Philippines seeks mango export access to South Africa, reviews citrus import rules

The Philippines is seeking market access for mango exports to South Africa while reviewing import conditions for South African apples, pears, and citrus. Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) Director Gerald Glenn F. Panganiban recently met with a South African delegation led by Ambassador Bartinah Ntombizodwa Radebe-Netshitenzhe to discuss bilateral agricultural trade.

Discussions focused on phytosanitary requirements for Philippine mango exports and South Africa's requests to export apples and pears to the Philippines. Both sides also reviewed existing sanitary and phytosanitary conditions for South African citrus shipments.

The Philippine delegation included representatives from the National Plant Quarantine Services Division and Plant Product Safety Services Division. South African participants included government officials and representatives from the Fresh Produce Exporters' Forum, Citrus Growers' Association of Southern Africa, Citrus Research International, Berries ZA, Hortgro, the South African Table Grape Industry, and Fruit SA.

The talks form part of Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.'s efforts to diversify export markets for Philippine agricultural products. Both countries will continue technical evaluations, including pest risk assessments and biosecurity protocols, before commercial shipments of mangoes, apples, and pears can proceed under revised trade conditions.
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