



## DOST SECRETARY SOLIDUM JR. AND DOST OFFICIALS VISIT THREE (3) SETUP PROJECTS IN REGION 1

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) led by Secretary Dr. Renato U. Solidum Jr., concluded a visit to three (3) Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) projects in Region 1 on January 10, 2024, at Agoon, La Union and January 12, 2024 at Tubao, La Union and Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan. The objective was to showcase the achievements and overall development of the enterprises facilitated by the technical and technological support provided by the DOST.

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# EMPOWERING DISASTER RESPONSE:

DOST-PS TO ILOCOS NORTE INTRODUCES UNSINKABLE PORTABLE BOAT FOR PGIN-PDRMO

The DOST PSTO Ilocos Norte Team, in collaboration with Inventor, Mr. Ronald Pagsanghan, took a significant step in disaster preparedness by organizing a comprehensive training and orientation session. This event, held on January 17, 2024, at the Paoay Lake Water Park, brought together the team from PGIN-PDRMO, led by Mr. Marcel Tabije.

The focus of the training was on the application and utilization of the innovative Unsinkable Portable Boat (UPB). This cutting-edge intervention is designed to elevate response capabilities, ensuring swift and efficient assistance during emergencies. Mr. Pagsanghan, the inventor of UPB, played a pivotal role in providing insights and hands-on training to enhance the team's understanding and proficiency.

The Unsinkable Portable Boat stands as a crucial tool in disaster management, equipping our frontliners with the necessary resources for disaster preparedness and emergency response in urban areas. The session aimed not only to familiarize the participants with the UPB but also to empower them with the skills and knowledge needed to deploy this resource effectively in real-life scenarios.

As we continue to navigate the challenges of disaster response, initiatives like these underscore the importance of innovative solutions and collaborative efforts in ensuring the safety and resilience of our communities.



## FREE CALIBRATION SERVICES IN REGION I

PS TO-ILOCOS SUR AND PS TO-PANGASINAN WITH REGIONAL METROLOGY LABORATORY CONDUCTS FREE CALIBRATION SERVICES IN ILOCOS SUR AND PANGASINAN

The Department of Science and Technology Office Regional Office I (DOST-I), through its Provincial Science and Technology Offices in Pangasinan and Ilocos Sur, conducted free calibration services for the Health Offices in their respective provinces during the first month of the year.

Mr. Marlon R. Orpilla, Project Technical Specialist I of DOST 1 - Regional Metrology Laboratory (RML), along with Mr. Julian R. Viray, Project Technical Aide V of PSTO-Pangasinan, led the calibration of hanging, bench, and platform types of weighing scales in Alaminos City, Burgos, Urdaneta City, and Sison, Pangasinan.

PSTO-Ilocos Sur served as calibrators certifying weighing scales ready for use.

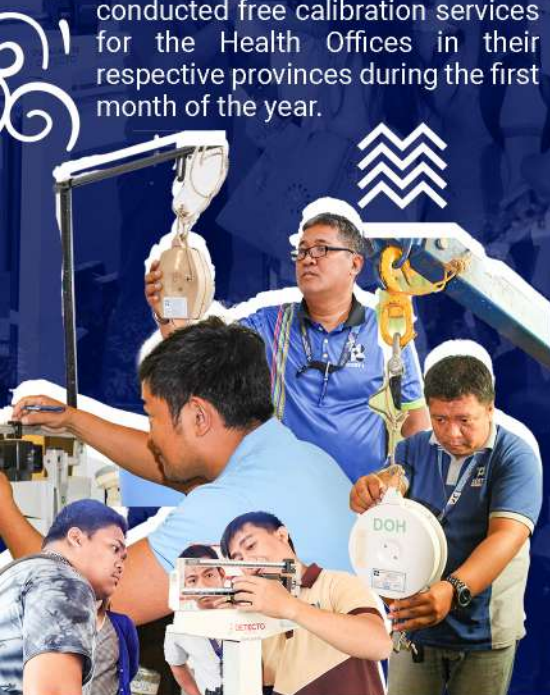
The agency encourages all local government units (LGUs) to endorse or submit weighing scales utilized by their respective Barangay Health Centers for calibration.

