

Padayon Edukasyon **CARAGA**

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MILESTONES AND GRATITUDE

*We have made remarkable progress and our SDOs are targetting key areas to empower education leaders. -**Maria Ines C. Asuncion***

“ p.6

COMPASSION IN ACTION

*We are here because we value you as our teachers. You have shaped countless lives, and we stand with you even in your most difficult times. -**RD Maria Ines C. Asuncion***

p.11

DEPED CARAGA'S AUTOMATED CSM

A game-changer in feedback collection and analysis

p.02

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NOT FOR SALE

Trainer's Methodology 1 conducted for Technical, Vocational, and Livelihood (TVL) educators

Demonstrating its commitment to equipping teachers with industry-aligned skills, DepEd Caraga, Regional Director Maria Ines C. Asuncion, CESO IV, in cooperation with the Regional National Educators Academy of the Philippines (R-NEAP) and the Curriculum and Learning Management Division (CLMD), launched a comprehensive 33-day Trainer's Methodology 1 (TM 1) program for 66 Senior High School Technology and Vocational Livelihood (SHS-TVL) and Junior High School Special Program in Technical Vocational Education (JHS-SPTVE) educators under the MATATAG Curriculum.



The program was delivered in three rigorous phases (July 22–31, August 1–13, and August 14–23), culminating in an immersive onsite sessions at Amontay Beach Resort, Nasipit, Agusan del Norte, with TESDA-accredited trainers facilitating the sessions.

The activities were orchestrated by Human Resource Development Division (HRDD) Chief Dr. Flordelisa R. Dalin and CLMD Chief Bernabe L. Linog, designed to enhance the expertise of SHS-TVL and JHS-SPTVE educators in technical and vocational fields that meet the diverse needs of 21st-century learners. - **Public Affairs Unit.**

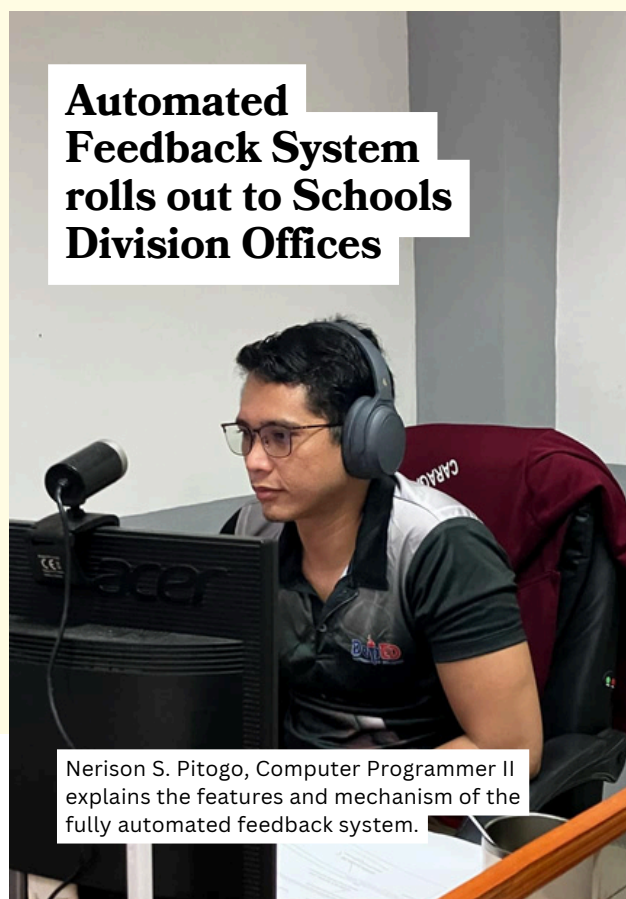


On November 15, 2024, a virtual orientation was conducted via MS Teams for Division Information Officers and IT Officers across the region.

The session introduced the Enhanced Client Satisfaction Measurement (CSM) System, which streamlines the collection, analysis, and reporting of client feedback, aligning with ARTA's Memorandum Circular 2023-05. Marcelino M. Ahon Jr., Regional ICT Unit Head, emphasized the importance of using technology to enhance service delivery. Nerison S. Pitogo, system developer, demonstrated its features such as automatic report generation, real-time tracking, and trilingual feedback forms.

