



EXUDING THE SYNERGY OF BAYBAY CITY'S PILLARS. City leaders stand united in a shared mission and working hand in hand with the Schools Division of Baybay City and key stakeholders to ensure the successful staging of the 2026 EVRAA Meet. In photos- upper row (left to right) are Hon. Carl Nicolas C. Cari, Hon. Jose Carlos L. Cari, Hon. Ernesto M. Butawan, Hon. Carmen L. Cari, CID Chief Dr. Jo-Ann C. Rapada, SGOD Chief Dr. Ritchel Marie B. Villamor, ASDS Dr. Josemilo P. Ruiz, CESE, and SDS Dr. Manuel P. Albaño, CESO V; in the lower row (left to right) are Hon. Kyla Shannen T. Vidal, Hon. Jules Lucas C. Cari, Hon. Eduard Marque R. Guinocor, Hon. Jose Rommel A. Peñaranda, Hon. Ramon Ronald J. Veloso, Hon. Jose L. Bacusmo, Hon. Simoune L. Astorga, Hon. Dominic Junie F. Murillo, Hon. Fulton Ike C. Arradaza, Hon. Edgardo R. Ompoy, and Hon. Romulo B. Alcalá. **Photo credit: SDO Baybay City ICT Personnel**

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Baybay City takes the helm as host of the 2026 EVRAA Meet

by **MARIAM G. ARANAS**

BAYBAY CITY, LEYTE - Baybay City officially assumed its role as host of the 2026 Eastern Visayas Regional Athletic Association (EVRAA) Meet from March 1-7, 2026, welcoming thousands of student-athletes, coaches, and officials from across Region VIII.

Anchored on the theme "LIHOK Rehiyon Otso: Isang Puso, Isang Laban, Isang Tagumpay," this year's Meet highlights solidarity, resilience, and collective aspiration. "LIHOK," which signifies action and movement, reflects the region's shared determination to move forward together and achieve common goals through sports. The theme underscores the spirit of healthy competition, sportsmanship, and mutual respect among participating divisions.

Months of preparation positioned Baybay City to host this EVRAA Meet. Committees, local government units, and partner agencies coordinated closely to

ensure the event meets regional standards and provides a safe, well-managed experience for all delegates. Beyond competition, the event also offers an opportunity to empower youth, encourage discipline, and strengthen camaraderie among student-athletes.

The hosting of the Meet is supported by key pillars of the Baybay City community, including Hon. Carl Nicolas C. Cari, Representative of the 5th District of Leyte, Hon. Jose Carlos L. Cari, City Mayor of Baybay, and Dr. Manuel P. Albaño, Schools Division Superintendent of Baybay City, who provided leadership and guidance in preparing the city for this major regional event.

As competitions unfold across various venues, Baybay City stands ready to manage the weeklong meet and extend warm Baybayanon hospitality, ensuring a meaningful experience for participants and visitors from across Region VIII.

Baybay City LGU rallies full support for 2026 EVRAA Meet hosting

by AVELINA M. MASCARIÑAS

The City Government of Baybay has intensified its preparations for the 2026 Eastern Visayas Regional Athletic Association (EVRAA) Meet, demonstrating firm and unified support for the city's hosting of one of the region's most anticipated sporting events.

Under the leadership of Hon. Jose Carlos L. Cari and Cong. Carl Nicolas C. Cari, the local government has allocated substantial resources to ensure that all major components of the meet are delivered with excellence, efficiency, and pride.

Central to the preparations is the upgrading and maintenance of the Baybay City Sports Complex, the primary venue for athletic competitions. Rehabilitation works, facility enhancements, and safety inspections are ongoing to guarantee that playing areas, courts, and track facilities meet competitive standards and provide a safe, world-class environment for athletes across Eastern Visayas.

Complementing the infrastructure improvements is the LGU's full support for official uniforms that embody discipline, unity, and the identity of the host city. Athletes, coaches, and event personnel will be equipped with complete and coordinated sportswear, reflecting professionalism and readiness to welcome thousands of delegates.

The City LGU has likewise ensured the production of high-quality medals that symbolize excellence, perseverance, and victory. Thoughtfully designed to capture the spirit of EVRAA and the pride of Baybay City, these medals will stand as lasting emblems of achievement for every champion.

Mayor Cari emphasized that hosting the 2026 EVRAA Meet goes beyond staging competitions—it is an opportunity to showcase Baybay City's capability, hospitality, and commitment to youth development through sports. With the strong backing of the local government and congressional support, Baybay City moves forward with confidence, prepared to deliver a memorable and well-organized regional athletic meet.



Photo Credit : Discover Baybay



Comfort, accountability top host priorities

by MARIAM G. ARANAS

Baybay City has implemented a structured bedding distribution and documentation system to ensure the comfort of delegates while safeguarding government-issued resources, reinforcing its dual commitment to welfare and accountability ahead of the regional sports event organized by the SDO Baybay City.

Working closely with meet organizers, the host city has prepared complete bedding sets for athletes, coaches, and officials who will be accommodated in designated billeting quarters. Each set undergoes inspection and inventory prior to release to guarantee cleanliness, quality, and readiness for use.

To strengthen accountability, the city requires a detailed acknowledgment receipt for every bedding set issued. The document lists all items released and includes attached photographs of each piece to ensure transparency and accurate tracking.

The acknowledgment receipt is prepared in triplicate: one copy for the owner or property custodian, one for the billeting in-charge, and one for the borrower or receiving delegation. This system establishes clear responsibility and minimizes potential loss or damage during the duration of the games.

City officials emphasized that providing comfort for visiting delegations goes hand in hand with responsible stewardship of public resources, underscoring the host city's commitment to disciplined management and well-coordinated preparations.



Photo Credit by Arnold S. Mabalda

Logo officially approved as visual anthem for EVRAA Meet 2026



by **MARIAM G. ARANAS**



Baybay City marked a significant milestone in its preparations for the 2026 Eastern Visayas Regional Athletic Association (EVRAA) Meet as the official event logo was formally approved during the Regional Sports Board Meeting on September 1, 2025 at the 4th Floor Meeting Room of City Hall, symbolizing unity, readiness, and the city's firm commitment to host the region's premier sporting event from March 1 to 7, 2026.

The meeting was a powerhouse assembly of leaders, including Dr. Ronelo Al K. Firmo, CESO IV (OIC-Regional Director), Hon. Carl Nicolas C. Cari (Representative, 5th District of Leyte), Hon. Jose Carlos L. Cari (City Mayor of Baybay), Hon. Atty. Ernesto M. Butawan (City Vice Mayor of Baybay), and Atty. Florante A. Cayunda Jr. (City Administrative Officer), alongside the key DepEd officials of SDO Baybay City, Dr. Manuel P. Albaño, CESO V, Schools Division Superintendent, Dr. Josemilo P. Ruiz, CESE, Assistant Schools Division Superintendent, Dr. Jo-Ann C. Rapada, CID Chief, and Dr. Ritchel Marie B. Villamor, SGOD Chief.

