

# THE PARAGUA BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE PROVINCIAL STATISTICAL OFFICE OF PALAWAN



Participants taking glance at the Infographics displayed at Gabaldon Hall for the 2024 FLEMMS Regional Dissemination in Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro. Photo courtesy of PSA MIMAROPA

## 2024 Regional FLEMMS Data Dissemination reveals literacy rates of Palawan and PPC

The Regional Data Dissemination on the 2024 Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS) for the MIMAROPA region has officially revealed that 9 out of 10 Puerto Princesans are basic literate, and 8 out of 10 are functionally literate, while 8 out of 10 Palawenos are basic literate and 6 out of 10 are functionally literate, during the dissemination forum held on 30 May 2025 at Gabaldon Hall, Oriental Mindoro National High School, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro.

The Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS) for 2024 was conducted from September to October 2024. This household-based, nationwide survey is carried out every five (5) years in accordance with Executive Order No. 352 (s. 1996), which mandates the collection of critical data to support decision-making by the government and the private sector.

According to the results of the survey, the Province of Palawan recorded a basic literacy rate of 84.0 percent among its population aged 5 years and over in 2024. In comparison, the City of Puerto Princesa reported a higher rate of 94.2 percent. Basic literacy is defined as the ability of a person to read and write a simple message in any language or dialect with understanding, as well as to compute or perform basic mathematical operations.

On the other hand, Functional Literacy refers to the ability of a person to read, write, compute, with higher level of comprehension skills, such as integrating two

or more pieces of information and making inferences based on a given information. In 2024, Palawan recorded a functional literacy rate of 64.5 percent, while Puerto Princesa reported a higher rate of 83.2 percent, both based on their respective populations aged 10 to 64 years.

As to the overall regional survey results, the MIMAROPA region recorded a basic literacy rate of 87.2 percent and a functional literacy rate of 70.7 percent.

For the first time since its inception in 2019, the 2024 FLEMMS has utilized Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) System for the collection of household and individual questionnaires.

The 2024 FLEMMS is the seventh in a series of literacy surveys in the country starting in 1989 and employed tools to measure literacy in the province/HUC domains as recommended by the UNESCO.

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## Palawan's major root crops post declines in second sem of 2024

The province of Palawan recorded a decline in the production of its major root crops during the second semester of 2024. These include cassava, sweet potato (camote), taro (gabi), peanut, and tomato.

Cassava production was estimated at 816.51 metric tons (MT), marking a 2.5 percent decrease from the previous year's 837.77 MT. The area planted or harvested reached 138.85 hectares, down 1.2 percent from 140.55 hectares in the same period of 2023.

Meanwhile, sweet potato or camote production totaled 585.81 MT, a 2.4 percent decline from 600.00 MT in 2023. The planted or harvested area for camote was 145.43 hectares, down 2.1 percent from 148.46 hectares in the previous year.

Likewise, taro (gabi) production was reported at 50.00 MT, a 5.3 percent decrease from 52.80 MT in 2023. The planted or harvested area fell to 28.20 hectares, down 6.3 percent from 29.97 hectares in the same period last year.

Peanut production also declined to 96.77 MT, a 3.5 percent decrease from 100.31 MT in 2023. The area planted or harvested was 115.47 hectares, down to 4.1 percent as compared to 120.25 hectares reported in the previous year.

Tomato production was estimated at 31.11 MT, a 4.3 percent drop from 32.50 MT in the same semester of 2023. The planted or harvested area registered at 17.93 hectares, an equivalent of 3.2 percent decrease from 18.50 hectares in the past year.

A similar downward trend was observed in major vegetables such as eggplant, which recorded 33.16 MT, down 6.4 percent from 35.40 MT in 2023, and string beans (sitao) with 58.04 MT, down 4.7 percent from 60.88 MT in the same period.

Conversely, swamp cabbage (kangkong) was the only major vegetable to show an increase, rising by 3.6 percent from 198.92 MT to 206.02 MT, with an area planted or harvested of 31.17 hectares during the reference period.

## PSA Palawan, DSWD converge for Social Protection beneficiaries in Southern Palawan

In a continuous effort to streamline public service delivery and offer steadfast government initiatives to the public, the PSA Palawan and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has successfully conducted a joint mobile registration initiative from May 27 to 29, 2025, in Barangay Sumbiling and Marangas, Bataraza, and Barangay Saraza, Brooke's Point, Palawan.

