



Newsletter

Official Newsletter of the Mindanao State University - Marawi City September 2025 (Volume 3 Issue 3 - 2025)



About the Cover

This month's cover commemorates a pivotal moment: the investiture of MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA. The photograph of President Tago captures his resolve and vision as he ushers in a new era of leadership. His presence embodies a profound commitment to progress, innovation, academic excellence, and, most notably, an "Inklusibong Pamantasan" (inclusive university). This vision of inclusivity is not just a phrase; it is a guiding principle, a promise etched in the future of MSU. This image transcends a mere visual representation; it stands as a symbol of hope, resilience, and a promise of a brighter future for MSU and the communities it serves, ensuring that no one is left behind.



SCAN ME
to get the E-copy.

Comments and suggestions on the Newsletter and articles and submission of other manuscripts for possible inclusion in future issues are welcome. Please feel free to visit us at the office located at the first floor of the MCHC building in the front of the College of Engineering, or contact us:



oipp@msumain.edu.ph
msuoipp@gmail.com



@msumain.oipp



The University Newsletter is the official quarterly publication of the Mindanao State University. It is published by the Office of the President on a quarterly basis through the Office of Information, Press and Publication (OIPP) of the MSU-Main Campus.

Sorhaila L. Latip-Yusoph
Editor-in-Chief

Nasrimah R. Sampaco-Fayez
Senior Editorial Staff

Hasmin M. Tambidan
Editorial Staff

Nasrimah R. Sampaco-Fayez
Muhammad Tawfiq C. Cali
Layout Artists

Muhammad Tawfiq C. Cali
Mohammad Ali T. Hadji Usman
Junaid A. Manamparan
Jessie L. Cañete
Photographers

Dainoden M. Macalangcom
Circulation Manager

Atty. Fayruzah Absary
Hasmin M. Tambidan
Jalalia B. Guro
Al-Anisah M. Hadji Ali
Mailon D. Pundamudag
Proofreaders

Ramil Samporna
Webmaster

Disclaimer: Our team informs readers that the views, thoughts, and opinions expressed in the text of this Newsletter belong solely to the author, and not necessarily to the MSU and OIPP.

Our Newsletter Sections

01



The Story

MSU Talents and Beauty: This section features timeless stories from different perspectives. From the academic and semi-academic constituents of the University. This will include feature articles and stories written by and about talents and jewels in the university.

02



The Report

The University activities at a glance: This section is a great way to keep up with the latest news and trends happening in the whole of the System. This includes articles from the different campuses and external units of the University.

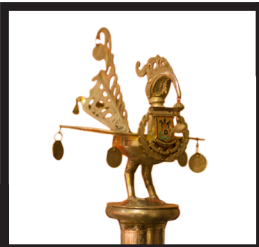
03



The Network

Networking means generosity: This section focuses on the generosity of partners and linkages of MSU that bring commitment for a more responsive university.

04



The Display

A Picture speaks a thousand words: These are mostly Photo stories of activities happening in and outside the campus. It is a powerful way to capture and present a story, using photographs, graphs, lists and statistics as the primary methods of communication.



“

Let's volt in. Dapat magsama-sama tayo. We must be united in making Mindanao a nice place to live in, through the MSU. We must build an institution that will be reaped by our children's children.

From Public Service to Academic Excellence: The Profile of Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA

Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA, is a highly accomplished and distinguished public servant, legislator, and legal professional who now serves as the 9th Regular President of the Mindanao State University (MSU) System.

Born on October 25, 1967, he is a proud son of Mindanao and blue-blooded native of Islamic City of Marawi and a lifelong advocate of inclusive development, social justice, and education as a tool for empowerment. He was a student of Master of Laws from San Beda College, a Bachelor of Laws from Far Eastern University, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the National College of Business and Arts. He is both a Certified Public Accountant and a member of the Philippine Bar. As a fellow of the East-West Center's New Generation Seminar in Hawaii, he represented the Philippines among a global cohort of emerging leaders, further enriching his cross-cultural and policy perspectives.

With over three decades of leadership experience, he has served in various capacities across regional and national government. He was a sitting Member of Parliament of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (2019 to 2025), and formerly served as Deputy Speaker (2022 to 2025). Also as Minister of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications (2022 to 2025) in the Bangsamoro Government, he led institutional reforms and infrastructure initiatives to improve connectivity and mobility across the region.

His earlier public service includes his role as Assemblyman in the now-defunct Regional Legislative Assembly where he served for 12 years and held leadership positions such as Speaker, Majority Floor Leader, and Assistant Minority Leader. He also served as Commissioner of the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos and as a consultant to the Senate during the deliberations on the Bangsamoro Organic Law. He also served as a Board of Administrator in the Cooperative Development Authority and as a Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member in Lanao del Sur.

His strong foundation in finance is reflected in his experience as the Finance Director in the Office of the Regional Governor – ARMM, designated Chief Accountant and Budget Officer III in the Office on Muslim Affairs, as well as the Supervising Accountant in the Land Transportation Regional Office 12. He was among the earliest and most consistent voices calling for genuine fiscal autonomy in the Bangsamoro. He is widely credited for contributing to the block grant provision in the Bangsamoro Organic Law, anchoring the region's political autonomy on financial self-sufficiency. His legislative portfolio reflects a comprehensive vision for human development—authoring landmark measures on education, public health, science and technology, peacebuilding, institutional reform, and cultural preservation.

Among the key measures he principally authored and co-authored are the upgrading of different hospitals, converting Tamparan District Hospital into a Provincial Hospital, the Bangsamoro Science High School System Act, the Medical Scholarship and Return Service Act, Bangsamoro Electoral Code, and the Local Governance Code of the Bangsamoro. He also led the institutionalization of support for madaris education, halal certification, and the codification of Shari'ah-based civil procedures. Most importantly, he spearheaded the codification of the Bangsamoro Revenue Code as the Chairperson of the Committee on Ways and Means in his stint as Member of the Parliament.

As a university president, he brings with him not only his experience in public policy, but a deep respect for the role of education in nation-building. He has consistently advocated for greater investments in scholarships, teacher training, research, and institutional excellence. He believes that Mindanao State University can become a global hub of academic innovation, cultural exchange, and peace education anchored in service to the people of Mindanao and the Bangsamoro. He bridges multiple worlds: the legal and the academic, the bureaucratic and the cultural, the local and the global. He is married to Sittie Norhaya Ambor-Tago, CPA and together they are raising four children grounded in faith, knowledge, and service.

Atty. Tago's blend of legal, financial, and legislative expertise, coupled with his commitment to education and community welfare, positions him as an ideal leader to advance to the MSU System's mission of academic excellence and regional development.



Transformative Leadership Toward a National Peace University

President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA, envisions the institutional transformation of the Mindanao State University System (MSU) into a leading National Peace University—anchored on sustainable development, academic excellence, innovation, inclusivity, cultural integration, and peacebuilding. His Nine-Point Agenda sets the strategic policy direction toward achieving these objectives across all constituent campuses.

1



**INSTITUTIONAL ALIGNMENT
AND GOVERNANCE**

1. Institutional Alignment and Governance

- Unify system-wide functions, policies, and structures under coherent, responsive, and context-driven governance.
- Promote inter-campus collaboration anchored on the MSU System Charter.
- Establish transparent and participatory decision-making involving stakeholders.
- Strengthen the Board of Regents and the Office of the President in enforcing ethical leadership and fiscal discipline.
- Advance peace and development frameworks in all administrative and academic operations.

2



**STRATEGIC PLANNING AND
VALIDATION OF INSTITUTIONAL
DEVELOPMENTS**

2. Strategic Planning and Validation of Institutional Developments

- Conduct comprehensive reviews and validations of campus strategic and operational plans.
- Align institutional objectives with national, regional (BARMM), and global education goals for relevance and responsiveness.
- Embed peacebuilding, resilience, and sustainable development at the core of MSU's strategies.
- Push for the enactment into law of the Revised MSU System Charter in the Congress to enhance institutional autonomy and responsiveness.

3. Quality Assurance and Global Competitiveness

- Strengthen compliance with AUN-QA, ISO, AACCCUP, CHED COPC, and other quality frameworks, and expand partnerships with international institutions.
- Promote student and faculty mobility, joint research, double degrees, and participation in international conferences.
- Enhance global visibility through benchmarking with ASEAN universities and pursuing international rankings.
- Improve internal quality assurance systems and monitoring mechanisms.
- Foster a culture of continuous quality improvement and accountability.



4. Curriculum Enhancements, Research, Extension Services, and Production

- Strengthen Peace Education as a core academic and institutional advocacy.
- Institutionalize relevant courses such as Halal 101, Education in Emergencies, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Develop inclusive, diverse, and culturally sensitive learning materials and modalities.
- Embed digital pedagogy, community-based learning, and research integration in curricula.
- Promote research on peace, socio-economic development, cultural preservation, and climate resilience.
- Expand extension programs for literacy, livelihood, and community empowerment.
- Strengthen MSU's production enterprises for financial sustainability.
- Prioritize and strengthen the programs, projects, and activities of the College of Agriculture, College of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, and the College of Forestry and Environmental Sciences to improve instruction, research, and extension in order to produce positive impacts that can hasten development in Lake Lanao and its surrounding communities and the Bangsamoro Region as a whole. Hence, concerned colleges and officials are directed to study the viability of putting up an Agriculture and Fishery School in the Basak Area; that is, the municipalities from Buadi Puso Buntong to the Municipality of Masiu and Butig.