The system's automation saves time and ensures accurate and faster response to actionable feedback that can help offices implement data-driven improvements.

Automated Feedback System rolls out to Schools Division Offices



Nerison S. Pitogo, Computer Programmer II explains the features and mechanism of the fully automated feedback system.

Transparency shines through PIA's Kapihan

Regional Director Maria Ines C. Asuncion, CESO IV, and the Regional Functional

Division chiefs participated in the *Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas* series by the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), headed by PIA Caraga Regional Director Venus L. Garcia. Held on October 15, 2024, at the Butuan Southville Convention Center and livestreamed on Facebook, the event fostered open dialogue on education-related issues.



The meeting opened with a talk show featuring Directors Asuncion and Garcia. They tackled DepEd Caraga initiatives and challenges, followed by a Town Hall Meeting where local media representatives raised questions on crucial topics.

During the press conference, Dr. Alejandro P. Macadatar, Field Technical Assistance (FTAD) chief, assured the proper implementation of the School-Based Management (SBM) Program. Director Asuncion explained that Caraga strictly observes the six-hour teaching rule under the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers, and that teaching overload is not an issue in the region. She also addressed drug abuse among learners, highlighting anti-drug education and the "Safe Eskwela" program for ensuring learner safety in schools, with community involvement as a critical factor in curbing school gang issues.

In addition, RD Asuncion emphasized mental health initiatives in schools, including strengthened programs, psychosocial support, and hiring of guidance counselors. She affirmed the continued use of the mother tongue, while CLMD Chief Bernabe L. Linog explained how it remained a medium of instruction.

The Regional Director also provided updates on the corruption investigations, assured zero tolerance for such acts, and highlighted improved math scores in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), with preparations for 2025 underway. Plans to introduce more Senior High School electives tailored to meet learners' needs are in place.

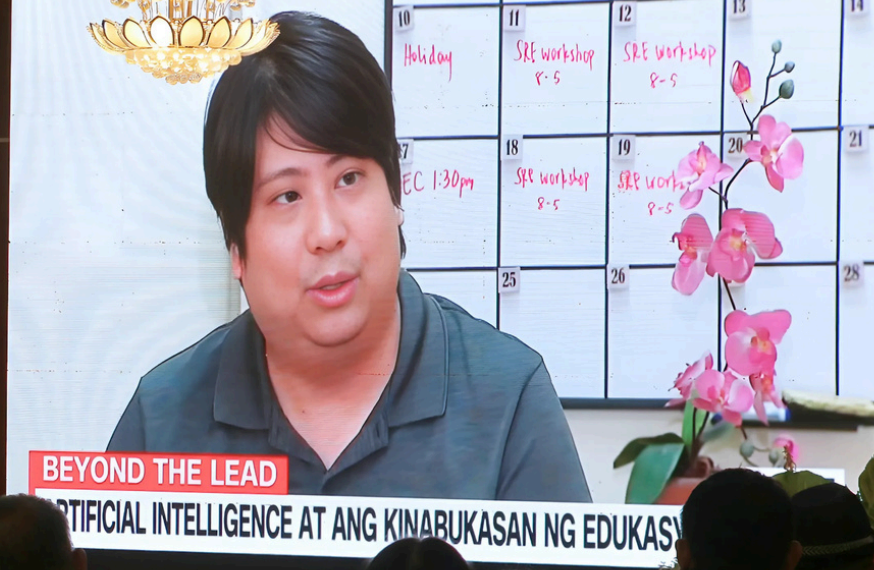
TALK SHOW featuring (L-R) Regional Directors Venus Garcia (PIA Caraga) and Maria Ines C. Asuncion (DepEd Caraga). Photo by Philippine Information Agency Caraga.



TOWN HALL MEETING with the local media practitioners.

A major highlight of the event was the announcement by Dr. Flordelisa R. Dalin, Human Resource Development Division (HRDD) chief, that all Schools Division Offices in Caraga are now accredited as Continuing Professional Development (CPD) providers, paving the way for teachers' career progression and professional growth.

