

Western Visayas

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“ From the Editor

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE 2024 FLEMMS

The 2024 Functional Literacy, Education, and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS) results for Western Visayas highlight significant strides in literacy rates across the region. Aklan emerged as the top performer with a basic literacy rate of 92.1% and a functional literacy rate of 73.9%, showcasing the province's strong educational framework and effective local government support.

These high literacy rates indicate that a substantial portion of the population can read, write, and comprehend complex information, which is crucial for personal and community development. The overall basic literacy rate for Western Visayas stands at 89.6%, while the functional literacy rate is 70.6%, reflecting the region's commitment to improving educational outcomes.

Despite these achievements, the survey also reveals areas that need attention. The gap between basic and functional literacy rates suggests that while many individuals can read and write, fewer can apply these skills effectively in real-world situations.

This underscores the need for targeted interventions to enhance functional literacy, such as localized learning materials and practical literacy strategies. Addressing these gaps is essential for ensuring that all individuals can fully participate in socio-economic activities, thereby fostering inclusive growth and development in Western Visayas.

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The full report of the 2024 Western Visayas Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS) can be accessed here: <https://bit.ly/2024WVFLEMMS>

Water Dialogue

Highlights Urgency of Advancing Water Security and Resilience in Western Visayas

Government agencies, local government units, civil society organizations, academe, and private sector stakeholders convened in Iloilo City for the Water Dialogue 2025, with the theme “Water We Waiting For? Advancing Water Security and Resilience in Western Visayas” on June 19, 2025 in Iloilo City.

Organized by the Iloilo Business Club, Inc., in partnership with the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev) VI and Regional Development Council VI, the event served as a platform for a multisectoral exchange of insights toward addressing key water-related issues confronting the region. The dialogue aligns with the strategies outlined in the Western Visayas Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2023–2028 and Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in promoting water sufficiency, climate adaptation, and resilient infrastructure.

In his keynote address, DEPDev Regional Development Group Undersecretary Carlos Abad Santos emphasized the centrality of water governance in development planning. “With integrated water infrastructure, Western Visayas can boost agricultural productivity through modernized irrigation, secure communities against flooding and climate shocks, expand safe and reliable water supply and sanitation systems for all, and create jobs and investment opportunities across water-related value chains,” he stated.

Dialogue 2025

Advancing Water Security Western Visayas

He also called on regional and local stakeholders to collectively work toward sustainable and inclusive water resource management.

The Dialogue featured presentations from key government agencies on water, private water utilities, and experts from regulatory bodies, who provided challenges and opportunities in the areas of water resource management, water distribution, and infrastructure investment. Participants shared their insights and policy recommendations through a collaborative workshop.

In his closing message, DEPDev VI Regional Director Engr. Arcio A. Casing, Jr. expressed appreciation to the participants for their active engagement and contributions. “The issues and opportunities discussed today are shaping the way we implement the strategies set forth in the Western Visayas Regional Development Plan 2023-2028, by apprising local action plans, encouraging investments for sustainable infrastructure, and strengthening inter-agency coordination and public-private collaboration,” he said.

The outputs of the Dialogue will be consolidated by the RDC-VI Infrastructure Development Committee for further policy refinement, integration in the RDP midterm updating, and endorsement to relevant government offices for their prompt action. (EMPareja/PMED)



DEPDev VI teams up with Private Sector and Regional Line Agencies for Safer Roads in Western Visayas

Key regional line agencies and private sector groups have joined forces to collaborate on the formulation of the Western Visayas Road Safety Action Plan (WVRSAP), 2026-2028. The Plan forms part of the Ligtas na Kalsada for All (LinK4All) project initiated by the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev) Regional Office VI.

This inter-agency collaboration and the project's implementation guidelines were launched during the 5th meeting of the Technical Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals on Road Safety under the Development Administration Committee (DAC) of the Regional Development Council (RDC) VI held on May 14, 2025 at the RDC Conference Room, DEPDev VI Regional Office, Iloilo City.

The LinK4All Project, endorsed through RDC VI Resolution No. 08, s. 2025, serves as the driving force behind the development of the WVRSAP. To support this, a special committee has been formed to bring together stakeholders from regional line agencies, youth groups, professional organizations, academia, local government units, and the private sector who will collaborate as planning teams for multimodal transport and land use planning, safe road use, infrastructure, vehicles, and post-crash response.

“The initiative we have shepherded represents a pioneering approach to road safety. It is the first comprehensive plan that acknowledges the unique context and challenges faced by our region,” shared Director Juan Jovian E. Ingeniero, CESO III, the regional director of the Department of the Interior and Local Government VI and DAC VI chairperson.

The WVRSAP, the first plan of its kind in the country, will adopt a “glocal” approach where practices are processed and reimaged to adapt to the local context while ensuring its alignment with the existing > 13



RDC officials with Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas during the CY 2025 First Quarter RDC Full Council Meeting on March 21, 2025 at the RDC Hall of DEPDev Region VI

RDC VI endorses PHP213.7B proposed RLAs and SUs budgets for FY 2026

The Regional Development Council (RDC) VI endorsed the PHP 213.7B proposed budget for FY 2026 of the 31 regional line agencies (RLAs) and nine state universities (SUs) in Western Visayas during its meeting on March 21, 2025, held at the RDC Hall of NEDA Region VI in Iloilo City. Likewise, the Council endorsed the separate budget proposed by RLAs and SUs for Negros Occidental and Bacolod City, now part of the Negros Island Region, amounting to PHP 98.4B

To ensure alignment of proposed programs and projects with the priorities of the national and regional development plans, the agency and SU budget proposals were presented first to the concerned Sector Committees for review.