5. Rehabilitation and Preservation of Cultural and Religious Heritage

- Spearhead the rehabilitation of the King Faisal Mosque, a landmark of Islamic faith and MSU identity.
- Revitalize the Aga Khan Museum of Islamic Arts as a hub for cultural preservation and interfaith understanding.
- Promote cultural diplomacy and peace through heritage conservation.
- Engage local artisans, historians, and cultural bearers in restoration and curation efforts.





6. Human Resource Development and Culture Building

- Enhance faculty and staff development programs for academic and administrative excellence.
- Strengthen performance-based evaluation and merit systems.
- Build and sustain a culture of organizational efficiency and effectiveness rooted in integrity, service, innovation, and peace-centered leadership by embedding these values in daily practices and institutional policies.
- Promote wellness, gender sensitivity, and inclusivity in the workplace.
- Sustain merit-based recruitment, retention, and recognition systems.
- Institutionalize core values aligned with MSU's peace and development mandate.
- Encourage and nurture the Iskolar ng Bayan, including the Alumni, to develop their skills, research and knowledge for the benefit of their community, especially in the Islands of MINSUPALA.



7. Student Welfare and Peacebuilding Initiatives

- Institutionalize programs supporting students' mental health, well-being, and safety.
- Strengthen student participation in governance, community outreach, and peace education.
- Integrate values formation, conflict resolution, and civic engagement into co-curricular activities.
- Provide inclusive support systems for vulnerable and marginalized learners.
- Improve student facilities and promote good learning environment to be at par with other world-class universities with the belief that good environment breeds good students.



8. Infrastructure Improvement and Development and Digital Transformation

- Upgrade learning spaces by renovating classrooms with improved lighting, acoustics, and ventilation to create an environment conducive to learning.
- Laboratory and workshop enhancement by equipping science, engineering, agriculture, and allied health labs with modern instruments that match industry standards.
- Revitalize libraries into hybrid hubs with quiet study areas, collaborative spaces, and multimedia resources.
- Integrate green and sustainable designs such as solar panels, rainwater harvesting, energy-efficient lighting, and green landscaping to reduce costs and environmental footprint in compliance with the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) of the National Government.
- Ensure accessibility and inclusivity by installing ramps, elevators, tactile paving, and assistive technologies to ensure equal access for students and staff with disabilities in compliance with Batas Pambansa Blg. 344 otherwise known as the Accessibility Law, and Republic Act 7277 or the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons.
- Modernize and upgrade student dormitories, comfort rooms, canteens, sport complexes, wellness centers, study rooms, prayer areas, and other facilities for the use of the students in both their academic and extracurricular lives.

- Enhance and upgrade faculty lounges in order to promote better connections, dialogue, understanding, and camaraderie.
- Implement smart campus systems through a unified digital platforms for enrollment, class scheduling, grades, tuition payments, and library access.
- Integrate e-learning and strengthen Learning Management System to support blended learning, flipped classrooms, and virtual labs.
- Store academic records, research data, and administrative files securely in the cloud for easier collaboration and back-up to establish cloud-based operations.
- Use analytics to track student performance, resource use, and institutional efficiency for evidence-based planning.
- Establish strong protocols, firewalls, and awareness programs to protect sensitive university data.
- Equip faculty, staff, and students with the skills to maximize technology in teaching, research, and administration.
- Maintain a regular technology refresh cycle to prevent hardware and software obsolescence

9. Communications, Public Engagement, Security, and Order

- Enhance MSU's visibility and reputation through strategic communication and information dissemination.
- Institutionalize transparency via open data, reporting mechanisms, and community engagement.
- Forge partnerships with LGUs, NGOs, donor agencies, and stakeholders to advance peace and development.
- Improve campus security and emergency response in coordination with LGUs and security forces.
- Strengthen internal and external feedback and grievance redress mechanisms.
- Foster community partnerships through regular public consultations and peace dialogues.
- Impose and promote an environment-friendly campus.



This **Nine-Point Agenda** is a comprehensive roadmap toward MSU's transformation into a National Peace University. It reinforces the mandate of Social Transformation through Peace Education and Cultural Integration, positioning MSU as a catalyst for inclusive growth, cultural harmony, and nation-building in the Bangsamoro and beyond.

People-Centered Progress-Driven Transformative Leader

President Tago's leadership is defined by a people-centered approach, driving progress through transformative change.

#MSU:InklusibongPamantasan





Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA receives University Mace from MP Tomanda Antok, Regent representing BTA, during his investiture ceremony as the new System President. The University Mace is a powerful symbol of authority and governance, representing the university's academic traditions, institutional power, and the trust placed in the new leader to uphold its mission. Its presentation signifies the formal transfer of institutional authority and the responsibility to lead the academic community.

President Tago Unveils a New Vision for MSU: A 'Volt In' for Unity and Progress

Nasrimah R. Sampaco-Fayez

A new era for the Mindanao State University (MSU) System has officially begun. On August 13, 2025, Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA, was formally invested as its 9th President, an event that was far more than a simple ceremony. Following his appointment on June 27, 2025, this momentous occasion at the Dimaporo Gymnasium marked the launch of President Tago's comprehensive Nine-Point Agenda. This strategic blueprint is designed to transform MSU into a National Peace University, a catalyst for social and economic progress that will fundamentally impact the nation by integrating Muslim communities and indigenous peoples into its political and economic landscape.

The investiture was a blend of long-standing tradition and a forward-thinking vision. The program, which included an invocation by Mohammad Jihan M. Macarambon and the singing of both the Philippine National Anthem and the Bangsamoro Hymn, was a celebration of MSU's rich heritage and its promising future. Esteemed guests, including OPAPRU Secretary Carlito G. Galvez Jr., BARMM Interim Chief Minister Abdulraof A. Macacua, Ozamis City Mayor Sam Norman G. Fuentes, BTA-Parliament Deputy Floor Leader Atty. Jose I. Lorena, Office of the Presidential Adviser for Marawi Rehabilitation Secretary Nasser C. Pangandaman, and Former Senator Aquilino Martin "Koko" Dela Llana Pimentel III, represented by CHR Commissioner Gwendolyn Pimentel-Gana, offered their salutations and extended their congratulations. The MSU Sining Pananadem provided a captivating performance that added to the cultural richness of the event.

Speaking on behalf of CHED Chairperson Dr. Shirley C. Agrupis, CHED Region XII Director Dr. Rody Garcia expressed confidence in President Tago's leadership. Dr. Garcia noted that with President Tago's extensive background in administration and public service, he is well-equipped to lead the university, surmount challenges, and establish initiatives for sustainable development.

During his investiture address, President Tago encapsulated his vision with the Latin maxim, "*Acta non verba*," or "Actions, not words." This philosophy underpins his Nine-Point Agenda. Each point is a critical component of the overarching goal, promising a comprehensive transformation across all facets of the university.

His first point, Institutional Alignment and Governance, focuses on unifying system-wide functions and policies to promote inter-campus collaboration and transparent, stakeholder-involved decision-making. It also involves strengthening the leadership of the Board of Regents and the Office of the President to enforce ethical leadership and fiscal discipline, with the creation of Technical Working Groups to study the MSU Charter and to revisit the MSU Code of Governance. The second point, Strategic Planning and Validation, calls for comprehensive reviews of campus plans to ensure alignment with national, regional (BARMM), and global education goals. A key part of this is embedding peacebuilding, resilience, and sustainable development into MSU's strategies and pushing for a revised MSU System Charter to enhance institutional autonomy and responsiveness.

The third point, Quality Assurance and Global Competitiveness, commits to enhancing global visibility and competitiveness by strengthening compliance with quality assurance frameworks from organizations like AUN-QA, ISO, and CHED COPC. It also aims to expand international partnerships, promote student and faculty mobility, and pursue international rankings by benchmarking with ASEAN universities. The fourth point, Curriculum Enhancements, Research, Extension Services, and Production, emphasizes strengthening Peace Education as a core curriculum and institutional advocacy. It includes institutionalizing relevant courses such as Halal 101, Education in Emergencies, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while also prioritizing programs in agriculture, fisheries, and forestry to develop the potential of Lake Lanao as a boundless resource.

Rehabilitation and Preservation of Cultural and Religious Heritage, the fifth point, focuses on cultural preservation and diplomacy through the rehabilitation of key heritage sites like the King Faisal Mosque and the revitalization of the Aga Khan Museum to serve as a hub for cultural preservation and interfaith understanding. The sixth point, Human Resource Development and Culture Building, aims to enhance faculty and staff through development programs and strengthen performance-based evaluation and merit systems, encouraging alumni and scholars to use their skills to benefit communities, especially in the Islands of MINSUPALA.

