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DOST-ITDI offers new way to pack *Lechon*

Who does not want a bite of the scrumptious Pinoy *lechon*? Slow-roasted to perfection, with its crispy skin and juicy pork meat, taking this delectable dish home is a sure treat.

But, how does one take it home?

Commercial lechon or suckling pig roasters usually wrap orders in layers with the first layer consisting of aluminum foil. The meat is then placed inside a long, plastic bag, then wrapped in *manila* paper. A corrugated cigarette box that has been taken apart form part of the third layer; it serves as the frame which is wrapped around the meat.

This is how lechon is currently packed for delivery. However, with this kind of packaging system, customers often receive the package blotted in oil with the roasted meat completely losing its crispiness. With long distance delivery, the meat can develop an off-odor and flavor – visible signs of product deterioration.

In response to this retail packaging issue, the Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI), through its Packaging Technology Division (PTD), developed an improved packaging system that can extend the freshness and shelf life of pork *lechon*.

With the improved structural design of the packaging system, it is now possible to prolong the freshness and shelflife of both whole and kilo-pack *lechon* from 15 hours to 21 hours without the oil leaks and blotting. It can also keep the crispiness of pork skin for 14 hours.

This transport packaging system also protects the product from damage resulting from handling and transport. Likewise, packing time is shortened and packaging costs are reduced. Gone are the days of limp and unappetizing *lechon*. The fiesta-favorite can now be enjoyed anytime, anywhere.

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Currently, the *lechon* packaging system has a Certificate of Utility Model (UM) Registration issued by the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL). The UM credits the PTD team composed of Cynthia M. Bihis, Daisy E. Tañafranca, Fernan S. Victoria, Ermin S. Orendain, and Allan B. Quirante.



Photos by: Kevin Dizon, PTD

For interested parties who would like to avail themselves of or know more about this technology, please call or visit us at:

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