Each letter in the "EVRAA" tells a story. The meaning behind the symbols:

E – Faith and Heritage: Anchored by the silhouette of the **Immaculate Conception Church**, symbolizing the city's unbreakable spiritual foundation and historical devotion.

V – Sports, Passion, and Knowledge: Featuring the **Baybay City Sports Complex**, this letter is crowned with a **flaming torch**. This addition serves as a vital symbol of the "light of knowledge" championed by the **Department of Education (DepEd)**, merging academic guidance with athletic fire.

R – Culture and Arts: Forged with an **intricate banig pattern**, signaling the resilience and woven unity of the Baybayanon people.

A – Education and Environment: Showcasing **Mt. Pangasugan** and the **VSU Obelisk**, marking the city as a dominant hub for research and academic excellence.

A – Commerce and Tourism: Highlighting the **Baybay Boardwalk**, representing aggressive economic progress and the city's status as a premier ecotourism destination.

By finalizing this "visual anthem," these leaders have transformed a design into a badge of authority—ensuring the 2026 games are anchored in discipline, excellence, and a unified commitment to the holistic victory of every student-athlete.

Solidarity meeting unites leaders



by **AVELINA M. MASCARIÑAS**

February 28, 2026, at the Binaybayon Convention Center Main Hall, unity and shared commitment took center stage as officials, sports leaders, and delegates convened for the Solidarity Meeting of the 2026 Eastern Visayas Regional Athletic Association (EVRAA) Meet, reaffirming their collective resolve to deliver a successful and historic regional sporting event.

The program formally opened with words of welcome from Dr. Manuel P. Albaño, CESO V, Schools Division Superintendent of Baybay City, who underscored the significance of collaboration among divisions and partner agencies in upholding the true spirit of sportsmanship, excellence, and regional camaraderie. He emphasized that hosting the 2026 EVRAA Meet is both an honor and a responsibility for the Schools Division Office of Baybay City.

Dr. Alejandra B. Lagumbay, Chief of the Education Support Services Division (ESSD) and Regional Sports Officer, acknowledged the presence of regional officials, division delegates, technical working groups, and partner stakeholders whose unwavering support fuels the realization of the regional athletic meet.

Adding inspiration to the gathering was a heartfelt solo rendition by Mr. John S. Hammond Jr., setting a tone of pride and anticipation for the upcoming games.

Messages of support followed from Dr. Ronelo Al K. Firmo, CESO IV, Officer-In-Charge, Office of the Regional Director, who commended the host division's thorough preparations and highlighted EVRAA as a platform for nurturing discipline, teamwork, and youth empowerment. Hon. Jose Carlos L. Cari, Mayor of Baybay City, likewise expressed the city's full backing of the event, assuring delegates of Baybay's readiness to provide safe, organized, and athlete-centered facilities and services.

The Amguhan Ukelele Ensemble delivered an engaging intermission number, showcasing local talent and adding vibrant cultural flair to the program.

A comprehensive series of briefings ensued to ensure operational readiness. Sir Dosito D. Moreno discussed the designated playing venues and event clusters, while Sir Jerson Colocor outlined transportation protocols for delegates and officials. Medical preparations were presented by Dr. Michael Joseph Ceniza, covering health stations and emergency response systems. Security, peace, and order plans were detailed by PLTCOL Dexter Edillo, reinforcing coordinated efforts with law enforcement agencies.

Operational support updates continued with Sir Dindo Escasinas on general services, Engr. Rhyse M. Austero on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM), Ms. Hannah Rose Cuaderno on the Learner Rights and Protection (LRP) mechanisms, and Sir Rodel Rosales on results management and documentation procedures to ensure transparency and accuracy throughout the competitions.

The solidarity meeting proper then proceeded by event, allowing delegates and technical officials to clarify guidelines, finalize arrangements, and align on standards of implementation. The program was efficiently hosted by Mr. Antonio Paulo Calixto IV and Ms. Queencess Izra A. Labayan, whose dynamic facilitation sustained the momentum and spirit of unity throughout the gathering.

As the meeting concluded, a shared commitment resonated among all present: one vision, one region, one EVRAA Meet, geared toward staging a 2026 meet that embodies excellence, integrity, and solidarity in Eastern Visayas.



Binaybayon Sports Complex takes center stage for the opening of EVRAA Meet 2026

by JASPER PAUL A. YCOY

With only days to go before the opening ceremony, preparations at the Binaybayon Sports Complex are now in full swing as the City of Baybay gets ready to welcome the Eastern Visayas Regional Athletics Association Meet 2026, happening from March 1 to 7, 2026.

Around the venue, final touches are underway, with crews working day and night to ensure that everything is in place for an opening ceremony that thousands of athletes, officials, and spectators will long remember.

Baybay City Mayor Jose Carlos Cari shared that the city is fully prepared to host this year's regional sports meet, citing world class facilities and closely coordinated security measures. An estimated 25,000 athletes, delegates, tourists, and visitors are expected to arrive in the city, and the local government is focused on delivering an experience that is not only successful but also warm and memorable for everyone who comes to Baybay.

At the center of these preparations is the New Binaybayon Sports Complex, the main feature of the 10.5 hectare Binaybayon Complex envisioned as the city's premier destination for sports, conventions, and large scale events. Built to accommodate both regional and national competitions, the complex is designed as an integrated development that brings together the New Binaybayon Sports Complex and the Binaybayon Convention Center, creating a vibrant space for athletic events and major civic gatherings.

The sports complex offers modern, athlete focused amenities that meet competitive standards. Its main stadium features an Olympic size rubberized track oval surrounding a full sized football field. Two sided grandstand bleachers, inspired by the architectural design of the Roman Colosseum in Rome, Italy, add both character and capacity to the venue. An Olympic size swimming pool further strengthens the complex, serving as an

important site for training and competition during the meet organized by the Eastern Visayas Regional Athletic Association.

Beside the sports facilities stands the Binaybayon Convention Center, a 7,589 square meter hall designed to host major events such as the opening and closing ceremonies, assemblies, and other activities connected to the games. Together, these facilities reflect Baybay City's strong commitment to developing infrastructure that supports athletic excellence while bringing the community together.

Mayor Cari noted that the improvements made for EVRAA will continue to benefit local sports programs long after the competitions end. He also emphasized that hosting the regional meet is expected to give a boost to local tourism and economic activity, as visitors explore the city's destinations, enjoy local food, and make use of its growing facilities.

Beyond the venues, the spirit of preparation can be felt across the city. Public schools are readying classrooms to serve as temporary billeting areas, volunteers are being trained to assist with registration, logistics, and crowd management, and local businesses are preparing for increased activity as delegations arrive from different parts of Eastern Visayas.

