

# DEPED CARAGA News

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# Women's Empowerment Takes Center Stage: DepEd Caraga Joins Regional Women Summit



DepEd Caraga Region personnel after receiving personal care services offered at the Summit.

In a strong demonstration of its commitment to gender equality and inclusive development the Department of Education (DepEd) Caraga actively participated in the Caraga Regional Women's Summit held at the Balanghai Hotel and Convention Center, Butuan City, on March 10. Representing DepEd Caraga Regional Director Maria Ines C. Asuncion was Regional Gender and Development (GAD) Focal Person Dr. Adrilene Mae J. Castanos, accompanied by 15 other regional employees.

With the theme, "Babae sa Lahat ng Sektor, Aangat ang Bukas sa Bagong Pilipinas," the summit was spearheaded by the Regional Gender and Development Committee (RGADC), chaired by the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) Regional Director Alexander A. Makinano, MM, CSEE. Director Makinano welcomed participants from various national government agencies, the private sector, and local media, emphasizing the importance of inter-agency collaboration in advancing gender-responsive programs in Caraga.

A highlight of the event was the keynote speech delivered by Hon. Judy Chin Amante, Mayor of Cabadbaran City and Chairperson of the Regional Development Council-Social Development Committee (RDC-SDC). Mayor Amante shared her inspiring journey as a single mother who remained steadfast in her goals, proving that perseverance and determination can overcome life's challenges. Her story resonated with participants and underscored the significance of empowering women to lead and succeed in their respective fields.

The summit also provided participants with access to public assistance and personal care services, including offerings of consumer products from various local entrepreneurs, integrating wellness and advocacy into the event.



Crowd shot of participants during the Women's Summit.

DepEd Caraga remains committed to promoting gender and development initiatives, ensuring that education serves as a powerful tool in fostering an inclusive and equitable society. *(Public Affairs Unit)*

# Agusan del Sur ALS & ADM Learners receive Tablets with Pre-Installed MDM Software

In a concerted effort to enhance digital learning accessibility and maximize the effective use of technology in education the Schools Division Office (SDO) of Agusan del Sur hosted an Orientation on the Utilization of the Pre-Installed Mobile Device Management (MDM) Software in Tablets, alongside the official Turnover and Distribution of Tablets for learners in the Alternative Learning System (ALS) and the Alternative Delivery Mode (ADM). The event, held on March 10, 2025, at the SDO Agusan del Sur Conference Room, brought together key education leaders and stakeholders committed to integrating technology into flexible learning pathways.

Leading the initiative was DepEd Regional Director Maria Ines C. Asuncion, joined by Schools Division Superintendent of Agusan del Sur, Josita B. Carmen, along with Regional Office personnel, including CLMD Chief Bernabe L. Linog, EPS ADM Focal Person Leowenmar A. Corvera, EPS ALS Focal Person Josephine Chonie Obsenares, EPS LR Maripaz F. Magno, and ICT Unit Head Marcelino M. Ahon Jr. Their collective presence highlighted the department's commitment to equipping learners with essential digital tools, ensuring that technology-driven education reaches even the most remote and underserved communities.



Regional Director Maria Ines C. Asuncion together with a recipient ALS learner.



DepEd key officials and ALS & ADM learners during the photo opportunity.

As part of this initiative, a total of 270 tablets were distributed across the division, with 180 tablets designated for ALS learners and 90 tablets allocated to ADM learners. This effort aligns with the Department of Education's (DepEd) ongoing commitment to integrating digital tools into learning environments, ensuring that students in flexible learning options have access to modern educational resources that support their academic journey. (To page 4)

(continued from page 3: Streamlining learning ...)



Dr. Marilou A. Laurencio, CESE, ADS Assistant Schools Division Superintendent, delivering her message.

