

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF ISABELA

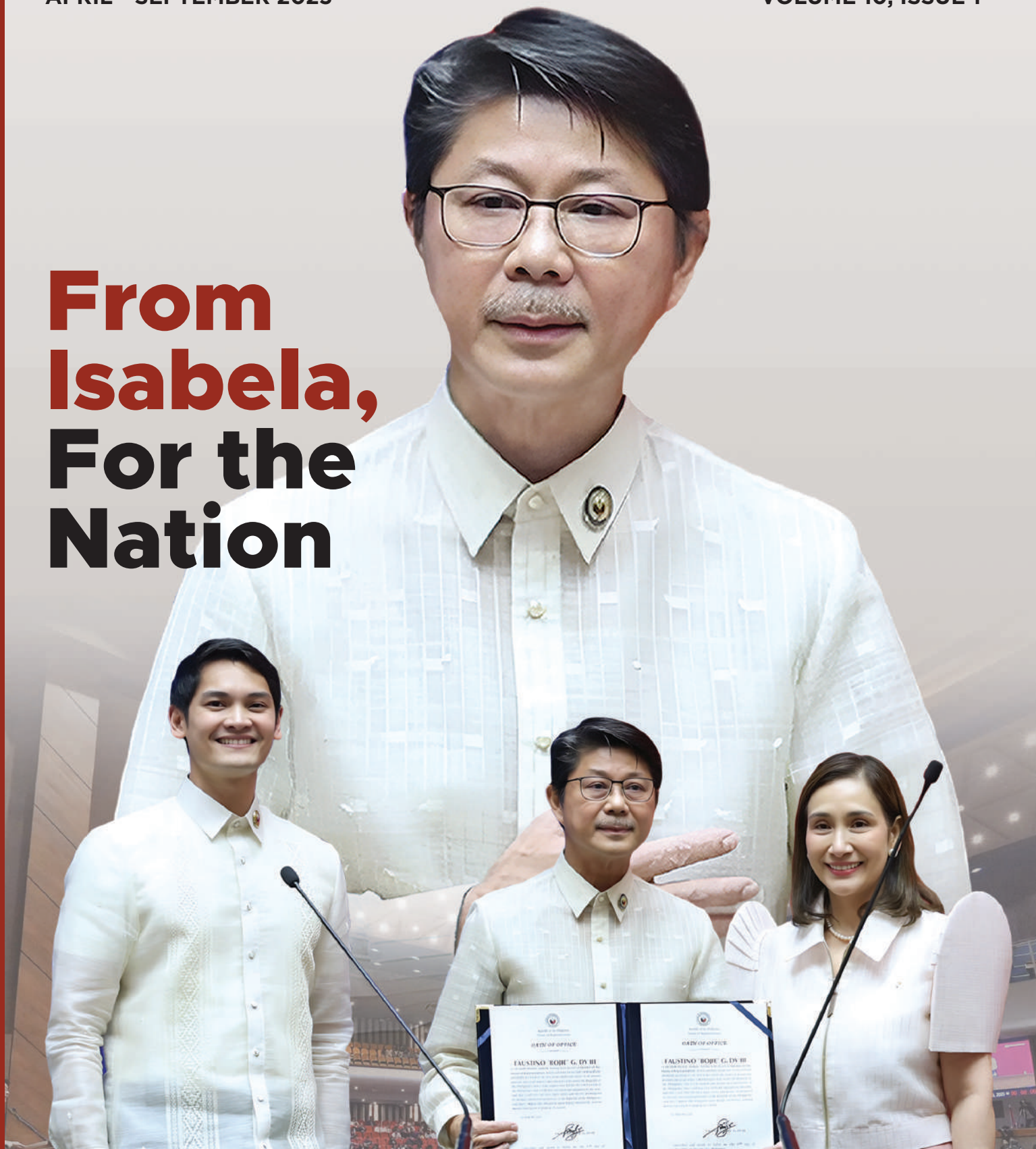
# INFOCUS



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## From Isabela, For the Nation





## EDITOR'S NOTE

# From Isabela, For the Nation

The province of Isabela takes great pride in the assumption of Hon. Faustino "Bojie" G. Dy III as Speaker of the House of Representatives in the 20th Congress. For Isabelinos, this moment is more than the recognition of one man's achievement—it is an affirmation of Isabela's enduring legacy of leadership, compassion, and good governance.

From his early years as Kabataang Barangay chairman to his unblemished service as Vice Mayor, Mayor of Cauayan City, Governor, and Vice Governor, Speaker "Bojie" Dy has built a public life rooted in humility and compassion for his constituents. His journey reflects his devotion to empower communities, uplift farmers, and widen the paths of opportunity through education, enterprise and honest governance.

As Vice Governor, he worked closely with Governor Rodito T. Albano III - their leadership defined not by rhetoric but by responsiveness—listening to the people and understanding their needs.

Barely ten days after taking his oath, Speaker Dy returned home to Isabela. He met with farmers burdened by low palay prices and delayed government support, thereafter conferring with officials of the National Food Authority and the Department of Agriculture to address the farmers' plight. That act revealed the kind of leadership our times demand—swift, grounded, and compassionate.

Speaker Dy stands apart as a man who strongly believes in the redemptive power of public service. The Speakership, especially in these turbulent times, is not a privilege—it is a solemn duty, he is aware that true leadership is not measured by prestige but by the courage to bear responsibility with integrity.

Never in the history of Congress has this level of sincerity been accorded a nation. He carries a historic and heavy role in one of the country's most trying moments. Speaker Bojie Dy accepted its cost. He did not perform a role; he lived it—with restraint, humility, and conviction. From the rice fields of Isabela to the halls of Congress, he bears the faith of a people who have long known his quiet strength. He is calm amid conflict, principled amid pressure, and humane amid hostility. He does not rise above the people; he walks among them.

May he remain steadfast in conscience, unshaken by noise, and unwavering in his faith that service—when rooted in humility—can still redeem leadership. For when history looks back on these fragile times, may it find in Speaker Faustino "Bojie" G. Dy III a man who bore the nation's weight with humility, lifting it with integrity.

**ATTY. ELIZABETH P. CUREG-BINAG**

Editor-in-Chief

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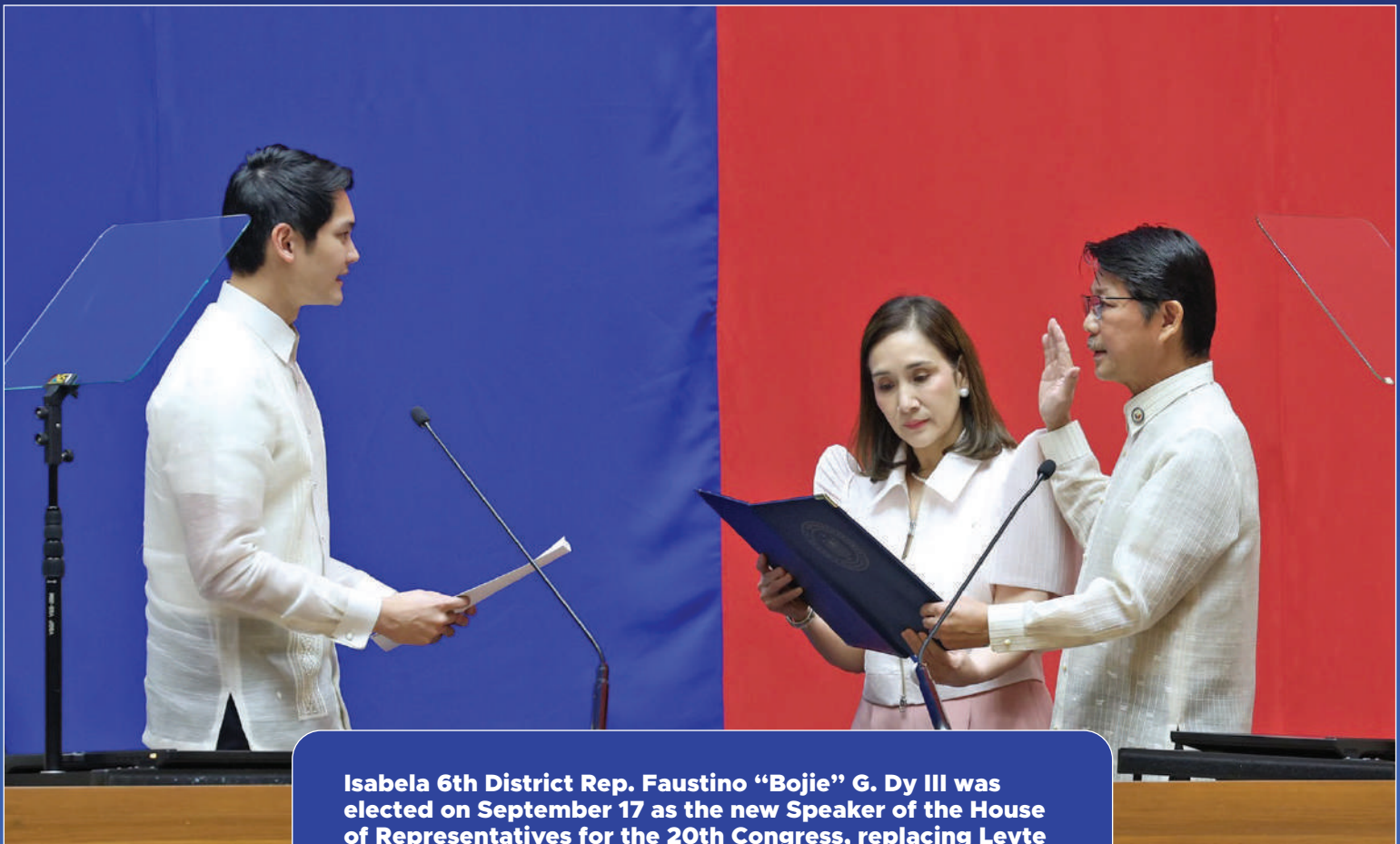
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**"Tapping the wonders of technology and harnessing the power of information in pursuit of a stronger citizenry and more enduring institutions."**



# Isabela 6th District Rep. Bojie Dy Elected New House Speaker



Isabela 6th District Rep. Faustino “Bojie” G. Dy III was elected on September 17 as the new Speaker of the House of Representatives for the 20th Congress, replacing Leyte 1st District Rep. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez.

