



The Marble Gazette

The Official Newsletter of PSO Romblon | 2025-005, May 2025 Issue

I. Basic Literacy

Figure 2: Basic Literacy Rate of Population 5 Years Old and Over by Province, MIMAROPA Region, 2024 (in percent)



- Basic literacy rate was highest in the province of Romblon (94.6%).
- Palawan, recorded the lowest (84.0%).

ROMBLON RANKS 3RD IN BASIC LITERACY AND 4TH IN FUNCTIONAL LITERACY NATIONWIDE ACCORDING TO THE 2024 FLEMMS

On 30 May 2025, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) - Romblon Provincial Statistical Office participated in the Regional Data Dissemination Forum on 2024 Functional Literacy, Education, and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS) at the Gabaldon Hall, Oriental Mindoro National High School in Calapan City.

The event, led by PSA RSSO MIMAROPA Regional Director Ms. Leni R. Rioflorido, highlighted Romblon's Basic Literacy Rate of 94.6%, indicating that 9 out of 10 Romblomanons aged 5 and above can read, write, and perform basic computations. Additionally, the province achieved a Functional Literacy Rate of 81.9% among individuals aged 10 to 64, indicating that 8 out of 10 Romblomanons in this age group can read, write, compute, and comprehend. Romblon ranked third nationwide in Basic Literacy, following Apayao and Benguet, and fourth in Functional Literacy among all provinces.

The FLEMMS is conducted every five years, providing essential data for government and private sector decision-making and guiding the development of policies and programs aimed at improving literacy and education across the country.

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PSA Romblon Sets Sight for Successful May 2025 Round Surveys

The Philippine Statistics Authority- Romblon Provincial Statistical Office continued to conduct statistical operations for May 2025 round surveys.

From 01-06 May 2025, PSA Romblon conducted the field operations of the May 2025 Monthly Palay and Corn Situation Reporting System (MPCRSR) and Rice and Corn Stocks Survey (RCSS) for Households and Commercial Establishments. A total of four (4) Statistical Researchers (SRs) were hired for the said surveys.



For the RCSS: Households survey, the province has 128 samples spread across 10 barangays. Meanwhile, the RCSS: Commercial survey includes a total of eight (8) samples in four (4) barangays.

The RCSS:C and RCSS: H are monthly surveys that collect data on rice, corn grain, and corn grits stocks from commercial establishments, households, and non-commercial granaries as of 6:00 AM of the first day of each month. The data gathered, along with household and government stocks, aids in monitoring the supply and demand of the food staples, ensuring price stability and access.

In the May MPCRSR, there are 44 palay samples distributed in four barangays, while corn accounts for 38 samples in three barangays. The MPCRSR is a monitoring system for the growing conditions and actual plantings of palay and corn. It aims to update the current quarter's estimates based on standing crops and to project next quarter's estimates based on farmers' planting intentions.

Then, for 2025 monthly Survey of Retail Prices of Selected Commodities for the Generation of Consumer Price Index (CPI), the survey is being conducted in two phases: the first phase on the 1st to 5th day of the month and the second phase on the 15th to 17th day. Additionally, the prices for petroleum products will be collected every Tuesday.



The Retail Price Survey (RPS) collects retail prices and other relevant marketing information at various frequencies at pre-selected major trading centers throughout the province. The term "retail price" refers to the price at which a commodity is sold in small quantities for consumption.



Six (6) hired Statistical Researchers (SR) were utilized to visit the sample outlets/establishments in the municipalities of Odiongan, Looc, San Agustin, Romblon and Cajidiocan.

Meanwhile, three (3) Statistical Researchers were hired and trained to enumerate one hundred (100) sample households from six (6) sample barangays in the province for the May 2025 Labor Force Survey with Rider Questions on Volunteer Work.

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The May 2025 Labor Force Survey (LFS) aims to capture comprehensive information on household economic activities across the country, serving as a cornerstone for developing policies and programs that address the evolving challenges of the labor market.

Included in the May 2025 LFS are the Volunteer Work Questions that will generate reliable data on volunteer works in the labor force to reveal more clearly the potential economic impact of volunteer works. This can be used by our policy makers and program managers, both in the public and private sector, to craft new policies and guidelines that will provide citizens varied areas of opportunity for civic engagement, high levels of voluntary participation, and innovate volunteering infrastructure. This includes information on the kind of voluntary activities, the number of hours spent volunteering, the organizations involved, and other related factors.



Data collection for this survey was carried from May 8 - 28, 2025 in sample households located in the municipalities of Alcantara, Cajidiocan, Calatrava, San Agustin and San Fernando.

PSA Romblon enjoins the support of the public, especially the sample households, by providing the required information to authorized PSA field personnel during interviews. All information obtained from this survey will be kept strictly confidential as stipulated in Section 26 of RA 10625 (Confidentiality of Information) and Section 8 of RA 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (Confidentiality) and will not be used for taxation, investigation, or law enforcement purposes.

BSP Directs Full Acceptance of All National ID Formats by Financial Institutions

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) has released Memorandum No. 2025-012, giving a directive to all BSP-Supervised Financial Institutions (BSFIs) for the acceptance of all officially accepted formats of the Philippine National ID as valid identification for financial transactions.



According to Republic Act No. 11055 or the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) Act, and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (RIRR), BSFIs are required to recognize the National ID card, paper-based National ID, and Digital National ID without further identification documents.

For secure and efficient verification of identity, the BSP also requires BSFIs to:

- Use the National ID Check tool through <https://everify.gov.ph/check> for the validation of the authenticity of all submitted ID formats;
- Use the PhilSys Authentication Services through eVerify (<https://everify.gov.ph>) to facilitate real-time ID verification; and Revise internal policies and branch-level procedures to ensure that the National ID, in all its forms, is given priority in the official list of acceptable identification documents.