By ensuring access to CPD opportunities for teachers, DepEd Caraga reaffirms its commitment to nurturing a culture of excellence and innovation in the region's education sector. —**Public Affairs Unit.**



Education Innovation: highlights from the Annual Researchers' Notebook 2024

The Southville Hotel and Convention Center in Butuan City became the epicenter of innovation and inspiration as DepEd Caraga celebrated its Annual Researchers' Notebook: "A Documentary of Success Stories of Researchers," on November 11, 2024.

The event brought together 95 dedicated educators and researchers, spotlighting relevant studies shaping Caraga's educational landscape and fostering a dynamic culture of research excellence.

The event highlighted the best video documentary presentations of research projects. Topping the competition was Jordan D. Buhion from Surigao del Norte, whose Arduino-Based BIOS Beep Error Generator (ABBEG) redefined ICT learning for the modern classroom.

In the second place, a team from Bislig City impressed the audience with their contextualized Mathematics story word problem compendium, a creative tool designed to make math lessons more engaging and relatable.

The third-place spot was a tie, with Lani V. Casis from Bayugan City presenting her transformative study on teaching Mathematics using the Concrete-Representational-Abstract (CRA) process, and Xe Mc Kevin B. España from Butuan City demonstrating how digital tools can enhance data analysis skills for students.

Judges Dr. Elmer Conde, Dr. Alejandro Macadatar, and Dr. Violeta Nunez applauded the participants' innovative spirit, with Dr. Nunez underscoring the crucial role of research in driving educational progress. Regional Director Maria Ines C. Asuncion lauded the researchers for their dedication and emphasized the event's mission of empowering educators to pioneer meaningful change.

The summit not only celebrated achievements but also ignited a collective resolve to advance education through research-driven solutions. — **Public Affairs Unit.**



REDEFINING E-LEARNING: Jordan D. Buhion (5th from left), takes the spotlight together with the Surigao del Norte Delegation led by SDS Manuel O. Caberte (3rd from left). Also in photo are (L-R) Dr. Elmer Conde and Dr. Violeta Nunez.

Learner safety: Strengthening Child Protection Policy in DepEd Caraga

05
news

By: Richard Ecde Davide
PDO 1, Dinagat Islands

DepEd Caraga reinforced its commitment to learner safety through a four-day Training Workshop on Child Protection Policy (CPC) Functionality from November 12–15 at Southville Hotel and Convention Center, Butuan City.

The event brought together Division Learner Rights and Protection focal persons, legal officers, and school heads serving as Child Protection Committee (CPC) Chairpersons to deepen their understanding of protocols and improve case management involving children in schools.

The discussions covered learner rights, DepEd Orders (Nos. 40, s. 2012, and Nos. 55, s. 2013), bullying incident management, and responsibilities of schools and division offices.

Participants also engaged in workshops on managing children at risk (CAR) and children in conflict with the law (CICL). Resource speakers from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Regional Council for the Protection of Children (RCWC), and Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) shared insights into referral pathways and community-based programs.

The highlight was the introduction of the CPC Functionality Assessment Tool by Ma. Phoebe D. Agao, Technical Assistant II of DepEd Learner Rights and Protection Office-Central Office.



RESOURCE SPEAKER Dindo Gipala, School Head of Surigao del Norte National High School, explains the importance of creating a safe and supportive environment for learners free from bullying, abuse, and exploitation.



PARTICIPANTS tackling issues on handling children in conflict with the law (CICL), understanding the referral system, and coordinating with partner agencies.

This tool helps evaluate the effectiveness of child protection mechanisms in schools and divisions.

Dr. Edmund D. Mendoza, Education Support Services Division (ESSD) chief, emphasized the workshop's importance. *"This training strengthens our capacity to safeguard learners, especially during large-scale events like Palarong Pambansa,"* he said. Regional LRPO Focal Person Dr. Adrilene Mae J. Castaños lauded the active participation, saying, *"Together, we're building a stronger, more responsive child protection network."*

This initiative reflects DepEd Caraga's commitment to institutionalizing child protection policies and ensuring the holistic well-being of learners.

