted demand and supply as well as identify areas with gaps in service," the BoI said. The digital platform will be

launched in key production areas in Luzon, specifically Benguet, Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, Nueva Ecija, Batangas, Quezon,

The project will focus on priority commodities like meat, fruit, vegetables, dairy, and fisheries, either fresh or processed.

Aside from farm goods, the BoI said, the cold chain can also help support the distribution of vaccines, extend the shelf life of produce, and ensure the availability of buffer stock in times of crisis. — Marielle C. Lucenio

# PHL digital economy seen accounting for 12% of GDP by 2030

THE Philippine digital economy's revenue is projected to grow to the equivalent of 12% of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2030, as artificial intelligence (AI) becomes more widely adopted by the business process outsourcing industry.

In a virtual forum hosted by Digital Pilipinas on Thursday, Trade Undersecretary Rafaelita M. Aldaba said the sector generated \$17 billion in revenue in 2021, which is projected to increase to \$25 billion by 2025, and then \$92 billion by 2030.

"Many Filipino startups were able to quickly pivot to new activities and the use of new technology. They provided solutions to help the government address issues encountered during the pandemic. The acceleration of digital transformation paved the way for the growth of the digital economy," Ms. Aldaba said.

The Trade department said in May that the National AI Strategy will help companies with their digital transformation.

The roadmap leans on AI to maintain or enhance many industries' competitiveness and to encourage foreign investors to open operations in the country,

There are 50 tech startups in the country that have adopted AI, in industries like financial technology, e-commerce, and digital health.

Ms. Aldaba said one area the roadmap focuses on is building a center for AI research through public-private partnerships. It will serve as a hub for scientists and researchers to seek to apply AI to precision agriculture, healthcare, and smart cities, among others.

"Investments in new technology, digitalization, and innovation are also investments in resilience, sustainability, competitiveness, and long-term business growth, which are all necessary as we enter our economic recovery," she

Digital Pilipinas is the country's largest private sector-led movement that aims to create a tech ecosystem for the Philippines. — **Marielle C. Lucenio** 

# DBM fund releases top P3 trillion, exceeding 60% of 2022 budget

**BusinessWorld FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2022** 

THE Department of Budget and Management (DBM) said on Thursday that it had released over P3 trillion to government agencies and local government units at the end of

The fund releases of P3.06 trillion account for 60.8% of the P5-trillion national budget

This leaves P1.97 trillion more to be released this year.

The DBM had released P3.4 trillion, representing 76.5% of the P4.5-trillion 2021 budget, by the end of February 2021.

In February 2022, releases to government agencies amounted to P2.4 trillion, representing 83.2% of the total allotted to them.

Special purpose funds released during the month were P110.4 billion, or 24.2% of the allotted amount.

Special purpose funds include budget support for local government units, the Contingent Fund, the Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund, and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

Releases from automatic appropriations hit P483.6 billion, or 28.7% of the funds due to be disbursed this year.

These automatic appropriations include retirement and life insurance premiums, internal revenue allotments, block grants, and interest payments.

The national budget for 2022 is aimed at supporting a recovery from the pandemic. The budget is equivalent to 21.8% of the projected gross domestic product, with a fifth set aside for capital outlays, including infrastructure spending. — **Jenina P. Ibañez** 



The following are scheduled power interruptions necessary for the regular maintenance and upgrade of our power distribution facilities, to ensure the delivery of safe and reliable electricity to your areas. Rest assured that Meralco is doing everything to quickly restore your electricity according to schedule.

#### LAGUNA (LILIW; NAGCARLAN; PILA; AND STA. CRUZ)

BETWEEN 10:30PM AND 11:00PM (MON., 03/14/21) AND THEN BETWEEN 7:00AM AND 7:30AM (TUE., 03/15/21) – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT STA. CRUZ 322WF

Portion of Pedro Guevarra Ave. and Calamba – Pagsanjan National Highway from Meralco -Sta. Cruz substation in Bgy. Pagsawitan, Sta. Cruz to and including Bgys. Dagatan, Daniw and Dita in Liliw; Bgys. Banca – Banca and Sibulan in Nagcarlan; Bgys. Bukal, Bulilan Sur, Concepcion, Masico, Mojon, Pansol, San Miguel and Sta. Clara Sur in Pila; and Bgys. Bubukal, Duhat, Gatid, Labuin Pagsawitan, Palasan and Patimbao in Sta. Cruz.