Of the total endorsed budget for Western Visayas, the infrastructure sector proposed the highest share with PHP 93.5B, followed by the social sector, amounting to PHP 82.7B. The remaining sectors, economic and development administration, proposed a budget of PHP 18B and PHP 3.5B, respectively. Additionally, the nine regional SUs proposed a total budget of PHP 16B.

For the other matters, the Council elected the members of the Ad Hoc Election Committee in view of the RDC reorganization for the term 2025-2028. It likewise confirmed the creation of the Environment Committee in addition to the existing sector committees pursuant to Section 4(d) of Executive Order 82, which aims to strengthen the role of the RDC in regional socioeconomic development. > 13

Visioning and Stakeholder Consultation Workshop: Shaping Western Visayas' Future

The Visioning and Stakeholders Consultation Workshop marked a crucial milestone in the process of updating the Western Visayas Regional Physical Framework Plan (RPFPP), a strategic policy document guiding sustainable land and resource use in the region. As Western Visayas continues to evolve, the RPFPP requires periodic revisions to address emerging challenges such as economic shifts, climate change, urban expansion, and technological advancements.

Held on June 4-5, 2025, at the RDC Conference Room, DEPDev VI Bldg. in Iloilo City, the workshop gathered representatives from the five provinces and one highly urbanized city of the region. Through interactive sessions, participants engaged in constructive dialogues to develop a shared vision for the future, ensuring that regional priorities align with national goals.

The program featured a data-driven analysis of the region's current landscape, including its geographic context, demographic trends, economic performance, social development, environmental concerns, infrastructure, and governance structures. Participants identified key strengths such as rich natural resources and a skilled workforce, alongside challenges like infrastructure bottlenecks and socio-economic disparities. Through a validation workshop, stakeholders examined regional datasets, refined key findings, and ensured the accuracy of planning inputs for strategic decision-making.

Guiding the discussions and workshops were the highly capable staff of the DEPDev VI Policy Formulation and Planning Division, the lead division in formulating the RPFPP. Their expertise and strategic facilitation ensured that participants engaged meaningfully with the planning process, fostering informed decision-making and collaboration across sectors.

A critical aspect of the workshop was the application of Futures Thinking, an approach that encourages stakeholders to anticipate potential scenarios that could shape Western Visayas in the years ahead. The Scenario Building session, facilitated by EnP Roxanne C. Yap, DEPDev VI Supervising Economic Development Specialist, helped participants analyze possible futures across economic, environmental, technological, and social dimensions, fostering resilience and strategic adaptability. > 13



Western Visayas strengthens position as a premier dive tourism destination through Experience DIVE 6



Experience DIVE 6 invited 23 invited divers to explore dive sites in Antique and Aklan

Western Visayas, a region blessed with expansive coastlines, crystal-clear waters, and diverse marine ecosystems, continues to emerge as one of the Philippines' most promising dive tourism destinations. Encompassing the provinces of Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras, and Iloilo, the region sits within the Coral Triangle—regarded as the global center of marine biodiversity—making it a natural haven for divers and marine conservation advocates alike.

Over the years, the Department of Tourism Region VI (DOT VI), in collaboration with national government agencies, local government units (LGUs), and private stakeholders, has actively promoted dive tourism to draw both domestic and

international divers to Western Visayas. Building on the success of last year's Kruhay! Dive Fest in Northern Antique, which showcased the region's pristine marine sanctuaries, this year's dive tourism event expanded its reach to include two provinces.

Held from June 26 to 29, 2025, Experience DIVE 6 brought together 23 invited divers to explore select dive sites in the provinces of Antique and Aklan—both renowned for their rich underwater biodiversity. The delegation included representatives from the Philippine Commission on Sports Scuba Diving (PCSSD), DOT Region IV-B, marine biologists, and diving enthusiasts from across the country.

The underwater journey began at Maniguin Island, located off the coast of Culasi, Antique. Here, participants dove into three sites: the

Maniguin North East Wall, Lighthouse Wall, and The Ear. Owing to its remote location, Maniguin Island remains largely undisturbed, offering vibrant coral reefs and abundant marine life—a rare and valuable asset for nature-based tourism and conservation efforts.

The second leg of the expedition brought the divers to Boracay Island in Malay, Aklan. While globally celebrated for its powdery white sand beaches, Boracay also boasts an impressive array of dive sites. The participants explored the Tribird Plane Wreck and Diniwid Reef, each providing distinct underwater experiences. These sites revealed another side of Boracay—one that highlights coral resilience, marine biodiversity, and submerged heritage.

While the event was successful in showcasing the potential of Western Visayas' dive destinations, it also surfaced operational challenges. A key concern was the limited number of accredited dive operators in Antique, which impacted logistics, including the availability of equipment and trained personnel. Furthermore, the remoteness and limited accessibility of certain dive > 14

GOVERNANCE

ICPO to set up technology-driven policing strategy

The Iloilo City Police Office (ICPO) is set to institutionalize the Technology-Oriented Policing (TOP) strategy, an initiative first launched by the Police Regional Office 6 (PRO-6), aimed at enhancing real-time crime detection and improving emergency response capabilities.

ICPO director Police Colonel Kim P. Legada said that the strategy would enhance their response capabilities, supporting the call of Philippine National Police (PNP) chief General Nicolas Torre III for a five-minute emergency response time.

Among the key components of the TOP strategy are the installation of Mobile Digital Video Recorders (MDVR) in all patrol cars; acquisition and issuance of handheld radios to all beat and mobile patrollers; and acquisition of additional drones and body-worn cameras to enable live video feeds to the Tactical Operations Center.