**Dy secured 253 votes, with 28 abstentions and no objections.**

He was nominated by Quezon City 2nd District Rep. Ralph Wendel P. Tulfo and was the sole nominee.

**253**  
VOTES

**A veteran public servant,** Dy began his political career in 1980 as Action Officer of the Kabataan Barangay for Region II. He later served as director of the Kapisanan ng mga Barangay ng Pilipinas in 1989, vice mayor of Cauayan (1990–1992), and mayor (1992–2001).

He represented Isabela’s 3rd District in Congress from 2001 to 2010, served as provincial governor from 2010 to 2019, and as vice governor from 2019 to 2025.

Drawing on his decades of local and national experience, Dy vowed to restore integrity in congress through budget reforms, transparency, and accountability.

**“Under my leadership, this House will change. I will not defend the guilty. I will not shield the corrupt. Gaya ng paninindigan ng ating Pangulo—no rank, no ally, no office will be spared from accountability,”** Dy said.

He also acknowledged public discontent with

Congress, appealing for understanding and a renewed chance to prove the legislature’s integrity.

**“Mayroon kaming pagkukulang. Kami po ay nagpapakumbaba. Nakikiusap po kami na sana bigyan ninyo kami ng pagkakataong ituwid ang mga maling kalakaran at linisin ang aming hanay,”** he said.

In a statement, Malacañang said it looked forward to working with Speaker Dy **“as the administration continues to respond to the people’s most urgent concerns.”**

# Speaker Bojie Dy Meets Isabela Farmers to Tackle Agri Concerns



House Speaker Faustino "Bojie" Dy III convened a strategic dialogue with farmers at the Isabela Convention Center (ICON) in Cauayan City on September 27, 2025 to address pressing agricultural concerns.

The forum brought together key stakeholders, including Provincial Agriculturist Sergio Galanggam, city and municipal agriculturists, leaders of Irrigators Associations and Farmers' Cooperatives, as well as mayors and city officials from Cauayan.

Dy highlighted the critical challenges facing the agricultural sector and underscored government programs and budget allocations designed to ensure rice availability and support local farmers.

He noted that issues raised over the past month, particularly concerning the National Food Authority (NFA), required immediate attention.

Dy said it was essential for farmers' concerns to reach the President, and he stressed that the dialogue provided a platform to explore practical solutions collaboratively.

**The Speaker detailed plans to expand storage and distribution infrastructure, addressing reports of low-priced wet palay and highlighting the operation of drying facilities in Cabagan, Echague, Cauayan, and San Mariano.**

**"Kailangang magkaisa tayo para sa ating mga magsasaka, sa agarang suporta at pangmatagalang reporma, titiyakin nating may kinabukasan ang kanilang kabuhayan at may murang bigas ang bawat Pilipino."**

Additional facilities are planned to improve accessibility for farmers across all six districts of Isabela.

Dy also called for strengthened coordination with provincial agencies and the DSWD to

support tens of thousands of farmers, noting that the province has over 119,000 registered farmers.

## During the dialogue, farmers raised specific concerns:

- Anak Bakir of San Mateo requested additional solar dryers from the Department of Agriculture.
- A farmer from Cauayan suggested converting fertilizer subsidies into cash, while a farmer from San Agustin requested that seed subsidies be provided as hybrid seeds.
- Dy responded that under the 2026 budget, cash assistance and crop insurance would be made available to one million farmers, effectively addressing both requests.
- A retired government official, now a farmer, proposed reallocating DPWH funds to the NFA, with Dy assuring increased agricultural funding.
- The dialogue concluded with Dy reaffirming the government's commitment to strengthening agricultural productivity and livelihoods, emphasizing the goal of building a more resilient sector, ensuring responsible budgeting, and restoring public confidence in Congress through targeted farmer support.

# Governor Rodito Stresses Humility, Limits of Power as He Begins 3rd Term



Governor Rodolfo “Rodito” T. Albano III on June 30, 2025 formally took his oath of office for his third term as the province’s chief executive, highlighting the importance of humility in leadership and the impermanence of power.

Albano, who ran unopposed, was sworn in by Hon. Grace A. Manaloto, Presiding Judge of the Regional Trial Court, Branch 18.

In his inaugural address, he reminded officials and constituents that authority is a temporary trust granted by the people.

**“Nothing lasts forever. Power, achievements, and even legacies are transient, reminding us that our time here is temporary,” he said.**

The governor expressed gratitude to provincial officials, employees, and ordinary Isabelinos, stressing that the province’s successes were achieved because of their invaluable contributions.

**“To our dedicated officials and team members: your commitment and hard work have been the backbone of our progress. And to all Isabelinos: your resilience, hope, and active participation are what make our province strong,” he remarked.**

Albano also emphasized that leadership is not about one individual but about collective responsibility and shared vision.

**“Leadership is a shared responsibility we shoulder with humility, but also with the understanding that it is our testament to faith and support. True change comes from the many, from each of us,” he declared.**

Quoting Winston Churchill, the governor stressed the role of courage in leadership, saying it is not only about speaking up but also about knowing when to listen.

**“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen. When we listen, lead, and act with courage, our collective efforts become unstoppable,” Albano noted.**

As he prepares to conclude his last term as Governor, Albano described governance as a continuing journey that extends beyond personalities and political terms.

**“As I prepare to pass the torch, I do so with humility and confidence, knowing that leadership is a continuum. It is not about one person or one term, but about passing the flame—passing the torch—so that the next chapter is written by many, guided by hope, responsibility, and a shared vision for progress, and the unwavering trust we place in God’s divine guidance,” he affirmed.**



**"LEADERSHIP IS A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY."**





# Gov. Rodito Sworn In as LPP Senior VP for North Luzon in Malacañang

Isabela Governor Rodito T. Albano officially assumed as Senior Vice President for North Luzon of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) following his oath of office before President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. in Malacañang Palace on September 3, 2025.

Albano, who has long championed provincial development in Northern Luzon, joins the LPP leadership that will steer the organization until July 31, 2028.

As Senior Vice President, he is expected to work closely with fellow regional leaders in pushing programs that promote inclusive growth and stronger local governance.

South Cotabato Governor Reynaldo Tamayo Jr. leads the newly elected set of officers as National President, having secured re-election during the July 25 polls. Quirino Governor Dakila Carlo "Dax" Cua was likewise reelected as National Chairperson, while Pampanga Governor Lilia Pineda was chosen as Executive Vice President.



**The LPP, composed of all 82 provincial governments has served since 1987 as a collective voice for local leaders, advancing unity, policy collaboration, and capacity-building programs to strengthen provincial governance.**

In his message, President Marcos praised the organization's enduring commitment to public service and its vital role in nation-building pointing out the league's contributions in agriculture, particularly in ensuring the delivery of affordable rice and social support to those most in need.

Other officers sworn in are Camarines Sur Governor Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr. (Senior Vice President for Luzon South), Iloilo Governor Arthur Defensor Jr. (Visayas), and Dinagat Islands Governor Nilo Demerey Jr. (Mindanao).



## Gov. Rodito Takes Oath as Member of Reorganized RDC Region 2

Isabela Governor Rodito T. Albano took his oath on August 29, 2025 as a member of the newly reorganized Regional Development Council (RDC) of Cagayan Valley for the 2025–2028 term during the 136th Full Council Meeting in Tuguegarao City.

He took his oath along with Cagayan Governor Edgar B. Aglipay, Batanes Governor Ronald P. Aguto Jr., Nueva Vizcaya Governor Jose V. Gambito, regional directors, city mayors, and private sector representatives.

He said the leadership of the region's highest policy-making body for the 2025–2028 term now rests with Malacañang, as the region awaits President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s appointment of the next chair for RDC-02.

Albano was also presented with a plaque of recognition by the RDC for **“unifying diverse sectors and championing the regional development agenda”** during his 2022 to 2025 term as chair. He likewise served as RDC chair from 2019 to 2022.

He expressed his gratitude to the members of the RDC and partner institutions for the confidence they entrusted to him during his two terms as chair.

**“I wish to express my profound gratitude for your trust, support, and collaboration during my term. What we have accomplished, from advancing infrastructure and social programs to laying the foundations of long-term plans, is not my**

**achievement alone but the result of our collective efforts and unity,”** he said.

He hoped that the incoming leadership will build on what has been accomplished and advance the region's development agenda.

**“I am confident that the new leadership of the RDC will build on what we have achieved and push our region further toward inclusive growth and sustainable progress,”** he said.

The Council also tackled key agenda items, such as the adoption of the Regional Development Plan Midterm Update, the long-term Regional Physical Framework Plan, and the endorsement of priority programs like 4Ps employment and the SPLIT Project.



## Echague Mayor Inno Dy Is New LMP President

Echague Mayor Faustino "Inno" A. Dy V formally assumed as President of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) following his oath of office before President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on October 7.

The oath-taking ceremony was held at the Kalayaan Hall of Malacañang Palace in Manila, where Marcos called on local government units (LGUs) to help restore the people's trust in the government.

Joining Mayor Dy in taking their oaths were San Juan City Mayor Francis Javier M. Zamora, LCP President; Rep. Joseph Sto. Niño B. Bernos, LMP President Emeritus; and Roxas City Mayor Ronnie T. Dadvas, LCP National Vice Chairperson.

Mayor Dy's election as LMP President brings together 1,493 municipal mayors nationwide under his leadership, reinforcing collaboration among local governments in promoting inclusive growth, rural development, and improved public service delivery.