In Vigan City, Ilocos Sur, the DOST PSTO-Ilocos Sur contributed to Operation Timbang plus (OPT+), an annual initiative across the province, by providing free calibration to the Provincial Health Office. This calibration ensures accurate data collection by calibrating weighing scales in Barangay Health Centers.

Mr. Arthur Aubrey D. Alviar, Science Research Specialist II, and Mr. Roger C. Pido, Science Research Specialist I, of the

For all your calibration requirements, feel free to visit our office at the Government Center in Sevilla, City of San Fernando, La Union. Alternatively, you can contact us at 0969 331 9022 and ask for Engr. Bernadine P. Suniega, Technical Manager of RML. You may also reach out to us through Facebook by messaging us at RMLdost1 or via email at [rml@region1.dost.gov.ph](mailto:rml@region1.dost.gov.ph).

We look forward to assisting you!







**SAFETECH BY MODULHAUS**

Present along with Secretary Solidum Jr. were key officials, including Mr. Rodolfo J. Calzado Jr., DOST Assistant Secretary and DOST Undersecretary for Research & Development; Dr. Leah J. Buendia. The delegation also included representatives from various DOST divisions, such as Special Projects Division, Research & Development, Financial Management Services Division, Administrative and Legal Services Division, and Commission on Audit.

Dr. Teresita A. Tabaog, DOST-1 Regional Director along with other DOST 1 staff guided the DOST Officials during their visit.

The three (3) SETUP projects were Safetech by Modulhaus Inc. in Agoo, La Union; JC Laroco Ricemill in Tubao, La Union; and Nutridense

Food Manufacturing Corporation in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan, where their accomplishments and developments, and success were shown underscoring the possible collaborations and positive impact of the technical and technological assistance provided by DOST under the SETUP.



JC Laroco Rice Mill, having graduated from the SETUP project awarded in CY 2016, is currently in the second phase of SETUP 2021. The focus is on upgrading existing rice milling equipment and incorporating DOST's Iron Fortified Rice (IFR) technology. Similarly, Nutridense Food Manufacturing Corporation (NPMC), located in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan, excels as a technology adopter of the DOST-Food Nutrition Research Institute, contributing significantly

to the production of complementary and emergency food products. Safetech by Modulhaus Inc. in Agoo, La Union, showcased adaptability by transitioning to the production of eco-friendly three-ply surgical face masks, exemplifying innovation and social responsibility as a SETUP beneficiary of DOST.

The project visit underscores DOST's commitment to fostering innovation, supporting Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and driving economic development through science, technology, and innovation. The success stories of these SETUP projects serve as a testament to the transformative vision and strategic interventions that the agency offers, reflecting a positive impact on businesses and communities.



**NUTRIDENSE FOOD MANUFACTURING CORPORATION**

## FEATURE STORY

# Behind Ms. Emmylou Jomero's Chocolate Empire

Who would have thought that the beautiful land of Salcedo, Ilocos Sur, is home to numerous cacao trees? In the case of Ms. Emmylou Jomero, cacao trees can even be found and harvested in their backyard! She then took

advantage of their prosperous cacao-growing land and began her sweet journey towards building her chocolate empire, now known as Wynn's Food Products.

The humble beginnings of Ms. Jomero started with making tablea for home consumption only. As cacao trees grew in their backyard, she also made tablea to serve as a giveaway to friends and relatives.

One day, one of Ms. Jomero's relatives suggested that they should market their tablea instead of giving it away, and following that advice paved the way for the birth of Wynn's Food Products in 2015.

As a new firm, Wynn's Food Products also encountered challenges. Faced with low productivity problems due to their existing equipment, they tapped the help of the Department of Science and Technology's (DOST) Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) in 2019.



**Ms. Emmylou Jomero**  
Owner, Wynn's Food Products





**MAGING**

**SETUP**

**BENEFICIARY ka!**

Maaari kang makatanggap ng hanggang **Php 5,000,000.00** worth of technology assistance mula sa DOST sa ilalim ng Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP)

Bisitahin ang <https://bitly.ws/3a89Y> para sa iba pang mga impormasyon

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The Ilocos S&T Trends is published monthly by the Department of Science and Technology Regional Office I (DOST I) with editorial office at the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University - Mid La Union Campus, Catbangen, City of San Fernando, La Union.

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