MILESTONES and GRATITUDE

A Heartfelt Message

Dear teachers, learners, and stakeholders,

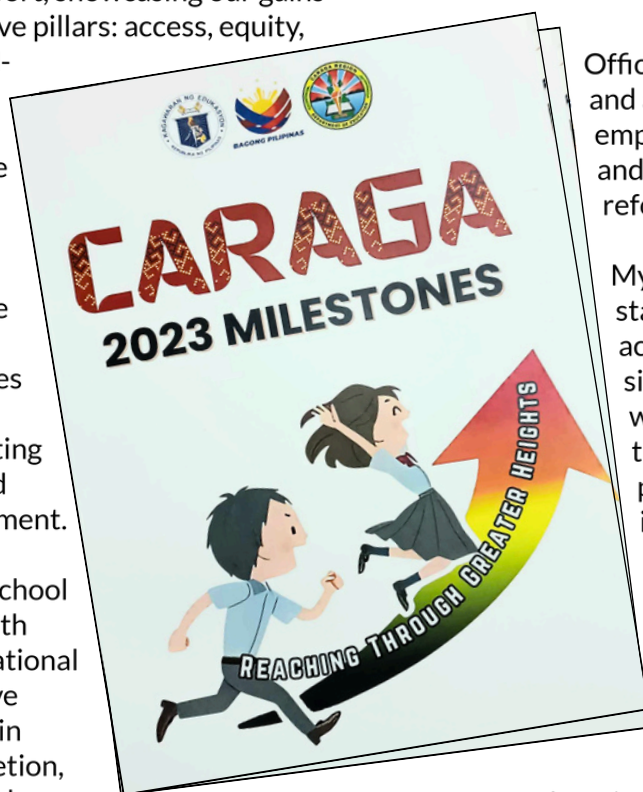
Education is a basic human right for all, not a privilege for a few. The line between a life of promise and a life of liability is drawn not so much by the learners' ability but by their access to quality education.

I am proud to see our recent accomplishments highlighted in the 2023 Milestone Report, showcasing our gains across the department's five pillars: access, equity, quality, resilience and well-being, and governance.

We have made remarkable progress in PISA among 15-year-old learners, particularly in reading, math, and science. Notable achievements in cohort survival and transition rates in elementary education indicate success in promoting educational continuity and fostering student development.

Admittedly, the past two school years were challenging, with low performance in the National Achievement Test. We have also experienced declines in Senior High School completion, graduation, promotion, and retention rates due to high cases of teenage pregnancy, unemployment of parents, high poverty index in the region, and other social factors.

We also face challenges in Special Needs Education (SNEd), such as a limited number of trained teachers and the need for professional assessment of disabilities. In some areas, schools have no complete offering of special education programs. Nonetheless, we have seen an increase in Alternative Learning System (ALS) enrollment. More importantly, our Schools Division



Offices have pinpointed key challenges and are now targeting these areas to empower education leaders, staff, and teachers in driving meaningful reforms.

My dear teachers, learners, and stakeholders, in view of these achievements and challenges, I sincerely commend your hard work. Your efforts have been the cornerstone of our progress, proving that no obstacle is insurmountable when we work together. Your contributions are not just invaluable—they are transformative and will continue to be so in the years ahead.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the educational development of our region.