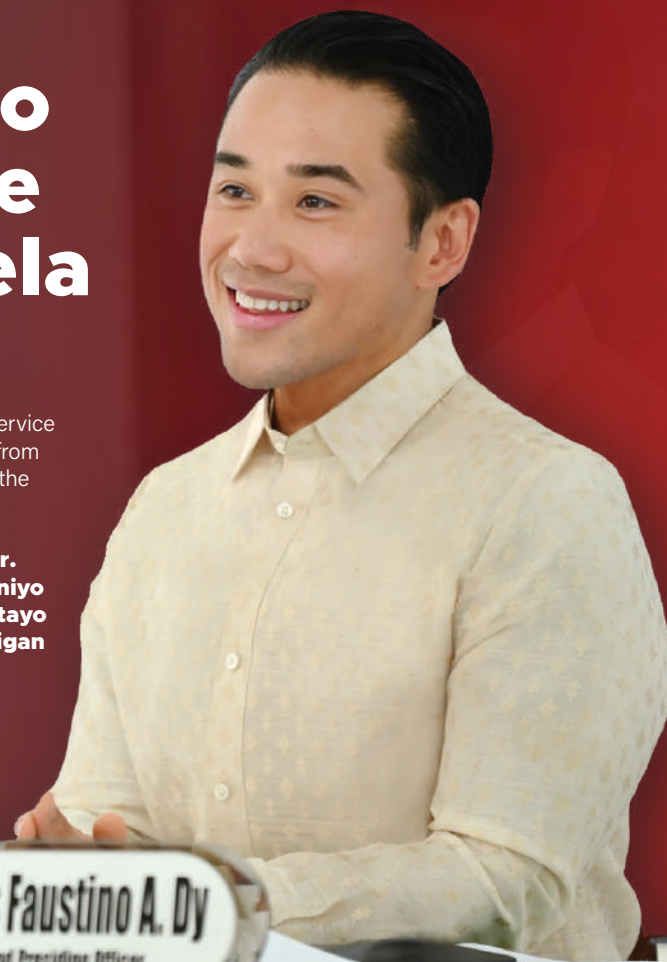
# Vice Governor Kiko Dy Sets Legislative Priorities for Isabela

The newly elected Vice Governor of Isabela, Hon. Francis Faustino "Kiko" A. Dy, officially begins his term with a strong focus on collaboration, transparency, and community-centered governance.

In an interview with Isabela Konek Ka DITO, Vice Governor Kiko shared his insights on the transition from being a municipal chief executive to serving as the head of the province's legislative body.

He described this new role as a **"quantum leap"** in his public service career that broadens his mission from serving the people of Echague to the entire province of Isabela.

**"I am not just a vice governor. Katuwang niyo ako, kasama niyo ako, equal tayo. Sama-sama tayo sa ikauunlad ng buong lalawigan ng Isabela,"** he said.



## A Legacy of Hands-On Leadership

Vice Governor Dy draws inspiration from his tenure as Echague's mayor, where he became known for his open-door leadership style, opening his home to constituents seeking assistance.

Among his major achievements were the establishment of key public facilities such as a new public market and healthcare buildings, as well as strong partnerships with both government and private sectors.

His compassionate leadership, rooted in faith and empathy, remains the guiding force behind his plans for the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

**"My faith in God and my love for people will always be at the center of every decision I make,"** he said.

## Championing the Youth

A long-time youth advocate, Vice Governor Kiko expressed his continued commitment to empowering young Isabelinos. He highlighted his creation of the Community for Culture, Arts, and

Sports (CCAS) in Echague, a program that provides avenues for the youth through events such as fun runs and biking activities.

The initiative, he said, aims to steer the youth away from vices and strengthen their involvement in community development.

**"The young generation plays a crucial role in shaping our province. We must help them find their voice and champion their rights,"** Dy emphasized.

## First 100 Days Agenda

The Vice Governor outlined his initial priorities for his first 100 days in office, which include supporting the programs of Governor Rodito T. Albano III, reviewing and refining existing ordinances and resolutions for better implementation, to ensure their effectiveness and alignment with public needs.

He also vowed to personally visit all 1,018 barangays of Isabela to listen to the concerns of residents, particularly those in far-flung communities.

**"The best way to govern is to go where the people are. That's where true service begins,"** he said.

## 12th Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Isabela holds 1st Mobile Session in Jones

The 12th Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Isabela conducted its first-ever Mobile Session on July 22, 2025 in the Municipality of Jones, marking a milestone in the province's effort to promote transparent and participatory governance.

The session, livestreamed by the Provincial Information Office, marked a historic step in bringing provincial legislation closer to the people.

Local officials and residents took part in an open consultation and raised key issues on infrastructure, social services, and economic development.

Vice Governor Dy reaffirmed the provincial government's full support for the town's initiatives and underscored the value of on-the-ground engagement.

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan aims to conduct mobile sessions monthly across different towns and cities in Isabela to ensure that every locality is heard and represented in the province's development.

# THE 12TH SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF ISABELA



# Atty. Mamauag Assumes Post as Isabela's New Provincial Administrator



**REGIONAL WINNER  
2025 LINGKOD BAYANI AWARD  
GAWAD PAGASA  
INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY**

**Atty. Christopher "Topi" A. Mamauag officially took his oath of office as the new Provincial Administrator of the Provincial Government of Isabela (PGI) before Governor Rodolfo "Rodito" T. Albano III on June 30, 2025 at the Balai, Provincial Capitol Compound.**

Shortly after his oath-taking, Atty. Mamauag convened his first meeting with PGI department heads, where he outlined his key priorities for his initial days in office.

Among his plans are the streamlining of government services and the conduct of office visits to strengthen coordination and enhance operational efficiency.

In his first address to the employees of the Provincial Government of Isabela, Atty. Mamauag stressed the importance of teamwork, open communication, and mutual respect in public service and that all government employees, regardless of position

or status, play an equally vital role in serving the people of Isabela.

**"Ako man ang Provincial Administrator, ang totoo, pare-pareho lang tayo. Any employee, regardless of your status, whether regular or permanent, open ako anytime. You can talk to me anytime. We're on the same boat together. Regardless of the kind of job you do, pare-pareho po tayong government employees,"** he said.

He also reminded employees to take pride in their work and to always be mindful of the needs of those at the margins of society.

## **TOPI: A Name Etched in Public Service**

Atty. Topi Mamauag is a multi-awarded public servant who has served the municipality of Cabagan, first as mayor from 2004 to 2013, then as vice mayor from 2013 to 2016, and again as mayor for three consecutive terms from 2016 to 2025, during which he championed initiatives on inclusive education, disaster resilience, food security, and good governance.

Under his term, Cabagan became a six-time Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) Passer in the years 2015, 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023, and 2024.

On September 11, 2025, he was recognized as one of the five regional winners of the Gawad Pagasa Award under the prestigious Gawad Lingkod Bayan of the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

Among his flagship initiatives as mayor was the Project Teaching Opportunities Prioritizing Illiteracy (Project TOPI), through which the Local Government Unit of Cabagan was recognized as one of the 10 awardees of the 2024 Galing Pook Awards for its innovative approach to promoting literacy and inclusive education.

Atty. Mamauag envisions his new position as an opportunity to further strengthen the Capitol's programs and uphold the values of service, integrity, and good governance for the people of Isabela.

# PGI Acquires **Full Ownership** of Rice Processing Complex in Ipil, Echague



**At the heart of this initiative is the Isabela Rice Assistance Program, which purchases palay above prevailing market rates, mills it into premium rice, and distributes the yield to priority sectors such as farmers, fisherfolk, barangay workers, vendors, and transport groups—boosting local incomes while setting a benchmark for fair competition.**

The Provincial Government of Isabela (PGI) has gained full ownership of the Isabela Rice Processing Center (IRPC) in Barangay Ipil, Echague—marking a significant step in the province’s mission to achieve food security, strengthen farmer welfare, and modernize its agricultural systems.

The province also supports logistical efficiency by providing free hauling trucks to barangays, ensuring that value creation and livelihood opportunities remain within communities.

**modern postharvest machinery, five high-capacity dryers, and precision systems that enhance efficiency and minimize grain losses during peak harvests.**

Isabela’s agricultural innovations have drawn national recognition. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. visited the facility in March 2025, citing the province’s programs as exemplars of sustainable, people-centered governance.

- ✓ **FOOD SECURITY**
- ✓ **FARMER’S WELFARE**
- ✓ **MODERN AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM**

**The IRPC houses the P67-million Rice Processing System (RPS II), inaugurated on November 28, 2024, with Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. and PhilMech officials. Funded under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF), RPS II features**

The transfer was made official through a Deed of Absolute Sale executed between the Land Bank of the Philippines, as vendor, and PGI, as vendee.

Now fully owned by the province, the IRPC serves as an integrated hub for palay procurement, milling, and rice distribution, connecting farmers directly to consumers.

**Valued at P86,821,383.00, the rice complex covers five parcels of land totaling 29,040 square meters, with improvements and all the buildings standing thereon.**

**The transfer is final, unconditional, and irrevocable, cementing the facility as a permanent public asset of the PGI.**

# Isabela Leads Cagayan Valley in Economic Growth for 2024

**Isabela emerged as the top-performing province in the Cagayan Valley region in terms of economic growth for 2024, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)—Isabela.**

During the Provincial Product Accounts (PPA) Dissemination Forum on October 9, 2025, Chief Statistical Specialist Julius M. Emperador reported that Isabela's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) remained strong and continued to grow faster than the overall regional economy.

The total economy of Cagayan Valley reached P470.72 billion in 2024, with Isabela accounting for 44.6% of the total output, followed by Cagayan with 35.4%.

**6.4%**  
**GDP GROWTH RATE**  
2023-2024

## Growth Across All Sectors

**According to Emperador's presentation, all major industries in Isabela posted positive growth last year.**

The Industry sector recorded the fastest expansion at 13.4%, followed by Services with 6.2%, and Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing (AFF) with 0.7%.

The Services sector contributed the largest share to Isabela's economy at 44.7%, while AFF accounted for 28.3%, and Industry made up 27.1%.



## Driving Force of Regional Economy

Emperador emphasized that Isabela continues to play a dominant role across all key sectors in the Cagayan Valley region.

In Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing, Isabela led with a 49.8% share, followed by Cagayan with 33.7%. The province also took the lead in Industry with 40.7%, and in Services with 44.3%, the highest among all provinces in the region.

**"These figures clearly show that Isabela remains a major driver of economic activity and development in Cagayan Valley,"** Emperador said.

Meanwhile, Shiloh Carah E. Pihoc, Statistical Specialist II of PSA's Subnational Economic Accounts Division, explained that while GDP reflects a province's overall production and economic performance, indicators such as poverty and employment provide a clearer picture of people's living conditions.

She added that economic growth and improved living standards are closely linked, as higher GDP often translates to greater economic activity and better income opportunities for residents.

She said these data are important for policy-making and planning by local officials to ensure the continuous development and well-being of every Isabelino.

## Nearly 15% Increase in Real Output

Assistant Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator Lalaine C. Delmendo reported that Isabela's real economic output reached P210.05 billion in constant 2018 prices, reflecting a nearly 15 percent increase compared to pre-pandemic levels in 2019.

**"Ang paglago na ito ay sumasalamin sa kolektibong pagsisikap ng ating mga mamamayan—ang mga magsasaka, negosyante, manggagawa, at mga opisyal ng lokal na pamahalaan—na nagtutulak sa ating ekonomiya araw-araw,"** Delmendo said.