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This directive supports the national effort to strengthen digital identity verification, enforce regulatory compliance, and foster inclusive financial access in different regions. BSFIs are urged to undertake constant training of frontline staff and enforce policy compliance through regular internal messages and procedural revisions.

PSA Romblon Conducts 2024 Annual Survey of Philippine Business and Industry (2024 ASPBI) & 2024 Survey on Information and Communications Technology (2024 SICT)

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) conducts two economic surveys - the 2024 Annual Survey of Philippine Business and Industry (ASPBI) and the 2024 Survey on Information and Communications Technology (SICT).

The Annual Survey of Philippine Business and Industry (ASPBI), one of the designated statistical activities of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), generates essential statistics for economic planning and analysis. It is specifically designed to collect and generate information on the levels, structure, performance, and trends of economic activities of the country.

The 2024 ASPBI is the 51st in a series of annual surveys of establishments in the country. The ASPBI generates essential statistics for economic planning and analysis. Specifically, this survey is designed to collect and generate information on the levels, structure, performance and trends of economic activities in the country.

Meanwhile, the 2024 SICT will collect information on the availability, distribution, and access/utilization of ICT among establishments in the country and generate core ICT indicators important for measuring the progress in information and communication technology.



The data collection of 2024 ASPBI will run April 21, 2025 to June 30, 2025. For 2024 ASPBI, there were 84 sample establishments across multiple sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, utilities, construction, trade, finance, and services. On the other hand, 2024 SICT will collect ICT-related data from 57 sample establishments that are directly involved in information and communication technology services.

The data reference period for both surveys is the calendar year 2024, except for employment figures, which will refer specifically until November 2024. Furthermore, the collected data will only be published as aggregate statistics and summary tables, ensuring the anonymity and privacy of all participating enterprises.

National ID on Wheels: PSA Extends Services to Romblon's Elderly and Social Pensioners

The National ID on Wheels program, formerly known as PhilSys on Wheels, is an initiative of the Philippine Statistics Authority designed to bring National ID registration services closer to the public, particularly to individuals in geographically isolated areas, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens.

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By using mobile registration kits and a vehicle as alternative registration center, the program ensures convenient and inclusive access to National ID services for those who face challenges reaching fixed registration sites. This effort is part of PSA's commitment to provide accessible and equitable public service in support of the Philippine National Identification System (PhilSys) mandate.

In the municipality of Romblon, PSA registration personnel partnered with the Office of the Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA), under the leadership of OSCA President Mrs. Semie Mallen, to officially launch the National ID on Wheels initiative. This targeted campaign focused on bedridden social pension beneficiaries who are unable to personally visit registration centers due to medical or mobility issues.



PSA Romblon personnel conducted mobile registration activities across seven barangays in the municipality of Romblon last May 14-16, 2025. A total of 14 individuals were successfully registered during the three-day outreach.

The National ID on Wheels initiative will continue targeting an additional 22 barangays, with the possibility of extension based on demand and need. National ID personnel also encourage locals to help their family members, especially the elderly, prepare the required documents, such as a birth certificate, senior citizen ID, or any other valid government-issued ID for the Step 2 registration process.

PSA Romblon Equips MCRs and MSWDOs with Key Insights on Adoption and Foundling Law Thru RA 11642 and RA 11767 Training

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) – Romblon Provincial Statistical Office successfully hosted a three-day comprehensive training program on Republic Act 11642 or “The Domestic Administrative Adoption and Alternative Child Care Act” and Republic Act 11767, known as “Foundling Recognition and Protection Act” on 20-22 May 2025 at El Krimphoff Lodge, Lonos, Romblon, Romblon.



This training was designed to strengthen institutional capacity, promote effective application of these laws in the field and to enhance the efficiency and accuracy of vital statistics management related to adoption, foundling and child welfare.

Municipal Civil Registrars (MCRs), Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officers (MSWDOs), representative from Ruel Foundation and PSO Romblon personnel attended the training.

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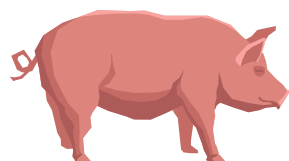
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Resource persons in the training were Statistical Specialist II of PSA-RSSO MIMAROPA Ms. Ella Jean Rose T. Del Rosario, Social Welfare Office III of RACCO-MIMAROPA Ms. Alyssa S. Cabrera, and PSA Romblon staff Chief Statistical Specialist Engr. Johnny F. Solis and Statistical Specialist II Bobby M. Natal.



Overall, the combination of lectures, workshops, and interactive exercises made the training both informative and impactful. Through this initiative, it equipped participants with the legal knowledge and practical tools necessary to uphold the rights of children, especially those in vulnerable situations, and to implement RA 11642 and RA 11767 effectively in their respective roles.

DID YOU KNOW?



Hog dominated the livestock production in 2024, contributing **85.37** percent share to the total livestock production of the province.



National ID Updates

as of 31 May 2025

Registrants successfully onboarded to National ID System

262,219

262,154

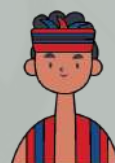
Romblomanons have registered to NID

65

registered residents outside the province

19,074

registered indigenous people to PhilSys in Romblon



2,668

Ati

11,598

Bantayanon

4,808

Sibuyan Mangyan Taga-bukid

170

registered Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs)



226,313

National ID in paper form printed and delivered

45,595

ePhilIDs issued via Mode 1- By Request/ Appointment Setting



180,718

ePhilIDs issued via Mode 2 - By print or deliver



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