Legada announced the plan during the joint meeting of the City Peace and Order Council (CPOC) and Iloilo City Anti-Drug Abuse Council (ICADAC).



Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas, ICPO Director PCOL Kim Legada and Councilor Sedfrey Cabaluna during the joint meeting of the CPOC and ICADAC

He also reported that the ICPO successfully passed the five-minute response simulation exercise (SIMEX) conducted during the recent visit of Torre.

Legada expressed his gratitude to the Iloilo City Government for its support, which he credited for the successful execution of simulation drills, real-time emergency responses, and the sustained peace and order in the metro. (JHerrera/PIA Iloilo)

RDC RESOLUTIONS CY 2025 First Quarter Meeting



The list of 1st Quarter RDC VI Resolutions can be accessed by scanning the QR Code.

A copy of the Resolution may be released upon request in accordance to Executive Order No. 2, s. 2016 (Freedom of Information) and its Implementing Guidelines, and DEPDev FOI Manual.

SOCIAL



PSA VI releases results of the Functional Literacy, Education, and Mass Media Survey on June 5, 2025 at Grand Xing Hotel in Iloilo City

Aklan highest in 2024 literacy survey for Western Visayas

Aklan gets the highest basic and functional literacy ratings in Western Visayas, according to the 2024 Functional Literacy, Education, and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS) results presented during a Philippine Statistics Authority Regional Statistical Services Office-led forum in Western Visayas.

Aklan's basic literacy rate in the region is at 92.1 percent, and the province also topped the functional literacy ranking with 73.9 percent of its population aged 10 to 64 years.

According to the PSA data, Aklan's performance places it ahead of other Western Visayas provinces including Guimaras at 91.2 percent basic literacy, 73.0 percent functional literacy; Antique at 90.1 percent basic literacy, 73.8 percent functional literacy; Capiz at 89.3 percent basic, 70.9 percent functional literacy; Iloilo City at 89.9 percent basic literacy, 70.7 percent functional literacy; and Iloilo province at 88.6 percent basic literacy, 68.4 percent functional literacy.

The region has an 89.6-percent basic literacy rate, which is marginally lower than the country's rate of 90 percent.

The 2024 FLEMMS result also showed the functional literacy rate of the region is at 70.6 percent, which is slightly lower than the country's rate of 70.8 percent.

Basic literacy is defined as the ability of a person to read and write a simple message with understanding, and to compute basic mathematical operations.

Functional literacy, on the other hand, is the ability to read, write, compute, and comprehend.

PSA Western Visayas OIC director Nelida C. Amolar emphasized the significance of this year's FLEMMS. "The 2024 round is particularly notable as it is the first to follow a three-year cycle, allowing more frequent and responsive data. It also features refined definitions of basic and functional literacy that focus more on comprehension in real-world applications," she said.

Department of Education (DepEd) Western Visayas Chief Education Supervisor Dr. Elena Gonzaga attributes Aklan's literacy success to its strong collaboration with local stakeholders.

"Aklan is a high-performing division in terms of literacy, academics, and even sports. This is due to its sustained partnership with local governments, consistent instructional supervision, and established literacy strategies," shared Gonzaga. She likewise emphasized the need to build and enhance these factors. >14



DEPDev VI and PCCI Iloilo collaborate to advance regional SDG agenda through the FF Summit

The Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev) Region VI Regional Director Engr. Arcio A. Casing, Jr., CESO III, presented the current Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) landscape in Western Visayas during the “Future Forward: Western Visayas Impact Leadership Summit 2025” that was conducted by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) – Iloilo on June 24, 2025 at the University of the Philippines Visayas in Iloilo City.



Citing the Western Visayas Regional SDG Catch-Up Plan, Director Casing noted the significant progress and critical areas needing urgent attention by 2030, particularly on nutrition, education quality, and health. The document, which can be downloaded at the DEPDev VI website, can be used by the stakeholder as a guide in decision-making, resource allocation, and project implementation.

The DEPDev Region VI also facilitated five thematic breakout sessions of the Summit which is aligned with key SDG pillars: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace & Justice, and Partnerships. Each group identified and discussed proposed policy reforms for submission to the concerned government bodies for appropriate action.



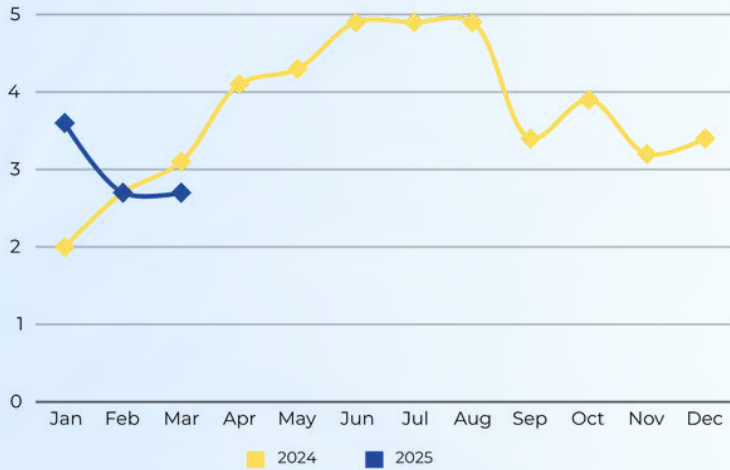
Gathering several civil society organizations, development practitioners, student leaders, and government stakeholders, the Summit aims to foster policy-driven collaboration to advance the SDGs. Experts from academe, private sectors and national government shared their organizations’ SDG efforts and practices.