The program commenced with Dr. Marilou A. Laurencio, CESE, Assistant Schools Division Superintendent, delivering the Welcome Remarks and Statement of Purpose, emphasizing the transformative role of technology in education. This was followed by an inspiring message from Regional Director Maria Ines C. Asuncion, who highlighted the importance of digital inclusion in ensuring that every learner, regardless of their learning modality, has access to quality education.

Leading the official turnover, Josita B. Carmen, CESO V, Schools Division Superintendent, assured that the tablets would be utilized effectively to enhance learning outcomes. Further reinforcing the significance of the initiative, Hon. Sylvia B. Elorder, represented by her Executive Secretary, shared a Message of Support, acknowledging the collaborative efforts of education leaders, stakeholders, and policymakers in bridging educational gaps through technology.



After leading the turnover, SDS Josita B. Carmen (3rd from left) posed with ALS learners and other officials from DepEd and the LGU of Agusan del Sur.

By equipping ALS and ADM learners with these digital tools, DepEd Agusan del Sur reaffirms its commitment to providing inclusive, innovative, and technology-driven education, ensuring that no learner is left behind in the digital age. (Jairha Anne T. Sususco)

# 100 Tablets Boost Digital Learning for Bayugan City ALS & ADM Learners



Demonstrating his support for the learners, Bayugan City Mayor Kirk A. Asis (2nd from left) joins them alongside other DepEd officials.

The ceremony was graced by distinguished guests and key stakeholders whose contributions are instrumental to the success of such progressive educational endeavors.

Jerry P. Salino, the ALS Focal Person, formally acknowledged the presence and support of all guests and stakeholders, emphasizing the pivotal role of collaboration in advancing educational excellence.

In his opening remarks, Imee R. Vicariato, CID Chief, extended a heartfelt welcome to all attendees. She highlighted the impact of integrating digital tools into the educational landscape, marking this event as a significant milestone in the ongoing pursuit of innovative learning solutions.

Regional Director Maria Ines C. Asuncion delivered an impassioned address that highlighted the transformative potential of technology in bridging educational disparities. Her message reinforced the belief that equipping learners with digital resources is essential for cultivating a future-ready community. *(To page 7)*

In a significant step toward digital inclusivity, the Schools Division Office (SDO) of Bayugan City successfully distributed 100 tablets to learners under the Alternative Learning System (ALS) and Alternative Delivery Mode (ADM) during a turnover ceremony on March 10, 2025, at the SDO Bayugan City ALS Building.

This initiative reinforces the division's commitment to providing equitable access to technology-driven education, with 60 tablets allocated to ALS learners and 40 to ADM learners.



(continued from page 6: Bayugan City ALS and ADM Learners ...)

Representing the voice of the learners, Jelyn Matugas, an ALS learner, expressed sincere gratitude and optimism in her acceptance speech. She articulated that the newly distributed tablets will not only enhance her educational journey but also serve as a catalyst for improved academic engagement and performance. With emotion, she recounted her experience as a former entrepreneur in Manila before deciding to return to Mindanao to finish her studies. She emphasized the profound difference between having a degree and not, underscoring the importance of education in shaping one's future.



Bayugan City Mayor, Hon. Kirk A. Asis.

Concluding the proceedings, Hon. Kirk A. Asis, Bayugan City Mayor, offered his message of support to the ALS, ADM, and DepEd personnel. He reaffirmed the local government's steadfast dedication to educational innovation and community development, stating that such initiatives are critical to shaping a resilient and progressive Bayugan City. He also highlighted that this initiative marks an essential step toward transforming Bayugan into a SMART city.



This initiative aims to bridge the digital divide, ensuring ALS and ADM learners gain essential technological resources to support their education. Through this effort, SDO Bayugan City continues to uphold its mission of delivering quality, accessible, and inclusive learning for all. (Jairha Anne T. Sususco)



# DepEd Distributes GO Bags to Eight Schools to Strengthen Disaster Preparedness

**T** To promote disaster preparedness and ensure readiness among learners and learning facilitators, 500 GO Bags were distributed to eight schools under the Department of Education's (DepEd) Disaster Preparedness and Response Program (DPRP).

