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Philippines unveils the Bicol Mega Cold Storage Warehouse with P500 M investment

25 March 2026 | News

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Philippines has launched a new initiative to support Bicolâ??s agriculture sector with the inauguration of the Bicol Mega Cold Storage Warehouse. The flagship project officiated by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. from the Department of Agriculture aims to enhance food security and increase farmer incomes.

President Marcos was accompanied by Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. and Camarines Sur Governor Luis Raymund Villafuerte in the event, which signals a deliberate push to upgrade the countryâ??s food logistics under the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act.

Funded with a P500 million investment, the sprawling refrigerated complex is the first completed project under the DA Cold Storage Expansion Program. It directly addresses a chronic gap in agriculture, the lack of reliable and energy efficient storage and transport systems.

Inside, temperature-controlled rooms are tailored for specific commodities such as livestock, fruits, and vegetables. Each is stored at precise conditions to preserve quality from farm to market. The facility has a combined annual capacity exceeding 200,000 tons, benefiting tens of thousands of farmers and far more consumers.

â??This facility underscores the commitment of the Marcos administration to cut post-harvest losses, raise farmers incomes, stabilize food supply, and ensure lasting rural development,â?• Tiu Laurel said.

Governor Villafuerte said the facility will serve the rest of the Bicol Region, and even suppliers from the Visayas and Mindanao, noting the regionâ??s long role in national food production. â??This is a game changer for Bicolandia, which has long played a key role in feeding the nation, whether directly through food production or as corridor where agricultural products pass through,â?• he said.

Complementing cold storage are preparation rooms equipped for blast freezing, processing, and packaging. These services allow producers to extend shelf life, meet market standards, and command better prices.

The timing is critical, especially at this time when geopolitical conflict in the Middle East has sent fuel prices soaring. Bicol farmers have long faced high transport costs, fragmented supply chains, and frequent typhoons that disrupt distribution. Without cold storage, many are forced to sell quickly at low prices or risk losing their harvest.

By integrating storage with refrigerated transport and improved logistics, the facility helps bridge the gap between production and consumption. Goods can move farther and last longer without sacrificing quality. Farmers at the launch welcomed the development, saying it gives them flexibility to store produce, wait for better market conditions, and reduce waste.

Aside the mega cold storage, the President together with Secretary Tiu Laurel, they also inspected the Fruits and Vegetables Processing Facility worth P290-M. The DA is building more cold chain facilities across key food hubs nationwide, forming a network to strengthen the food value chain.

As the Bicol mega cold storage facility powered up, it signaled the beginning of a modern and interconnected infrastructure system that is essential to securing the countryâ??s food future.