The Future Forward 2025 Summit was able to highlight the importance of collaborative governance and youth involvement in Western Visayas through sustainable policies, inclusive leadership, and impactful solutions towards the attainment of the SDG targets by 2030. (CPGaitana/DRD)

Western Visayas Situationer

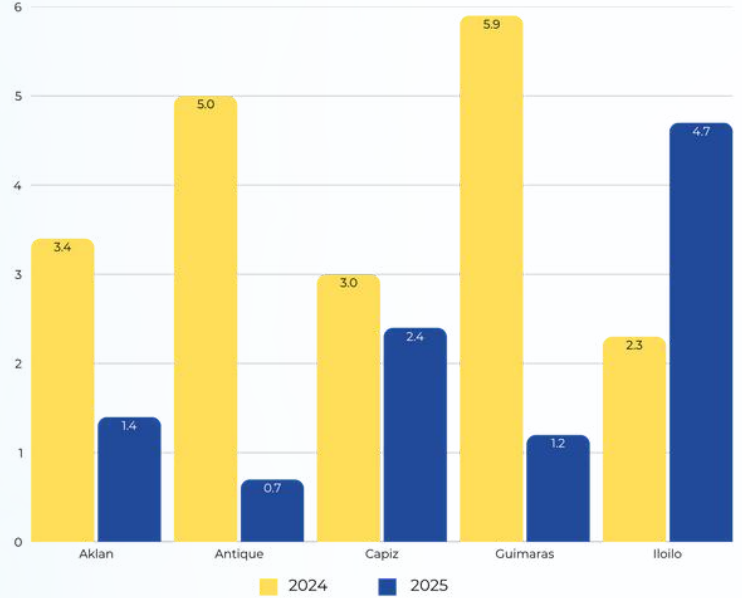
CY 2025 First Quarter

**Average Monthly Inflation Rate
Western Visayas, 2024 - Q1 2025**



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

**Average Inflation Rate by Province
Western Visayas, Q1 2024 & Q1 2025**



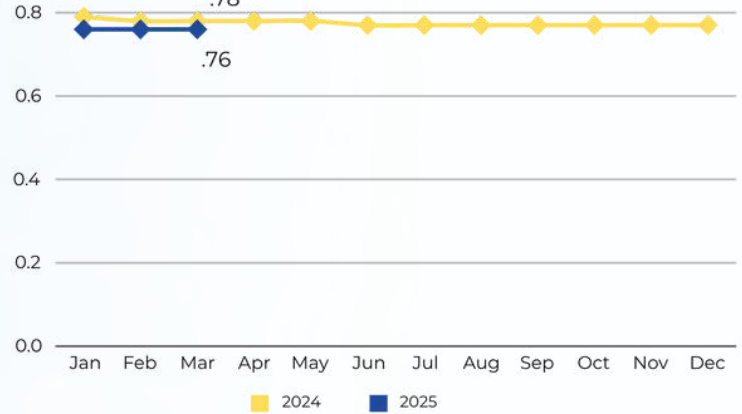
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

**Average Inflation Rate by Commodity Groups
Western Visayas, Q1 2024 & Q1 2025**

Commodity Group	Q1 2024	Q1 2025	% POINT CHANGE
Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages	4.8	2.8	(2.0)
Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco	7.9	4.8	(3.1)
Clothing and Footwear	3.1	4.0	0.9
Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and other Fuels	7.9	3.6	(4.3)
Furnishings, Household Equipment and Routine Household Maintenance	0.5	4.3	3.8
Health	3.0	2.5	(0.5)
Transport	0.5	0.7	0.2
Information and Communication	3.7	0.5	(3.2)
Recreation, Sport and Culture	4.5	3.1	(1.4)
Education Services	3.7	8.1	4.4
Restaurants and Accommodation Services	0.8	4.4	3.6
Financial Services	(1.0)	0.0	1.0
Personal Care, and Miscellaneous Goods and Services	0.8	2.7	1.9

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

**Average Monthly Purchasing Power
Western Visayas, 2024 - Q1 2025**



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

**Tourist Arrivals
Q1 2024 & Q1 2025**

	Q1 2024	Q1 2025	% Change
Domestic	1,256,478	893,780	(28.87)
Foreign	179,455	162,62.	(9.38)
Overseas Filipinos (OF)	10,768	10,685	(0.77)
Tourist Receipts (B PhP)	18.49	15.55	(15.90)