Security measures are also firmly in place. The Baybay City Police Office, led by Police Lieutenant Colonel Dexter Edillo, will receive augmentation forces from the Leyte Provincial Police Office to help secure sports venues, billeting areas, and other key locations. Police personnel will be strategically deployed to ensure safety for all athletes, officials, and visitors.

As excitement continues to build and final preparations are completed, Baybay City stands ready to open its doors to the region. The EVRAA Meet 2026 is shaping up to be more than a competition. It is a celebration of sportsmanship, unity, and regional pride, with the Binaybayon Sports Complex serving as the stage where Eastern Visayas comes together.



LIHOK Rehiyon Otso: Isang Puso, Isang Laban, Isang Tagumpay

Every stride on the track, every leap on the court, and every thunderous cheer from the stands affirm a single truth: when a community moves as one, victory is not merely hoped for, it is forged together. This is the spirit captured in the EVRAA 2026 theme, "LIHOK Rehiyon Otso: Isang Puso, Isang Laban, Isang Tagumpay."

EDITORIAL

"LIHOK," a Bisaya word meaning movement, transcends physical motion. For the people of Baybay, it signifies resolve in action, courage in adversity, and perseverance that refuses to yield. It is the same spirit that has carried the region through life's fiercest storms. Time and again, Eastern Visayas has risen from the devastation of typhoons, rebuilt shattered communities, and restored hope where despair once lingered. LIHOK is not simply movement; it is resilience in motion.

The EVRAA Meet stands as a powerful testament to this enduring spirit. Each year, athletes from cities and provinces across the region gather, not merely to compete, but to represent the pride, discipline, and dreams of their communities. Behind every athlete is a network of support: coaches who train tirelessly, teachers who guide patiently, parents who sacrifice silently, and communities who believe in them wholeheartedly.

The EVRAA Meet stands as a powerful testament to this enduring spirit. Each year, athletes from cities and provinces across the region gather, not merely to compete, but to represent the pride, discipline, and dreams of their communities. Behind every athlete is a network of support: coaches who train tirelessly, teachers who guide patiently, parents who sacrifice silently, and communities who believe in them wholeheartedly.

Though competition fills the air with intensity, the deeper victory lies beyond medals and trophies. EVRAA cultivates character as much as skill. It molds discipline, strengthens integrity, fosters camaraderie, and nurtures faith in the Almighty - values that shape not only champions in sports, but responsible citizens of the nation. In this arena, diversity becomes strength, rivalry becomes motivation, and unity becomes power.

LIHOK Rehiyon Otso is more than a theme, it is a declaration. It proclaims that when hearts beat in unison, when determination fuels every effort, and when faith anchors every dream, no obstacle is insurmountable.

As long as Rehiyon Otso moves together as one, no dream is too distant, and no victory is impossible. One heart! One fight! One triumph!

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Chronicle the glorious events is a
pride to behold!

Publishing the effective practices on
learning delivery/instructional
innovations implemented by the
Schools in the Division of Baybay City
as well as the events in the community.

A Leader of Purpose and Progress

An Interview with City Mayor Hon. Jose Carlos L. Cari

On February 27, 2026, the DepEd Baybay Documentation Team composed of Miame Kem M. Bulawan, Avelina M. Mascariñas, and EPS Mariam G. Aranas, paid a courtesy visit to the Office of the City Mayor situated at the 3rd Floor Baybay City Hall, Barangay Gaas, Baybay City, Leyte, for an exclusive interview as preparations heighten for the EVRAA Meet 2026. Serving as the main interviewer, Miame Kem M. Bulawan led the conversation that highlighted the city's readiness and the mayor's vision.

Miame: Mayor, how is Baybay City preparing for EVRAA 2026?

Mayor Cari: Adtong 2024, gi-ask ko if we could host EVRAA 2025, pero ni-decline ko kay dili pa ready ang facilities. Gi-ingnan nako si Fetalvero nga 2026 nalang. After pila ka months, naka-receive ko formal offer for 2026, and we immediately accepted the challenge. Gipaspasan gyud ang trabaho last year, and karon 90–95% completed na ang playing venues—magamit na gyud.

Miame: What motivated the city to host EVRAA?

Mayor Cari: Bag-o pa man ang Baybay as a City. Una, gikompleto sa namo ang mga panginahanglanon sa katawhan ug ang sports complex ug convention centers. Karon nga human na, EVRAA is the best way to showcase Baybay. Pinakadako nga sporting event sa Region, mao dayon among gi-accept.

Miame: How long did you prepare?

Mayor Cari: One year. Dili lang venues—ang syudad gyud. Giayo ang kalsada, gilimpyuhan ang kanal, gi-monitor sa Health Office, ug gi-prepare ang mga kasuoyan.

Miame: How do you ensure venues meet standards?

Mayor Cari: DepEd Regional Office ang nag-set ug standards. Since construction pa, ila nang gi-inspect. Among gisunod ang ilang instructions sa exactness sa playing venues.

Miame: What about security?

Mayor Cari: Number one gyud ang welfare sa athletes, coaches, trainers, ug visitors. Naa tay augmentation gikan sa Philippine National Police—si Jason L. Capoy ug si Dionisio Apas Jr. nagpadala ug personnel. Naa peace officers sa billeting areas ug venues, tabang ang barangay officials. Gisiguro pud ang tubig ug kuryente para convenient ang stay.

Miame: Medical preparedness?

Mayor Cari: Naa ang City Health Office ug Baybay Emergency Response Services sa venues. Ang hospital naka-alert, suspended ang bakasyon, gi-check ang tambal supplies. Ready sila in case of emergency.

Miame: How will EVRAA boost tourism and business?

Mayor Cari: Athletes and trainers alone more than 10,000. Apil pa families, mahimong 20,000 visitors. Mosuroy, mokaon—makaboost gyud sa ekonomiya. Gi-alerto na ang vendors, market, meat shops, vegetable suppliers nga mag-prepare.

Miame: Message to visitors?

Mayor Cari: Co-hosting ni sa City Government ug DepEd Baybay under SDS Manuel P. Albaño. We are doing our best to make your stay convenient and memorable. Sa taga-Baybay, ipakita nato ang atong kaayo ug unity. May the best delegation win. Ang tinuod mo-prevail.

Miame: How will this impact the youth?

Mayor Cari: EVRAA is jump-starting more activities. Human ani, naa pay lined-up programs—Family Day, youth events sa sports complex. Dili ni display lang. Para gyud ni sa taga-Baybay. Gusto nato ang pamilya ug kabataan naa sa field, active, united.

Miame: Budget allocation?

Mayor Cari: Around ₱12 million for conduct—food, security, billeting, preparations, transport. All delegations supported sa uniform ug meals. Mga 40 vehicles among gi-kuha for transportation.