Sincerely,

Maria Ines C. Asuncion

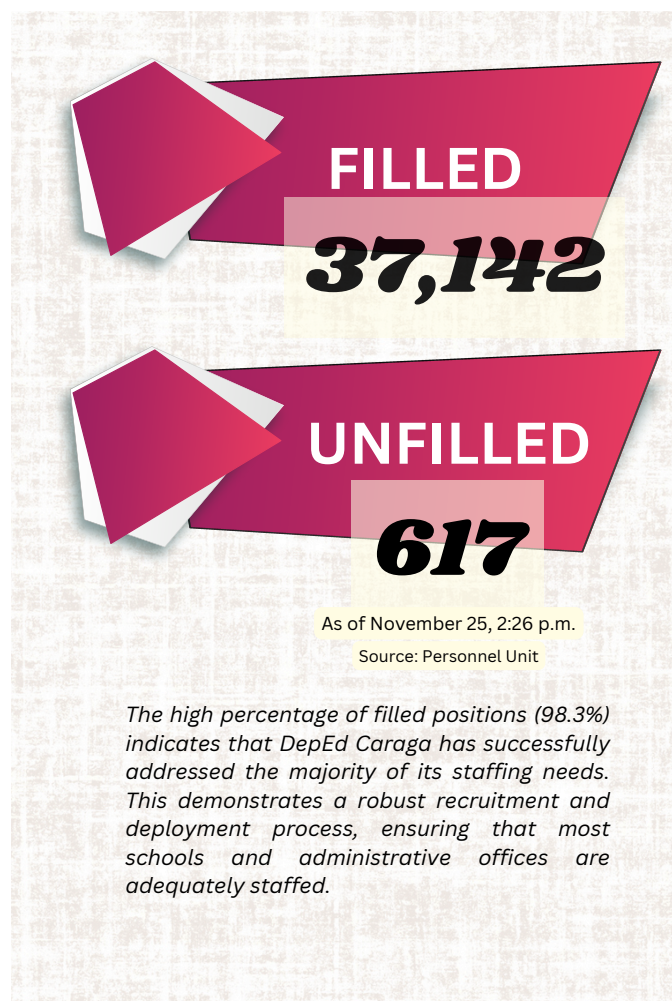
Maria Ines C. Asuncion
Regional Director
Department of Education
Caraga Region

DepEd Caraga achieves 98% staffing rate, tackles remaining gaps in service delivery

The Department of Education (DepEd) Caraga Regional Office, through its Administrative Services Division (ASD), presented critical updates on staffing during the 7th Management Committee (MANCOM) Meeting held on November 25, 2024, at the Gateway Hotel, Surigao City. The discussion centered on the status of filled and unfilled positions across the region and updates regarding ERF (Equivalents Record Form) and reclassification allocations.

The report underscored the progress in addressing staffing gaps in schools and offices. Several key positions have been filled that could enhance operational efficiency and service delivery.

The reclassification and ERF processes have aligned personnel qualifications with their positions. These efforts are part of a broader strategy to empower educators and support staff, ensuring they are adequately recognized and placed in roles that optimize their skills and experience.



Hard to Fill Vacant Positions

As of November 25, 2:26 p.m.

Source: Personnel Unit

GUIDANCE COUNSELOR 138

LIBRARIAN 5

MEDICAL OFFICER III 5

DENTIST II 8

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL 127

ACCOUNTANT II 1

total 284

Regional Director Maria Ines C. Asuncion, CESO IV, has always advocated prioritizing human resource concerns to ensure the smooth implementation of DepEd programs and projects. "Our personnel are the backbone of our education system. Addressing these staffing issues is not just an operational matter but a step toward better learning outcomes for our students," she stated. - **Public Affairs Unit**

New School-Based Management guidelines unveiled

By: Raymond L. Maligro
Head teacher II
Agusan del Sur Division



COLLABORATION. Participants engaged in fostering collaboration with stakeholders on school governance, October 11, 2024. Photo by Alejandro P. Macadatar, PhD.

DepEd Caraga led a crucial orientation on DepEd Order No. 007, s. 2024, on the critical updates to the School-

Based Management (SBM) guidelines, underscoring the department's dedication to driving innovation and strengthening school governance.

From October 9-11, 2024, this event at the Amontay Beach Resort convened the Schools Governance and Operations Division (SGOD) and Curriculum Implementation Division (CID) chiefs, Education Program Supervisors (EPSs), and Public Schools District Supervisors (PSDs), to forge a collective commitment to improve governance and enhance quality education across the region.

By fostering collaboration with stakeholders and aligning key objectives, the orientation set the stage for impactful and effective implementation of the new policy.

Dr. Alejandro P. Macadatar, Chief of the Field Technical Assistance Division (FTAD), outlined the policy's rationale and scope, laying the groundwork for meaningful discussions, followed by the presentations of Jonathan F. Garzon and Maribel J. Taburno on its practical applications as compared to previous DepEd Order No. 83, s. 2012: *Implementing Guidelines on the Revised School-Based Management (SBM) Framework, Assessment Process And Tool (APAT)*.