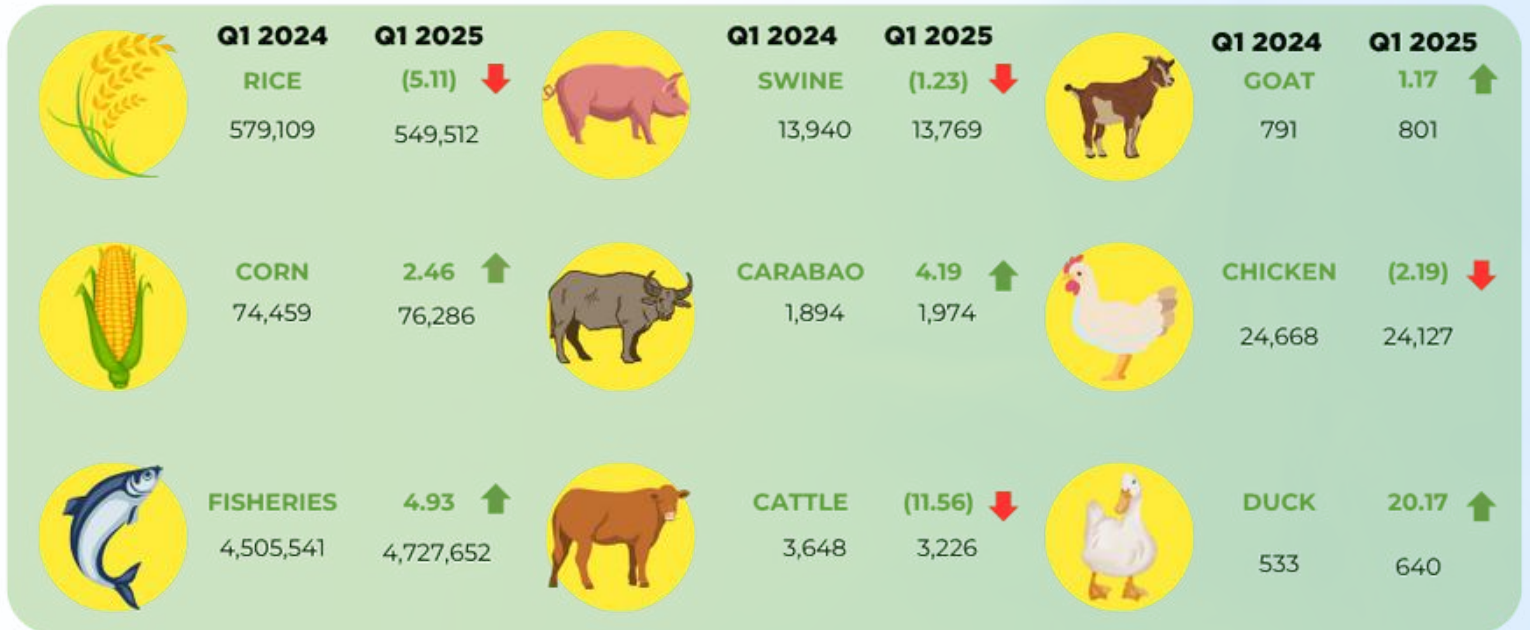
Q1 2025 Top Foreign Tourist Arrivals



Source: Department of Tourism

AGRI-FISHERY SECTOR

Selected Agri-Fishery Volume of Production Western Visayas



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

INDUSTRY SECTOR

Exports and Imports Western Visayas, Q1 2024 & Q1 2025

	Q1 2024	Q1 2025	% CHANGE
Exports (in million US \$)	156.96	126.22	(19.58)
Port of Iloilo	156.96	126.22	(19.58)
Sub-Port of Pulupandan	-	-	-
Imports (in billion PHP)	11.15	12.28	(10.13)
Port of Iloilo	8.83	8.11	(8.15)
Sub-Port of Pulupandan	2.32	4.17	79.74

Source: Bureau of Customs

Q1 2025 TOP EXPORTS (in million US \$)

	Coal in bulk 126.17
	Cut Foliage 0.03
	Herbal Tea 0.02
	Cable Laying tools and equipment 0.02

Q1 2025 TOP IMPORTS (in billion PHP)

	Diesel 2.66
	Fertilizer 1.91
	Rice 1.805
	Coal 1.661
	Cement 1.00

PEACE AND ORDER

	Q1 2024 4,789	Q1 2025 4,789		Q1 2024 99.08	Q1 2025 96.38
Crime Volume			Crime Clearance		
	Q1 2024 35.00	Q1 2025 33.80		Q1 2024 90.73	Q1 2025 88.05
Crime Incidence Rate			Crime Solution		

Source: Philippine National Police

This is a narrative about women helping women, and the men who stood as allies in their economic empowerment. For about 10 years, the Central Philippine University (CPU) Community Engagement and Service Learning Center has supported women in the margins through livelihood and skills development. This private academic institution was able to provide a space where solo parents and struggling mothers forge their paths towards financial autonomy. This initiative helps answer the global call to end poverty, eliminate hunger and provide decent employment. Proactive private sector efforts are essential in achieving inclusive growth.

On the third floor of Johnson Hall, the members of the Asosasyon ng Pantawid Pamilyang Mananahi (APPM) sew school uniforms, curtains, rags, school costumes, and pillowcases. It is open on weekdays, except holidays, from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

The CPU community is their primary market, but they are also open to walk-in clients from outside, since the demands of in-campus clients can prove scarce and seasonal.

This initiative started in 2015 with 30 Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) beneficiaries from the Jaro District in Iloilo City. Through the initial assistance of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), some were able to bring sewing machines for a home-based livelihood. The university has now provided the machines for those who stay at the center.

Among the thirty, only six pioneers were left in the facility, helping new ones in the skill of sewing. Others have sought greener pastures outside the country or were not able to continue due to multilayered domestic obligations. Currently, the pioneers are training twelve new workers.

While some of them are no longer 4Ps beneficiaries, they continue to sew to mitigate poverty, supporting children and grandchildren.

The collective is actually is not exclusively comprised of an all-women team. A lone male broke stereotype. He works as a part-time construction worker, but has joined the group to augment his income.

Presently, four solo parents are in the fold. Their individual struggles intertwine with the threads that bind the clothing that they sew. Their personal resilience is sewn into the clothes that they repurpose. Their hopes and dreams for their families are drawn in the patterns that they set.

Facilities like these do not only provide much needed financial aid. This also serves as a sanctuary where women can empathize with each other as they stitch through the patches of their varied psychological states.

These women's weekdays start early and end after dusk. As they stay for twelve-hour shifts at the center, stories of their personal struggles reverberate with the sound of the sewing machines. (IGPahila/DEPDev)



SEWING HOPE

MONTHLY OBSERVANCES

JUL

Nutrition Month

National Nutrition Month is observed every July in the Philippines to raise awareness about the importance of nutrition and healthy eating habits. The theme for 2025 is "Sa PPAN: Sama-sama sa Nutrisyong Sapat Para sa Lahat!". This theme emphasizes collective efforts to ensure that everyone has access to sufficient and nutritious food.