Miame: Challenges encountered?

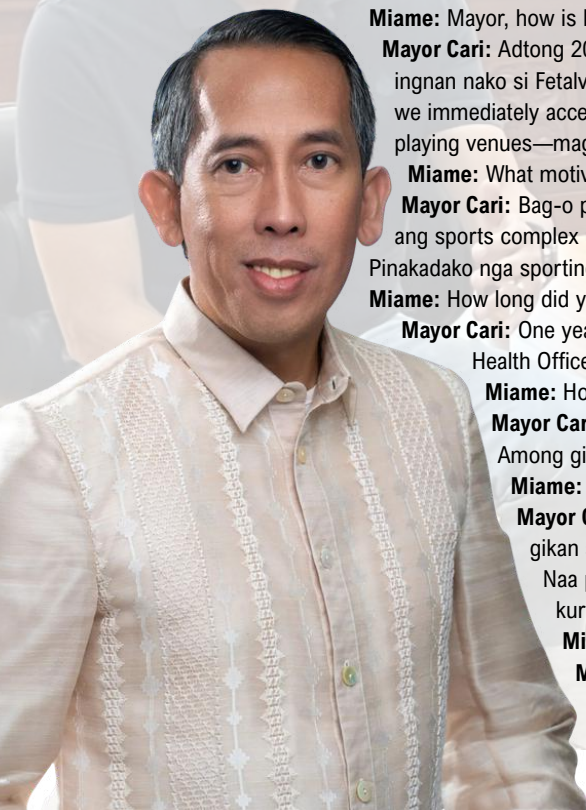
Mayor Cari: Kulang sa personnel sa una, pero gi-augment sa PNP. Ang weather usahay dili mo-cooperate, mao overtime pirme. Pero klaro ako instruction: March 1, March gyud. Wala nay postpone.

Miame: What legacy do you hope EVRAA 2026 leaves?

Mayor Cari: Dili lang ni para regional event. This should reach the grassroots. Ang facilities priority para sa taga-Baybay. Dapat permi naay activities—get our families and children out to the field. Mao na ang tinuod nga legacy.

As the DepEd Baybay Documentation Team wrapped up the interview that February morning, with every question thoughtfully answered and every vision clearly laid out, it became unmistakably clear that Baybay City is not simply preparing to host a sporting event. Under his steady leadership, the city is poised to showcase more than athletic excellence; it is ready to embody unity, resilience, and shared purpose, welcoming EVRAA Meet 2026 not just with prepared venues, but with a prepared heart.

In Baybay, leadership is not only declared—it is demonstrated.



Where Cuteness Meets Championship

by MARIA CARIDAD D. RUEDAS

Bright smiles, soft textures, and a playful spirit—this is how the 2026 Eastern Visayas Regional Athletic Association (EVRAA) Meet welcomes its delegates, through the charm of its official plushy mascots: Ningki, Kakay, and Koko. While athletes compete for medals and glory, these cuddly ambassadors are already winning hearts, showing that even in a serious sporting event, fun, culture, and hometown pride have their place.



Ningki, the jackfruit mascot, bursts with cheerful energy. Known for its sweet and hearty fruit, Ningki symbolizes growth, patience, and the reward of hard work—just like the young athletes pushing themselves on the track and field.

Kakay, the camote, brings warmth and resilience. Camote is a humble crop that thrives even under tough conditions, reflecting the determination and grit of student-athletes overcoming challenges to shine on the regional stage.

Completing the trio is Koko, the coconut. Strong on the outside and nourishing within, Koko embodies endurance, versatility, and balance—the qualities of a true champion both on and off the field.

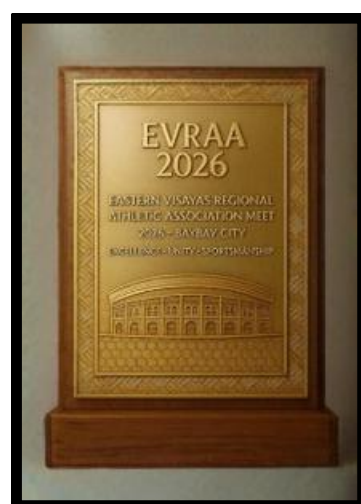
Adding a special touch to the awards ceremony, every winning athlete will receive not only a medal but also their very own plushy mascot—Ningki, Kakay, or Koko—making victory even sweeter and memorable. These soft souvenirs will serve as playful reminders of their hard work, sportsmanship, and the warmth of the host city.

Together, Ningki, Kakay, and Koko capture the essence of Baybay City: a community that celebrates its rich agricultural heritage, vibrant culture, and commitment to unity and excellence. More than plush toys, they are storytellers in fabric form—welcoming every delegate, inspiring every athlete, and reminding everyone that behind every medal and record, there is joy, spirit, and a touch of home.

At EVRAA Meet 2026, it's clear: champions aren't just made on the track—they're celebrated in the smiles of Ningki, Kakay, and Koko, where cuteness truly meets championship.

Customized symbols of victory

by AHLDETER S. MANTUA



At the 2026 Eastern Visayas Regional Athletic Association (EVRAA) Meet, triumph comes in many forms—customized medals, trophies, plaques, and the official plushy mascots: Ningki, Kakay, and Koko. Each award is thoughtfully designed to honor athletes' hard work, teamwork, and sportsmanship while celebrating the culture and pride of Baybay City.

Medals gleam with the EVRAA insignia, trophies are engraved, and plaques recognize outstanding performance and fair play. Adding a playful touch, the plushy mascots accompany winners, making victory personal, memorable, and fun.

Together, these customized symbols of victory transform achievement into something tangible, reminding every champion that their dedication, resilience, and spirit are celebrated in style and charm.

BITE, DINE, UNWIND WHERE DELEGATES CELEBRATE OFF THE COURT



by MIAMI KEM M. BULAWAN

As the spotlight turns to EVRAA Meet 2026 Baybay City, delegates are not only set for thrilling competitions but also for a culinary adventure in the vibrant coastal city of Baybay. Known for its scenic coastline and warm hospitality, Baybay City in Leyte offers more than just sporting arenas it serves up unforgettable food experiences.

To help all athletes, coaches, and visitors easily locate these featured establishments, please visit the official Facebook page where the complete list and location details are posted: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61584195901299>

Coffee Stops for Champions

Whether you need a caffeine boost before a big game or a cozy space to unwind, Baybay's coffee scene delivers.