The seventh point, Student Welfare and Peacebuilding Initiatives, is dedicated to institutionalizing programs that support student mental health, well-being, and safety. It also seeks to strengthen student participation in governance and peace education and improve student facilities. The eighth point, Infrastructure Improvement and Digital Transformation, commits to providing state-of-the-art facilities, including upgrading learning spaces and dormitories. The plan also emphasizes implementing a



Presentation of scroll to MSU System President, Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA



MSU System President, Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA with the System Officials

"smart campus" system with unified digital platforms for academic and administrative functions and establishing strong cybersecurity protocols. Finally, the ninth point, Communications, Public Engagement, Security, and Order, seeks to enhance MSU's visibility through strategic communication and public engagement, institutionalize transparency through open data, forge partnerships with various stakeholders, and improve campus security in coordination with local authorities.

The investiture marked the culmination of a seamless transition of leadership. On July 4, 2025, a turnover ceremony was held where Officer-in-Charge Dr. Rasid M. Paca formally handed over the duties of the presidency. This event was a testament to the collaborative spirit within MSU, with Dr. Paca pledging his continued support for the new administration. The symbolic transfer of the University Mace and the presentation of President Tago's university ID card underscored the continuity and stability of the transition.

President Tago's path to the presidency included taking oaths before CHED Chairperson Dr. Shirley C. Agrupis on July 1, 2025, and before Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin on July 2, 2025. In his acceptance speech during the turnover ceremony, President Tago spoke of his humble beginnings and the positive influences that shaped his career,



MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA, stands with the Chancellors of other campuses and other members of the Board of Regents, demonstrating unity with their "Volt In" sign. This powerful gesture symbolizes their collective commitment to a unified and inclusive MSU System.



MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA, wears his smile as he speaks before the MSU community during the Turnover Ceremony held on July 4, 2025, at the MSU International Convention Center.

highlighting the vital importance of community engagement. He urged everyone to contribute to their communities, citing the post-war recoveries of South Korea and Japan as examples of national prosperity. His address concluded with the powerful phrase, "Pagpalain Bangsamoro", a clear sign of his deep dedication to his community.

As the investiture concluded, a new chapter opened for the MSU System under the resolute leadership of Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA. With a palpable sense of unity and purpose, the MSU community is now poised to embark on a transformative journey, ready to translate ambitious goals into measurable outcomes and solidify MSU's legacy as a center for peace, justice, and progress in Mindanao and beyond.



In a powerful display of dedication, MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA, wasted no time, immediately reporting to his office to begin his duties following the turnover ceremony.

MSU Main Campus Charts Strategic Direction Under 9-Point Agenda

Prof. Richard S. Celeste

Anchored on the MSU System President's 9-point Agenda, the Mindanao State University Main Campus held its Executive Strategic Planning and Workshop at Dusit Thani Mactan Resort, Cebu, on August 23–24, 2025. The 2-day event gathered university administrators, campus officials, deans and directors to translate the university's priorities into actionable strategies in pursuit of its vision as the National Peace University.

The 9-point Agenda serves as the strategic compass of the university, covering:

1. **Institutional Alignment and Governance**
2. **Strategic Planning and Validation of Institutional Developments**
3. **Quality Assurance and Global Competitiveness**
4. **Curriculum Enhancements, Research, Extension Services, and Production**
5. **Rehabilitation and Preservation of Cultural and Religious Heritage**
6. **Human Resource Development and Culture Building**
7. **Student Welfare and Peacebuilding Initiatives**
8. **Infrastructure Improvement and Development and Digital Transformation**
9. **Communications, Public Engagement, Security, and Order**

The opening day was marked by camaraderie as delegates traveled from MSU-Marawi to Cebu aboard Trans Asia Shipping Lines. Upon arrival at Dusit Thani Mactan Resort, participants were welcomed with hearty meals and an inspiring oceanfront venue that symbolized fresh perspectives and limitless opportunities.



MSU System and campus officials demonstrate a powerful sense of unity with their "volt-in" sign. The gesture, made during the MSU System Strategic Planning and Workshop at the Dusit Thani Mactan Resort in Cebu, highlights their collective commitment to a unified and inclusive future for the university.

A photograph of a middle-aged man with grey hair, wearing a green polo shirt and a silver wristband. He is shown from the chest up, turned slightly to his left, with his right arm raised and his fist clenched. The background is a warm, out-of-focus orange-brown color.

“

Let us not merely provide education, but actively build in course, inclusivity and drive sustainable development, cultural integration, and peace building in Mindanao and beyond. Ibahin natin ang MSU, dahil tayo ay inklusibong pamantasan, lahat ay pantay-pantay. Sa atin, dapat totooong plano.

“IN AN **INCLUSIVE**
UNIVERSITY,
EVERY VOICE
CONTRIBUTES TO THE
TRANSFORMATIVE
LEADERSHIP
THAT FORGES
PEACE.”



SCAN THE QR CODE
to view the video clips of the event.



The formal program commenced in the afternoon, hosted by Dr. Ivy Sarah Mae B. Arimao and Ms. Inshira M. Alonto. Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Alma E. Berowa delivered the opening remarks, urging everyone to work as one family towards realizing MSU's vision and mission. This was followed by Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Dr. Minerva-Saminah M. Naga, who underscored the importance of translating the 9-point Agenda into institutional priorities and flagship initiatives.

Keynote speaker Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA, MSU System President emphasized the broader impact of the planning sessions: “Our hope is that this strategic planning will be good for our community and people, a marching order for everyone to



MSU System President, Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA with the system and campus officials during the last day of MSU System Strategic Planning

chart the path of MSU as an institution with a heart for the various stakeholders that we are sworn to serve." The afternoon sessions included an Environmental Scanning (PESTLE and SWOT Analyses) facilitated by Prof. Charlou A. Bautista and a Stakeholder Analysis, Gaps and Issue Identification led by Dr. Richard S. Celeste, both faculty members of the Department of Marketing, CBAA. These technical workshops provided a strong foundation for the planning process.

In the evening, delegates bonded during the Solidarity Night at Scape Skydeck hosted by Dr. Sorhaila L. Latip-Yusoph, Director of OIPP and Meranaw Cultural Heritage Center. The program featured a cityscape view, festive dinner, and lively presentations from different offices, strengthening camaraderie among participants.

Day 2 began with the presentation of the 9-point Agenda by Executive Vice President Dr. Abdulcader M. Ayo, followed by Strategic Goal Setting led by Dr. Acram A. Latiph, Director of the Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao. University administrators, campus officials, deans and directors then engaged in action planning workshops, culminating in their words of commitment to pursue the university's goals with dedication and unity.

The day concluded with an inspirational message from MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA reinforcing MSU's shared vision of peace, inclusivity, and global competitiveness.

Through the Executive Strategic Planning and Workshop, MSU Main Campus reaffirmed its commitment to holistic institutional development and its role as a transformative force in Mindanao and beyond.

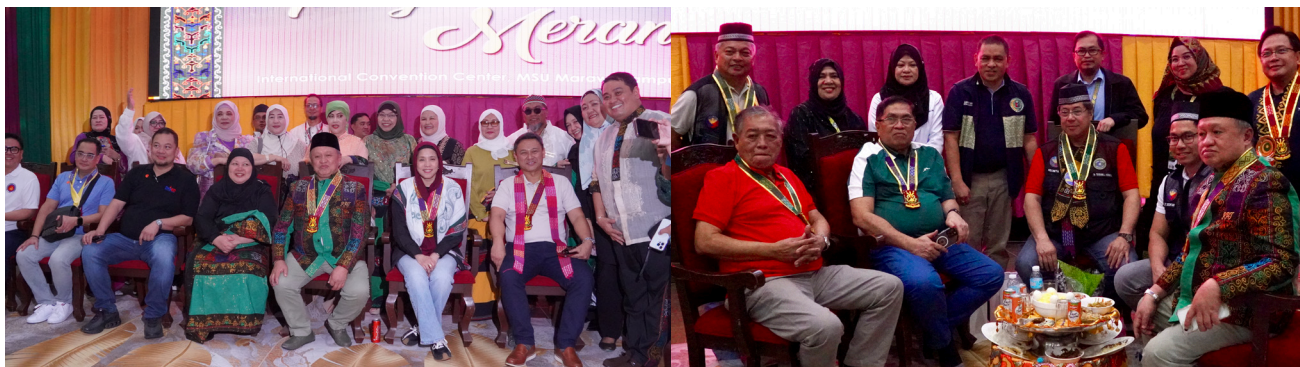
Pagana Meranaw at MSU-Marawi: Fostering Unity Among National and Regional Leaders



MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA and First Lady Sittie Norhaya Ambor-Tago, CPA welcome national and regional dignitaries to the MSU International Convention Center, where they are treated to a sumptuous Pagana Meranaw feast. The event celebrates Meranaw culture as leaders enjoy a spread of traditional delicacies.