AUG

Buwan Ng Wika

Buwan ng Wika (National Language Month) is celebrated every August in the Philippines to promote the national language, Filipino, and other indigenous languages. This month-long observance aims to foster appreciation for the country's linguistic heritage and strengthen national identity. For 2025, the theme "Ang Paglinang ng Filipino at Katutubong Wika: Makasaysayan sa Pagbuo ng Bansa," highlights the vital role of language in nation-building.

SEP

Civil Service Month

Civil Service Month is celebrated every September in the Philippines to honor the establishment of the Philippine civil service on September 19, 1900. The theme for 2025 is "Transforming Public Service in the Next Decade: Honing Agile and Future-Ready Servant-Heroes", to emphasize the importance of sustainable management and the development of a future-ready civil service.

DEPDev VI teams

global plan formulated by the United Nations as well as the Philippine Road Safety Action Plan formulated by the Department of Transportation.

“With strong collaboration from actors both from the private and public sector and the collective effort that road safety demands, the LinK4All project will go beyond being just a plan – I am confident it will produce tangible results,” Engr. Arcio A. Casing, Jr., CESO III, regional director of the DEPDev VI and Vice-Chairperson of the RDC VI said.

During the same meeting, two memoranda of understanding on partnerships for the LinK4All Project were signed by the DEPDev Regional Office VI with the Department of Health Western Visayas Center for Health Development (DOH-WVCHD), the Global Youth Coalition for Road Safety, and the Iloilo Business Club, Inc (IBC).

Dr. May Ann Soliva- Sta. Lucia, chief of the Local Health Support Division of the DOH-WVCHD, highlighted their agency’s ongoing commitment to road safety.

“Our main focus for 2025-2028 is to enhance the skills and capabilities of the prehospital responders and hospital personnel through trauma care training. With the RDC VI overseeing overall coordination, the DOH will play a vital role in reducing road crash fatalities and serious injuries in the region,” as the lead agency for post-crash response, she emphasized.

The IBC, as the lead private sector partner, plays a crucial role in this initiative by actively supporting pre-plan formulation activities, including capacity-building for stakeholders and road safety awareness efforts. “[IBC] and the private sector community applaud this collaboration not only because transportation is a vital part of our daily grind, but strategic solutions to these challenges, implemented properly save lives,” said IBC President Emil S. Diez.

The LinK4All Project is a re-entry action plan of Engr. Ray Adrian C. Macalalag, a recipient of the Australia Awards scholarship who completed his Master of Transport degree from the University of Sydney. He is also a leadership board member of the Global Youth Coalition for Road Safety that actively supports this initiative. (RCMacalalag/DEPDev VI)

RDC VI endorses

The Council members also selected the top three RDC VI Logo Making Contest winners launched last January 2025. The winning logo reflects the new administrative and geographical configuration of the region which now consist of the provinces of Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras and Iloilo. Negros Occidental was separated from Western Visayas on June 11, 2024 by virtue of Republic Act No. 12000 which created the Negros Island Region. (RADemonteverde/DEPDev VI)

Visioning and Stakeholders Consultation

The Vision-Crafting session, led by EnP August Melody Andong, Senior Economic Development Specialist, enabled participants to consolidate their aspirations and align them with regional priorities, ensuring a clear and actionable vision statement for the RPPF. Meanwhile, Engr. Ray Adrian C. Macalalag, also a Senior Economic Development Specialist, provided crucial spatial data analyses, equipping stakeholders with evidence-based insights that strengthened the technical foundation of the plan.

At the conclusion of the workshop, Ms. Joyalita B. Tigres, Chief Economic Development Specialist, expressed her gratitude to the participants for their active engagement and valuable contributions throughout the discussions. She also presented the synthesis of the outputs and the ways forward, emphasizing the importance of continued collaboration in refining and implementing the RPPF.

With the completion of the workshop, a strong foundation has been established for the next phases of the RPPF update. From June to December 2025, series of workshops, reviews, and endorsements will shape the final document, ensuring a broad-based and inclusive approach. In his welcome remarks, DEPDev VI Regional Director Arcio A. Casing, Jr. emphasized, “Through our collective efforts, we aim to develop the WV RPPF 2025-2055, a forward-thinking and adaptable plan that reflects the region’s evolving economic, environmental, and social landscape. This framework will not only strengthen investment guidance but also ensure equitable access to opportunities while preserving our rich natural heritage.”

As Western Visayas moves forward, collaboration, innovation, and shared commitment will be vital in translating this vision into reality. (RCYap/DEPDev VI)

Western Visayas strengthens

sites posed difficulties in transportation, safety coordination, and time management.

These challenges highlighted the need for stronger institutional support, enhanced infrastructure, and deeper partnerships with local communities and tourism stakeholders. Addressing these gaps will be essential to ensuring the continued growth and sustainability of dive tourism in the region.

More than just an exploration, Experience DIVE 6 served as a platform for promoting environmental stewardship, building local capacities, and fostering a community of divers who are not just visitors, but advocates for marine conservation. As Western Visayas continues to grow its dive tourism portfolio, the region moves closer to positioning itself as a model for sustainable and inclusive marine-based tourism in the Philippines. (DOT VI)

Aklan highest

“To close the gap between basic and functional literacy, we must localize and contextualize learning materials that reflect our region’s cultural and linguistic diversity,” she said.

“Interventions must also be targeted, especially for at-risk learners, and teacher training must focus on practical literacy strategies,” she added.