- Delmendo also highlighted Isabela's ambition to become a leader in renewable energy in Northern Luzon, citing major investments such as a 440-megawatt solar power farm currently being developed in Ilagan City.
- The province is also continuing its Farm-to-Market Roads Project, which aims to improve transportation and logistics for agricultural products. This initiative has contributed to Isabela achieving a 467% rice sufficiency rate, the highest in the Philippines.
- Efforts are also underway to strengthen the dairy industry in the towns of San Agustin and Mallig, along with the Busog Lusog Program, which provides nutrition support to children using locally produced milk.
- Through the expanded Isabela Recovery Initiatives to Support Enterprises, the provincial government is MSMEs and cooperatives giving marketing assistance and bringing their products to national and international trade fairs and providing them with opportunities to test market readiness, explore and with buyers in the country and in the global market, thus generating more jobs and income opportunities.

**Delmendo said that Isabela's strong and inclusive economy is ready to face challenges, aiming to build a smart, sustainable, and progressive province that uplifts lives and promotes equality across all communities.**

FROM ISABELA TO THE WORLD

# Isabela's Premium Food, Beverage Products Make Waves at IFEX 2025

Fifteen micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) from Isabela drew attention from local and international buyers as they showcased the province's finest food and beverage products at the International Food Exhibition (IFEX) Philippines 2025, held from May 22 to 24.

In the beverages category, JBM Food Products, Jones Producers Cooperative, and RLGV Fruit Wine Industry presented locally crafted fruit wines and health-oriented drinks.

The gourmet group included the Cagayan Valley Cacao Development Center, HJ Guieb Farms, KMK Food Products, and SA Cacao Food Products, which offered premium cacao-based treats, gourmet tuyo, and bangus sardines.

Meanwhile, the snacks and ready-to-eat products category featured 3 Shers Food Products, Agricom Best Products Corporation, EJ Contreras Food House, Flow of Parir MPC, JA Fruits and Vegetable Processing, Quelly's Food Products, RNR Food Products, and Sagittarian Meat Processing, each showcasing innovative snack items and traditional delicacies.

Also joining the expo was Mr. Moo's, a local dairy producer that used the event to test its products in the national market and explore new distribution opportunities.

Supported by the Provincial Government of Isabela (PGI), in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Isabela, the participating enterprises proudly represented the province alongside over 700 exhibitors and 1,000 trade buyers.

## Crowd favorite

Among the standout products was Big Brothers Cornicks, a well-loved Isabela snack brand enjoyed for over three decades.

**"Every purchase helps our local farmers and uplifts Region 2's economy,"** the company representative said, emphasizing the brand's long-standing contribution to the community.

Visitors and buyers were equally enthusiastic, with Trish from Taguig praising the cornicks' distinct garlic and cheese flavors.

## Growing force in Global Trade

For CITEM Executive Director Leah Pulido Ocampo, who once served as DTI Region 2 Director, Isabela's strong presence at IFEX 2025 is proof of how far its local entrepreneurs have come.

**"We measure success not just in sales, but in how our MSMEs find their voice in the world market,"** she added.

**"Now, ayan na sila — full force sila. We are basically an agricultural province, and I'm proud that Isabela is stepping up to the global market,"** Ocampo said.

**IFEX 2025 is the country's biggest food and beverage trade fair organized by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM), serving as a valuable platform for local entrepreneurs to connect with international buyers, build export networks, and test market readiness for global expansion.**





HANDMADE IN THE VALLEY

# Local MSMEs Expand Market Reach at Padday na Lima 2025

**Local micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) expanded their market reach as they showcased a diverse range of local products at the 19th Padday na Lima Regional Trade Fair held from September 19 to 25, 2025 at Festival Mall in Alabang, Muntinlupa City.**

Organized by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Region 2, the annual event serves as a major platform for MSMEs to promote their products and connect with wider markets.

With the theme **“Hues of Heritage: Celebrating Cagayan Valley’s Colors of Trade and Tradition,”** this year’s fair gathered more than 100 exhibitors from across Cagayan Valley, featuring provincial pavilions from Isabela, Cagayan, Nueva Vizcaya and Batanes, along with special exhibits for OTOP products, bamboo and coconut crafts, and regional food and fashion items.

The province of Isabela’s pavilion featured handwoven textiles, bamboo and wood crafts, processed foods, bottled fresh milk, fashion accessories, and agri-based products that reflected both traditional craftsmanship and modern innovation.

According to DTI Region 2 Regional Director Ma. Sofia G. Narag, CESO V, the 19th Padday na Lima Regional Trade Fair features the region’s commitment to promoting competitiveness and empowering local entrepreneurs.

Throughout the week, visitors participated in wine and food tastings, craft demonstrations, and business-to-business matching sessions, underscoring the fair’s goal of combining culture, trade, and innovation.

Participating MSMEs thanked DTI and the Provincial Government of Isabela for the opportunity to reach national buyers and strengthen their competitiveness.

The event also marked the launch of the official Padday na Lima website to expand the online market presence of Region 2’s MSMEs through platforms such as Shopee and Mayani.ph.

# Handicrafts from Isabela Steals Spotlight at Manila FAME 2025



The province of Isabela proudly showcased the ingenuity and artistry of its micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) at Manila FAME 2025, the country's premier home, fashion, and lifestyle trade show held from October 16 to 18, 2025, at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

Under the theme "Objects of Nature," Isabela's MSMEs captivated visitors with an impressive array of handcrafted home décors, fashion accessories, and lifestyle products—each piece reflecting the province's rich natural resources and its peoples innovativeness and artistic flair.

A total of 15 MSMEs represented Isabela at this year's trade fair: Andrea's Paper Beads, Ann Manuel Bags, Bibsy Shop, Clockwise Furniture Shop, Eric's Handicrafts Manufacturing, Indigenous Enabel Craft, Jayesar's Munggo Creation, Kawayanegosyo ng Angadanan, Lapekto Lapel Paper Mache Wooden Products International, Pinagpala 1914 Woodwork, Rizal Integrated Development Association, Inc., RRRR's Woodcraft and Antique, Santos Women Weavers Association, Siriporn Enterprises, and VGC Wooden Articles.

These exhibitors showcased a mix of traditional weaving, bamboo and wood craftsmanship, and eco-conscious designs, highlighting Isabela's growing reputation as a hub of sustainable artistry.

The Isabela booth attracted notable visitors, including Jessica Soho, host of Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho (KMJS), and Mary Ann A. Dy, spouse of House Speaker Faustino "Bojie" Dy III.

Both Soho and Dy expressed their support for local artisans by purchasing handcrafted items from the booth—a gesture that exhibitors described as deeply encouraging and uplifting.

**"Layunin ng PGI at DTI-Isabela na ipamalas ang natatanging mga produkto ng mga Isabelino MSMEs hindi lamang sa ating bansa kundi sa buong mundo. Ang pagsali sa ganitong uri ng marketing event ay nagbibigay ng oportunidad sa ating mga MSMEs na maikonekta sa mas malawak na merkado upang sila ay lumago," Restauro said.**

According to Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)-Isabela Provincial Director Cyrus Restauro, the province's participation in Manila FAME aims to expand the market reach of local enterprises.

In recognition of its commitment to promoting local craftsmanship and innovation, the Provincial Government of Isabela was honored by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM) and DTI for its strong support of Manila FAME 2025.





# Senior Citizens Honored in Elderly Filipino Week 2025

The Provincial Government of Isabela capped off the 2025 Provincial Elderly Filipino Week on October 6 at the Capitol Amphitheater, carrying the theme **“Embracing Age: Living a Life with Dignity and Purpose.”**

Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer Gina Rivero emphasized the wisdom, resilience, and lifelong dedication of older Filipinos. She reaffirmed the provincial government’s commitment to programs and services that support their health, welfare, and active engagement.

Rivero also encouraged families and communities to strengthen intergenerational support and urged stakeholders to create more opportunities that address the social, economic, and health needs of the elderly.

Ms. Charlotte C. Collado of the National Commission of Senior Citizens, Regional Office 02, shared insights on Republic Act 11982, which grants benefits to Filipino octogenarians and nonagenarians.

She also highlighted NCSC programs and services that ensure the well-being and active participation of senior citizens in society.

**The afternoon program featured a lively dance competition among senior citizen representatives from all six legislative districts of the province. A group of senior citizens from District 1 emerged as champion, earning cheers and admiration from the crowd.**

**Three centenarians—Proceso M. Mayor Sr. of Alicia, Luciano M. Ulep of San Agustin, and Inosencia A. Corpuz of San Agustin—were honored during the celebration. Each received P100,000 in cash and assistive devices, including a wheelchair and a quad cane, from the Provincial Government of Isabela.**



# Isabela's PCAT-VAWC Scores 110% in 2024 Functionality Assessment

The Provincial Council Against Trafficking and Violence Against Women and their Children (PCAT-VAWC), once again surpassed expectations in the 2024 Functionality Assessment, earning an exceptional overall rating of 110% and being classified as Highly Functional.

This marks the second consecutive year that PCAT-VAWC has achieved a 110% rating in the said evaluation.

According to Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer Gina G. Rivero, the 10% bonus rating was attributed to the expanded council membership and strengthened partnerships with civil society organizations (CSOs), which significantly enhanced the council's advocacy initiatives and capacity-building efforts.

Since the functionality assessment began in 2021, Isabela has been consistently recognized as highly functional—garnering 99% in 2021, maintaining the same rating in 2022, and reaching 110% in both 2023 and 2024.

The 2024 Local Committee on Anti-Trafficking and Violence against Women and their Children (LCAT-VAWC) Functionality Assessment was conducted by the Regional Inter-Agency Monitoring Team (RIMT) on May 28, 2025 in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan.

# 110%

## HIGHLY FUNCTIONAL

OVERALL RATING FROM THE 2024 FROM THE FUNCTIONALITY ASSESSMENT

## PGI Tops Region 2 Provinces in 2025 Child Protection Council Assessment

The Local Council for the Protection of Children (LCPC) of the Provincial Government of Isabela (PGI) earned the highest score among all provinces in the Cagayan Valley region in the 2025 LCPC Functionality Assessment.