A powerful wave of cultural pride and collaborative determination swept through Mindanao State University (MSU)–Main Campus on July 11, 2025, as it hosted a transformative Pagana Meranaw. Within the halls of the International Convention Center, a sense of purpose electrified the air as high-ranking national and regional government officials gathered, warmly welcomed by MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA, and the university's leadership. This was not just a traditional Meranaw gathering; it was a vibrant declaration of Marawi's enduring spirit and a pivotal moment for shaping its future.

Esteemed figures such as Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman, Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Sonny M. Angara, Department of Health (DOH) Secretary Dr. Teodoro J. Herbosa, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) Interim Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua, Presidential Adviser for Marawi Rehabilitation and former Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary Nasser C. Pangandaman, and GMA 7 Vice President Atty. Annette Gozon-Valdes, graced the event, their presence a testament to a unified commitment to Marawi's resurgence.



The photos capture moments of MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA uniting with a powerful coalition of university officials and esteemed national and regional dignitaries, symbolizing a shared commitment to collaborative leadership and advancing both the university and the broader community. The event highlights the fusion of Meranaw culture with modern governance, setting a tone of unity and mutual respect.

The Pagana Meranaw transcended the boundaries of a mere cultural showcase; it was a living, breathing embodiment of Marawi's resilience. The event commenced with a deeply moving du'a (traditional Islamic prayer) led by Prof. Mohammad Jihan M. Macarambon, PhD, ShL, filling the space with reverence and a shared sense of hope. Prof. Sorhaila L. Latip-Yusoph, PhD, then captivated the audience with a compelling scholarly address, illuminating the profound significance of the Pagana Meranaw within Meranaw culture. Her words resonated with the vital importance of unity, understanding, and the preservation of heritage – the very cornerstones upon which Marawi is being rebuilt.

Before the cultural celebration, a crucial meeting unfolded at Camp Ranao, where leaders focused on the BARMM's vital financial contributions to key Marawi City rehabilitation projects. Discussions centered on the action plans of Implementing Agencies, working hand-in-hand with the DBM and the Office of the Presidential Adviser for Marawi Rehabilitation and Development (OPAMRD). These strategic dialogues underscored the unwavering commitment to ensuring effective and sustainable progress in Marawi's journey to recovery.



MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA



DBM Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman

By hosting the Pagana Meranaw, MSU-Marawi has firmly established itself as a driving force in Marawi's narrative of rebirth. The university's unwavering commitment to fostering collaborative partnerships between government agencies and the local community underscores its dedication to community engagement. This remarkable cultural event not only celebrated Marawi's rich heritage but also solidified MSU's position as a key architect in shaping the city's future – a future brimming with hope, resilience, and a shared vision for a brighter tomorrow.



MSU System, OPAPRU, and BARMG Government Partner to Award Educational Assistance to Decommissioned MILF Combatants and Next-of-Kin

Dr. Acram A. Latiph

In a significant step towards fostering lasting peace and socioeconomic development in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMG), the Mindanao State University (MSU) System, in partnership with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU) and the BARMG Government, held a ceremonial awarding and releasing of educational assistance to decommissioned Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) combatants and their next-of-kin.

The event, held on August 6, 2025, at the Shariff Kabunsuan Cultural Complex in Cotabato City, highlighted a collaborative effort to empower communities through education. This initiative is a core component of the broader Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Program, aiming to provide former combatants and their families with opportunities for a better future.

MSU System President, Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA, a key figure in the program's implementation, emphasized the university's commitment to being a catalyst for peace. "This is one of the many initiatives of the MSU System to help our region through education," said President Tago.

"By providing access to quality education, we are not only empowering individuals but also building a foundation for sustainable peace and progress in the Bangsamoro." The educational assistance program is a testament to the strong partnership between the



In a historic photo, all attendees stand together, marking the ceremonial awarding and release of educational assistance to decommissioned MILF combatants and their next-of-kin. The image reflects a profound moment of unity and hope, symbolizing a shared commitment to building peace and providing a new, brighter future through education.



OPAPRU, the BARMM Government, and various government agencies. It underscores a shared vision of empowering communities and promoting an inclusive peace process. By investing in the education of former combatants and their families, these organizations are actively working to address the root causes of conflict and create a more hopeful and prosperous future for the region.

The beneficiaries, comprised of decommissioned combatants and their next-of-kin, will now have the opportunity to pursue higher education and vocational training, enabling them to reintegrate into society as productive members and contribute to the development of the Bangsamoro. The program is expected to have a ripple effect, inspiring future generations and strengthening the social fabric of the region.

The ceremonial event was attended by high-ranking officials from the OPAPRU, the BARMM Government, the MSU System, and other partner agencies, all of whom reiterated their unwavering support for the peace process and the holistic development of the Bangsamoro region.



MSU-Main Community Unites: President Tago Leads OPLAN Linis

Nasrimah R. Sampaco-Fayez



President Tago's commitment to a clean and efficient campus is evident as he makes rounds, ensuring the prompt conduct of the Oplan Linis program. He is seen here visiting the College of Engineering on the right, and the College of Agriculture on the left, where he takes time to interact with students and staff.

Mindanao State University (MSU)-Main Campus blazed with community spirit on August 8, 2025, as President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA, spearheaded "OPLAN Linis," a campus-wide clean-up drive. Fueled by his unwavering dedication to a clean, green environment and an empowered community, the initiative ignited a powerful display of collective action, uniting students, faculty, staff, and officials to revitalize the heart of MSU.

With the break of dawn, the campus came alive as volunteers poured onto the grounds, ready to transform MSU-Main Campus. President Tago, embodying leadership by example, actively participated, personally hosing down walkways and refreshing green spaces. His unwavering commitment to the program's success was further underscored by his personal visits to various offices and facilities, ensuring meticulous oversight and seamless implementation. The Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) amplified the effort, providing vital resources for a comprehensive clean-up.

The timing of OPLAN Linis is significant, aligning with preparations for the academic year and the University founding anniversary. This initiative symbolizes a fresh start and a renewed commitment to excellence. It sends a powerful message that MSU-Main is ready to welcome students to a campus that prioritizes academic achievement and environmental well-being.

The spirit of collaboration was palpable as students worked alongside faculty, staff, and officials, forging connections and strengthening bonds. The atmosphere buzzed with energy, laughter, and a shared sense of purpose and responsibility.

"Seeing President Tago leading the charge is truly inspiring," shared one enthusiastic volunteer. "OPLAN Linis isn't just about cleaning; it's about building a stronger, more sustainable community, and it starts from the top!"

As the morning progressed, the impact of OPLAN Linis was undeniable. MSU-Main emerged from the clean-up drive not just cleaner, but inviting and more vibrant. This successful initiative serves as an example of what can be achieved when a community unites under a visionary leader to create a better future for all. The campus now stands poised to welcome students with open arms, ready to embark on a new academic year filled with promise and possibility.



A group photo of some university officials and staff before the start of the OPLAN Linis program.



MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA joins members of the Lanao del Sur Medical Society during a grand medical mission for MSU constituents. This powerful collaboration underscores the commitment of both the university and the medical community to serve the health and well-being of the MSU family.

President Tago Spearheads Grand Medical Mission at MSU-Main Campus

Nasrimah R. Sampaco-Fayez

The International Convention Center at MSU Main Campus in Marawi City was transformed into a hub of hope and healing during a grand medical mission held on August 8, 2025. Spearheaded by MSU-Main Campus under the visionary leadership of MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P. D. Tago, CPA, and in close collaboration with the Integrated Provincial Health Office led by Provincial Health Officer II Dr. Alinader Minalang, MPH, MPM, MSPH-MHA, CESO, and the BARMM-Ministry of Health, the event united dedicated healthcare professionals and compassionate volunteers to deliver transformative medical services to the MSU community.

The mission provided a comprehensive array of healthcare services, including free medical consultations offering expert advice and care, a life-saving mobile blood donation drive bolstering local blood banks, eye screenings safeguarding vision, HbA1c RBS screenings empowering individuals to manage sugar levels, thorough dental check-ups promoting oral health, and the provision of vital free medicines ensuring access to essential treatments, all meticulously designed to uplift the well-being of MSU constituents.

Among the esteemed participants were IPHO Doctor to the Barrios, the Philippine Medical Association-Lanao del Sur Chapter led by President Dr. Monasir L. Bantuas, Jr., MSU Medical Services and Hospital/Infirmary led by OIC Director Dr. Rimpapar Umpara-Ampoga, the Philippine Nurses Association-Marawi City and Lanao del Sur Chapter, the Philippine Dental Association-Lanao Chapter and IPHO Dentists headed by Dr. Artawan P. Indar, the Marawi City Health Office headed by Dr. Alinader D. Minalang, MPH, MPM, MSPH-MHA, CESO, Marawi General Hospital, and the Amai Pakpak Medical Center headed by Dr. Shalimar Sani-Rakiin, MPM, MSPH-MHA, DIPHM, CESE, Medical Center Chief II of Amai Pakpak Medical Center, through its Mobile Blood Banking Team.