The comparative study of the old and new SBM policies provided participants with proper perspective, latitude of implementation, and a deeper understanding of the governance structures within DepEd relative to its involvement with stakeholders.

Specifically, an enrichment activity facilitated by Taburno addressed frequently asked questions, clarifying common concerns regarding implementing the new guidelines. A case study also enabled participants to contextualize their knowledge in concrete situations, followed by a self-assessment checklist that helped participants evaluate their understanding of the School-Based Management System.

The final day focused on stakeholder engagement, with sessions by Maria Teresa Ajos, Education Program Supervisor under the SGOD, and Raymond L. Maligro, Head Teacher II, who facilitated the discussions on School Governance Council (SGC) and the SGC Functionality Assessment Tool.

The event concluded with evaluations and reflections, emphasizing DepEd's commitment to capacitate school leaders as agents of change. The activity has empowered participants to lead schools that effectively serve students and uplift communities by promoting collaboration and providing essential tools.

RISING *to greater heights*

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Editorial

DepEd Caraga rose to greater heights in 2023, as reflected in its 96-page Caraga 2023 Milestones Report. Among these was the reintegration of displaced learners that ensured education for all amidst challenging circumstances. This initiative exemplifies the region's dedication to inclusivity, resilience, and will to provide educational services despite the odds.

Another notable achievement was the improvement in the region's performance in the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) across all 12 Schools Division Offices, reflecting significant increase in Reading (21 points), Math (34 points), and Science (19 points).



The enhanced financial system allows for strict monitoring of school Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE), ensuring transparent and effective resource utilization. In addition, the filling of vacant positions and promotion of deserving teachers

This success affirms advances in access, equity, quality, resilience, and well-being, supported by robust enabling mechanisms to achieve educational goals.

Looking ahead to 2025 and beyond, DepEd Caraga is poised to sustain its momentum through transformative initiatives.

The streamlining of school-based management processes promises to enhance operational efficiency, while the enhancement of technical and vocational education courses—in coordination with TESDA and public-private partners—seeks to equip learners with industry-relevant skills.

through reclassification or natural vacancy will boost workforce morale and address staffing needs, even as the region is now empowered to provide CPD units for teachers' professional growth. The region has also reinforced its implementation of the child protection policy, fostering a safe and supportive learning environment for all.

DepEd Caraga's blend of recent achievements and forward-looking initiatives positions the region as a trailblazer in educational excellence and innovation. Its pursuit of continuous improvement and learner well-being establishes a benchmark for excellence, inspiring positive change for a brighter, more meaningful future.

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Revolutionizing Professional Growth by CPD Accessibility

DepEd Caraga achieved a groundbreaking milestone as all 12 of its Schools Division Offices (SDOs) officially obtained accreditation by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) as Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Providers.

This remarkable achievement marks a new era for Caraga educators, granting them easy access to PRC-accredited training and CPD units crucial for license renewal, career growth, and specialization—all within their local divisions.

This success, driven by the vision of Regional Director Maria Ines C. Asuncion, CESO IV, through the legwork of the Human Resource Development Division (HRDD) led by Chief Flordelisa R. Dalin, and the technical support of National Educators Academy of the Philippines (NEAP) Caraga staff, reflects a commitment to uphold the professional advancement of the teaching workforce.

As CPD Providers, SDOs can now deliver innovative workshops tailored to educator needs, from cutting-edge teaching strategies and digital competencies to mental health and inclusive education that directly impact any plans of those wishing to scale the ranks within the Department.

The localized programs provide both convenience and cost-efficiency, enabling educators to save time and resources while earning the much-needed CPD units. These opportunities equip them with practical skills to transform classrooms and inspire learners, ultimately driving positive change in the educational landscape.

Regional Director Maria Ines C. Asuncion celebrated this game-changing achievement, emphasizing its pivotal role in elevating teaching excellence and supporting educators' professional journeys. With more CPD programs set to launch in the coming months, Caraga's teachers can look forward to unparalleled opportunities for growth and success.

