



PSA-CAR holds news conference on the 2024 economic performance of CAR

by Randell Jay P. Buyawe

The Philippine Statistics Authority – Cordillera Administrative Region (PSA-CAR) held a News Conference on the 2024 Economic Performance of the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), a highly anticipated event in the region's economic calendar. The news conference took place at the Golden Pine Hotel, Baguio City and was hosted by Ms. Helen R. Tibaldo, the newly retired Regional Director of the Philippine Information Agency - CAR

The event commenced with an opening remark from Mr. Aldrin Federico R. Bahit Jr., Chief Statistical Specialist of PSA-CAR, who warmly welcomed the attendees and underscored the importance of stakeholder collaboration in economic reporting. This was followed by a video message from Undersecretary Claire Dennis S. Mapa, Ph.D., National Statistician and Civil Registrar General of PSA, emphasizing the crucial role of regional economic indicators in informing and shaping national development policies.

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PSA approves BSU and DA-CAR's agricultural surveys through SSRCS

by Shemaiah C. Gabuyo




REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY

PRESS RELEASE

PSA Clears "Highland Vegetables Value Chain Analysis Survey (Round 2) and Production Costs and Returns Survey", Encourages Participation for Data-Driven Evaluation of Agricultural Development

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PSA-CAR holds news conference on the 2024 economic performance of CAR

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At exactly 10:00 AM, in sync with other PSA Regional Offices across the country, PSA-CAR Regional Director Villafe P. Alibuyog delivered the much-anticipated presentation of the 2024 Economic Performance of CAR. The report included the official release of the region's Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) and Gross Regional Domestic Expenditure (GRDE), along with key economic indicators that reflect the region's overall economic performance.

Following the presentation, Mr. Jose H. Dado, Jr., OIC-Assistant Regional Director of the National Economic and Development Authority–Cordillera Administrative Region (NEDA-CAR), shared valuable insights by delivering a thorough analysis of the region's economic performance and its broader implications.

Sectoral statements from partner agencies further enriched the discussion. Representing the Agriculture, forestry, and fishing sector, Ms. Susan D. Balanza, Chief of the Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Division of the Department of Agriculture – CAR, shared her insights. For the Industry sector, Ms. Vivian T. Romero, Economist II of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau – CAR, discussed the Mining and Quarrying industry. The Services sector was represented by Mr. Dennis G. Gundran of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas – North Luzon Regional Office, focusing on Financial and Insurance Activities, and Ms. Glonica Joyce C. Favorito from the Department of Trade and Industry, who discussed perspectives on trade.

One of the highlights of the said activity included the awarding of plaque of recognition to the exemplary respondents of the Monthly Integrated Survey of Selected Industries and Producer Price Survey. The awardees were Texas Instruments Philippines LTD Inc., Moog Controls Corporation (Philippines Branch), and Aurochs Aerospace Precision Manufacturing Corporation.





PSA-CAR hosts Luzon Cluster Consultative Workshop for crafting the PENCAS Act IRR

by Jezl R. Boado and Jayson P. Lazo

The Philippine Statistics Authority- Cordillera Administrative Region (PSA-CAR) hosted the Luzon Cluster Consultative Workshop for the Crafting of the Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) Act Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) from 02 to 04 April 2025 in Baguio City.