Dr. Fatimah Zarah D. Umpa, RN, MM-MHOA, Chief of the Training Division at the Integrated Provincial Health Office – Lanao del Sur, delivered an acknowledgment of partners, recognizing the collaborative efforts that made the event possible.



Participants of the blood donation drive pose for a photo.



Some assistive devices, including wheelchairs, are handed over to select individuals with special needs as part of the Medical Mission.

Dr. Alinader D. Minalang, in his opening remarks, underscored the critical importance of accessible healthcare for all and expressed his deep gratitude to the MSU System President. He thanked the President for initiating the Medical Mission, for the provision of free medical services to the MSU community, and for his steadfast support of medical programs both within MSU and throughout the Bangsamoro Region, even prior to becoming President of the MSU System. "Ito ay hindi lang ngayon, kundi magiging umpisa ng mas marami pang medical missions at pagbibigay serbisyo sa ating mga kababayan."

MSU System President, Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA shared an inspirational message, motivating attendees with words of encouragement and hope. He also announced that the medical mission will be conducted annually and that more medical missions will be conducted in the entire MSU community, including external units. "*Ang ating kalusugan ay pangalagaan natin, sa pamamagitan ng pagkain ng tama.*"

Messages of support were given by Dr. Ali Dalidig and Dr. Monaser Bantuas. They both extended their heartfelt felicitation and reminded everyone to always prioritize their health and to avail themselves of the available medical services. They also emphasized that their collective mission as health professionals is to selflessly serve the people, expecting nothing in return.

A significant part of the mission was the handover of assistive devices, aimed at improving the quality of life for individuals with disabilities. The event concluded with closing remarks from Dr. Amera-Maliha M. Ati, MPM, DIPHM, DPCHA, CHA, Chief of the Technical Services Division at the Integrated Provincial Health Office – Lanao del Sur. Vaisha M. Undac – Polaos, RN, RM, LPT, MANC served as the Master of Ceremonies, ensuring the smooth flow of the event.

The grand medical mission went beyond simply providing basic healthcare services; it served as a tangible demonstration of a deep-seated commitment to fostering lasting health and genuine well-being within the MSU Community. This commitment was brought to life through the collaborative spirit and dedicated efforts of various stakeholders. By uniting healthcare professionals, compassionate volunteers, and community partners, the mission addressed immediate healthcare needs while also laying the foundation for a healthier, more resilient community in the long term.



MSU's 2025 ASEAN Month Celebration Opens with a Call for Inclusivity and Sustainability



Mindanao State University (MSU) Main Campus formally inaugurated its 2025 ASEAN Month celebration with a ceremony emphasizing “Inclusivity and Sustainability,” aligning with the priorities of Malaysia's 2025 ASEAN chairmanship. The opening ceremony, held on August 5, 2025, served as a significant demonstration of MSU's commitment to regional collaboration and its role in fostering peace and mutual understanding within the ASEAN community.

The proceedings began with a formal invocation led by Aleem Shanolah Rasuman, a King Faisal Center for Islamic, Arabic, and Asian Studies (KFCIAAS) faculty member, offering prayers for regional peace and unity. This set the tone for the day's events, which continued with the ceremonial entry of colors by MSU ROTC Cadet Officers, the raising of flags, and the rendering of national anthems, including the Bangsamoro Hymn and the MSU Hymn.

In his opening remarks, Professor Saddam Solaiman, Chairperson of the International Relations Department at the KFCIAAS, highlighted ASEAN's crucial role in promoting regional peace, cultural enrichment, and economic progress. He emphasized MSU's unique position as a center of learning and multicultural harmony, reflecting the core values of inclusive and sustainable development envisioned by ASEAN.

A pivotal moment was the inspirational address and formal declaration of the opening of MSU's 2025 ASEAN Month celebration by MSU System President, Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA. President Tago's speech provided a historical contextualization of ASEAN's formation, tracing its origins to the 1963 Maphilindo agreement—a proposed confederation between Malaysia, the Philippines, and Indonesia aimed at uniting the Malay people—which he considered a precursor to both ASEAN and the Bangsamoro struggle. He also referenced the 1967 Bangkok Declaration, which established ASEAN to promote regional cooperation



MSU Officials seal ASEAN commitment with a unifying handshake.

and foster peace and stability in Southeast Asia. President Tago stated, "This year's ASEAN theme focusing on inclusivity and sustainability resonates strongly with our vision as a national peace university. It reminds us that our future, like the future of our neighbors, is built on collaboration, understanding, and a commitment to sustainable growth that leaves no one behind." He further urged the MSU community, stating,

"We must equip our young people, our future leaders, to think beyond themselves, to collaborate and be models of inclusivity, diversity, and sustainability. As we open this ASEAN month, I invite each of you to support the activities ahead. These are more than just events; they are steps toward achieving globally competent and socially responsible individuals—the ultimate characteristics of an MSU graduate. In the spirit of unity and collaboration, and with pride in our aim to be a national peace university bridging cultures and communities, let us actively observe and participate in this ASEAN Month celebration."



MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA

The ceremony continued with the ceremonial hoisting of the flags of ASEAN member states and the singing of the ASEAN Hymn by the MSU Student Marshals, led by University Marshal Prof. Rogarciano C. Guinggue III, symbolizing regional unity and shared objectives. Subsequently, Prof. Melba M. Angni, MSc, Director of the International Affairs and Linkages Office, delivered a comprehensive overview of ASEAN, providing crucial context for MSU's involvement. Her presentation likely detailed ASEAN's vision, goals, and foundational principles, its current priorities (such as inclusivity and sustainability), and the specific ways in which MSU contributes to the ASEAN community. Her address connected broader ASEAN goals with MSU's specific initiatives and participation in regional projects, collaborations, and research efforts, likely including information on MSU's ongoing and future collaborations with other ASEAN institutions, highlighting the university's active role in the regional landscape.

The event concluded with the singing of the ASEAN Unity Song and the execution of the ASEAN Handshake, officially commencing MSU's ASEAN Month activities. Mr. Art Marvin M. Aranas, MPMM, a faculty member of the College of Business Administration and Accountancy, served as Master of Ceremonies.

The opening ceremony showcased MSU's dedication to fostering a comprehensive understanding and appreciation of ASEAN within its academic community. The event served as the catalyst for a month-long series of activities designed to promote regional cooperation, cultural exchange, and sustainable development initiatives. MSU's robust participation in ASEAN Month 2025 underscores its commitment to serving as a leading institution in promoting peace, inclusivity, and sustainable progress within the Southeast Asian region.



MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA with the MSU officials during the opening ceremony of ASEAN 2025 Celebration

ICGD4:

MSU Strengthens Global Presence and Secures UPLB Partnership

Nasrimah R. Sampaco-Fayez

Mindanao State University (MSU) significantly enhanced its global presence and secured a crucial academic partnership with the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) at the 4th International Conference on Governance and Development (ICGD4) in Bangkok, Thailand. The conference, held from July 30 to August 2, 2025, was organized by the UPLB College of Public Affairs and Development in partnership with the Kasetsart University School of Integrated Science, with the theme "Championing Global Citizenship and Empowering Communities." The conference's main objective was to underscore the critical role of governance, global citizenship, and community empowerment, serving as a platform to exchange ideas, share best practices, and foster partnerships among prominent leaders and experts in the field of development. The conference's three sub-themes included lifelong learning for sustainable development, innovative institutions for community development, and communities of practice for global development. MSU's participation involved strategic engagement, culminating in a landmark agreement.

The official opening ceremony was held on July 31, 2025. MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA delivered an inspirational message during the ICGD4 welcome dinner, highlighting the critical role of international collaboration in addressing global challenges and fostering sustainable development. This showcased MSU's commitment to these goals.

Throughout the conference, MSU delegates, led by President Tago, actively participated in sessions, networked, shared expertise, and learned from leading experts. This proactive engagement facilitated valuable connections and laid the groundwork for future collaborations.





MSU delegates included Dr. Oding L. Ma-amor (MSU System Assistant Vice President for Planning and Development), Prof. Melencio C. Jalova Jr. (Director of University Extension Services Center), Prof. Soraida B. Ali (former Dean of the College of Public Affairs), and Dr. Christine Joy S. Octubre (former Chairperson of the Department of Public Administration), who served as panel presenters. Dr. Minerva Samina M. Naga (Chairperson of the MSU Transition Committee) also chaired a panel session. Dr. Indihra B. Dimaporo-Tawantawan (Superintendent of MSU Sultan Naga Dimaporo, Lanao del Norte) also attended.

A key highlight was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between MSU (represented by President Tago) and UPLB (represented by Chancellor Dr. Jose V. Camacho Jr.). Witnessed by distinguished officials from both institutions, this formalized a significant academic partnership. The MOU establishes a framework for collaborative activities, including faculty and researcher exchanges, student exchange programs, joint research projects, and shared academic resources. This MOU built upon a benchmarking visit to UPLB from March 12–13, 2025, led by Dr. Fema M. Abamo (MSU Vice Chancellor for Research, Extension, and Development), which included tours of key UPLB facilities (UPLB-IFST, UPLB Interdisciplinary Studies Center for INREM, BIOTECH, and the Office of the Chancellor).