The collaboration was part of the "E-Panalo ang Kinabukasan: Mobile Distribution" campaign, aimed at bringing government services closer to geographically isolated and disadvantaged communities.



Aligned with the PSA-DSWD Memorandum of Agreement on the integration of the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) into DSWD's social protection programs, the PSA team provided on-site National ID registration, issuance of national ID in paper form, and retrieval of Transaction Reference Numbers (TRNs). These services supported DSWD's mobile payout operations by ensuring accurate and efficient identity verification of beneficiaries.

The initiative enabled social protection program beneficiaries to register for the National ID, claim their national IDs, and recover lost TRNs—critical steps in securing continued access to government assistance. This one-stop-shop approach not only improved the efficiency of social aid distribution but also reinforced the role of PhilSys as a foundational tool for inclusive and transparent public service delivery.

The PSA and DSWD reaffirm their commitment to sustained collaboration in expanding access to essential services, especially in hard-to-reach communities.

Through joint efforts like these, the government continues to move closer to its goal of a fully integrated, people-centered digital governance system.

## PSA Palawan brings civil registration, national ID campaign to Brooke's Point Muslim community

In an advocacy campaign organized by the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos - South Luzon in collaboration with the Local Civil Registry Office of the Municipality of Brooke's Point, the PSA Palawan brought its services closer to the Muslim communities as it participated in the Advocacy Campaign on Civil registration, Birth, and National ID Mobile Registration, held on 06 May 2025 at the Convention Center of Brooke's Point, Palawan.

The campaign focused on raising awareness and access to civil registration and National ID services among Muslim communities who often face challenges in obtaining legal

documentation. The importance of these services in promoting access to education, healthcare, and social protection was also highlighted.

Municipal Civil Registrar Salve Corazon T. Villaruel discussed civil registration procedures concerning Muslim Filipinos, while PSA Palawan's Registration Officer II Romelita F. Hernandez presented an overview of the agency's programs and services, and Registration Officer II and Philsys Focal Person Ariel D. Magallanes of PSA Palawan provided updates on the National ID registration process, explaining its benefits and current implementation status.

To complement to the information drive campaign, an on-site National ID registration, issuance of e-PhilIDs, and distribution of brochures on civil registration were conducted – helping ensure that the services were accessible and informative for the target beneficiaries.

PSA Palawan's generous participation reflects its continued commitment to supporting inclusive and community-based outreach efforts across the province.



**PSA Palawan qualifies for 2025 cybersecurity regional assessment**

As part of the Philippine Statistics Authority's ongoing efforts to enhance its cybersecurity framework in the national spectrum, the PSA Palawan has successfully undergone tests and risk assessments on cybersecurity on 23 May 2025 conducted by two responsible divisions of the PSA Central Office.

The said assessment was led by Information Systems Analysts I Louie Andrew Florendo and Genesis Daniel Cruz from Information and Cybersecurity Division (ICD) and Computer Maintenance Technologist I Rodolfo Ayong from Infrastructure and Systems Management Division (ISMD) under the Systems and Information Security Service, who carried out the 2025 Regional Cybersecurity Assessment (RCA) to assess the cybersecurity preparedness of all Provincial Statistical Offices in the MIMAROPA region.

The assessment covered all units of PSO Palawan to check the 5 Phases of Cybersecurity assessment, Physical Security Assessment, Infrastructure Security Assessment



Information, Backup and Data Protection, Account Security Information and Cybersecurity Awareness Training, through the assistance of Information Systems Analyst I Reinell L. Manlapaz from PSO Palawan in the completion of the questionnaires, interviews, technical and logistical support during the actual assessment.

During the final analysis of the concerns and issues found, the technical assessors have presented potential threats, vulnerabilities, risks and security measures on how to mitigate them, noting that cybersecurity is not just a technical issue, but rather a shared responsibility.

The activity highlights that from individual users to global organizations, everyone plays a role in fostering a safe and secure digital environment.

The PSO Palawan is aware that as cyber threats continue to evolve, so must its strategies and awareness as investing in cybersecurity is investing in the resilience and integrity of our digital future.

**Inflation in Palawan decreases, PPC increases for May 2025**

The headline inflation for Palawan has decelerated to 2.3 percent in May 2025 from 2.9 percent in April 2025. The downtrend was brought by lower index for Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages with 1.6 percent inflation from 2.9 percent inflation in the previous month. Transport falls second with 1.8 percent from an annual decline of 1.6 percent in April 2025, followed by Clothing and Footwear which registered at 1.3 percent from 1.6 percent in the past month.

