

April 11, 2026



DepEd, COA strengthen Trust and Accountability Through Exit Conference

By Jezmarie R. Macuno,
PDO-II, Public Affairs Unit

The Department of Education (DepEd) Caraga and the Commission on Audit (COA) collaborated on the Exit Conference held on April 8, 2026, at the Gold Hall, DepEd RELC-NEAP, marking a key step in reinforcing transparency, accountability, and sound financial governance in the region.

The conference, held upon COA's invitation, covered the audit of DepEd Caraga's accounts and operations for Calendar Year 2025.

Regional Director Maria Ines C. Asuncion led the DepEd management panel, underscoring the importance of open and constructive engagement with COA.

She emphasized that the Exit Conference served as a venue not only for presenting audit findings but also for clarifying issues, correcting inaccuracies, and ensuring that recommendations are practical and implementable.

"This process reflects our shared responsibility to uphold integrity in public service and continuously improve our systems," Asuncion said. ➔ Page 2



(L-R) DepEd Caraga Regional Director Maria Ines C. Asuncion and COA Acting Assistant Regional Director Jesus Misael D. Almenralejo, April 8, 2026.

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COA was represented by Mr. Jesus Misael D. Almendralejo, Acting Assistant Regional Director of COA Caraga, together with audit team members Ms. Christine R. Mira, Ms. Janah P. Tapangan, and Ms. Margareth May R. Hilario, who presented the audit observations and recommendations.

The conference also allowed DepEd Caraga to address issues raised in the Audit Observation Memoranda and work collaboratively with COA in evaluating appropriate actions, aligning compliance requirements with operational realities.

Participants included division chiefs, the regional accountant and budget officer, program owners, and members of the Secretariat and Technical Working Group, reflecting a unified approach to accountability and governance.

DepEd Caraga reaffirmed its commitment to transparency, prudent financial management, and good governance. ●





Bagong Pilipinas Serbisyo Fair Opens Doors of Opportunities for ALS, SHS-TVL Learners

By Jezmarie R. Macuno-PDO-II, Public Affairs Unit

The Department of Education (DepEd) Caraga, in partnership with national government agencies, local government units, and private sector stakeholders, successfully conducted the *Bagong Pilipinas Serbisyo*

Fair: One-Stop Shop for School-to-Work Transition simultaneously in Bayugan City and Butuan City on March 25, 2026.

In Bayugan City, Regional Director Maria Ines C. Asuncion led the initiative at the Lope A. Asis Memorial Gymnasium, highlighting DepEd Caraga's push to strengthen school-to-work transition for SHS-TVL learners. The event, supported by Schools Division Superintendent Ma. Teresa M. Real, Mayor Hon. Kirk A. Asis, line agencies, and prospective employers, brought employment opportunities and government services closer to learners. Mayor Asis also extended ₱500 assistance to each participant.

A total of 180 jobseekers joined the Bayugan fair, with two hired on the spot. Meanwhile, 26 SHS-TVL learners accessed one-stop shop services, enabling faster processing of employment requirements. ➤ Page 4



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In Butuan City, the fair at Butuan City School of Arts and Trades focused on empowering ALS learners.

Six local employers, alongside partner agencies, served 151 jobseekers, resulting in 12 hired on the spot and 107 beneficiaries of free government services. Key officials from DepEd, DOLE, TESDA, and the local government underscored strong inter-agency collaboration.

For many, the fair marked a turning point. ALS graduate Jenila Mejala shared that bringing employers and agencies together in one venue helped remove common barriers to employment, especially for first-time jobseekers.

Participating agencies, including DepEd, DOLE, PESO, TESDA, PNP, NBI, PSA, PIA, SSS, Pag-IBIG, PhilHealth, BIR, and DMW, delivered coordinated services across both venues.

The simultaneous conduct of the fair reflects DepEd Caraga's commitment to workforce readiness, inclusive opportunities, and seamless pathways from education to employment. ●



**12 Hired
on the Spot**



**151
Jobseekers ●**





Photo Credit: Provincial Government of Agusan del Sur Facebook Page

GAINING MOMENTUM. Agusan del Sur Governor Hon. Santiago B. Cane Jr. (2nd from left) presided over the press conference at the Governor's Conference Room in Patin-ay, Agusan del Sur, with Palone Executive Committee cluster and heads in attendance. Local media partners were present, while DepEd Caraga Regional Office officials and media representatives from neighboring cities and provinces joined via Zoom. Seated beside him is DepEd Caraga Regional Director Maria Ines C. Asuncion, CESO III, who co-presented the timeline, April 6, 2026.

Palaro 2026: All Systems Go

By Pedro A. Tecson

Preparations for the Palarong Pambansa 2026 continue to gain momentum, highlighted by the press conference led by the Provincial Government of Agusan del Sur on April 6, 2026, following the successful conduct of the First National Technical Conference on March 30-31, underscoring readiness and transparency barely two months before the national sporting event.

Agusan del Sur Governor Hon. Santiago B. Cane Jr. presided over the press conference at the Governor's Conference Room in Patin-ay, Agusan del Sur, together with Palaro Executive Committee cluster and committee heads. The briefing was co-presided by DepEd Caraga Regional Director Maria Ines C. Asuncion, CESO III.

Local media partners from across the region participated either onsite or via Zoom, including officials from DepEd Central Office and neighboring regions. The session provided updates on inter-agency coordination, operational readiness, and continuing preparations, and formed part of a series of media engagements aimed at ensuring transparency, with the next briefing scheduled on May 4, 2026.

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The press conference served as a follow up to the First National Technical Conference conducted on March 30-31, spearheaded by the National Palaro Secretariat under DepEd Undersecretary Malcolm S. Garma, which brought together DepEd Central Office (CO) officials, national technical officials, regional sports officers, and key committee members from the CO and the Provincial Government of Agusan del Sur (PGAS).

During that meeting, Governor Cane and Director Asuncion, provided inputs and updates to on Caraga's status of preparations for the Palaro.

Discussions focused on regional readiness, including personnel, budget, logistics, transportation, and billeting arrangements, as well as event management plans, competition schedules, venue preparedness, and the official Palaro 2026 logo.

The conference also covered athlete qualification standards, communication strategies, health and sanitation protocols, security arrangements with the Philippine National Police, and ICT systems for efficient competition management.

These matters were also thoroughly discussed and further clarified and reinforced during the April 6 press conference. ●

Photos: Provincial Government of Agusan del Sur Facebook Page

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