**PGI garnered the highest distinction with a rating of 94.80%, translating to an Ideal Functionality Level.**

The evaluation covered four key areas: Organizational Sustainability; Policies and Plans for Children; Budget for the LCPC; and Service Delivery Monitoring and Management for Children for the year 2024.

**20%**

**ORGANIZATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY**

**28.8%**

**POLICIES AND PLANS FOR CHILDREN**

**16%**

**BUDGET FOR THE LCPC**

**30%**

**SERVICE DELIVERY MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT FOR CHILDREN**

# CUTTING

# RED TAPE

## P-CART Reaffirms Commitment to Ease of Doing Business Law

The Isabela Provincial Anti-Red Tape Committee (P-CART) reiterated its commitment on May 5, 2025 to streamline services and continuously enhance implementation of the Ease of Doing Business (EODB) law.

This pledge was underscored during the kickoff celebration of Ease of Doing Business Month at the Isabela Provincial Capitol, where PGI employees gathered to mark the occasion.

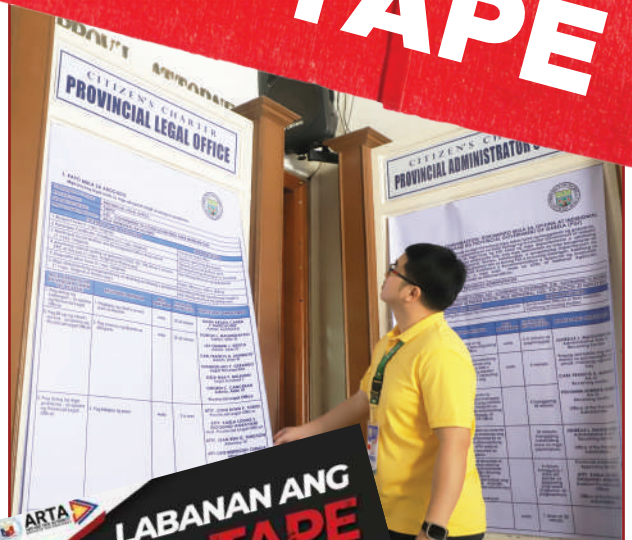
According to Ma. Gloria L. Daluddung, P-CART focal person, the Provincial Government of Isabela has consistently demonstrated strong compliance with ARTA directives to improve service efficiency.

**"The Provincial Government of Isabela remains committed to implementing the Citizens' Charter and the 3-7-20 rule, which sets the standard processing time for all government transactions. We continuously enhance our frontline services, such as our One-**

**Stop Shop, by taking into consideration feedback from our clients,"** she said.

Daluddung added that by streamlining processes and reengineering workflows, the efforts of the provincial government have led to faster and more convenient processing of permits, licenses, and certificates, benefiting both residents and business owners in the province.

During the program, employees watched ARTA informational videos and received brochures to further promote awareness. Banners and tarpaulins were in all offices and uploaded ARTA materials to public kiosks for wider accessibility and high-performing personnel for the month of May, based on client satisfaction ratings gathered from frontline services, were recognized.



## Power of Feedback

Provincial Human Resource Management Officer Janette A. Castillejo, speaking on behalf of Governor Rodito T. Albano, urged public servants to treat client feedback as a tool for continuous improvement, not only a compliance requirement emphasizing the importance of promptly addressing all requests and applications.

**"The feedback we gather should not just be for reporting, but for improving how we deliver our services,"** she said.

She also emphasized that timely service delivery reflects the provincial government's

commitment to good governance.

**"Timely service delivery speaks volumes about our dedication to good governance. Ensuring client satisfaction provides us with valuable lessons from the people we serve, whether through digital platforms or a simple suggestion box,"** she said.

# Rising Above the Rest: The Valley's Top Revenue Performer of 2024

Amid the shifting economic tides of Cagayan Valley, one province has truly risen. Known for its rich farmlands and industrious people, the province proves that progress thrives under capable and transparent leadership.

For Fiscal Year 2024, the province of Isabela emerged as the region's top-performing province in locally sourced revenues, a feat that earned Isabela multiple recognitions from the Department of Finance–Bureau of Local Government Finance (DOF-BLGF). The awards reflect the province's strong focus on effective leadership, fiscal discipline, and sustainable economic growth.

The recognition was conferred by DOF-BLGF Regional Director Atty. Julaida T. Caddawan-Pancho to the PGI delegation led by Provincial Treasurer Ma. Theresa A. Flores, CPA and Provincial Assessor Zenaida A. Gabriel, REA during the 2025 BLGF Cagayan Valley Mid-Year Conference, held in the third week of July in Ilocos Sur.

Joining them during the awarding were Atty. Jenny Flor Manantan-Cabaddu, Assistant Provincial Assessor for Administration; Yulma Marie C. Balabbo, Assistant Provincial Assessor for Operation; and Maria Teresa P. Kanoy, Supervising Administrative Officer, together with Leonette R. Luga, Administrative Officer, from the Provincial Treasurer's Office, among others.



## Leading in Revenue Collection

PGI ranked first among all PLGUs in the region in total locally sourced revenues, contributing P951 million, or 13.60% of the regional total.

**P951 million**

Isabela likewise led in real property tax collections, generating P454 million, which accounted for 6.49% of the total locally sourced revenues in the entire Cagayan Valley.

**P454 million**

In addition, PGI ranked first in fees and charges collections, posting P420.5 million, or 6.01% of the regional total.

**P420.5 million**

PGI also secured the top spot in business and other tax collections, with P76.6 million.

**P76.6 million**

It recorded the highest collection efficiency rate in business and other tax collections at 119.12% and ranked third in overall collection efficiency of locally sourced revenues, at 88.98%, amounting to P987 million.

**P987 million**

## On the Right Track

Provincial Treasurer Flores said that PGI's revenues, supported by local treasurers and assessors, reflect a **“culture of excellence,”** and the winnings indicate that the province is “on the right track.”

**“The revenues that PGI raises, with the help of the local treasurers and assessors, are a manifestation that we are part of a power team. We always embody a culture of excellence in PGI, and [the winnings] are a manifestation that we are on the right track,”** she said.



She added that strong revenue collections enable local officials to deliver better services to constituents, advancing the province's progress and improving the welfare of Isabelinos.

# PIO Pushes Transparent, Smarter Governance via FOI, Responsible AI Use



The province of Isabela is strengthening its communication strategies by merging Freedom of Information (FOI) principles with the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools to promote smarter and more transparent governance.

Information officers from across the province gathered on September 16, 2025 in Cauayan City for the first-ever **“Information Officers Strategic Initiatives on Public Communication”** training, organized by the Provincial Information Office under the theme **“FOI and AI for Smarter, Transparent Governance.”**

PIO Atty. Elizabeth C. Binag stressed the responsibility of government communicators in the digital era, saying that in a social media-driven world, **“every post, every update, every piece of content has the power to inform, to inspire, and to influence.”**

She noted that while AI allows communicators to reach audiences faster and more effectively, **“technology alone is not enough,”** adding that the FOI mandate provides the ethical compass through accountability, innovation, and openness.

According to her, the task of information officers goes beyond posting updates, as their role is to ensure that the public receives truthful and timely knowledge that **“empowers them to participate in governance.”**

Atty. Binag also emphasized that transparency is not about speed or visibility but about **“trust, transparency, and sincere service to the people,”** pointing out that FOI principles guide officers to safeguard public trust.



**Oliver T. Baccay**, officer-in-charge of the Philippine Information Agency–Region 2, discussed the Freedom of Information (FOI), including citizens' rights, filing requirements, and exemptions. **He emphasized that FOI is central to ensuring accountability in governance.**



Karl John P. Nolasco spoke on building AI literacy across the government workforce. He presented the basics of AI platforms, their applications in communication and workflow, and the ethical principles needed for responsible data use.

Mary Joy F. Javier of PIA Region 2 delivered a session on social media management. She explained strategies for boosting online presence while maintaining transparency and accountability in digital platforms.

Governor Rodito T. Albano's strong support was recognized by the Isabela PIO and the LGU Information Officers across the province as vital to promoting open and innovative public communication in the province.

# Voices of the Ancestral Land: Isabela Celebrates IP Month with First-Ever Summit

The Provincial Government of Isabela, through the Isabela Coastal Development Office and the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO), spearheaded the First Indigenous Peoples Summit on October 10, 2025, at the Capitol Amphitheater, Alibagu, City of Ilagan, in celebration of Indigenous Peoples Month with the theme **“Weaving Culture, Enriching Future: Empowering Indigenous Communities as Bedrock of Sustainable Development.”**

The event brought together IP chieftains, Agta communities, representatives from various municipalities, and educators in a collective effort to preserve indigenous heritage and strengthen cultural awareness across the province.

Provincial Administrator Atty. Christopher A. Mamauag expressed hope that the summit would rekindle appreciation for the province’s indigenous communities and their enduring contributions to Isabela’s identity and heritage.

NCIP Regional Director Atty. Ronaldo Daquioag underscored that the cultural integrity and ancestral domain rights of Indigenous Peoples are **“non-negotiable.”**

He called for stronger interagency coordination and more effective implementation of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA), emphasizing the importance of amplifying the voices of indigenous women and youth in shaping inclusive and sustainable development policies.

Cultural anthropologist and University of the Philippines–Diliman Professor Dr. Nestor T. Castro discussed the continuing relevance of indigenous lifeways, citing the Agta and other Sierra Madre tribes as enduring examples of communities that have

long lived in harmony with nature. He noted that their traditional wisdom offers vital lessons on environmental balance and cultural resilience.

Vice Governor Francis Faustino “Kiko” A. Dy paid tribute to the wisdom and resilience of the province’s indigenous peoples, who for generations have protected the forests, rivers, and lands that sustain life.

He said the summit serves as an opportunity to listen to the stories, struggles, and aspirations of the province’s IP communities.

He also urged the youth to learn from their elders and take pride in their roots, stressing that unity and respect are essential in building a progressive and compassionate society that values both culture and nature.

NCIP Provincial Director Anne Marie C. Sugguiyao presented the key provisions and ongoing implementation of the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA), highlighting its significance in protecting IP welfare and ensuring cultural integrity.

Resource persons from various sectors likewise discussed Indigenous Peoples’ rights in education, health, livelihood, and local governance, enriching the dialogue on empowerment and sustainable development.