In Puerto Princesa City, the headline inflation rate rose to 4.2 percent in May 2025 from 3.7 percent in April 2025. The uptrend was due to a higher increment observed in the commodity group of Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels with 3.2 percent inflation from 1.9 percent in the previous month.

The second contributor was Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages rising to 3.8 percent from 3.3 percent in April 2025. Also affecting the uptrend was a higher increment in Transport with a decline of 3.1 percent from 3.3 percent in the previous month.

Meanwhile, Palawan’s inflation rate for the Bottom 30% Income Households decreased to 1.3 percent in May 2025 from 2.1 percent in April 2025 as mainly driven by the lower year-on-year growth in Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages at 0.4 percent from 2.1 percent in April 2025. This was followed by Transport at 3.4 percent from 2.8 percent, and Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance at 1.3 percent from 1.8 percent.

For Puerto Princesa City, the inflation rate for the Bottom 30% Income Households posted an increase at 3.3 percent in May 2025 from 2.4 percent in April 2025 as mainly driven by the higher year-on-year growth in the heavily weighted Food and Non-alcoholic Beverages at 2.8 percent from 1.9 percent in April 2025.

The commodity group of Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas and Other Fuels falls second with 5.3 percent from 3.1 percent, followed by Transport at a decline of 1.0 percent in May 2025 from an annual decline of 1.3 percent in the past month.

Aligned with the BJMP’s continuing efforts to promote holistic rehabilitation, emotional well-being, and reintegration of PDLs into society, the program fosters a message of hope, uplifting of dignity, and human connection, affirming that even behind bars, marginalized individuals like them, who are confined and are subject to loss of freedom, are still seen, valued, and cared for.

This meaningful engagement is part of the BJMP’s monthly initiative called “Kamayan sa Piitan,” aptly dubbed “Kamalayan at Magandang Samahan na may Yakap ng Pag-asa,” which promotes positive social interactions and uplifts the mental and emotional wellness of persons in detention.

KNOWLEDGE CORNER

Republic Act No. 11315  
**CBMS Act**  
 17 April 2019



refers to an organized technology-based system of collecting, processing, and validating necessary disaggregated data, that may be used for planning, program implementation, and impact monitoring at the local level while empowering communities to participate in the process.

The PSA shall serve as lead agency in the implementation of the CBMS.

FUN CORNER

Arrange the following southern municipalities according to their Philippine Standard Geographical Codes (PSGC):

- NARRA**
- SOFRONIO ESPAÑOLA**
- QUEZON**
- RIZAL**
- BROOKE’S POINT**
- BATARAZA**
- BALABAC**



*Note: Answer will be provided in June 2025 Edition of this Publication.*



**SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

**16 female PDLs receive gifts from PSA ahead of Mother’s Day**



The PSA Palawan held a celebration ahead of Mother’s Day by gift-giving to 16 female Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) at the Puerto Princesa City Jail - Female Dormitory on 09 May 2025 as part of its Social Responsibility program.

Each of the recipient received “tokens of care” which included tote bags, reading materials, and hand fans.

PSA Staff composed of Statistical Specialist II Maylyn Q. Villegas, Administrative Officer I Carla Jane L. Guiruela, Administrative Aide VI Jenny P. Unico, Statistical Analyst Divine Grace A. Faminial, and Assistant Statistician Jorene Mae M. Cabanillas, facilitated the outreach initiative which underscores PSA’s commitment to inclusive and people-centered service to the marginalized sector of society.

**Editor-in-Chief:**

**MAYLYN Q. VILLEGAS**, *Statistical Specialist II*

**Contributors:**

- JOHN PAUL G. FAVILA**, *Statistical Analyst*
- MARNITO C. ANDRADA**, *Statistical Specialist II*
- CARLA JANE L. GUIRUELA**, *Administrative Officer I*
- REINELL L. MANLAPAZ**, *Information Systems Analyst I*
- GIAN NIGELLE R. DORIA**, *Birth Registration Coordinator*

**Advisers:**

- DONNA MARIE D. MOBE**, *Officer-in-Charge*
- JESUS NIÑO M. SORIMA**, *Senior Statistical Specialist*