- **Bo's Coffee** – A national favorite serving proudly Filipino coffee blends in a relaxed setting.
- **DripWood Coffee House** – A charming café known for handcrafted brews and Instagram-worthy interiors.
- **Reggie's Coffee Hub** – A laid-back hangout perfect for post-event meetups.
- **Black Habit** – Specialty coffee with bold flavors to match your competitive spirit.
- **SkyCafe** – Enjoy your coffee with a view.
- **Incredible Cafe** – A cozy corner for comfort drinks and light bites.
- **Tri Cafe** – A modern café space ideal for team bonding.
- **Street Cafe** – Casual and cool, great for quick coffee runs.
- **But First, Coffee** – Because every winning day starts with great coffee.
- **Emoji Coffee Shop** – Bright, cheerful vibes and delightful drinks.

Local Flavors & Filipino Favorites

Experience authentic Leyteño hospitality through hearty meals and native delicacies.

- **Minahal Kita Native Restaurant** – A beloved stop for traditional Filipino dishes served with heart.
- **Putohan sa Baybay** – Home-style cooking that feels like family.
- **Dada's Balbakuwa** – Famous for its rich and flavorful balbakuwa.
- **Into INato** – Serving grilled chicken inasal that's juicy and satisfying.
- **Roma Amor** – A cozy dining place offering comfort food favorites.

International Bites & Modern Eats

Craving something global? Baybay has you covered.

- **Tsumetain Sushi Bar and Asina Fusion** – Japanese and Asian fusion dishes crafted with flair.
- **Dimsum Plus+** – A go-to for steamed delights and Chinese comfort food.
- **Izzy Burger** – Big bites, bold flavors.
- **Shakaz** – A lively spot with satisfying eats.
- **Westside Bistro** – Where casual dining meets creative plates.

Seafood & Grill Spots

Being a coastal city, Baybay shines in fresh seafood and grilled specialties.

- **King Fish Tuna Grill** – A must-visit for tuna lovers.
- **Ken's Grill and Restobar** – Great food, great vibes, perfect for team dinners.
- **DannMar Venue and Tuna Grill** – Spacious dining ideal for group celebrations.
- **Alfresco de Danmar** – Open-air dining that pairs perfectly with grilled favorites.
- **Danmar** – A local name known for delicious meals and event gatherings.



Photo by Media Team

Sweet Treats & Coolers

After intense matches under the Eastern Visayas sun, refresh and recharge.

- **Perping's Halo-Halo** – Colorful, icy goodness in every spoonful.
- **Tutti** – Sweet treats that delight every age.

Scenic Dining & Chill Spots

EVRA MeetA isn't just about competition—it's about connection and experience.

- **Baybay City Boardwalk** – Take evening strolls with teammates while enjoying sea breezes.
- **Baybay City Boulevard** – A lively stretch perfect for night food trips.
- **Baybay City Food Park** – A one-stop hub for diverse food choices.
- **Aya's Hill** – A perfect stop for light snacks and quick bites while enjoying the view.

EVRAA Meet 2026 in Baybay City promises more than medals and trophies it offers memories shaped by shared meals, laughter over coffee, sunset walks by the sea, and late-night team celebrations.

From sunrise coffee rituals to post-game feasts, every flavor tells a story. And in EVRAA Meet 2026, that story will be one of unity, culture, and the unbeatable spirit of Eastern Visayas.

INSPIRING LEADERS IN ACTION: HONORABLE PAMELA 'PAM' S. BARICUATRO'S LIFE AS SHE RISES TO GOVERNORSHIP



by **JUDAH MARIE M. TOREJAS**

Hon. Pamela 'Pam' S. Baricuatro was born on November 16, 1966 at Panimungajan, Cebu City. Hon. Baricuatro came from humble beginnings and was forged in resilience. Before she led a province as Cebu City's Governor after a victorious win in the May 2025 elections, she led a life defined by hard-earned victories. As a young woman, she faced the daunting challenge of balancing law school with the responsibilities of being a single mother. When the road of life became hard, she didn't retreat; she pushed through, choosing the path of sacrifice and hard work as a flight purser to provide a future for her family.

For years, she navigated the skies as a Senior Flight Purser at Cathay Pacific Airways but her feet remained firmly planted in the service of others. Her resilience was most evident when she returned to her roots, not to rest, but to rebuild. In 2015, She founded Simply Share Foundation and became a lifeline for the hungry; to date, the foundation has fed over a couple thousand children throughout Cebu through a regularly monitored school-based feeding programs. She was also the pillar of strength for those who were affected during the Typhoon Odette; and just last December 2025, the victims of the said typhoon finally began receiving their housing assistance from the National Housing Authority (NHA) which marked as a major breakthrough for the province.

Her journey to the Governorship was not a stroll down a paved path, but a hard-fought victory against former governor Gwendloyn Garcia. She was elected as the Governor of Cebu during the Halalan 2025 Philippine Elections with a staggering vote of over 1.1 million, proclaiming her as the new Provincial Governor. Her victory shows that you can win every battle, despite how big your opponent can be.



Photo Courtesy from The Official Website of the Province of Cebu

To our athletes today, she is the epitome of the quote "to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield". With an unwavering strength and a compassionate heart for the people, you can face every challenge and believe in yourself to succeed and trust that you truly will. Now, as one of Eastern Visayas Regional Athletic Association (EVRAA) Meet 2026 keynote speakers at Baybay City, Leyte spearheaded by Baybay City Mayor, Hon. Jose Carlos 'Boeing' L. Cari and Baybay City's School's Division Superintendent, Dr. Manuel P. Albaño, we are honored to welcome the grace of Cebu City's Governor – Hon. Pamela S. Baricuatro. May her leadership and compassion for the people be an inspiration to us all.



Sportsmanship in Action: A Call to Excellence for EVRAA Meet 2026

As thousands of student-athletes gather for the upcoming Eastern Visayas Regional Athletic Association (EVRAA) Meet, the spotlight shines not only on talent and skill, but on character. Beyond the cheers of the crowd and the thrill of competition lies a greater purpose: to cultivate sportsmanship and uphold a strong Code of Conduct.

The EVRAA Meet is more than a regional sporting event—it is a celebration of youth development, discipline, and unity among divisions across Eastern Visayas. Each athlete who steps onto the field carries the pride of their school and community. But with that pride comes responsibility.

Sportsmanship must define every match. It is seen in fair play, respect for opponents, and graciousness in both victory and defeat. True champions are not only those who bring home medals, but those who demonstrate integrity under pressure. A handshake after a heated game, a word of encouragement to a competitor, and obedience to officials—these small acts build the foundation of honorable competition.

Equally vital is the strict observance of the Code of Conduct. Clear guidelines protect the dignity of all participants—athletes, coaches, officials, and spectators alike. Discipline ensures safety. Respect ensures harmony. Accountability ensures credibility. When rules are followed consistently, the competition remains fair and meaningful.

For today's youth, sports serve as a training ground for life. The values learned on the court—teamwork, resilience, humility—extend far beyond the tournament. They shape future leaders, professionals, and citizens.