The distribution of the GO Bags was spearheaded by Regional Director Maria Ines C. Asuncion, with Dr. Edmund Mendoza, Chief of ESSD, leading the coordination efforts, alongside Schools Division Office (SDO) officials who facilitated and distributed the kits to school representatives.

The recipient schools include: Our Lady of Carmen Academy Inc. (OLCACI), San Vicente National High School, Cresencio Lago National High School, Tandag Science National High School, Socorro National High School, Philippine Science High School - Caraga Campus, Agusan del Sur National High School, and Northern Mindanao Colleges.

Each GO Bag contains essential emergency and personal care items, including flashlights, tumblers, writing pads, chocolates, biscuits, mineral water, and hygiene kits, which are intended to support learners and facilitators during unforeseen situations and emergencies.

The initiative was made possible through the generosity of partner donors, namely ATB Sourcing Inc., Butuan Southville, GM Supreme, and Amontay Beach Resort, whose contributions significantly enhanced the reach and impact of the program.

The GO Bags were formally received by SDO Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Coordinators, School Heads, and other SDO personnel, who will ensure these resources are properly allocated to benefit the intended recipients.



ESSD Chief Dr. Edmund Mendoza; FTAD Chief Dr. Alejandro P. Macadatar; SDO Personnel; Dr. Adrilene Mae Castanos

This activity underscores DepEd's ongoing commitment to strengthening disaster resilience in schools and supporting both educators and learners in facing possible challenges brought about by emergencies. (P.A.U.)

# UNICEF Eyes Floating Classroom for Manobo IP Learners in Agusan del Sur



During their visit at Dinagat IP Elementary School

proceeded to a courtesy visit with Municipal Mayor Sylvia B. Elorde. During a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with the Municipal Administrator, local engineers, and select municipal councilors, Mr. Tenazas explored the local government's existing floating classrooms and key considerations for future construction projects. Mr. Tenazas emphasized that the FGD served as an initial data-gathering step for presentation to a potential Swiss shipping company interested in funding the initiative. (To page 9)

**T**he Department of Education Caraga Regional Office cordially welcomed Nicholas Tenazas, Education Specialist from the Education Section of UNICEF Philippines, during his on-site visit to Dinagat IP Elementary School in Bunawan, Agusan del Sur on March 10. The visit aimed to assess the feasibility of a proposed floating classroom for the Manobo Indigenous Peoples (IP) communities.

Accompanying Mr. Tenazas were ESSD Chief Edmund D. Mendoza, PhD, and Engineers Patrick Manuel and Mariel Sosmena. The team first paid a courtesy visit to Schools Division Superintendent (SDS) Josita B. Carmen at the Division of Agusan del Sur, joined by Engr. Jeff G. Montejo, Division Engineer; Hipolito B. Lastimado, SEPS, SocMob; Riza O. Maunag, EPS II, SocMob; and Ace Michael B. Magalso, EPS II, SMME.

Upon arrival in Bunawan, Public Schools District Supervisor (PSDS) Gina Seroy welcomed the delegation before they



(continued from page 8: UNICEF Eyes Floating Classroom ...)



The mode of transportation going to the school.



Following the discussion, the delegation—composed of Mayor Elorde, local officials, PNP personnel, Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) staff, Barangay Local Government Unit (BLGU) representatives, and members of the Regional and Schools Division Office (SDO) teams—proceeded to Dinagat IP Elementary School. They were warmly welcomed by the local community, teachers, and School Head Mr. Henemias P. Espina, HT II, representing both San Marcos Elementary School and Dinagat IP Elementary School.

