

DEPED CARAGA News

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Math Meets Art at Matabao Elementary School, Agusan del Norte



A learner skillfully navigating the twists and turns of the iconic Rubik's Cube.

The young mathematicians of Grade 6 Bonifacio at Matabao Elementary School brought numbers to life as they celebrated International Mathematics Day on March 14, 2025. With a perfect blend of logic and artistry, they proved that math is more than just formulas—it's a creative force!

Under the theme "Mathematics, Art, and Creativity," students enthusiastically designed brochures showcasing 15 renowned mathematicians and their groundbreaking contributions. The challenge didn't stop there—they also tested their problem-solving skills by tackling the iconic Rubik's Cube, a symbol of mathematical patterns and logical thinking.

Excitement filled the classrooms as students carefully crafted their projects, cutting, coloring, and writing about legendary figures such as Pythagoras, Euler, and Fibonacci. Through these hands-on activities, they explored how mathematics extends beyond

calculations, embracing problem-solving, artistic expression, and innovation.

By merging numbers with creativity, Grade 6 Bonifacio demonstrated that mathematics is not just a subject—it's a universal language that shapes how we see and interact with the world. Their celebration of International Mathematics Day highlighted how math inspires curiosity, imagination, and discovery in every aspect of life. (Clarice C. Carulasan)



Resilient in Crisis: Maharlika ES Navigates Earthquake Drill Amid Floodwaters

As part of the nationwide effort to enhance disaster preparedness, Maharlika Elementary School actively participated in the First Quarter of the National Simultaneous Earthquake Drill (NSED) to instill safety awareness and equip pupils and teachers with the necessary response skills during an earthquake. This drill is crucial, especially for flood-prone schools, where unique challenges demand innovative solutions.

On March 13, 2025, at exactly 3:00 p.m., the Teacher In-Charge and the school's Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) coordinator signaled the start of the drill using a

whistle since the flood had caused a power outage, rendering the school bell unusable. Learners and teachers promptly executed the "Duck, Cover, and Hold" protocol for three minutes before evacuation. Learners, paired for safety, were guided by their teachers as they carefully made their way out of the school building, which is constructed from light materials. Given the annual flooding, evacuation is required using baroto (small rowboats).



The learners and teachers performed Duck, Cover, and Hold before evacuation.



Pupils and teachers paddled towards a designated safe zone amidst the floodwaters, where group leaders performed a headcount to ensure everyone's safety. The students returned to each classroom only after the DRRM coordinator declared the building safe.

Despite the persistent flooding challenges, our school prioritizes disaster preparedness. The successful execution of the earthquake drill highlights the resilience and dedication of both learners and educators.

The school is committed to further enhancing safety measures, including the planned procurement of life vests for each learner, ensuring their well-being during future emergencies. With continued efforts and proper resources, the school community can remain prepared for any disaster, proving that resilience and preparedness go hand in hand. (Ricardo M. Pelenio Jr.)

DepEd Caraga, Bayugan City, Host 24th National Consultative Conference for ALS Focal Persons and Select DepEd Officials



With a resounding message of hope and opportunity, the 24th National Consultative Conference for Regional Alternative Learning System (ALS) Focal Persons and select DepEd officials officially commenced on May 18, 2025, at the Lope A. Asis Memorial Gymnasium, Bayugan City.

Gathering 300 ALS focal persons, planning officers, accountants, and budget officers from all 16 DepEd regions nationwide, the three-day conference strengthened ALS implementation and enhanced educational

strategies for out-of-school youth and adult learners nationwide.

In her opening remarks, DepEd Caraga Regional Director Maria Ines C. Asuncion, CESO IV, warmly welcomed the delegates to what she described as the "land of golden opportunities and endless possibilities." She highlighted Bayugan City's reputation as the cut-flower capital and rice granary of the Caraga Region, emphasizing the wealth and potential of the region's natural resources.



"Caraga is a paradise—rich from sea to soil, home to the best gold, copper, and nickel. It is the land of gold, which is why we call ourselves Caragold," she shared, reinforcing the region's commitment to excellence and progress.

RD Asuncion thanked the Bureau of Alternative Learning System (BALS), the Bayugan City Government, and the Schools Division Office (SDO) of Agusan del Sur for their dedication and support in making the event meaningful. *(To page 5)*

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She also encouraged the participants to maximize their learning experience and enjoy their stay in Bayugan City, as she thanked Mayor Kirk Asis and Governor Santiago Cane Jr. of Agusan del Sur for their full support.