REASON: Maintenance work inside Meralco - Sta. Cruz substation

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022

#### LAGUNA (STA. ROSA CITY)

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT LIIP 43WM Portion of Pleasant Ville Subd. (Relocation 2, 3 & 5) and Gawad Kalinga - Toyota City Subd.

REASON: Replacement of pole in Bgy. Pulong Sta. Cruz, Sta. Rosa City, Laguna. **WEDNESDAY TO THURSDAY, MARCH 16 - 17, 2022** 

#### QUEZON CITY (PROJECT 8 AND TANDANG SORA) BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (WED., 03/16/22) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:30AM AND

Portion of General Ave. from GSISEA St. to and including St. Patrick School of Quezon City in GSIS Village, Bgy. Tandang Sora.

The whole of Lazaro Soriano Compound in Bgy. Bahay Toro, Project 8.

The whole of Mendoza Village in Bgy. Sangandaan, Project 8.

The whole of Diosa Village and Victoria Village in Bgy. Bahay Toro, Project 8.

Portion of Engineering Road from Benefits St. to and including Assistant Road, Legal Road, Branches and Premium Sts. in GSIS Village, Bgy. Sangandaan, Project 8.

Portion of Assistant Road and Administration St. from General Ave. to and including Records, Asset Actuarial and Accounting Sts. and General Road in GSIS Village, Bgy. Bahay Toro, Project 8. Asset, Actuarial and Accounting Sts.; and Geronimo Subd. in GSIS Village, Bgy. Bahay Toro, Project 8.

Portion of Road 20 from J. Kennedy St. to and including Ofelia, R. Parenas, Delos Reyes, F. Herrera and St. Jude Sts.; Sta. Rita Village and Citiville 2 Subd. in Bgy. Bahay Toro, Project 8.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (WED., 03/16/22) AND 6:00AM (THU., 03/17/22) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT

Portion of Mendez Road from Road 20 to and including Villa Arca I Subd., Remerville Subd and Rising Sun Village; and AMA University in Bgy. Baesa. Portion of Road 20 from Short Horn St. to and including Alley 2 St.; and San Jose Village in

Bgy. Bahay Toro, Project 8.

Portion of Road 20 from Short Horn St. to and including Miley 2 St., and San Jose Village III

Bgy. Bahay Toro, Project 8.

Portion of Road 20 from Short Horn St. to and including M. De Ropa St.; McDonald's and

7-Eleven Convenience Store in Bgy. Bahay Toro, Project 8. Portion of Short Horn St. from Road 20 to and including Road 23 in Bgy. Bahay Toro, Project 8. Portion of Dividends St. from Benefits St. to and including Grant, Interior, Salary, Policy, Real

Estate and Retirement Sts. in GSIS Village, Bgy. Sangandaan, Project 8.

Portion of GSIS Ave. from Short Horn St. to Benefits St. in GSIS Village, Bgy. Sangandaan, Portion of Benefits St. from GSIS Ave. to Engineering Road including Grant and Redemption

Sts.; and Savemore Market in GSIS Village, Bgy. Sangandaan, Project 8.

The whole of Paradise Village Bgy. Sangandaan, Project 8.

Portion of Insurance and Claims St. from Benefits St. to and including Manager Ave, Dasol Road, Vipra, Estrella, Medical, Property, Premium, Services and Park Lane Sts.; and Villagers Montessori College (VMC) in GSIS Village, Bgy. Sangandaan, Project 8. REASON: Line reconstruction work along Short Horn, Grant and Benefits Sts. in GSIS Village,

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 2022 **RIZAL PROVINCE (SAN MATEO)**

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 4:30AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT PARANG 412YL

Portion of Zamora St. and Gen. Luna Ave. from Hilario St. to Kambal Road including Justice Hall Bldg., Ever Supermarket - San Mateo, Mercury Drug, Nuestra Senora De Aranzazu Parochial School and Golden Ohana Fast Food Corp. in Bgys. Guitnang Bayan II and Sta. Ana.

Portion of Kambal Road from Kambal Road to and including Robinson's Easymart in Bgy.

Guitnang Bayan II.
Portion of GSIS Road from Riza Subd. Phase 1 to and including Charrieville Homes III Subd. Amado Compound, Birmingham Sunrise Subd., New Mateo Subd., Sta. Cecilia Subd., Behthel Homes Subd., St. John Ville Subd., Diaz Compound; Alberto, F. Florencio and Park Lane Sts.; San Mateo Rural Health Unit II and Godsend Builders Co. in Bgys. Guitnang Bayan I & II.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 5:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT PARANG 412YL

Portion of Gen. Luna Ave. from near Resurrecion St. to P. Burgos St. including Crisballi Compound, Pelbel Subd.; Baltazar, Libongco and M. H. Del Pilar Sts.; San Mateo Municipal Hall, SSS San Mateo Branch, Francyn Dialysis Center and Shakey's San Mateo in Bgys. Sta. Ana and Guitnang Bayan I & II. Portion of B. Mariano St. from Zuniga St. to Kamias St. including Cristy (Libis) Compound; Paso III and Paso IV Sts. in Bgy. Ampid II and Sta. Ana.