**The summit concluded with a Pledge of Commitment and Resolution of Unity, reaffirming the collective dedication of all participants to uphold and promote the rights, heritage, and welfare of Indigenous Peoples throughout the Province of Isabela.**

**In between sessions, students from PNU Northern Luzon and ISU Echague performed traditional songs and dances that showcased the richness and diversity of Isabela’s cultural heritage.**



# USGBC Consultative Dialogue Highlights Corn Industry Growth, Biofuels Potential in Isabela



The US-Philippines Joint Agricultural Rural Development and Ethanol Expansion Mission, spearheaded by the U.S. Grains and Bioproducts Council (USGBC), convened with provincial officials, city and municipal agriculturists, and stakeholders at Balai, Provincial Capitol on September 26 for an exchange of insights and avenues of possible cooperation for sustainable agricultural economy in corn production and ethanol.

Provincial Administrator Atty. Christopher A. Mamaug welcomed the participants, while Provincial Agriculturist Sergio Galamgam presented an overview of the province's corn industry as the country's top corn producer.

USGBC Regional Director for Southeast Asia and Oceania Caleb Wurth emphasized the Council's role in promoting global agricultural development.

He noted that in the United States, corn is not only used for food and feed but is also processed into ethanol and co-products that support both agriculture and industry.

Wurth added that the U.S. model has strengthened farming communities and could be adapted in Isabela.

He further highlighted the benefits of biofuels, noting that **"the world today needs secure, affordable, and sustainable food, feed, fuel, and fiber," Wurth said.**



**"With your land and people, and with technology and markets working together, we can turn this visit into ventures, and ventures into lasting prosperity,"** he added.

Vice Governor Francis Faustino A. Dy underscored Isabela's resilience and growth potential, describing the province as a natural hub for investments in corn production and biofuels.

He identified three factors that make Isabela well-suited for expansion: large-scale production supported by dedicated farmers, strong connectivity linking farms to markets and processing facilities, and an investment climate that prioritizes transparency and growth.

Dy also emphasized that **"at the center of all this is the Filipino farmer, the backbone of our communities, carrying both families and futures. They deserve markets that reward their hard work, contracts that respect risk, and partners to build for the long term."**

During the open forum, Ms. Queenie Rojo, Executive Director of Ethanol Producers Association of the Philippines (EPAP), mentioned the mandate of the Philippine Biofuels Act, which requires a 10 percent ethanol blend in fuel.

She noted that while the San Mariano plant currently produces ethanol from sugarcane molasses, corn-based ethanol—modeled after the U.S. system—could be adapted locally to complement this output and help meet mandated blending requirements.

**"As we have the capacity to grow more corn, in the coming years we can eventually look to the U.S. corn model for biofuels,"** she said.



# Isabela Rolls Out 3-Year Health Roadmap to Bridge System Gaps

The Provincial Government of Isabela launched its Local Investment Plan for Health (LIPH) 2026–2028, a three-year roadmap designed to address gaps in the province’s health system by strengthening hospitals, improving facilities, and ensuring more accessible, equitable, and sustainable health services for every Isabelino.

The Isabela Integrated Provincial Health Office (IPHO), led by Provincial Health Officer II Dr. Nelson O. Paguirigan, presented the health investment plan during a forum held on September 2–4, 2025 in Manila, outlining priority projects to address health system gaps with inputs from provincial officials and support from the DOH and PhilHealth.



Department of Health (DOH) Undersecretary Dr. Glenn Mathew G. Baggao said that the LIPH serves as more than just a roadmap of priorities, but as a shared vision of health for all Isabelinos, aligned with universal healthcare and the DOH’s 8-point agenda under Bagong Pilipinas.

Baggao pledged continued national government support to Isabela’s health agenda.

## The Health Sector 8-point action agenda



**“On behalf of the DOH Secretary Teodoro Herbosa, we commit to continue supporting all the programs and endeavors of the Provincial Government of Isabela under Governor Rodito Albano,”** he said.

He also lauded the Albano administration for putting health at the center of its governance agenda.

**“We honor and recognize the efforts of Governor Rodito Albano, under whose leadership health has become the province’s top priority—strengthening hospitals, improving facilities, and investing in health workers,”** he said.

Meanwhile, Provincial Administrator Atty. Christopher A. Mamauag pointed out that public perception of health is often

shaped by external forces rather than science alone.

**“Our beliefs about health are too often influenced by marketing, shaping how we see the world and the choices we make,”** he said, urging stakeholders to reflect on daily health challenges and **“return to the essence of preventive practices.”**

He added that resilience must be **“complemented by a conscious effort to prioritize prevention, advocacy and awareness.”**

The event was attended by DOH officials, PhilHealth Regional Office II, and PGI department heads and chiefs of hospitals, all of whom committed to collectively advancing accessible, equitable, and sustainable health services for every Isabelino.

# The Dairy Blueprint: Benchmarking Japan's Dairy Breakthroughs



**With its sights set on expanding the local dairy industry and creating stronger income opportunities for farmers, the Province of Isabela carried out a dairy farm immersion and partnership initiative in Japan from September 1 to 9, 2025.**

The delegation included representatives from the San Pablo Dairy Cooperative, the Provincial Government of Isabela (PGI), the Department of Agriculture (DA), and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

**Together, they explored Japan's advanced dairy operations and supply chain systems, benchmarking global best practices and building partnerships designed to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of Isabela's dairy sector and its local MSMEs.**

The delegation kicked off its mission with a courtesy call on the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo, where Ambassador Mylene Garcia-Albano and PTIC-Tokyo Counsellor Bernadita Mathay discussed export compliance, FDA and BPI requirements, as well as potential linkages with major Japanese retailers such as Don Quijote.

Following this, the group visited the Yoshizawa Dairy Farm, where they observed automated milking and efficient manure management systems operated with the help of Filipino workers.

Likewise, visits to strawberry and lettuce farms showcased the contribution of Filipino farmworkers from Benguet. Meanwhile, at Takamizawa Dairy Farm, the team witnessed advanced feed preparation using imported ingredients and local corn silage.

**Furthermore, a market observation in Tokyo supermarkets revealed that Japanese consumers place high importance on packaging, labeling, and product safety—valuable insights for MSMEs preparing export-ready products.**

Moving on to Osaka, the delegation met with Consul General Voltaire Dela Cruz Mauricio to discuss regional cooperation frameworks, particularly between Hokkaido and Isabela. They also toured the Osaka Expo Philippine Pavilion to study ongoing trade and cultural promotion efforts.

Subsequently, a courtesy visit to Mayor Yoshito Arisaka of Minamimaki-mura reaffirmed the Japan-Philippines sisterhood ties. During the exchange, Ambassador Garcia-Albano cited ongoing agricultural cooperation through labor and knowledge sharing, while Mayor Arisaka expressed his continued support for collaborative development initiatives.

The delegation also toured the Yatsuren Milk Factory, where Swiss-made machinery processes and packs up to 6,000 milk packs per hour. Afterward, they proceeded to the Tokyo Wholesale Meat Market, where they observed wagyu beef auctions and noted Japan's strict adherence to food safety, traceability, and certification standards.

## Roadmap for Dairy Innovation and Export Readiness

After completing the series of visits, the team recommended several initiatives, including the formulation of a cattle food security plan, the establishment of academic linkages between Isabela State University (ISU) and Japanese institutions, and the creation of a Shared Service Facility (SSF) for packaging and labeling to meet export standards.

In the short term, the province aims to focus on knowledge-sharing and SSF proposal drafting. Medium-term efforts will center on academic exchanges and prototype development, while long-term goals include forming institutional partnerships, adopting advanced technologies, and consistently participating in Japan's trade fairs.

**The insights gained are expected to strengthen Isabela's dairy sector, improve MSME readiness for export, and position the province as a leader in sustainable and globally competitive dairy production.**





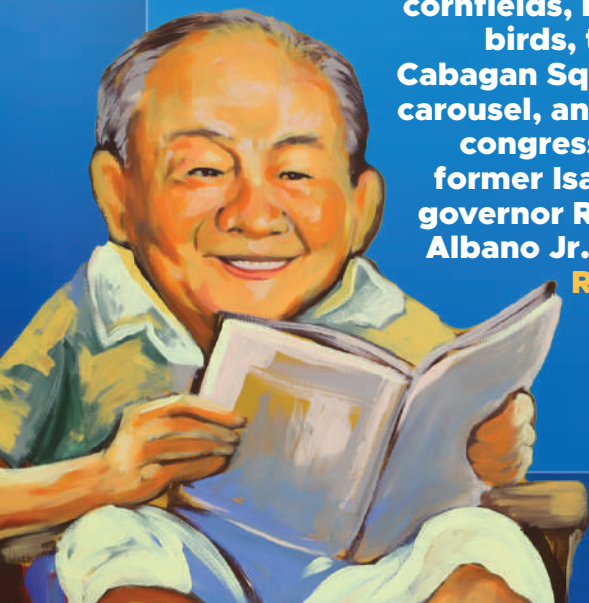
LGU BEST PRACTICE

# New Library for Kids Opens in Cabagan

The Hooked on Books (HOB) Library, a children's reading hub, was launched on July 8, 2025 along with its affiliated reading program at Cabagan Science Elementary School (CSES) in Cabagan, Isabela.

This is the first HOB Library in the province and the 24th nationwide, made possible through a partnership between the Local Government Unit of Cabagan and LINKS Philippines.

**Aside from children's books, the library features murals painted by local Cabagan artists, depicting Pancit Cabagan, cornfields, migratory birds, the iconic Cabagan Square Park carousel, and the late congressman and former Isabela vice governor Rodolfo B. Albano Jr., or "Tata Rudy," the father of Governor Rodito T. Albano.**



Volunteers, school heads from the Schools Division Office (SDO) of Isabela, barangay officials, the LINKS Philippines team, and parents worked together to prepare the library and organize activities for students and the community over the past two days.

Provincial Administrator Atty. Christopher A. Mamauag commended LINKS Philippines for their efforts and expressed hope that the initiative would reach more communities nationwide.



CITY OF ILAGAN  
THE CAPITAL  
ARENA

LGU BEST PRACTICE

# THE CAPITAL ARENA: THE NORTH'S NEW HOME OF SPORTING GLORY

Determined to boost its growing reputation as the Sports Tourism Hub of the Philippines, the City of Ilagan has taken another big leap forward with the opening of The Capital Arena to major national big leagues in basketball, volleyball and boxing.

Located within the Civic Center in Barangay Alibagu, the 10,000-seat indoor arena was the pride of Ilagueños, serving as a modern venue for sports events, concerts, and community gatherings.