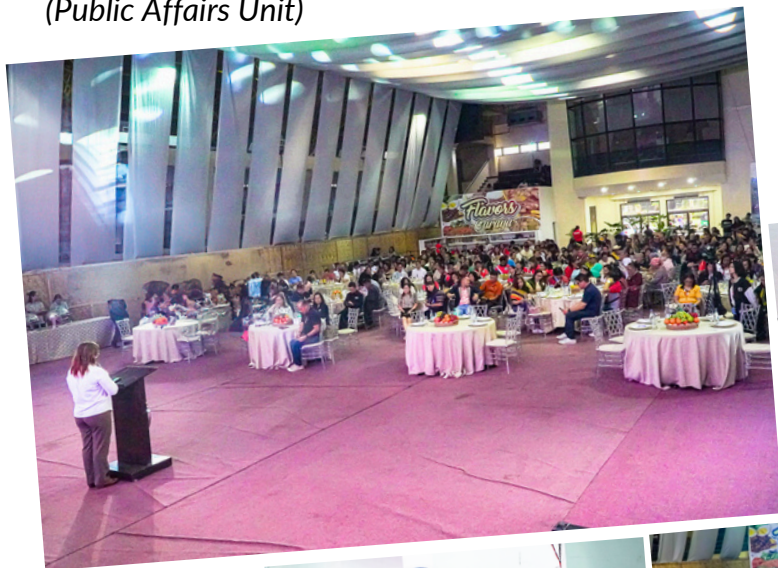
The conference featured break-out sessions focusing on key ALS developments, innovative teaching strategies, and policy enhancements to ensure that ALS remains a beacon of hope for learners seeking alternative pathways to education.



(L-R) Bayugan City Mayor Kirk Asis and Agusan del Sur Governor Santiago B. Cane Jr. showing their full support for the event.

"Mabuhay ang Alternative Learning System! Sa ALS may pag-asa," RD Asuncion concluded, inspiring the delegates to carry forward the mission of accessible and inclusive education for all.

(Public Affairs Unit)



24th National Consultative Conference on ALS Sets Strategic Directions



BAE Director Marilette Almayda explains the purpose of the event.

The 24th National Consultative Conference for Regional Alternative Learning System (ALS) Focal Persons and select DepEd officials formally opened on March 18, 2025, at the Lope A. Asis Memorial Gymnasium, Bayugan City, with a strong call for innovation and policy advancement in ALS implementation.

In her statement of purpose, Marilette Almayda, Director IV of the Bureau of Alternative Education (BAE), underscored the significance of the conference, likening

ALS to the "land of golden opportunities and endless possibilities." Recalling Regional Director Maria Ines C. Asuncion's assertion that ALS serves as a pathway to lifelong learning, she reaffirmed that ALS provides second-chance education to learners nationwide.

Calling this year's conference "special," Almayda drew a powerful analogy between ALS and gold—a symbol of resilience and indestructibility, echoing a well-known Spandau Ballet song. Reflecting on past national consultative conferences, she emphasized that these gatherings have historically been instrumental in addressing pressing issues and shaping strategic policy directions. Notable outcomes from previous conferences include the ALS Program Support Fund, transportation allowance for ALS teachers, and the implementation of ALS programs, projects, and activities. *(To page 7)*



(continued from page 6: 24th National Consultative Conference ...)



She acknowledged the challenges raised at the 23rd National Consultative Conference, such as budget constraints, governance concerns, and Learner Information System (LIS) issues. Given this, the 24th edition invited key authorities to craft solutions and discuss current critical topics, including micro-certification, the Accreditation and Equivalency (A&E) Test, the voucher program, and the Government Assistance and Subsidies (GAS) program. These topics were tackled during plenary and breakout sessions to develop concrete policies and actionable measures.

Almayda thanked Bayugan City Mayor Kirk Asis, Congressman Adolph Plaza, Congressman Alfel Bascog, Governor Santiago Cane, and Director Asuncion for their unwavering support in advancing ALS initiatives in the region.

As the conference unfolded, participants gained more insights for a more responsive and inclusive ALS policies, ensuring that education remains accessible to all. (Public Affairs Unit)



24th National ALS Conference Focuses on Policy Alignment and Program Enhancements



The 24th National Consultative Conference for Regional Alternative Learning System (ALS) Focal Persons and Select DepEd Officials placed a strong emphasis on policy development, program alignment, and budget utilization as it convened on March 18, 2025, at the Lope A. Asis Memorial Gymnasium, Bayugan City, Agusan del Sur.