During the visit, Mr. Tenazas conducted interviews with teachers, parents, BLGU officials, and learners to gather insights relevant to the proposed floating classroom. To supplement the study, the Mayor and her team invited the delegation to visit another floating classroom established by the local government unit, located 15 kilometers away from Dinagat IP Elementary School along the Agusan River.

The site visit was a resounding success, underscored by the warm hospitality and generosity of the Municipality of Bunawan, Agusan del Sur, and the

community. The support and leadership of Hon. Ronalyn A. Otero, Barangay Captain of San Marcos, played a crucial role in ensuring the visit's success. This initiative holds great promise in addressing the educational needs of the Manobo IP communities through innovative learning solutions. (Edmund D. Mendoza)

# Sailing Toward Learning: DepEd Caraga and UNICEF Strengthen Floating Classroom Project

In a concerted effort to enhance the sustainability and functionality of the Floating Classroom Project in Dinagat Elementary School, Bunawan, Agusan del Sur, Regional Director Maria Ines C. Asuncion hosted a meeting with UNICEF representative Mr. Nick Teneza, along with the DepEd engineers Sherwin Viajar and Patrick Manuel, and Dentist III/WINS Coordinator Anna Liza A. Lerio on March 11, at the Teacher Development Center, Butuan City.

They discussed the challenges and strategies for establishing the floating school, drawing from their observations during their recent site visit. Among



DepEd and UNICEF key officials convened to discuss the project in detail.



the recommendations for the classroom design were: installing additional fenders to minimize the risks from floating debris during high tides, integrating a propeller matting system against water lily obstruction, and installing a solar dome to measure river depth and detect incoming hazards.

Meanwhile, a barge-like vessel was proposed in consultation with a naval architect. Regional Director Asuncion saw the need for partnerships with experts stating that DepEd Central Office is

developing standardized floating classroom models.

Recognizing the community's concerns, Tenza advocated for a sustainable approach that respects and upholds their way of life. Director Asuncion echoed this sentiment, emphasizing, "Let us not uproot them, let us dignify them." She highlighted the project's potential as an educational tourism initiative and stressed the need for a hydraulic analysis of the Agusan Marsh, a vital wetland and bird migration sanctuary. *(To page 11)*

*(continued from page 10: Sailing Towards Learning ...)*

During discussions, Mr. Teneza shared insights from other floating school models, including a triangular two-story design in Nigeria. He emphasized the need for safe docking areas for the barge, clean water sources, a separate power source for the school, and educational supplies for teachers including printers, laptops, and internet access. Eventually, the curricular program will be expanded to Grades 4, 5, and 6 to support learning recovery post-pandemic.



As part of the strategic direction, Director Asuncion mandated the creation of a Task Force to oversee the project's implementation, documentation, and sustainability. Key action points include: developing a documentary on the project's progress and site visits, identifying staff responsibilities and work distribution, expanding the floating classroom into an Integrated School, incorporating the Alternative Learning System (ALS), designing customized classroom models tailored to the unique environmental context, including provisions for a boatman, establishing an operation, maintenance, and sustainability plan, to be endorsed to the LGU and DepEd Central Office, among others.



The Floating Classroom Project is a pioneering initiative to provide accessible learning spaces for children in remote, flood-prone areas. It aims to overcome geographical challenges while preserving the cultural and environmental integrity of Agusan del Sur's wetland communities. (Anna Liza A. Lerio)

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“Let us not  
uproot them. Let  
us dignify them.”

**MARIA INES C. ASUNCION**

DepEd Caraga Regional Director

*Regarding the proposed floating school for the  
community along Agusan Riverbanks in  
Dinagat, Bunawan, Agusan del Sur.*

Dinagat Elementary School- San Marcos Elementary School  
Annex, San Marcos, Bunawan Agusan del Sur

DepED The Department of Education  
joins the celebration of the

## 2025 NATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH

Babae sa Lahat ng Sektor,  
Aangat ang Bukas sa Bagong Pilipinas

March 1 - 31, 2025