Survey results also highlight that females had higher basic literacy at 90.8 percent and functional literacy at 74.8 percent rates than males, who posted 88.4 percent and 66.6 percent, respectively.

Meanwhile, Amolar stressed that the data must translate into actionable programs.

“This forum goes beyond simply presenting numbers. It serves as a venue for reflection, collaboration, and tangible action—to shape policies that are inclusive, grounded, and responsive to the needs of the education sector and other development concerns in Western Visayas,” she said.

The PSA presented the data alongside officials from DepEd and the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development in Western Visayas, emphasizing the need for targeted literacy strategies and continued collaboration to uplift education outcomes in the region.

This year’s survey achieved a 98.42% household response rate in the region (EDalipe/PIA VI)

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Lalaine D. Hosillos
Ray Adrian C. Macalalag
Ira G. Pahila
Enniss Albert M. Pareja
Roxanne C. Yap

CONTRIBUTORS

DOT Region VI
PIA Region VI

LAY-OUT

Ronie A. Demonteverde
Rashley David A. De Juan
Enniss Albert A. Pareja



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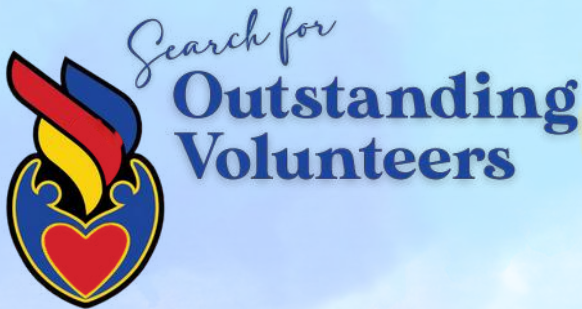
dro6@depdev.gov.ph



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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations are now open for the CY 2025 Search for Outstanding Volunteers (SOV) and the Bayanihan Media Awards (BMA).



The Search for Outstanding Volunteers aims to identify and recognize outstanding Filipino volunteers and volunteer organizations for their exemplary performance and achievements in empowering communities and promoting volunteerism as a way of life, contributory to nation-building.

The Search will cover volunteering activities that were conducted in the Philippines, excluding volunteer service done for family members, for religious or indoctrination purposes, and initiatives which are part of the academic programs (ex. National Service Training Program) of academic institutions.

There are four (4) award categories for the Search:

1. National Outstanding Volunteer Award (NOVA)
2. Volunteer Lifetime Achievement Award (VLAA)
3. Outstanding LGU Award
4. Special Award for HEIs

Nominators must ensure that their nominees meet the minimum eligibility requirements specific to the category they are being nominated for.

You may download the nomination forms and other SOV resources here:

<https://bit.ly/SOVPublicFiles2025>

Nomination period is from July 9 to August 29, 2025.

The Bayanihan Media Awards seeks to identify and recognize media practitioners and organizations embodying responsible and ethical media practices for their outstanding role and contribution in promoting volunteerism and its importance to national development through their work, thus encouraging the public to take an active role in volunteering and make volunteerism a way of life. In addition, BMA celebrates diversity and inclusion and fosters public awareness and understanding of pressing social issues through volunteerism media content.

The Awards Program is a partnership initiative of the PNVSCA, the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC), the Department of Public Works and Highways – District Engineers’ League of the Philippines (DPWH-DELP), and the Ayala Foundation, Inc. (AFI).

The following are four (4) award categories:

1. Best Volunteerism Reporting in Print Media
2. Best Volunteerism Reporting in Television
3. Best Volunteerism Reporting in Radio
4. Best Volunteerism Reporting/Feature in Digital Media

You may download the nomination forms and other SOV resources here:

<https://bit.ly/BMAPublicFiles2025>

Nomination period is from July 9 to September 12, 2025.

RPMES MONITOR



THE OFFICIAL QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE
REGIONAL PROJECT MONITORING COMMITTEE VI



Participants and guests during the 5th Regional M&E Forum held on June 5, 2025 at the Diversion21 Hotel, Iloilo City.

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2ND QUARTER ISSUE
CY 2025

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RPMC VI Technical Secretariat
Project Monitoring & Evaluation Division,
NEDA Regional Office VI



Awardees together with the RPMC VI member agencies and guests during the Western Visayas M&E Excellence Awards on June 5, 2025 at the Diversion21 Hotel, Iloilo City.

Western Visayas M&E Excellence Awards Honor Outstanding Monitoring and Evaluation Initiatives

ILOILO CITY—The Regional Development Council (RDC) VI, through the Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC), recognized outstanding initiatives of government agencies and local government units in the region during the Western Visayas M&E Excellence Awards held on June 5, 2025 at Diversion21 Hotel, Iloilo City.

Among the regional line agencies, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) VI was awarded with Most Effective Data Visualization in M&E and Excellence in Regional Development Monitoring for its dedication to providing relevant data and insights in project monitoring of regional development initiatives. Meanwhile, the Department of Agriculture VI received the Excellence in M&E Reporting and Communication, recognizing its consistent excellence in the timely, accurate, and complete submission of Regional Project Monitoring and Evaluation System (RPMES). The Most Innovative M&E Approach was

awarded to the Department of the Interior and Local Government VI for its initiative in developing and implementing the Local Project Monitoring Committee Functionality Tracking System. The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) VI and the Department of Social Welfare and Development VI were awarded with Outstanding Practice in Participatory M&E. NIA VI also received the Most Effective Data Visualization in M&E award.

The Guimaras Provincial Project Monitoring Committee (PPMC) was conferred the awards on Best Performing Local Project Monitoring Committee, Most Effective Data Visualization in M&E, and Most Innovative M&E Approach. The province was also honored with the M&E Leadership and Advocacy Award, acknowledging its unwavering commitment to promoting a culture of monitoring and evaluation at both the provincial and municipal levels. Joining Guimaras in this distinction, the Province of Negros Occidental was also recognized for Outstanding Practice in Participatory M&E.

