Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)

PRESS RELEASE
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DOST-PAGASA Inaugurates its Iloilo Radar Facility and Breaks Ground for the New Synoptic Station

The Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (DOST-PAGASA) leads a joint ceremony on 06 March 2026 in the Province of Iloilo to mark two significant milestones in the country's weather modernization efforts: the inauguration of the Iloilo Radar Facility and the groundbreaking of the new Iloilo Synoptic Station.

Equipped with a state-of-the-art dual-polarimetric Doppler radar system, the Iloilo S-band Radar Facility is set to strengthen weather monitoring across Western Visayas and nearby provinces, providing high-resolution and near real-time data essential for tracking heavy rainfall, severe thunderstorms, and tropical cyclones.

Operating at lower frequencies and producing longer wavelengths, this S-band type radar can effectively detect atmospheric conditions even during intense rainfall, making it reliable for large-scale weather observations. The enhanced detection capabilities will help DOST-PAGASA deliver more accurate forecasts and timely information that decision-makers rely on, particularly during extreme weather events.

In his keynote address, Secretary Renato U. Solidum Jr. of the Department of Science and Technology, expressed strong confidence in the technological capabilities of the Iloilo Radar Facility, describing it as a vital safeguard for the country against meteorological hazards.

Secretary Solidum emphasized, however, that infrastructure alone does not save lives. "It is the combination of technology, skilled scientists, proactive leaders, and a well-informed public that truly builds resilience. This is why we in the Department of Science and Technology continue to invest in modernizing PAGASA's equipment, enhancing forecasting capabilities, and bringing science closer to communities," he added.

Alongside this milestone event, the new PAGASA Synoptic Station located in the Iloilo International Airport will soon rise and operate as a vital weather observation facility in the province. Once completed, it will continuously record essential meteorological parameters that support daily weather forecasting while strengthening long-term climate records crucial for research, disaster preparedness planning, and climate adaptation strategies.

The role of the PAGASA Synoptic Station is also critical in aviation operations. The weather data gathered from the station are utilized to generate reports that ensure safe and efficient flight operations and are vital in safeguarding the passengers, crew, and aircraft.

PAGASA Administrator Nathaniel T. Servando underscored the importance of the groundbreaking of the synoptic station, emphasizing that the facility will deliver continuous and reliable observations of key atmospheric parameters, including temperature, rainfall, wind, and air pressure.

“These may appear to be simple measurements, but they form the very foundation of every forecast we issue. Without accurate observations, there can be no reliable forecasts, and without reliable forecasts, effective preparedness becomes a challenge,” Dr. Servando stated.

Building on these technical improvements, DOST-PAGASA is also transforming the way forecasts are used to support disaster preparedness and response. Through impact-based forecasting, meteorological data is now translated into clear, actionable insights on potential impacts to communities, infrastructure, and critical sectors. This paradigm shift empowers decision-makers and the public to anticipate risks more effectively and take timely, targeted actions to protect lives, livelihoods, and assets.

The completion of these facilities and the enhancement of products and services highlight the sustained commitment of DOST-PAGASA to modernizing its nationwide monitoring network and enhancing the delivery of reliable public weather services. Through improved infrastructure and continued coordination with local government units and partner agencies, PAGASA aims to further enhance disaster preparedness and strengthen community resilience initiatives in the region.

The inauguration and groundbreaking ceremonies were attended by some key officials from the Department of Science and Technology and PAGASA, along with local and national government leaders and other key stakeholders.

For more information, please contact Mr. Ronaldo C. Naragdao, Chief Meteorological Officer of PAGASA Iloilo Complex Station at telephone numbers (033) 321-6420, (02) 8284-0800 local 5645, or email us at pagasa.vprsd@gmail.com.

The Iloilo Radar Facility situated at the PAGASA Iloilo Complex Station, WESVIARC, Brgy. Buntatala, Iloilo City.