This landmark accreditation solidifies DepEd Caraga's commitment to empowering educators to lead, innovate, and make a lasting impact on learners and communities. — **Public Affairs Unit.**

PRC ACCREDITATION NOS.

Agusan del Norte

PTR-2024-526

Agusan del Sur

PTR-2024-631

Dinagat Islands

PTR-2024-624

Surigao del Norte

PTR-2024-541

Surigao del Sur

PTR-2024-633

Bayugan City

PTR-2024-548

Bislig City

PTR-2024-543

Butuan City

PTR-2024-670

Cabadbaran City

PTR-2024-560

Siargao Islands

PTR-2024-646

Surigao City

PTR-2024-563

Tandag City

PTR-2024-605

COMPASSION *in* ACTION

11
feature

The celebration of World Teachers' Day 2024 has passed, but its spirit lives on as the DepEd Caraga top management seeks to honor teachers battling life-threatening illnesses.

On October 21, 2024, Regional Director Maria Ines C. Asuncion, with the regional chiefs, led a compassion initiative to support these teachers in Bayugan West Central Elementary School and Pasta Elementary School in San Francisco, Agusan del Sur.

With generous donations from the LGU of Agusan del Sur, led by Team Eddiebong Plaza, the top regional officials distributed cash gifts, grocery items, and other essentials, along with a heartfelt message of solidarity. *"We are here because we value you as our teachers. You have shaped countless lives, and we stand with you even in your most difficult times,"* Asuncion reassured the ailing teachers, bringing tears to their eyes.

The weight of their diagnoses might be too heavy for many, but not for these teachers.

Despite enduring physical pain and intense suffering, they refused to give up. They continued to meet and teach their students, showing us that true strength is not the absence of hardship but the courage to rise above it. Indeed, they embodied the very essence of heroism.

Compassion in action best describes this initiative—a cycle of love that will continue to ripple through time, creating a legacy for future generations. Scripture reminds us, *"... let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works..."* (Matt. 5:16).

Eventually, this charitable act will become part of the DepEd Caraga Employee Welfare Program as the "ComPassion Initiative," ensuring that teachers with special medical needs are cared for. DepEd Caraga invites more partners in supporting these heroes and honoring their sacrifices.

Together, let us uphold this legacy of compassion and love in the Department of Education. — **Public Affairs Unit.**



Employees to benefit from upgraded digital financial systems

By: Cladie Mae A. Manlangit
Accountant II, Finance Division



EXCITING TIMES for DepEd Caraga as the finance personnel prepare to implement the enhanced financial management system. Seated (L-R): Engr. Efren L. Soliva, Elaine N. Navarro, OIC-Finance Chief, and Ben Jill V. Silvano, State Auditor IV. Photo by Anthea T. Berida.

The Regional Office is set to implement more efficient financial management after conducting a Training Workshop on the Enhanced Electronic New Government accounting System (eNGAS) and Electronic Budget System (eBUDGET) at the Teacher Development Center, Butuan City. Held for three batches: August 5-9, September 9-13, and October 7-11, 2024, the participants included accountants, budget officers, finance staff, IT officers, and COA auditors from the Regional Office and the 12 Schools Division Offices (SDOs).

The workshop featured resource speakers from the Commission on Audit (COA): Mr. Ben Jill V. Silvano, State Auditor IV, and Engr. Efren L. Soliva, IT Officer II. They led the participants in hands-on exercises using sample transactions to ensure mastery of the systems. The facilitators' step-by-step approach ensured everyone progressed together, fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing among participants.



NAVIGATING. Engr. Efren L. Soliva explains the intricacies of the system during the first session. Photo by Anthea T. Berida.

Developed by COA, the eNGAS and eBUDGET software enhances government financial reporting by ensuring accuracy, timeliness, and compliance with government accounting policies. The systems allow COA auditors real-time access to financial records for efficient auditing.

This initiative, first launched by the DepEd Central Office, builds on workshops conducted in May and August 2023. The participants expressed excitement and apprehension about the challenges ahead. Nonetheless, COA experts assured them that early adoption and consistent use will ease the transition process and ensure a smooth implementation.