As EVRAA Meet 2026 unfolds, let it not only be remembered for record-breaking performances but for exemplary conduct. May every participant compete with passion, guided by integrity. In the end, it is not just about who wins the game—it is about how the game is played.

Three Battlegrounds, One Throne: A Look Back at EVRAA Meet 2025

BEYOND THE LINES



Jessamyne Jade S. Meliton

Before the flame is ignited to signal the start of this year's Eastern Visayas Regional Athletic Association (EVRAA) Meet in Baybay City, let us take a retrospective look at how last year's historic edition set the stage for the intensity we anticipate today.

EVRAA Meet 2025 was a landmark event, famously remembered for its unique tri-division hosting.

The games roared to life in Dolores, Eastern Samar. The rugged terrain of the Eastern frontier served as a fitting backdrop for the high-stakes matchups of Cluster A, which featured the grit and power of sporting events such as Boxing, Sepak Takraw, Baseball, and Softball.

From the coast of Samar, the region's biggest sporting spectacle then migrated to the southern tip of the region: Maasin City, the "Home of the Tigers." The city bore witness to the teamwork and sportsmanship of the 13 participating divisions during the Cluster 2 events like Basketball, Volleyball, Badminton, and even Football on their FIFA-quality football pitch. This hosting stint proved to be a tactical advantage for the Maasin City Tigers, as they clawed their way to a historic 3rd Place Overall finish, standing tall behind powerhouse divisions Ormoc City and Leyte.

The EVRAA circuit reached its grand finale in the "Gateway to Eastern Visayas," Tacloban City. This final leg hosted medal-rich sporting events like Athletics, Swimming, Dancesport, and Gymnastics. Most events were held at the iconic Leyte Sports Development Center (LSDC), the hallowed ground that previously hosted the 1983 and 2009 Palarong Pambansa. The culmination was further electrified by the presence of Olympic medalist and hometown Eastern Visayan athlete, Aira Villegas. It was here that Ormoc City cemented its supremacy, securing a legendary 5-peat championship after a dominant campaign across all three clusters.

This year, EVRAA Meet returns to a single-host format in Baybay City. With the entire region's focus concentrated on one battleground, the anticipation has never been higher. As to which division will bring home the bacon and claim the 2026 throne—that is exactly what the whole Eastern Visayas is waiting to see.

Lindo Jake Pernito's Detour Towards being a Rising Trooper

by Jessamyne Jade S. Meliton

Rejection is often just redirection.

For Lindo Jake Pernito, a Baybayanon athlete and Asian Youth Para Games medalist, this truth has defined his career.

Pernito, a 17-year-old student from Patag, Baybay City and Grade 12 student of Bunga National High School, never imagined he would reach such heights. At a young age, he already found his love for Athletics. Proof to this is his EVRAA bid in the regular category of Athletics last year in Tacloban City. However, despite his grit and grueling training, he fell short of the podium.

One door closed. But another swung wide open.

His coach, 2019 SEA Games medalist Mariano Masano, recognized Pernito's unique potential and endorsed him to a specialist coach in Manila. That was the spark that ignited his redirection. Pernito poured his soul into every training session until his journey took him to Dubai for his first international stint. While most would find the global stage nerve-wracking, Pernito met it with joy. Yet, "mere participation" was no longer in his vocabulary;



he proved his elite caliber by clinching third place with a 33.38-meter mark in the Men's U20 Javelin Throw (F44) at the Asian Youth Para Games. Now that Pernito has found the right soil to flourish in, he returns to EVRAA stronger than ever. Representing the Baybay City Division in the Para-Athletics category, his excitement is palpable as he prepares to make history in his hometown. Despite his recent international success, Pernito remains far from complacent, promising to give 100% to make Baybay City proud.

Beyond his comeback on the field, Pernito has been entrusted with a massive responsibility: lighting the cauldron during the EVRAA 2026 Opening Ceremony.

In an interview, he recalled being told the news during an ordinary training session. While such a task might overwhelm others with pressure, Pernito remains unshakable. "*Wala ko gibati'g pressure kay confident na ko sa tanang dula nako. Naka-motivate nuon siya*" (I don't feel pressure because I am confident in my performance. Instead, it motivates me)," he shared.

Pernito's mantra—to keep trying despite every rejection—perfectly embodies the spirit of the EV Troopers.

There is no better athlete to light the flame that signals the start of EVRAA 2026 than the young man who turned a closed door into a golden opportunity.

The Tactical Rise of EVRAA

by Jessamyne Jade S. Meliton

As EVRAA Meet 2026 takes over the New Binaybayon Sports Complex, the mission is clear: the region is not just looking for local winners—it's training an army.

For decades, the Golden Stingers were underdogs, typically plateauing at 14th place nationally. The turning point came in the 2024 edition in Cebu City as the Stingers shattered the region's historical ceiling, leaping to an all-time high of 7th place with 18 golds. However, skeptics may think it was just luck.

In 2025, the region rebranded as the EV Troopers, signaling a shift toward a more disciplined, battle-ready approach. The debut year in Ilocos Norte proved the breakthrough was no fluke, as the Troopers secured a Top 10 stronghold, anchored by Chrishia Mae Tajarros, who set the tone for the entire delegation by clinching the first gold medal of the national games.

This climb in rankings stems from a surge in sports investment across Eastern Visayas. This financial push acts as a performance multiplier, allowing athletes to translate raw talent into the elite speed and precision needed to finally challenge the traditional powerhouses of NCR, Calabarzon, and Western Visayas.

The transition from Stingers to Troopers marks a fundamental shift in the regional sports psyche. While the Golden Stingers focused on the "spirit of participation," the EV Troopers have adopted a "podium-first" mentality.

However, the real challenge lies ahead. Region VIII has never stood in the National Top 5. To do this, the Troopers should focus on expanding their competitive reach across all disciplines. The goal for EVRAA Meet 2026 is clear: to build a powerhouse that can finally break the Top 5 barrier—a feat that has eluded the region since the inception of the Palarong Pambansa.