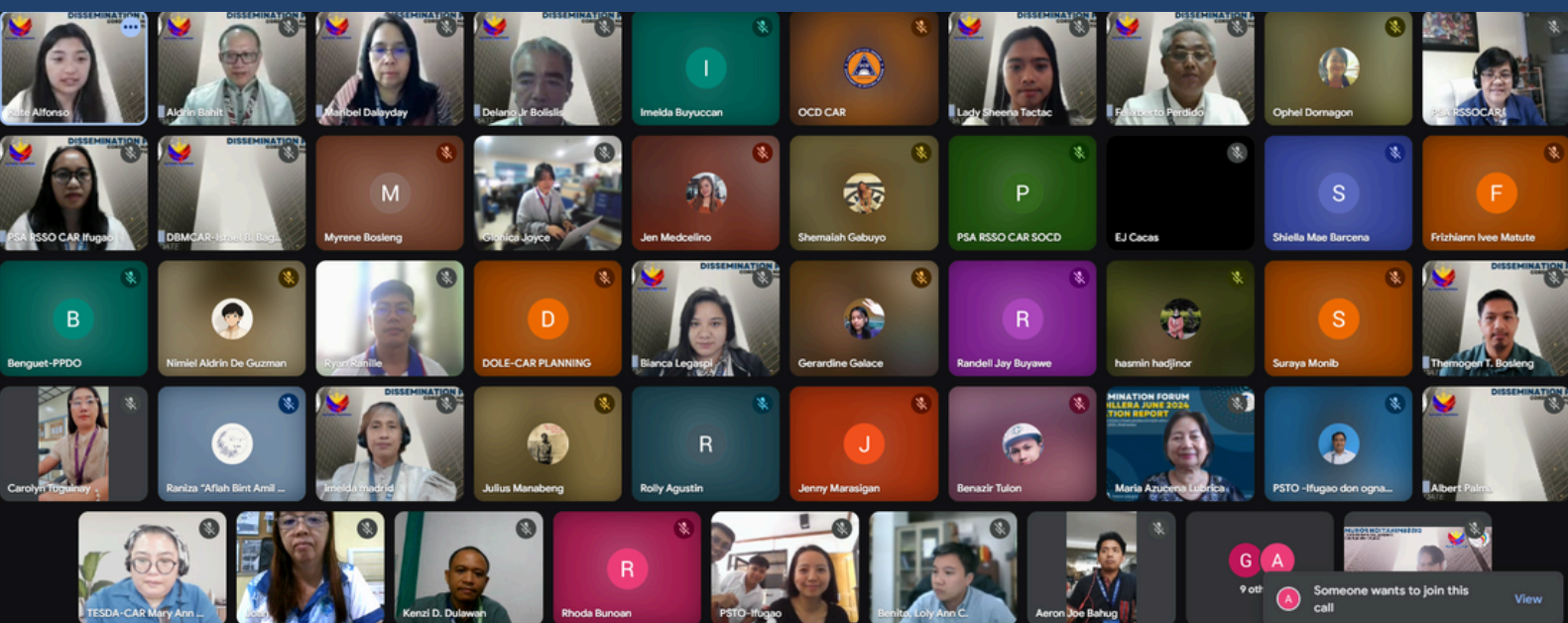
PSA-CAR was chosen to host the consultative workshop in recognition of its endeavors on accounting the environment at the sub-national level. Cordillera is the pioneer among regions in compiling and developing environmental statistics and accounts under the Environment and Natural Resources Accounting (ENRA) Project with accomplishments on CAR regional environmental asset accounts on land, water, timber, mineral resources and the on-going estimation of solid waste and energy accounts.

The workshop is deemed essential to gather comments, inputs, and recommendations from various agencies and stakeholders. This initiative aims to ensure a comprehensive and inclusive approach to implementing the law, addressing regional developments, and incorporating specific environmental programs crucial to the regions within the scope of the IRR.

Participants in the consultative workshop represented a diverse range of sectors. A total of 70 participants from government agencies, the academe, civil society and private sectors were actively engaged in the workshop, reflecting strong collaboration and commitment to crafting an inclusive and effective IRR of the PENCAS Law.

CAR inflation slowed down to 2.3% in March 2025

by Rick Jason P. Aquino



The inflation rate in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) slowed down from 2.5% in February 2025 to 2.3% in March 2025. Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) - CAR Chief Statistical Specialist Aldrin Federico R. Bahit Jr. reported that the primary contributors to the deceleration were the Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages group with 55.3% share; the Transport sector with 18.4% share; and the Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels group, contributing 9.9%.

The Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages group emerged as the leading contributor to the region's March 2025 inflation rate of 2.3%. This commodity group accounted for 42.7% of the overall inflation, contributing 1.0 percentage point. It was followed by the Housing, Water, Electricity, Gas, and Other Fuels group, which held a 29.7% share, adding 0.7 percentage point. Meanwhile, Personal Care and Miscellaneous Goods and Services contributed a 7.2% share or 0.2 percentage point to the overall inflation.

In March 2025, four provinces and highly urbanized city (HUC) in the Cordillera reported lower inflation rates: Abra, with a significant deceleration from 2.7% to 0.7%; Baguio City, easing slightly from 3.4% to 3.2%; Benguet, slowing down from 2.2% to 1.9%; and Kalinga, from 1.8% to 1.5%. Conversely, two provinces registered higher inflation rates: Apayao, which rose from -1.2% to 0.7%; and Ifugao, accelerating from 2.1% to 2.6%. Mountain Province recorded the highest inflation rate in the region at 3.9%, unchanged from February 2025, while Abra and Apayao recorded the lowest rates, both at 0.7%.

The Purchasing Power of the Peso (PPP) in the Cordillera Administrative Region stood at PhP 0.79 in March 2025 with 2018 as base year, signifying that PhP 100.00 in 2018 was equivalent to PhP 79.00 during the reference month. Baguio City recorded the highest PPP at PhP 0.81, followed by Abra at PhP 0.80, both exceeding the regional average. Meanwhile, four areas reported lower PPP values: Apayao and Kalinga at PhP 0.78, Ifugao at PhP 0.76, and Mountain Province at PhP 0.75. Benguet's PPP matched the regional average, demonstrating alignment with the overall trend.