The highlight of the event was the conferral of the Lifetime Achievement Award in M&E to former RPMC VI Chairperson and then National

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5th Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Forum Advances Results-Oriented Development in Western Visayas

The Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC) VI, through the Project Monitoring and Evaluation Division of the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev) VI, convened the 5th Regional Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Forum in JR Hall, Diversion 21 Hotel, Iloilo City on June 5, 2025.

Carrying the theme “Strengthening Partnerships in M&E: Driving Informed Decisions for Greater Impact”, the forum emphasized the importance of inter-agency coordination and evidence-based program and project planning in achieving the strategic outcomes set in the Western Visayas Regional Development Plan 2023–2028.

In his opening message to regional line agencies, local government units, academe, civil society organizations, and development partners, RPMC VI Chairperson and DEPDev VI Regional Director Arcenio A. Casing, Jr.,

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(Left to right) Ms. Jed Asaii Dimaisip-Nabuab of Innovations for Poverty Action, Dr. Jose Ramon Albert of Philippine Institute for Development Studies, Mr. Jordan B. Sali of DEPDev IX, and Engr. Mezlaine Jay S. Pacana of DEPDev X shared results of evaluation studies of their respective institutions and how these have contributed to shaping and influencing government policies.

RPMC VI visits projects implemented in Capiz and Aklan

The Regional Project Monitoring Committee (RPMC) VI conducted monitoring visits to eleven (11) projects in Capiz and Aklan on May 5–10, 2025 covering road expansions and rehabilitation, drainage construction, airport rehabilitation and improvement, and resettlement projects.

Projects visited included the ongoing rehabilitation of road sections under the Western Nautical Highway and housing projects in Roxas City, Capiz; maintenance and rehabilitation of Roxas, Kalibo, and Caticlan airports; farm-to-market roads in Libacao ang Banga, Aklan; and Boracay rehabilitation projects.

Project management teams presented the updated work schedules during project briefings. Particular attention was paid to compliance with timelines, budget adherence, quality of work, and alignment with project specifications. As observed, safety compliance was satisfactory, with visible project signages and use of personal protective equipment, although further emphasis on proper scaffolding around elevated structures is required.

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Panel discussion on “Strengthening Regional Systems: Challenges and Opportunities in M&E Implementation” moderated by Dr. Jeffrey Ballaret of West Visayas State University (leftmost), and discussants namely (left to right) DEPDev VI Regional Director Arcenio Casing, Jr., DILG VI Regional Director Juan Jovian Ingeniero, and representatives from the academe – Dr. Felipe Vista IV of Northern Iloilo State University and Mr. Rodolfo Betito, Jr. of the University of San Agustin.

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Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Regional Director Ro-Ann A. Bacal. She was recognized for her enduring contributions in strengthening monitoring and evaluation frameworks across the region. Through her leadership, she shepherded the implementation and completion of major infrastructure and development projects across the region. She actively presided over project facilitation meetings and solution-oriented dialogues helping address implementation challenges, resolve bottlenecks, and accelerate project delivery.

The Regional M&E Excellence Awards was approved by the RDC-VI through Resolution No. 149, s. 2023, to recognize exemplary efforts of the implementing agencies and government bodies in Western Visayas for their efficient and effective M&E practices. (*Enniss Albert M. Pareja, DEPDev VI*)

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Environmental safeguards were also reviewed where need for basic erosion control measures and more comprehensive runoff management especially on projects which advance into more sensitive terrain were emphasized.

Overall, the infrastructure projects are on a promising path, but proactive monitoring and early intervention will be essential to deliver them on time, within scope, and with minimal social or environmental disruption. Generally, for problematic projects, RPMC VI stressed the importance of close coordination with contractors to immediately address bottlenecks and prevent further delays.

The RPMC VI inspection team was comprised of technical personnel from Department of Economy, Planning and Development VI, Office of the President – Presidential Management Staff Sub-Central Unit - Western Visayas, Department of the Interior and Local Government VI, and Private Sector Representatives from the United Architects of the Philippines– Iloilo Chapter, and PROCESS Foundation Panay, Inc.. (*Engr. Lalaine D. Hosillos, DEPDev VI*)

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called on institutions to uphold the integrity and utility of evidence in shaping policies and programs that truly serve the public. “At the heart of M&E is the people. Our ultimate goal is not the report, the numbers, or the indicators; it is the impact we make on the lives of our fellow Filipinos,” he said.

Key sessions included a discussion on M&E and fiscal management and strengthening regional M&E systems. The National Evaluation Policy Framework, which was presented by DEPDev Monitoring and Evaluation Staff Assistant Director Paul Andrew Tatlonghari, highlighted the government’s commitment to institutionalizing evaluation in all levels of development planning.

The forum also featured evaluation studies of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) and Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA). Mr. Jordan Sali of DEPDev IX and Engr. Mezlaine Jay Pacana of DEPDev X also shared the results of the impact evaluation studies conducted by their respective offices. These studies demonstrated how evaluations can shape policy and improve program design in key areas such as education, poverty alleviation, and infrastructure development.

The 5th Regional M&E Forum forms part of the region’s efforts to mainstream results-based management and foster a culture of transparency and accountability in governance. (*Enniss Albert M. Pareja, DEPDev VI*)



RPMC-VI monitoring team with DPWH Aklan District Engineering Office during the visit to Boracay Circumferential Road on May 9, 2025 in Malay, Aklan.