Presided by Dr. Marilette R. Almayda, Director IV of the Bureau of Alternative Education (BAE), the conference reviewed the agreements and monitoring results from the 23rd National ALS Conference. These findings have since contributed to a growing database for crafting policies relevant to ALS implementation.



Dr. Almayda highlighted the need to revisit budget utilization rates based on data from budget officers, addressing concerns such as non-learners and ensuring that ALS programs align with target outcomes. She also presented the complementarity framework, reinforcing that ALS is a parallel pathway to education rather than a competitor to the formal school system. *(To page 9)*

(continued from page 8: 24th National ALS Conference ...)



Key Discussions and Policy Priorities

The conference tackled pressing issues and updates on key ALS initiatives, including:

1. Government Assistance and Subsidies (GAS) Programs
2. Program Support Fund
3. Transportation and Teaching Aide (TTA) Allowance for ALS Teachers
4. Quality Basic Education Development Program (Q-BEDP)
5. Budget Utilization Report (BUR)
6. Accreditation and Equivalency (A&E) Test Updates
7. Micro-certification

8. Learner Information System (LIS) Enhancements

9. Updates from the Policy and Quality Assurance Division (PQAD) and Program Management and Systems Development Division (PMSDD)



With the participation of 300 ALS focal persons from all 16 DepEd regions, the conference served as a strategic platform for refining existing policies and developing new initiatives that will further strengthen ALS implementation nationwide.

As the event unfolded, stakeholders remained committed to ensuring that ALS remains a beacon of hope for learners seeking alternative pathways to education. (Public Affairs Unit)



Fostering Innovation: Knowledge Management Team Holds First Quarterly Strategy Meeting



KMT Lead Jonathan Garzon

On Thursday afternoon, March 20, 2025, the Knowledge Management Team (KMT) gathered at Silver Hall, Teacher Development Center, Butuan City, for its first quarterly meeting of the year. More than just a routine check-in, the meeting served as a vital space for collaboration, innovation, and continuous improvement within the organization.

KMT Lead Jonathan Garzon's session focused on evaluating ongoing initiatives, aligning strategic goals, and exploring ways to enhance knowledge-management practices. Team members engaged in meaningful discussions about the latest advancements in tools and technologies, ensuring they stayed ahead and fostering an efficient and well-connected work environment.

A key highlight of the meeting was streamlining processes, improving templates, and aligning with the ONE QMS and ISO standards in preparation for the upcoming external audit. As part of this initiative, the team is also working to enhance the document routing system at the portal, ensuring a more seamless and efficient flow of information across the organization.



The meeting also highlighted training opportunities and workshops to strengthen the team's skills and reinforce the importance of lifelong learning. More importantly, it provided an open platform for feedback and fresh ideas, empowering every member to improve knowledge management processes and deliver relevant services.

As the session concluded, the team left with a clear vision for the upcoming quarter that embraces collaboration, adaptability, and growth in pursuit of a more efficient and knowledge-driven organization. (Jairha Anne T. Sususco)

Driving Accountability: Education Goals Strengthened with Strategic Budget Planning and Review

The Budget Accountability Report (BAR1) 4th Quarter CY 2024 Reporting and CY 2025 Target Setting successfully concluded on March 17, 2025, at Gold Hall, Teacher Development Center, Butuan City.

The event allowed Schools Division Offices (SDOs) to reflect on their achievements in the fourth quarter of CY 2024 and collaboratively set clear and unified physical targets for CY 2025. More than just a reporting session, the activity fostered open discussions and strategic planning to strengthen accountability and align goals with national education priorities.

Chief Marlyne Villareal of the RO Quality Assurance Division led the event alongside RO Planning Officers and 12 SDO Planning Officers. They participated actively

in performance evaluations, data-driven planning, and solution-oriented dialogues. Their insights and collective efforts helped ensure that plans for CY 2025 are both realistic and impactful.



Quality Assurance Division (QAD) Chief Marlyne Villareal.



The event reinforced the shared goal of delivering better outcomes for schools, teachers, and learners in the year ahead. This ensures that the initiatives for CY 2025 are effectively planned and executed.
(Jairha Anne T. Sususco)

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The person speaking before you tonight is the number one supporter of education. I am an example of what education can do for anyone. Para maintindihan nyo, sasabihin ko bakit

in-love na in-love ako sa education

Agusan del Sur Governor Santiago B. Cane Jr., speaking during the opening program of the 24th National Conference for Regional ALS Focal Persons and Select DepEd Officials, March 18, 2025.

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



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