REASON: Line reconductoring work along Gen. Luna Ave. in Bgys. Sta. Ana and Guitnang

Bayan I & II in San Mateo, Rizal Province.

#### BULACAN (ANGAT, DOÑA REMEDIOS TRINIDAD, NORZAGARAY AND SAN RAFAEL)

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 12:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT ANGAT 33YT Portion of Gen. Alejo G. Santos Highway from Bgy. Donacion Basketball Court to M. Valte

Road including Bgys. Donacion, Taboc, Sulucan, Marungko and Sta. Lucia in Angat.
Portion of M. Valte Road from Gen. Alejo G. Santos Highway to Seventh Day Adventist
Church including Bgys. Bayabas, Camachile and Pulong Sampalok in Doña Remedios Trinidad; Bgys. Banaban, Binagbag, Baybay and Sta. Lucia in Angat.

Portion of Bgy. Tukod - Camachile Road from M. Valte Road to and including Bgys. Sapang Pahalang and Tukod in San Rafael. Portion of Bgy. Pinatulayan in Norzagaray.

BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 6:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT ANGAT 33YT Portion of Matias A. Fernando Ave. from Meralco – Angat substation to near M. Valte Road including Bgys. Sta. Cruz, San Roque, Laog and Sto. Cristo in Angat.

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REASON: Replacement of wood pole along Bgy. San Roque, Angat, Bulacan

#### LAGUNA (CALAMBA CITY) BETWEEN 12:01AM AND 4:00AM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT CANLUBANG 55XE

Portion of Mayapa - Canlubang Cadre Road from Meralco - Canlubang substation to near Hosea Birthing Center in Bgy. Paciano Rizal

REASON: Conversion of facilities along Mayapa - Canlubang Cadre Road in Bgy. Paciano,

**CAVITE (BACOOR CITY)** 

BETWEEN 10:00AM AND 3:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT BACOOR 426WX Castañeda Subd. and Camella Homes Fairfields Subd. in Bgy. Mambog I.

THURSDAY TO FRIDAY, MARCH 17 – 18, 2022

LAGUNA (STA. ROSA CITY)

BETWEEN 11:00PM (THU., 03/17/22) AND 4:00AM (FRI., 03/18/22) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT BALIBAGO 45XV The whole of Alfonso Homes, Celina Plains Subd., Ciudad Grande 2 Subd., Garden Villas

Subd. Phase 1 & 3 and Olympia Park Subd. in Bgys. Labas, Pook and City Proper REASON: Installation of pole and replacement of facilities along Olympus Circle St. in Olympia Park Subd., Bgy. Labas, Sta. Rosa City, Laguna.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2022 MAKATI CITY (SAN ISIDRO)

BETWEEN 9:30AM AND 2:30PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALIBAY 51VJ Portion of Sen. Gil Puyat Sr. Ave (Buendia) from Bank of Makati (BMI) to Pres. Segio Osmeña

Highway including McDonald's. Prottion of Finlandia St. from Batangas St. to Pres. Segio Osmeña Highway.

Portion of Batangas St. from Sen. Gil Puyat Sr. Ave (Buendia) to and including Honduras,

Guatemala, Faraday, Bolivia, Borneo and Uruguay Sts.; San Isidro Barangay Hall, St. Mary of the Woods School and San Isidro National High School.

Portion of Arthur St. (Binay) St. from SM Hypermarket to Honduras St. including JM

Processing & Freezing Services Inc. REASON: Line reconductoring work along Sen. Gil Puyat (Buendia) Ave., Faraday.