SLU JRFINEX receives 35th NSM Award for Best Statistical Activity Conducted by a Private Organization

by Rick Jason P. Aquino



From L-R: Alaiza Lou F. De Jesus (SLU), Melody Denise T. De Jesus (SLU) and Aldrin Federico R. Bahit, Jr. (PSA-CAR)

The Philippine Statistics Authority – Cordillera Administrative Region (PSA-CAR) awarded the Saint Louis University (SLU) Junior Financial Executives of the Philippines (JRFINEX) the 35th National Statistics Month (NSM) Awards plaque for winning the Best Statistical Activity Conducted by a Private Organization last 02 April 2025 at PSA-CAR, Baguio City.

The NSM is an annual celebration which aims to promote, enhance and instill nationwide awareness and appreciation of the importance and value of statistics to the different sectors of society; and elicit the cooperation and support of the general public in upgrading the quality and standard of statistics in the country.

The NSM Awards System has been instituted since 2002 as a means of providing recognition to participating agencies/organizations in the observance of the NSM.

The activity of the SLU JRFINEX that won the category on Best Statistical Activity Conducted by a Private Organization was the “NSM Symposium: Data-Driven Healthcare and Role of Data and Statistics in Improving the Country's Data Governance”.

The announcement of winners was done during the 35th NSM Closing Ceremony conducted last 12 November 2024 via Zoom hosted by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.





PSA approves BSU and DA-CAR's agricultural surveys through SSRCS

by Shemaiah C. Gabuyo

Through the assistance and with a series of consultations from the Regional Statistical Services Office–Cordillera Administrative Region (RSSO-CAR), Benguet State University (BSU) and the Department of Agriculture–Cordillera Administrative Region (DA-CAR) successfully secured clearance from the Statistical Survey Review and Clearance System (SSRCS) for two simultaneous surveys: “Highland Vegetables Value Chain Analysis Survey (Round 2)” and “Production Costs and Returns Survey for High-Value Crops.”

The consultative meetings focused on reviewing and refining the sampling methodology to enhance the accuracy of the survey results. Among the main discussions were the determination of sample size, stratification techniques, and data collection procedures accurate to the highland vegetables’ characteristics. PSA-CAR Senior Statistical Specialist Ma. Gina V. De Guzman and Statistical Analyst Shemaiah C. Gabuyo attended the series of technical consultations with the survey committee.

The objectives of the surveys are:

- 1) To describe the socioeconomic and farm characteristics, production and postharvest practices, and marketing practices of highland vegetable farmers;
- 2) To determine the farm-level productivity, costs and profitability of selected traded highland vegetables;
- 3) To update the value chain of selected highland vegetables; and
- 4) To determine the changes in the vegetable farming landscape since 2019.

BSU will conduct the survey in collaboration with DA-CAR. The surveys will collect essential data on the following: farmer and farm profile, crops management practices, inputs, yield, post-production handling, marketing practices, market outlets, trader and traders’ profile, production and marketing costs, and profitability.

The surveys will cover 1,411 households with an allocated budget of PhP1.5 million. Data collection is scheduled from March to May 2025, with survey results expected to be released in January 2026.

The surveys have been reviewed and cleared under the SSRCS, a mechanism implemented by the PSA pursuant to Rule 28 of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 10625.

The Statistical Survey Review and Clearance System (SSRCS) is a mechanism institutionalized by the PSA which involves the process of evaluating the design and instruments of statistical surveys or censuses sponsored and/or to be conducted by government agencies including government corporations at the national and/or subnational level.

GANGSA



A **gangsa** (gong) is an indigenous musical instrument of the Igorots ("people of the mountain") of the Cordillera region. It is usually played during cultural celebrations, rituals and festivities. It is a cultural symbol of fellowship and unity among the Igorots.

Editorial Team

Editor-in-Chief

Aldrin Federico R. Bahit, Jr., CSS

Associate Editor

Rick Jason P. Aquino, IO I

Contributors

Jezl R. Boado, SS II

Rick Jason P. Aquino, IO I

Jayson P. Lazo, SA

Randell Jay P. Buyawe, SS I (COSW)

Shemaiah C. Gabuyo, SA (COSW)

Adviser

Villafe P. Alibuyog
Regional Director

📍 CTLL Building, 141 Abanao Extension, Rizal Monument, Baguio City

🌐 rssocar.psa.gov.ph

📘📞 [psagovphcar](https://www.facebook.com/psagovphcar)

Office of the Regional Director

☎️ (074) 446-9412 ✉️ rssocar@psa.gov.ph

Statistical Operations and Coordination Division

☎️ (074) 442-7449 ✉️ rssocarsocd@psa.gov.ph

Civil Registration and Administrative Support Division

☎️ (074) 443-7763 ✉️ rssocarcrasd@psa.gov.ph