The MSU-UPLB MOU signing demonstrates MSU's commitment to international collaboration and strategic partnerships advancing academic excellence and national development. President Tago's participation and the MOU signing represent significant achievements for MSU, paving the way for future collaborations.

MSU delegates' engagement extended beyond the conference, including a campus tour of Kasetsart University. This visit facilitated a deeper understanding of Kasetsart University's strengths and potential areas for future collaboration with MSU, enriching the overall experience and laying the groundwork for potential partnerships beyond the UPLB MOU.





The PRESIDENT's Significant MILESTONE



JULY 1, 2025

**Atty. Tago Takes Oath as
MSU System President**

Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA officially took his oath of office as the new System President of Mindanao State University (MSU) on July 1, 2025. The oath-taking ceremony was administered by Dr. Shirley C. Agrupis, Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). This marks a new chapter for the university as President Tago assumes his leadership role.



2

JULY 2, 2025

President Tago Takes Second Oath before Executive Secretary Bersamin

Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA, was sworn in as the new System President of Mindanao State University (MSU) for a second time on July 2, 2025. The oath of office was administered by the Honorable Lucas Bersamin, Executive Secretary of the Philippines, marking another significant milestone in President Tago's assumption of leadership at the university.



4

JULY 4, 2025

President Tago Officially Assumes MSU Presidency in Turnover Ceremony

On July 4, 2025, a formal turnover ceremony marked the official start of Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago's term as President of MSU. The event symbolized a smooth and unified leadership transition, as outgoing Officer-in-Charge Dr. Rasid M. Paca formally handed over his duties.

The ceremony's key moment came when President Tago accepted the University Mace and his official university ID card. These items symbolized the continuity and stability of the university's leadership and its unified commitment to the future.



JULY 7, 2025

President Tago Attends First Executive Committee Meeting

On July 7, 2025, MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA attended his first Executive Committee (EXECOM) Meeting as the university's leader. The meeting, held at the International Convention Center, was a crucial step for the new president to familiarize himself with the university's operations.

All university officials were in attendance, presenting their accomplishment reports and discussing their roles and duties. The gathering underscored the commitment of MSU's leadership to a collaborative and transparent administration, as President Tago outlined his vision for the future of the institution.

7

JULY 7, 2025

President Tago Leads First Flag-Raising Ceremony

On July 7, 2025, MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA presided over his first flag-raising ceremony at the Antonio Isidro Grounds of the MSU-Main Campus.

In his address, President Tago reflected on MSU's foundational role as a "social laboratory" for national integration, established on September 1, 1961. He reaffirmed his commitment to transforming MSU into a world-class institution, comparable to international Ivy League universities, by promoting an environment of academic excellence and innovation. He also pledged his full support for both faculty and students, ensuring they have access to resources, scholarships, and opportunities to succeed.

Sharing his ambitious dream for the university's future, President Tago stated his hope that MSU would one day produce a Philippine president, inspiring the community to pursue greatness. The ceremony highlighted MSU's dedication to its core principles while embracing a forward-looking direction under his leadership.





9

JULY 9, 2025

President Tago Makes Historic First Attendance at MSU-GenSan Commencement

In a historic first, MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA attended and served as the keynote speaker at the 46th Commencement Exercises of MSU-General Santos. The event, themed "MSU General Santos: Fostering Excellence, Serving the Nation," was held on July 9, 2025. His presence at the graduation ceremony underscored his administration's commitment to the entire MSU System.

In his address, President Tago challenged the graduates of *Batch Maragsa* to use their education to uplift their communities, stating that knowledge is "meaningless if not brought back to one's origins." He also highlighted the importance of recognizing the diverse communities of Mindanao. The event, which also featured speeches from Chancellor Atty. Shidik T. Abantas and student leaders, celebrated the graduates' achievements and reaffirmed MSU-GenSan's dedication to fostering excellence and serving the nation.





11

JULY 11, 2025

MSU Hosts 'Pagana Meranaw' for National and Regional Leaders

MSU-Main Campus, led by its System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA, hosted a significant Pagana Meranaw, welcoming national and regional leaders including Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman, Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Sonny Angara, Department of Health (DOH) Secretary Dr. Teodoro J. Herbosa, BARMM Interim Chief Minister Abdulraof Macacua, Presidential Adviser for Marawi Rehabilitation and former Department of Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser C. Pangandaman, and GMA 7 Vice President Atty. Annette Gozon-Valdez. The cultural event took place at the International Convention Center.





12

JULY 12, 2025

President Tago Attends MSU-MCEST Commencement

In his first official visit to Mindanao State University–Maigo College of Education, Science, and Technology (MSU-MCEST), MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA attended the 21st commencement exercises as the guest speaker on July 12, 2025.

The graduation ceremony celebrated the achievements of Batch Dilaab, and President Tago took the opportunity to deliver a powerful message to the new graduates. He encouraged them to return to their communities and apply their knowledge, emphasizing that an education is not complete until it is used to serve and uplift one's origins. He also highlighted the vital role of MSU-MCEST graduates in building a more peaceful and prosperous Mindanao.

President Tago's address resonated with the event's theme of fostering excellence and service to the nation.

14

JULY 14, 2025

President Tago Launches New Era of Connectivity with ISON Tower Groundbreaking

In a landmark ceremony on July 14, 2025, MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA, led the groundbreaking for the construction of the new ISON Tower on the MSU-Main Campus. This significant event marks a significant partnership among ISON, DCM Construction, and MSU-Main Campus, aimed at revolutionizing digital infrastructure in the university.

The collaboration with ISON and DCM Construction demonstrates MSU's proactive approach to building a technologically advanced and well-connected environment. This initiative is expected to provide robust and reliable connectivity, ensuring that students, faculty, and the surrounding community are well-equipped for the demands of the digital age. The ISON Tower Project stands as a testament to the university's dedication to progress and its role as a leader in regional development.



15

JULY 15, 2025

President Tago Participates in the 5th TBTI Executive Committee Meeting on Fisheries Research

In a significant display of his commitment to national collaboration, MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA, hosted the 5th Executive Committee Meeting of the Too Big To Ignore (TBTI) Philippines, also known as the National Consortium for Small-Scale Fisheries Research and Development. The meeting, held on July 15, 2025, at the CHTM Pavilion of MSU-Main Campus, brought together a wide array of leaders from across the country.



President Tago welcomed chancellors, presidents, and officials from numerous state universities and colleges, including representatives from UP Visayas, Central Mindanao University, Mariano Marcos State University, Mindoro State University, Guimaras State University, Batangas State University, State University of Northern Negros, Cavite State University–Naic, Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology, Central Bicol State University of Agriculture, Central Philippines State University, Carlos Hilado Memorial State University, Western Philippines University, Catanduanes State University, Marinduque State University, Iloilo State University, Southern Leyte State University, Cebu Technological University, and Southern Philippines Agribusiness and Marine and Aquatic School of Technology.

The event was also attended by officials from the MSU System with representatives from MSU–IIT, MSU–TCTO, MSU–Sulu, MSU–GenSan, MSU–Naawan, and the host, MSU–Main Campus. President Tago's leadership in hosting the meeting underscored his dedication to strengthening collaboration in small-scale fisheries research and development, a key focus of TBTI Philippines.



16

JULY 16, 2025

President Tago Kicks Off 3rd "Palaro" at MSU-SND

MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA was a notable presence at the opening program of the "3rd Palaro para sa mga Estudyante, Empleyado at mga Guro" at MSU-Sultan Naga Dimaporo (SND).

The sports event, themed "Unlocking Potential, Forging Futures," aims to bring together students, employees, and teachers.

President Tago's attendance highlights his administration's focus on nurturing talent and fostering a unified MSU community where everyone can connect through shared passion and purpose. This underscores a commitment to building a cohesive environment for the entire university.





17

JULY 17, 2025

President Tago Conducts Ocular Inspection of MSU-Main Campus

MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA conducted his continued ocular inspection of various offices at the MSU Main Campus. The routine inspection aimed to assess the operational status, infrastructure needs, and administrative efficiency of key university offices to ensure alignment with his vision for a progressive and inclusive MSU System.

President Tago, accompanied by university officials and transition committee members, visited critical administrative and academic units, including the King Faisal Center for Islamic, Arabic, and Asian Studies (KFCIAAS), the Office of Information, Press and Publication (OIPP), the Meranaw Cultural Heritage Center (MCHC), the College of Law (COL), and the Information and Communications Technology Center (ICTC). The inspection focused on evaluating facilities, staff readiness, and resources to support the university's academic programs.





18

JULY 18, 2025

President Tago Visits MSU-Naawan for 37th Commencement

MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA visited MSU-Naawan on July 18, 2025, to show his support at the 37th Commencement Exercises.