The Capital Arena was formally inaugurated on November 24, 2024 under the leadership of Mayor Josemarie L. Diaz, who heralded the P750 million project as a key pillar to propel City of Ilagan into the arena of sports tourism.

## 'Bakbakan sa Ilagan' Packs a Punch

The Capital Arena became a stage for professional boxing, giving Northern Luzon fans a front-row seat to championship action. It hosted the World Boxing Foundation (WBF) Silver Bantamweight Championship on December 15, 2024, the arena's first major boxing event.

Building on that success, Ilagan staged "Bakbakan sa Ilagan" on February 8, 2025, followed by "Bakbakan sa Ilagan 2" on September 6, 2025, which featured title bouts for the RP Featherweight and Philippine Boxing Federation (PBF) Super Welterweight titles.

## Northern Luzon Goes Volley Crazy

One of the earliest major events at the arena was the Premier Volleyball League (PVL) "On Tour" leg, scheduled for July 12-13, 2025 at the Capital Arena, featuring top-tier teams such as the Creamline, Farm Fresh Foxies, the Choco Mucho Flying Titans, the PLDT High Speed Hitters, and the Petro Gazz Angels.

The event marked the first-ever PVL staging in Region 2, elevating the city's profile in Philippine volleyball circuits.

## A Home Court for a New Basketball Team

Basketball is also firmly on the radar. In the 2025 Maharlika Pilipinas Basketball League (MPBL) season, the expansion franchise Ilagan Isabela Cowboys chose the Capital Arena as its home venue.

The ticketing platform lists several regular-season games at the venue, including a matchup on June 28, 2025: Ilagan Isabela Cowboys vs. Valenzuela City Magic.

This development signals Ilagan's ambition to be a full-fledged regional basketball hub, with local fans now closer to high-level competition.

The arrival of the Capital Arena brings more than just high-octane sport; it injects fresh vitality into Ilagan's local economy. From volleyball spike to slam dunk and potential championship fight, City of Ilagan is proving that it means business.

# MOST Business Friendly Local Government Unit

## City of Ilagan Named PH's Most Business-Friendly LGU

The City of Ilagan has been hailed as the National Winner of the 2025 Most Business-Friendly LGU in the Philippines under the City Level 2 category by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI).

The recognition was officially conferred during the 51st Philippine Business Conference and Expo held at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City on October 21, 2025.

This national award underscores the City of Ilagan's strong commitment to good governance, efficient public service, and a progressive local economy that continues to attract investors and entrepreneurs from various sectors.

LGU BEST PRACTICE

# Cauayan City Named as Global Finalist in 2025 Bloomberg Mayors Challenge

**Cauayan City, Isabela has been selected as a global finalist, alongside Pasig City and Naga City from the Philippines, in the 2025 Bloomberg Philanthropies Mayors Challenge.**



Out of more than 630 entries from 33 countries, 50 cities, including Cauayan City and two others from the Philippines, were selected to receive \$50,000 each to test their own innovative solutions to common challenges in their respective cities.

Other global finalists include cities from the United States, Europe, Africa, and Asia, such as Barcelona in Spain, Belfast in the United Kingdom, Detroit in the U.S., Fukuoka in Japan, and Helsinki in Finland.

The selected cities were chosen for their originality, potential for impact, and credible vision for implementation.

Cauayan City's entry, developed in partnership with Isabela State University-Cauayan Campus and the Department of Science and Technology, is Project CDEWS (Community Dengue Early Warning System), which uses an Internet-of-Things (IoT)-based ovicidal-larvicidal (OL) trap system to remotely monitor the presence of Aedes

aegypti eggs and issue early warnings to help prevent dengue outbreaks.

Cauayan City Mayor Caesar S. Dy Jr. said the true strength of a city lies in its people's commitment and creativity in turning ideas into solutions that improve lives.

**"The real strength of a city is not measured by its size or wealth, but lies in the dedication, talent, creativity and unity of its people who transform ideas into innovative solutions aimed at enhancing quality of life,"** Mayor Dy said.

In January 2026, **25 cities will be selected to receive \$1 million in funding and operational support to bring their proposals to life.**



## WHAT IS PROJECT C-DEWS?

The C-DEWS system operates on an enhanced ovicidal larvicidal (OL) trap utilizing Internet-of-Things (IoT) technology. It allows for remote monitoring of aedes aegypti eggs using the IoT-based OL trap device status through the online C-DEWS platform.

The collected egg counts are transmitted to local government unit through a web-based monitoring system, the technology also includes a mobile app push notification system for captured dengue eggs.

# Learning Center for ARBs, Farmers to Rise in Capitol Compound

A new learning center dedicated to agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) and smallholder farmers will soon rise in Isabela, following a groundbreaking ceremony led by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Provincial Government of Isabela (PGI) on July 31, 2025.

The site is located in front of the Isabela Sports Senior High School, behind the Isabela Sports Complex within the Capitol Compound in Alibagu, City of Ilagan.



**Leading the ceremony were DAR Secretary Conrado M. Estrella III, Isabela Governor Rodito T. Albano, DAR R02 Director Primo C. Lara, and several municipal mayors from the province.**

To commemorate the occasion, the officials placed a time capsule containing a copy of the project plan at the site.

**Once completed, the center is expected to benefit more than 166,000 ARBs, approximately 52,000 potential ARBs, and 467 Agrarian Reform Beneficiary Organizations (ARBOs) across 58 agrarian reform communities in the Cagayan Valley Region.**

The project is funded by DAR under the Support to Parcelization of Lands for Individual Titling (SPLIT) Project, and will be implemented by the PGI.

**Key infrastructure components of the learning center include a training center and dormitory, processing center, product display center, administrative building, greenhouse facility, and a tissue culture laboratory.**





# Marcos Admin Erases Land Debts of 5.9K R02 Farmers, Distributes Land Titles to 1K ARBs

The Marcos administration, through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), has cancelled the land debts of 5,870 farmers in Cagayan Valley, while 1,005 agrarian reform beneficiaries have received land titles, officially granting them ownership of the land they have long cultivated.

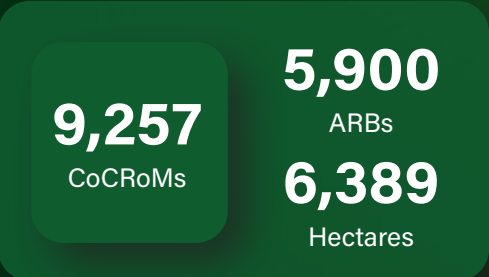
The certificates of Condonation with Release of Mortgage (CoCRoMs) were awarded on July 31, 2025 during a Regional Mass Ceremony held at The Capital Arena in the City of Ilagan, along with the issuance of Emancipation Patents (EPs), Certificates of Collective Land Ownership Award (CCLOAs), and electronic titles (e-titles) under the SPLIT Project to qualified agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs).

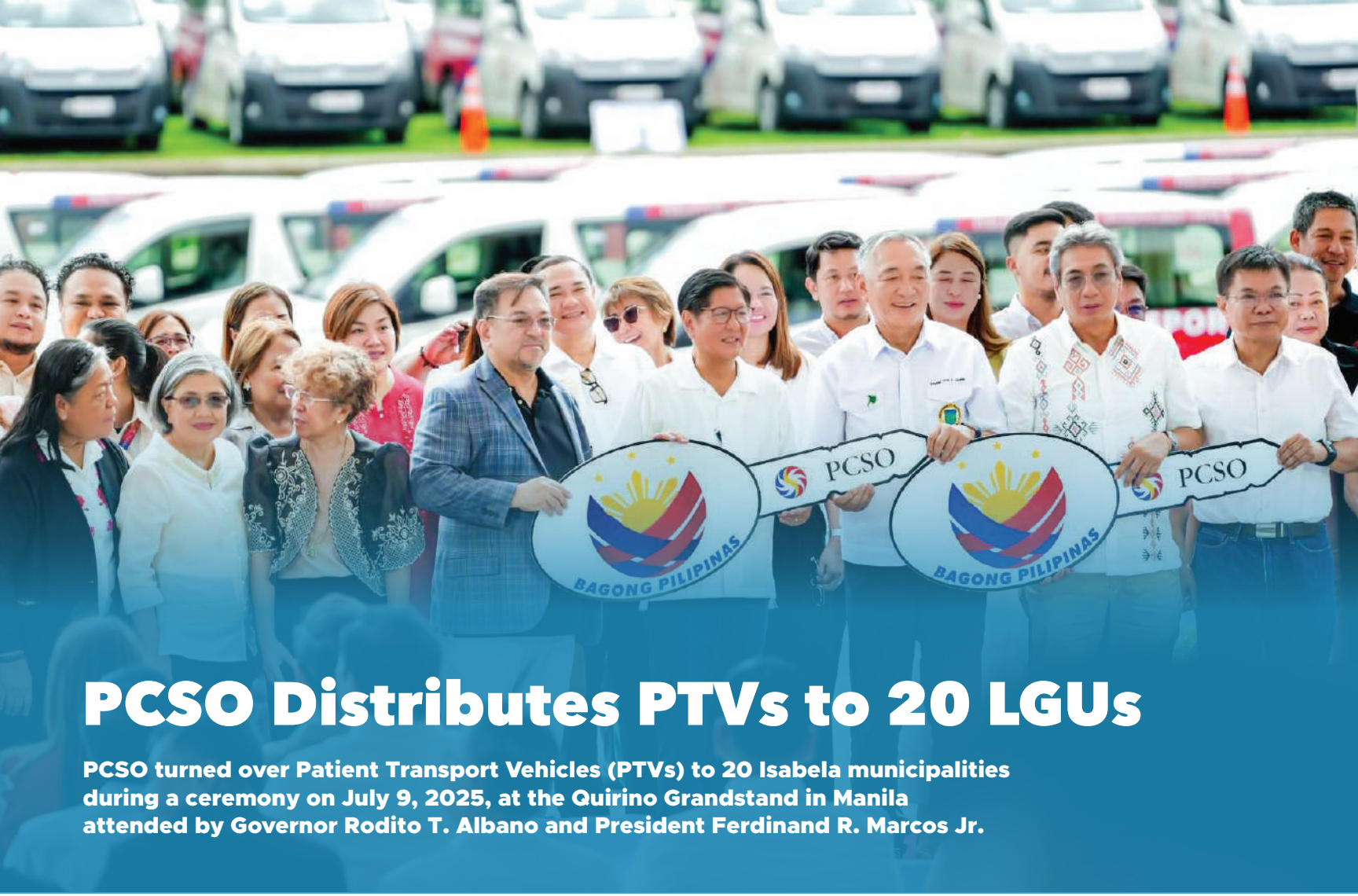
The event was led by DAR Secretary Conrado M. Estrella III, Isabela Governor Rodito T. Albano, World Bank Mission Task Team Leader Kathrine Kelm, DAR Region II Director Primo C. Lara, and Cagayan Governor Edgar B. Aglipay Jr., among other officials.