Batangas and Uruguay Sts. in Bgy. San Isidro, Makati City. **SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2022** 

#### LAGUNA (STA. CRUZ; LILIW; NAGCARLAN; MAGDALENA; MAJAYJAY; SAN PABLO CITY; AND RIZAL) BETWEEN 5:00AM AND 6:00AM AND THEN BETWEEN 12:00NN AND 1:00PM - THE WHOLE

OF CIRCUITS BOTOCAN 41D; AND STA. CRUZ 34WF AND 35WF

Portion of Pedro Guevarra Ave. from Meralco - Sta. Cruz substation in Bgy. Pagsawitan to and including Bgys. Sto. Angel Norte, Sto. Angel Central, Sto. Angel Sur, Sta. Cruz Town Proper, San

Pablo Sur and Pagsawitan in Sta. Cruz.
Portion of Quezon Blvd. from Pedro Guevarra Ave. in Sta. Cruz Town Proper to National Highway (Pila - Sta. Cruz Road) including Bgys. Bubukal, Bagong Bayan (Bagumbayan) and Calios portion of Bays. Patimbao and Labuin in Sta. Cruz.

Portion of Majayjay – Liliw Municipal Road from Meralco – Botocan substation to and including

the whole towns of Liliw, Nagcarlan and Magdalena; Bgys. Bukal, Coralao, Ibabang Banga, Ilayang Banga, Majayjay Town Proper, Malinao, May-it, Munting Kawayan, Olla, Oobi, Pangil, Panglan, San Isidro, San Roque, Sta. Catalina, Suba and Talortor in Majayjay; Bgys. Malinao, Alipit, Oogong and San Jose in Sta. Cruz; Bgys. San Antonio I and Sta. Maria Magdalena in San Pablo City: and Bgy. Entablado in Rizal.

REASON: NGCP maintenance work inside NGCP - Calariya substation

## MANILA (TONDO)

BETWEEN 8:30AM AND 9:00AM AND THEN BETWEEN 3:00PM AND 3:30PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT NORTH PORT 53H

Portion of Jose Abad Santos Ave. from Padre Algue St. to C. La Torre St. Portion of C. La Torre St. from Jose Abad Santos Ave. to Alvarado Ext. St

Portion of Padre Algue St. from Jose Abad Santos Ave. to and including Chiang Kai Shek College Main Campus; Alvarado Ext. and Sanchez Sts.

Portion of Sanchez St. from near C. La Torre St. to and including The Elysian Plaza.

Portion of Alvarado Ext. St. from Padre Algue St. to and including Maynilad - Tondo Pumping

BETWEEN 8:30AM AND 3:30PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT NORTH PORT 53H

Portion of Padre Algue and La Torre Sts. from Alvarado Ext. St. in Tondo to and including Benavidez, Masangkay, Narcisa Rizal Sts.; Ray Burton Bldg., Chiang Kai Shek College (Padre Algue Entrance), St. Stephen High School, Wharton Parksuites, Oxford Parksuites and Causeway Seafood

Portion of Alvarado Ext. St. from Padre Algue St. to near C. La Torre St. including Yap

nity, Inc. Bldg.
Portion of Masangkay St. from One Miho Place to near C. M. Recto Ave. including Jollibee

Portion of Benavidez St. from United Evangelical Church of the Phils. to and including Hope Christian High School (Pre-School), Hope Christian High School Main Campus, Philippine Liok Lan Foundation, Inc. Bldg. and Benavides Garden Bldg. REASON: Replacement of wood poles, line reconductoring work and installation of additional

lightning protection devices along La Torre, Benavides and Masangkay Sts. in Tondo, Manila

## **BULACAN (BALIUAG) AND PAMPANGA (APALIT)**

BETWEEN 10:00AM AND 3:00PM - PORTION OF CIRCUIT PULILAN 326PUL Portion of Pulong Vergara St. from Sitio Pulong Vergara in Bgy. Balucuc, Apalit, Pampanga

to and including Sitio Sulong; and NIA Road in Bgy. Tilapayong, Baliuag, Bulacan; Sitio Sampaguita, Sitio Everlasting, Sitio Campupot, Sitio Ilang - Ilang and Sitio Rosal in Bgys. Calantipe and Balucuc in Apalit, Pampanga.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles and upgrading of facilities in Bgy. Calantipe, Apalit,

#### **SUNDAY TO MONDAY, MARCH 20 - 21, 2022 CAVITE (GEN. TRIAS CITY)**

BETWEEN 4:00AM AND 5:00AM (SUN., 03/20/22) AND THEN BETWEEN 3:00AM AND 4:00AM (MON., 03/21/22) - PORTION OF CIRCUIT AMADEO 62AMA - GATEWAY 62WP - FCIE

REASON: Relocation of facilities along Crisanto Delos Reyes Ave. in Bgy. Biclatan, Gen. Trias

San Miguel - Purefoods Hormel Compound along Governor's Drive in Sitio De Fuego, Bgy.