Addressing the *Batch Handurawan* graduates, President Tago highlighted the campus's unique learning environment. He noted that *"MSU Naawan is different. It is calm. It is grounded. It teaches in quiet but powerful ways."* He explained that learning happens not just in classrooms but *"in the mangroves, in the fish ponds, in the daily walks through tree-lined roads, and in the moments of silence when the tide is low."*

Tago emphasized that this unique setting has shaped the graduates, stating, *"you are not just leaving college. You are leaving behind a version of yourself that has been shaped by the discipline of science and the wisdom of nature. The simplicity of Naawan has taught you that knowledge does not need to be loud — it only needs to be true."*





21 onwards

JULY 21, 2025 ONWARDS

Different MSU Units Pay Courtesy Visits to President Tago

MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA is actively engaging with the entire university community, holding a series of courtesy visits not just with officials but with all employees from various university units. This initiative, held at the Office of the President, marks a new era of open communication and collaboration.

Instead of a formal, top-down approach, these meetings serve as a direct channel for every member of the university to voice their concerns and contribute their ideas. By personally meeting with employees from different departments, President Tago is gaining a comprehensive, grassroots understanding of the university's operations, challenges, and opportunities.

This hands-on, all-inclusive approach is setting a powerful precedent for a unified and transparent administration. It highlights the new leadership's commitment to building strong working relationships and moving the Mindanao State University System forward together, with every employee playing a vital role.

JULY 24, 2025

MSU-Main Celebrates Resilience and Moral Grounding at 61st Commencement Exercises

Mindanao State University (MSU)-Main Campus proudly celebrated its 61st Commencement Exercises for 2nd Semester, Academic Year 2024-2025 on July 24, 2025, honoring the graduating class of Batch Ayana at the MSU Dimaporo Gymnasium. Under the theme "MSU: Sustaining an Equipose of Technology and Moral-Spiritual Values Amidst Prodigious Change," the ceremony recognized the achievements of over 2,500 graduates. This included an impressive cohort of academic achievers: 10 Summa Cum Laude, 151 Magna Cum Laude, and over 600 Cum Laude honorees, signifying a year of exceptional dedication to scholarship.

MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA delivered a welcome address that acknowledged the graduates' resilience and perseverance. He urged them to prepare for future hardships, stating, *"Whether you like it or not, there are challenges in the world that you must brace for, navigate, and hurdle."* He also celebrated their success, reminding them of the unique and irreplaceable nature of their achievement.

The commencement address was delivered by BARMM Interim Chief Minister Hon. Abdulraof A. Macacua, a figure synonymous with the Bangsamoro struggle for autonomy. Interim Chief Minister Macacua's speech resonated with the graduates, drawing parallels between their academic perseverance and the broader fight for self-determination. He shared personal experiences of struggle and resilience, urging graduates to uphold their humanity amidst the inevitable challenges of a changing world. He concluded his address with a powerful message: *"Be brilliant, but with integrity. Be excellent, but with humility. Be smart, but stay moral. Embrace change, but never lose your core."*



24



The valedictory address, delivered by Summa Cum Laude graduate Mike Ivan B. Siga from the College of Business Administration and Accountancy (CBAA), was equally impactful. Siga's words, *"Let the world know, an MSUan was here,"* served as a declaration of the indomitable spirit forged within the heart of Mindanao. He celebrated not only his own academic achievement but also the resilience, community, and unwavering support systems that define the MSU experience.

Also recognized for his outstanding academic achievements was class salutatorian Ahmad N. Bato, Summa Cum Laude from the King Faisal Center for Islamic, Arabic, and Asian Studies (KFCIAAS).

The 61st Commencement Exercises served as a powerful reminder of MSU's commitment to shaping not just graduates, but resilient, critical citizens grounded in the reality of Mindanao. The ceremony celebrated the collective triumph of a community, fueled by shared dreams and an unwavering belief in a brighter future—a future where the world knows that an MSUan was here, and continues to make a difference.

JULY 28, 2025

President Tago Emphasizes Student Focus at Flag Ceremony

During the last flag ceremony of the month of July 2025, MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA delivered an impactful message that set the tone for the new academic year: *"There is no MSU, if there are no students."*

President Tago's administration is taking a student-centric approach, prioritizing financial accessibility by utilizing the UNIFAST program to aim for "no collection" of fees directly from students. He also announced plans to streamline processes.

To improve the campus environment, President Tago has directed "Brigada Eskwela"-like cleaning activities and is overseeing the repair and rehabilitation of dormitories, with the goal of increasing beds and providing electric fans. The university also plans to acquire an ambulance to enhance its emergency response capabilities.

In a somber note, President Tago also offered his condolences to the family of a recently deceased student, underscoring his administration's commitment to the well-being of the entire MSU community. These initiatives collectively signal a renewed dedication to creating a more equitable, accessible, and nurturing environment under his leadership.



JULY 31 TO AUGUST 2, 2025

President Tago Attends ICDG4

MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA spearheaded a landmark partnership with the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) at the 4th International Conference on Governance and Development (ICGD4) in Bangkok, Thailand.

The collaboration was formalized with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which will facilitate academic exchanges, joint research, and shared resources. President Tago's active participation at the conference and the subsequent agreement highlight MSU's commitment to advancing academic excellence and fostering global partnerships.



AUGUST 5, 2025

President Tago Commences MSU's ASEAN Month

MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA formally launched the university's 2025 ASEAN Month celebration, themed "Inclusivity and Sustainability," at a ceremony emphasizing regional cooperation.

During his address, President Tago provided a historical overview of ASEAN's origins and stated that this year's theme resonates strongly with MSU's vision as a "National Peace University." He urged the MSU community to be models of inclusivity and to equip students to be globally competent and socially responsible.

The event, which was held at the Antonio Isidro Grounds, included the ceremonial raising of flags, and a comprehensive overview of ASEAN from Prof. Melba M. Angni, Director of the International Affairs and Linkages Office. The ceremony concluded with the singing of the ASEAN Unity Song and the ASEAN Handshake, officially commencing a month-long series of activities.

AUGUST 5, 2025

Pres. Tago Elevates MSU's Role in BARMM Peace Initiative

MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA is a key figure in a significant educational initiative aimed at fostering peace in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

In partnership with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU) and the BARMM Government, MSU recently participated in the ceremonial awarding of educational assistance to decommissioned Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) combatants and their families.

This initiative is a key part of the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Program, offering former combatants a path to higher education and vocational training. Through this partnership, MSU is using education to support peace and the development of the Bangsamoro region.

AUGUST

5



AUGUST 8, 2025

President Tago Spearheads Campus Clean-up at MSU-Main Campus

Led by President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA, MSU-Main Campus demonstrated its commitment to a cleaner environment with "OPLAN Linis," a campus-wide cleanup drive on August 8, 2025.

Driven by his vision for a clean, green community, President Tago actively participated, joining students, faculty, and staff in revitalizing the campus. His hands-on approach and tour of various colleges ensured the event's widespread success, which was also supported by the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP).

Timed to prepare the campus for the new academic year and the university's founding anniversary, OPLAN Linis represents a renewed commitment to both academic excellence and environmental well-being. The successful event fostered a sense of unity and shared purpose, showcasing what can be achieved when a community works together.



8

AUGUST 8, 2025

Atty. Tago Champions Health and Wellness at Major Medical Mission for MSU Constituents

MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA led a major medical mission on August 8, 2025, after the "OPLAN Linis" in the morning at the MSU-Main Campus. In partnership with the Integrated Provincial Health Office (IPHO) and the BARMM-Ministry of Health, the event provided free healthcare services, including medical consultations, blood donations, and screenings, to the MSU community.

President Tago's initiative aims to provide sustainable healthcare and will become an annual event, with plans to expand services to all MSU campuses. This effort is a clear example of his commitment to enhancing the health and well-being of the entire MSU community.





AUGUST 11, 2025

President Tago's Presence Underscores Unified Vision at Faculty Orientation

MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago's strong support for the university's external units was the highlight of a recent general orientation for faculty and staff. The event, held at the International Convention Center, was organized by the Office of the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (OAVCAA) for External Units, led by Dr. Samsiah M. Paitao-Dumrang.

President Tago's presence underscored his commitment to fostering a unified and collaborative MSU System. By actively engaging with the faculty and staff of the external units, he demonstrated that their contributions are central to the university's mission and growth. This show of support reinforces his administration's vision of a cohesive and integrated academic community, where all units, regardless of location, receive the resources and guidance needed to succeed. The event served as a clear signal that the new leadership is dedicated to ensuring that every part of the MSU System thrives, ultimately strengthening the university's role as a national peace university.



AUGUST 13, 2025

Pres. Tago Formally Invested as 9th MSU President

At a ceremony held at the Dimaporo Gymnasium, Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA, was formally invested as the ninth President of the Mindanao State University (MSU) System. The event, held after his June 27 appointment, seamlessly combined cherished university traditions with a transformative vision for the future of MSU.





AUGUST 19, 2025

President Tago Attends American Spaces Philippines Conference in Cebu

MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA attended the American Spaces Philippines Conference 2025 on August 19, 2025, in Cebu. His presence marked a historic first for the university, as it was the first time an MSU System President participated in the event.