A total of 9,257 CoCRoMs were awarded to 5,900 ARBs, covering an aggregate area of 6,389 ha and condoning millions in land-related debts.

Meanwhile, 307 EPs/CCLOAs were issued to 249 ARBs for 324 ha, and 924 SPLIT e-titles were distributed to 756 ARBs covering 2,010 ha.

Estrella said the distribution is part of the implementation of the **New Agrarian Emancipation Act, which mandates the condonation of unpaid amortizations, interests, and penalties of ARBs, and ensures the awarding of land titles to qualified farmers to help them gain full ownership and control over the lands they till.**





# PCSO Distributes PTVs to 20 LGUs

**PCSO turned over Patient Transport Vehicles (PTVs) to 20 Isabela municipalities during a ceremony on July 9, 2025, at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila attended by Governor Rodito T. Albano and President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.**

President Marcos, together with PCSO General Manager Melquiades Robles, led the ceremonial turnover of the vehicles, to be deployed across seven regions in Luzon, with priority given to far-flung and underserved communities.

For the province of Isabela, 20 municipalities received their respective PTV units: Alicia, Aurora, Benito Soliven, Burgos, Cabagan, Divilacan, Echague, Luna, Maconacon, Mallig, Naguilian, Palanan, Quezon, Ramon, San Isidro, San Mariano, San Mateo, San Pablo, Santa Maria, and Tumauni.



**Each vehicle is fully equipped with essential emergency tools, including a stretcher, oxygen tank, blood pressure monitor, and other vital medical supplies, to ensure the safe and efficient transport of patients from their communities to the nearest healthcare facility.**



**BAGONG PILIPINAS**



# Over 16,500 Isabelinos Served in 'Handog ng Pangulo' Caravan in Isabela

The **“Handog ng Pangulo: Serbisyong Sapat Para sa Lahat”** caravan held on September 13, 2025 in the province of Isabela drew a strong turnout, delivering essential services to more than 16,500 Isabelinos.

The initiative, mounted by national government agencies and hosted by the Provincial Government of Isabela, showcased wide-ranging programs.



The **Integrated Provincial Health Office (IPHO)** served 353 individuals through medical check-ups, oral health kit distribution, and health teachings on nutrition, hygiene, disease prevention, and mental wellness. The activity emphasized preventive care while addressing the physical and psychosocial needs of participants.



**TESDA Isabela** released scholarship allowances to 948 beneficiaries, facilitated free assessment and certification for 228 workers, enrolled 789 individuals in its TVET program, and attracted more than 1,300 Isabelinos to its bread, pastry, barista, and bartending skills demonstrations.



The **Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)** turned over 1,000 narra and bamboo seedlings to the Capitol, awarded land titles to six qualified beneficiaries, and distributed an additional 2,050 narra and 200 bamboo seedlings for free to over 450 recipients. Around 110 individuals also availed of the agency's frontline services.



Meanwhile, the **Department of Agriculture (DA)** assisted 27 farmer cooperatives and associations through farm input and machinery distribution, extended fuel subsidies to 2,961 farmers, and provided financial assistance to 163 rice farmers. The DA also sold 500 ten-kilo bags of rice at P20.00 per kilo.



The **Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)** distributed Certificates of Condonation and Release of Mortgage (COCROM) to 467 agrarian reform beneficiaries and turned over farm machinery and equipment to 390 recipients, including three tractors and small farm implements.



From the **Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)**, more than 1,000 vacancies were offered during a Job Fair, while 1,812 workers benefited from the TUPAD program. The agency also provided support under its Government Internship Program, Adjustment Measures Program, Special Program for Employment of Students, and the **“Benteng Bigas Meron Na”** program, serving 1,083 beneficiaries.



The **Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)** distributed 761 family food packs to flood-affected families in Roxas and provided food under the **“Walang Gutom”** Program to 36 Ilagan-based beneficiaries, as well as recipients in Alicia, Benito Soliven, and Cabatuan. A mobile kitchen also served hot meals to 370 Isabelinos, while the Sustainable Livelihood Program extended assistance to five groups.



The **Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)** showcased five MSMEs through its OTOP Mini Fair, organized a Diskwento Caravan, released loan certificates, and provided business name and BMBE registrations, consumer complaint filing, loan applications, and business consultancy services.



The **National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC)** gave payouts to 70 expanded centenarians in Aurora town, while the **Department of Health (DOH)** provided medical services and promoted the Zero-Balance Billing program in provincial hospitals.



**The caravan was held in line with a memorandum circular from the Department of the Interior and Local Government and was observed nationwide in celebration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s birthday.**



# GRTA ULIRANG KAWANI AWARDS

Igniting a Culture of Excellence in Public Service

**The GRTA Awards serve not only to celebrate their contributions but also to emphasize this powerful truth: excellence knows no title or contract type. Whether permanent or job order, every PGI worker is respected, supported, and empowered.**

It was a Monday morning unlike any other at the Isabela Provincial Capitol.

As the Philippine flag rose gently and the Isabela Hymn filled the air, a quiet sense of anticipation stirred among the employees of the Provincial Government of Isabela (PGI).

This wasn't just another start to the workweek; it was a moment of pause, of gratitude, and of honoring those who serve quietly yet wholeheartedly behind the scenes.

Since its launch on March 3, 2025, the GRTA Ulirang Kawani Awards, named after Governor Rodito T. Albano, have become a cornerstone of PGI's weekly flag-raising ceremony. These awards recognize not only excellence in job performance but also exceptional

character, dedication, and heart.

It's a simple but powerful message from the provincial leadership to its people: We see you. We appreciate you. Your work matters.

As of February 2025, PGI's workforce is composed of 1,521 regular employees, 2,241 Contract of Service (COS) personnel, and 1,767 contractual workers, each one a vital part of the province's machinery of progress.

The GRTA Awards serve not only to celebrate their contributions but also to emphasize this powerful truth: excellence knows no title or contract type. Whether permanent or job order, every PGI worker is respected, supported, and empowered.

This initiative also fulfills the mandate of Civil Service Commission Memorandum Circular No. 1, s. 2001, under the Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE). More than a compliance mechanism, it has become a living tradition in Isabela's government—week by week, heart by heart.

## Spotlighting Unsung Heroes

Each week, 20 PGI employees from various departments, offices, and provincially managed hospitals are honored. Often, these are the silent achievers: clerks who file with precision, security guards who keep watch with quiet vigilance, engineers who stay late to meet deadlines, or health workers who bring compassion into every patient interaction.

The recognition includes a certificate, a small cash incentive, and heartfelt applause from peers, but for many, it becomes one of the most treasured milestones of their career in public service.

One of those honored is Mr. Erlindo L. Cauilan Jr., a nurse from the Integrated Provincial Health Office (IPHO). Known for his steadfast

dedication behind the scenes, he described the moment he was called as an awardee as both **“genuinely surprising and humbling.”**

**“As someone working mostly behind the scenes, I didn’t expect such recognition,”** Cauilan said.

**“It reminded me that dedication, consistency, and quiet service are seen and valued,”** he added.

As an Administrative Officer at IPHO, he plays a crucial role in supporting the province’s healthcare delivery. He prepares reports, coordinates with local government units, and helps implement the Universal Health Care (UHC) Program across Isabela.



**ERLINDO R. CAUILAN**  
NURSE, INTEGRATED PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICE



**MAUREEN TALOSIG**  
PROVINCIAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION  
AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

## A Story of Service and Resilience

Another awardee, Ms. Maureen Talosig of the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC), received the news of her recognition while in isolation, recovering from COVID-19.

**“Ako’y nagalak at natuwa. Pero nalungkot din ako kasi hindi ako naka-attend sa araw ng awarding. Ngunit lubos pa rin ang aking pasasalamat, at masaya ako na kahit wala ako roon, kinilala pa rin ang aking trabaho. Salamat sa Diyos at sa paggaling ko,”** she recalled.

Before becoming Budget and Finance Section Chief, Maureen began her career in the government as a rescuer, responding to medical emergencies, riding ambulances, and teaching life-saving skills as a certified instructor in Basic Life Support and Standard First Aid.

For Maureen, the GRTA Award is a badge of purpose.

**“Isa itong regalo sa sarili mo, isang paalala na bawat sakripisyo ay may saysay. Dala-dala mo ito habangbuhay. Kaya sa mga kapwa ko lingkod-bayan, magtrabaho lang nang tapat. Sooner or later, makikilala din ang iyong serbisyo,”** she said.

## Many Faces, One Mission

Every awardee carries a unique story, but they are bound by the same spirit of service.

Mr. Jesus Ferdinand Ordoñez of the Isabela Museum and Library expressed pride in being part of the inaugural batch of honorees:

**“My work as a museum researcher is challenging but fulfilling. I learn about the rich cultural heritage of Isabela and share it through our exhibits. This recognition is not just mine; it belongs to my whole team. We work as one,”** he said.

Mr. Reynjo M. Pertubal of the Provincial Youth Development Office, who empowers the youth through outreach and training programs, shared a powerful reminder.

**“Maglingkod tayo ng may malasakit, katapatan, at buong puso. Ang tunay na lingkod-bayan ay hindi perpekto, pero may puso at malasakit. Lagi’t lagi, para sa Isabelino at para sa Isabela,”** he said.

The GRTA Awards go beyond plaques and applause, honoring a culture of gratitude and hope that celebrates the hearts and hands of those who serve, showing that in the Provincial Government of Isabela, public service is a shared journey of excellence, dignity, and malasakit celebrated each week through the Ulirang Kawani.



**REYNJO M. PERTUBAL**  
PROVINCIAL YOUTH DEV’T OFFICE

**JESUS FERDINAND D. ORDOÑEZ**  
ISABELA MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

# ISABELA

LIVE EVERY  
TUESDAY  
AND FRIDAY

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