BILLETING QUARTERS



by REI ZEPHYRUS L. GODOY



The Pillars Behind the Pride

BAYBAY CITY OFFICIAL DELEGATION

Honorary Officials

- **Hon. Carl Nicolas C. Cari**
Congressman, 5th District of Leyte

Honorary Head of the Delegation

- **Hon. Jose Carlos L. Cari**
City Mayor

Honorary Assistant Heads of the Delegation

- **Hon. Ernesto M. Butawan**
City Vice-Mayor
- Hon. Carmen L. Cari, SP Member
- Hon. Romulo B. Alcala, SP Member
- Hon. Edgardo R. Ompoy, SP Member
- Hon. Fulton Ike C. Arradaza, SP Member
- Hon. Simoune Astorga, SP Member
- Hon. Dominic Junie F. Murillo, SP Member
- Hon. Jose L. Bacusmo, SP Member
- Hon. Ramon Ronald J. Veloso, SP Member
- Hon. Jose Rommel A. Peñaranda, SP Member
- Hon. Eduard Marque R. Guinocor, SP Member
- Hon. Jules Cari, ABC President
- Hon. Kyla Shannen T. Vidal, SK President

Head of the Delegation

- **Dr. Manuel P. Albaño, CESO V**
Schools Division Superintendent

Assistant Head of the Delegation

- **Dr. Josemilo P. Ruiz, CESE**
Assistant Schools Division Superintendent

General Athletic Manager

- **Dr. Jo-Ann C. Rapada - CID, Chief**
Division Sports Officer

Assistant General Athletic Managers

- **Mr. Frank Ray G. Ompoy**
Assistant Division Sports Officer

General Delegation Consultant

- **Dr. Ritchel Marie B. Villamor**
SGOD, Chief

Screening and Accreditation Committee

- **Dr. Federico V. Altivo** (Overall Chairperson)
- **Mr. Dindo B. Lopez** (Secondary)
- **Mr. Alex S. Didal** (Elementary)

BAYBAY CITY TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

Atty. Florante Cayunda, Jr.
Engr. Giovanni Ngalot
Engr. Ken Malate
Engr. Norman Zurita
Engr. Patrick Postrero
Ms. Jenica Ramirez
Atty. Vivian Vidallon
Ms. Josefina Gutierrez
Mr. Jerson Colocar
Ms. Jecyl Louis Balotite
Engr. Ann Dacera-Balbona
Engr. Rhyse Austero
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Dr. Christine Baldevia
Ms. Mora Abarquez
Ms. Mitzi Loreto-Ocanada
Ms. Kimberly Ross Piamonte
Mr. Dindo Escasinas
Engr. Erwin Mantua
Engr. Gretel Cabrito
Mr. John Artajo
Mr. Jay Ryan Austero
Ms. Grace Tripoli
Atty. Avito Cahig, Jr.
Ms. Priscila Austero
Ms. Sheilabelle F. Sembrano

MEET THE RTWG

REGIONAL OFFICE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

Meet Managers

General Referee: Ronelo Al K. Firmo, CESO IV -Regional Director

Asst. General Referee: Edgar Y. Tenasas

General Meet Managers:

Manuel P. Albaño – SDS, Baybay City

Assistant General Manager:

Josemilo P. Ruiz – ASDS, Baybay City

General Athletic Managers: Alejandra B. Lagumbay, Regional Sports Officer

QAME & Special Awards Committee

Edgar Y, Tenasas

Rita R. Dimakiling

Alma Suyom

Gertrudes Mabutin

Rosemarie Guino

Rachel Cuevas

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Mary Joy S. Cabaluna

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Announcers

Melvin Chito M. Solis

Cabal Cabello

Irael Gilvani D. Malaca

Jonathan D. Cabael

Melcho Carlos

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Floramay Q. Bacus

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Annalee Escobarte

Russel Resco

Josephine Tajarros

Partnership & Resource Mobilization

Elena De Luna

Eden Dadap

Merry Chris Macatiog

Gerlec Caandoy



PLAYING VENUES FOR EVRAA 2026

POINT OF ORIGIN
(Binaybayon Convention
Center, Baybay City)

GOOGLE MAPS

No.	EVENT	PLAYING VENUE	ETA (Mins.)	Dist. (Kms)	Location
1	ARCHERY	Minahal Kita, Diversion Road	2	1.3	https://maps.app.goo.gl/oEYpas3e4275FJ5D8
2	ARNIS	Brgy. Jaena Gymnasium	11	7.7	https://maps.app.goo.gl/ocm7JB2o89uCcsm39
3	BADMINTON	Badminton Club Building, Baybay NHS Campus	8	4.5	https://maps.app.goo.gl/wKm9NDw7Ku7op4P68
4	BASEBALL	VSU Upper Oval (Elem & Sec)	12	8.2	https://maps.app.goo.gl/N3LGoReDXeyRIQjm8
5	BASKETBALL	FCIC Gymnasium (Elem-Boys)	7	2.6	https://maps.app.goo.gl/z28Ss1LeW5Gfo87
		Hipusngo Gymnasium (Sec-Girls)	6	4.2	https://maps.app.goo.gl/kTw9s3Xbu4aN5iFd7
		Baybay NHS Gym (Sec-Boys)	7	4.3	https://maps.app.goo.gl/kP5EZFEdN5ZCacU08
		Brgy. Pomponan Gym (3x3)	14	8.8	https://maps.app.goo.gl/xnXO5ovPHv3GEOXu7
6	ATHLETICS	Binaybayon Sports Complex	0	0.1	https://maps.app.goo.gl/6zJSHYhkvocYcheB6
7	BILLIARDS	Convention Main Hall - Ground Floor (Rear Lobby)	0	0	https://maps.app.goo.gl/PLRV2eFzfyfhyLrG6
8	BOXING	Baybay City New Reclamation Area	8	4.5	https://maps.app.goo.gl/1W4G8IMgWoMKBAPE9
9	CHESS	Baybay City Hall 4th Floor, Assembly Area	4	2.3	https://maps.app.goo.gl/B5uwxkF8vxGie6Rv5
10	DANCESPORT	Binaybayon Convention Center (Hall B)	0	0	https://maps.app.goo.gl/UHvsvWxt4TOXEsD5
11	FOOTBALL	Old Sports Complex, Grandstand (Secondary)	9	3.4	https://maps.app.goo.gl/Rfj8msEGt6HvSDue9
		VSU Lower Oval (Elementary)	11	7.9	https://maps.app.goo.gl/3TPK1VEaZB2PzB768
12	FUTSAL	Makeshift Gymnasium (near Metro Mall)	10	3.5	https://maps.app.goo.gl/UkZoR1Ok2M1SjWF8
13	GYMNASTICS	VSU Gymnasium – WAG & MAG	11	8.1	https://maps.app.goo.gl/fLwlmfPUhcbBXNDLA
		Gymnastics Gym- Aerobics Gymnastics	1	0.12	https://maps.app.goo.gl/8MDk50HoNpNjDVGa
		Cogon Gym – Rhythmic Gymnastics	4	1.8	https://maps.app.goo.gl/ISUo3fr883RUVvX26
14	SOFTBALL	Sec. Girls: New Sport Complex (Field)	0	0.1	https://maps.app.goo.gl/5mAj3W5geviMPPCw5
		Elem. Girls: Reclamation Area	8	4.6	https://maps.app.goo.gl/5mAj3W5geviMPPCw5
15	SEPAK TAKRAW	Brgy. Punta Gym -Elementary	13	10	https://maps.app.goo.gl/yYucCb37EjrtYza9
		Immaculate Conception Parish Gymnasium – Sec.	7	2.8	https://maps.app.goo.gl/5skRrTCgDaNOX4cJF8
16	PENCAK SILAT	San Agustin Gymnasium	13	10.6	https://maps.app.goo.gl/cvAa2buGmzwoV81u5
17	WRESTLING	Binaybayon Convention Center (Hall A)	0	0.07	https://maps.app.goo.gl/XnnLnX35S188Veh8
18	SWIMMING	Binaybayon Aquatic Center	0	0.2	https://maps.app.goo.gl/zJT1DSGEfV9uh3RM9
19	TABLE TENNIS	Brgy. Marcos Gym	12	9.6	https://maps.app.goo.gl/MLoMSkXRUJnCaSho9
20	TAEKWONDO	Binaybayon Convention Center (Main Hall)	0	0	https://maps.app.goo.gl/582JLZCR5mzk8Jz7
21	VOLLEYBALL	Kilim Gymnasium – Elem Boys	6	4	https://maps.app.goo.gl/gwLMHVw3wK5iMnsF6
		Brgy. Candadam Old Gymnasium – Elem Girls	3	1.8	https://maps.app.goo.gl/7CMPz8gLHbW15okHA
		DRRM Evacuation Gymnasium – Sec Boys	1	0.6	https://maps.app.goo.gl/2evr7k5eNoZaU9U9
		Brgy. Pangasugan Gym – Sec Girls	11	8.5	https://maps.app.goo.gl/huhA2VPUMSRNcRGYA
22	TENNIS	Baybay City Tennis Court, Baybay NHS Campus	9	2.2	https://maps.app.goo.gl/gLWHNa2x6JP9SUgk6
23	WUSHU	Binaybayon Convention Center (Main Hall)	0	0	https://maps.app.goo.gl/582JLZCR5mzk8Jz7
24	PARA GAMES	Athletics -Binaybayon Sports Complex (w/ 1 Call Room)	0	0	https://maps.app.goo.gl/6zJSHYhkvocYcheB6
		Swimming – Aqua Gym	0	0.2	https://maps.app.goo.gl/zJT1DSGEfV9uh3RM9
		BOCCE – DPWH	7	5.4	https://maps.app.goo.gl/PD81U4yAcuOYHGZvA
		Goal Ball - Sto. Rosario Gymnasium	9	3.1	https://maps.app.goo.gl/AgOCY2A6J3Dc5Eod8

Clash of Champions: The EVRAA Meet Begins



BY JESSAMYNE JADE S. MELITON

All roads lead to Baybay City. The silence of the training camps has officially been broken as the finest athletes in the region descend upon the Binaybayon Sports Complex, bringing their grit, glory, and the weight of their hometown hopes. This is more than a gathering; it is the biggest sporting event in Eastern Visayas, where the stakes are as high as the midday sun. But as the banners rise and the delegations settle in, the real question for spectators is not just about who will win, but how they will do it. Every year, the Eastern Visayas Regional Athletic Association (EVRAA) Meet showcases a best-of-the-best clash where the 13 competing divisions have carved out their own unique territories of dominance.

Siglaro Domination



Ormoc City remains the powerhouse everyone is trying to "break." Since claiming their first championship in 2018, the Siglaro Elites have maintained a grip on the top spot, securing their 5th consecutive overall title last year. Backed by a scientific sports program and elite facilities, Ormoc hauled an incredible 219 gold medals in the 2025 edition. Their dominance across the majority of sporting events proves that they do not just participate—they own the podium.

Lethal Leyte



Before Ormoc City found the recipe for a 5-peat domination, Leyte had been the strongest contender to beat in every EVRAA edition. Due to their strategic coverage and massive geographic depth, they remain a perennial threat, particularly in the medal-rich world of Athletics. Even now, they always assert dominance in track and field, serving as one of the biggest medal contributors for the region at the national Palarong Pambansa.

Samar Grit



Resilience runs deep in the veins of the Samar provinces—the "steel" of the region. Northern Samar, the 2008 EVRAA kings, remains a constant threat hovering near the top of the charts. Meanwhile, Eastern Samar strikes like lightning with a mastered algorithm of precision that can shock the rankings once they catch momentum. On the Western Front, Samar Division is in a rebuilding phase but remains far from quiet; their technical mastery in Lawn Tennis and the brute strength of their Field athletes serve as a reminder that the road to the championship still runs through the heart of Samar.

The 2026 EVRAA Meet is now a race between four distinct strategies: the numerical depth of the Titans, the tactical precision of the City SDOs, the raw grit of the Samar provinces, and the "quality over quantity" efficiency of Biliran and Southern Leyte. While Baybay City holds the homecourt advantage as the host, the competition for the overall crown is wide open. The stage is set, and the hunt for regional glory is officially on.

THE BAYBAY CITY CHRONICLES

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF DEPED BAYBAY CITY FOR EVRAA MEET 2026
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Small but Terrible: Biliran and Southern Leyte



Where others bring armies, Biliran and Southern Leyte bring specialists. These divisions operate on a "quality over quantity" philosophy, acting as giant-slayers in high-stakes events. Biliran proves that specialized training translates to gold, maintaining a high medal-to-athlete ratio by dominating individual lanes where a single athlete can sweep multiple events. Southern Leyte, on the other hand, applies a "Zero-Waste" approach—minimizing technical errors and maximizing endurance to finish strong while larger, more chaotic delegations begin to tire.

The Silent Killers: The City SDOs



It is not always the biggest delegation that stands on the podium; often, it is the one that strikes with the most precision. The "Silent Killers"—Maasin, Tacloban, Calbayog, Catbalogan, and Borongan—are individual tactical units that treat the medal tally like a high-stakes chess match. Maasin City set the standard in 2025, shocking the region by securing Overall 3rd Place and outranking much larger provinces through a dominant sweep in Arnis, Boxing, and Volleyball. Meanwhile, Tacloban City relies on a different blueprint, focusing on high-yield individuals like swimming sensation Jan Dwayne Malpas, who hauled four golds at the 2024 Palarong Pambansa. Not to be outdone, the remaining city divisions fight to carve out their own territories: Calbayog weaponizes its speed and accuracy in court, Catbalogan maintains a disciplined grip on the combative mats, and Borongan utilizes the surgical precision of the bow.

The Homecourt Defenders



Hosting the 2026 EVRAA Meet gives the Baybay City Division a logistical edge that visiting teams cannot match. This "Zero Travel Fatigue" factor allows the Palaski Dragons to walk onto the field fully rested and mentally focused while rivals battle the exhaustion of long-distance travel. Beyond logistics, the homecourt advantage is fueled by the local crowd—a "Sixth Man" that provides a morale boost in high-pressure moments. These athletes are not just playing for medals; they are defending their backyard. For the visitors, Baybay is a new challenge; for the Dragons, it is familiar ground where they are prepared to turn local pride into a top-tier finish.