The conference, held at Bai Hotel, gathered executives, directors, and staff from 15 American Corners across the Philippines. President Tago was joined by American Corner Marawi Director Zaalica B. Edres and representative Ahlam Rohaima A. Usodan. The morning session featured a report on American Spaces in the Philippines and strategic discussions on the program's future. President Tago's attendance underscores his administration's commitment to fostering international collaboration and strengthening MSU's academic partnerships.

14

AUGUST 14, 2025

MSU Partners for Bangsamoro Voter Education

Just a day after his investiture, MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to strengthen democracy in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Under President Tago's leadership, MSU is now in a tripartite partnership with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) and the Commission on Elections-BARMM (COMELEC-BARMM). Facilitated by MSU's Institute for Regional and Local Governance (IRLG) headed by Prof. Mahid Rachman and the Institute for Peace and Development in Mindanao (IPDM) led by Dr. Acram A. Latiph, this collaboration launches "Voices and Votes: A Political Education Roadshow."

The non-partisan initiative aims to enhance civic awareness and promote informed democratic participation for the upcoming 2025 BARMM Parliamentary Elections. This move reaffirms MSU's commitment to regional development and democratic strengthening through transformative leadership.





23 to 24

AUGUST 23 to 24, 2025

**President Tago Convenes
2025 Strategic Planning Workshop**

MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA led a historic Executive Strategic Planning and Workshop 2025 at the Dusit Thani Resort in Cebu. The two-day event, which began on August 23, 2025, is the first time that MSU system and campus executives met with the principals of its External Community High Schools.

The workshop, which includes representatives from MSU-LNCAT, MSU-SND, and MSU-MCEST, aims to develop strategic initiatives to enhance educational excellence and community impact across all campuses. This inaugural assembly underscores President Tago's commitment to fostering inter-campus collaboration and aligning the university's vision toward becoming a "National Peace University."





27

AUGUST 27, 2025

President Tago Visits MSU's Strawberry Farm Extension Project

Prior to the MSU-SFF, MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA, visited the university's strawberry farm extension project in Barangay Gacap, Piagapo

The project, spearheaded by the College of Agriculture, is a step toward fostering community growth and agricultural innovation. President Tago, accompanied by Executive Vice President Abdalcader M. Ayo, OVCRED-UESC Director Prof. Melencio Jalova Jr., the Council of Deans, and other officials, toured the farm.

The visit also marked the beginning of a meaningful partnership, with the College of Public Affairs planning to launch its own extension initiatives at the site. The extension project was initiated by Prof. Edgel O. Escomen of the College of Agriculture.





27 to 29

AUGUST 27 to 29, 2025

President Tago Joins Faculty in Promoting Unity at MSU Friendship Games

MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA underscored his commitment to promoting community and camaraderie among faculty and staff by actively participating in the MSU System Faculty Federation (MSU-SFF) Friendship Games. The event, held from August 27 to 29, 2025, at the MSU-Main Campus in Marawi City, brought together educators and personnel from across the MSU System for a series of sporting and wellness activities.

The games officially began on August 27 with an opening program at the Dimaporo Gymnasium, which President Tago attended after a festive parade. The three-day event was packed with various activities, including a lively zumba session and a wide range of athletic competitions. Faculty and staff showcased their skills and teamwork in sports such as basketball, volleyball, badminton, lawn tennis, and chess.

President Tago's presence throughout the event, particularly during the opening ceremony, highlighted his administration's focus on promoting a healthy and collaborative work environment. By supporting initiatives like the Friendship Games, he reinforces the university's mission to not only be a center of academic excellence but also a supportive and unified community.



AUGUST 28, 2025

President Tago Joins Basic Education Parade, Attends Voter Education Roadshow

MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA, participated in the Basic Education Parade for external units, underscoring his commitment to inclusive education. Following the parade, he attended the "Voices and Votes: A Political Education Roadshow," an initiative for the 2025 BARMM Parliamentary Elections. This project is a partnership between the university, the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD), and the Commission on Elections – Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (COMELEC-BARMM).



28





29

AUGUST 29, 2025

President Tago's Engagements: From TESDA, Dorm Necessities Turnover, and More at MSU

MSU System President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA engaged in a series of visits to key locations, including the TESDA building near Barangay Cadayonan, the executive compound on Heaven Road, and the Botanical Garden Society, where a BGS Kandori was held to celebrate the First Lady's assumption as Club President of MSU BGS.

Furthermore, President Tago oversaw the turnover of foams, pillows, and double-deck beds to improve student welfare during his visits to campus dormitories and the International House for faculty members. Later, he made a surprise appearance at the student orientation program of the College of Business Administration and Accountancy (CBAA) at the MSU-ICC.

These activities reflect President Tago's dedication to enhancing MSU's academic, cultural, and infrastructural environment as the university nears its 64th anniversary. His proactive involvement highlights the university's progress and inspires faculty and students to contribute to its legacy.



Newly Installed Officials



PROF. ABDULCADER M. AYO, PhD
Executive Vice President

Per Special Order No. 1142, Series of 2025

From the bustling corridors of Manila to the quiet halls of Marawi, Prof. Dr. Abdulkader Maruhom Ayo has walked a remarkable path—one defined by discipline, intellect, and an unwavering love for learning. Today, he serves as the Executive Vice President of the Mindanao State University System (MSUS), a role that crowns decades of service in both academia and public life.

Before stepping into this system-wide post, Dr. Ayo dedicated nearly eight years as Dean of the King Faisal Center for Islamic, Arabic, and Asian Studies (KFCIAAS), shaping the institution into a hub for Islamic scholarship and leadership. Known affectionately to friends as Duds or Dodong, he carries with him a unique blend of professional and academic credentials: Mining Engineer, licensed Shari'ah Lawyer, Civil Service Professional, and proud holder of degrees in Master of Arts in Islamic Studies, Juris Doctor, and PhD in Philippine Studies. Never one to rest on his laurels, he is currently pursuing a PhD in Educational Management.

His career began not in the classroom but in the field—first as a Safety Engineer at the Bureau of Mines in Manila, then as a Senior Engineer in a petroleum company in Saudi Arabia for over a decade. He also served at the Office of the Jurisconsult of the Supreme Court of the Philippines. It was during this chapter of his life that he took the Special Shari'ah Bar Examinations and emerged as one of the topnotchers, a turning point that brought him back home to serve through teaching.

At KFCIAAS, Dr. Ayo wore many hats before becoming Dean. Over the years, he established himself as an authority in Islamic Inheritance Law, Persons and Family Relations, Islamic Jurisprudence, Islamic Banking and Finance, Halal, and Islamic Court Procedure. He authored a widely used textbook on Islamic Inheritance Law and prepared teaching modules on related subjects. His expertise was further recognized when he was appointed as a Special Shari'ah Bar Examiner in 2022 (Islamic Law on Inheritance) and again in 2025 (Islamic Jurisprudence).

Despite his long list of accomplishments, Dr. Ayo remains deeply grounded. At 64, he describes his life as one of joy and contentment—a life enriched by the love of his wife, Hadja Jannah Dayamala Macadindang Disamburun Ayo, their son Jihad, a Civil Engineer, and their daughter Jihan, a Registered Nurse. For him, every achievement is not just a personal milestone but a blessing to be shared with family, friends, colleagues, and above all, with God Almighty to whom he attributes all success.

In every role—engineer, lawyer, professor, dean, or executive vice president—Dr. Abdulkader Maruhom Ayo embodies the values of scholarship, service, and faith. His journey is not only a story of professional triumph but also an inspiration for future generations of leaders in the Bangsamoro and beyond.



DR. SOHRA NUSKA-BATO
Director, MSU-Medical Services and Hospital Division

Per Special Order No. 1173, Series of 2025

Dr. Sohra Nuska-Bato is a medical professional whose career has been deeply rooted in service to Mindanao State University and its surrounding communities. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Zoology from MSU-Main Campus in 1989 and went on to complete her Doctor of Medicine degree at the MSU College of Medicine, Main Campus, in 1995. The following year, she successfully passed the Physician Licensure Examination in 1997. Earlier in her academic journey, she had also obtained her Civil Service Eligibility in August, 1989.

Before joining MSU, Dr. Nuska-Bato had several clinical practices at several private hospitals in Lanao del Sur, honing her clinical skills and broadening her professional experience. On October 16, 1997, she was appointed as Medical Officer III at MSU-Main, where she has since devoted 28 years of unwavering service to both the University community and the neighboring barangays.

As the most senior among the medical officers, her years of dedication, competence, and leadership naturally positioned her for greater responsibility. In August 22, 2025, following the retirement of Dr. Ramli Usman, she was designated by the University President Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA, as the new Medical Director of MSU-Medical Services and Hospital.

Throughout her career, Dr. Nuska-Bato has exemplified professionalism, compassion, and a steadfast commitment to public health—qualities that continue to define her leadership as she takes on the vital role of guiding MSU's medical services into the future.



PROF. MINERVA-SAMINAH M. NAGA, PhD
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
 Per Special Order No. 1144, Series of 2025

Dr. Minerva-Saminah M. Naga is a distinguished academic leader and educator with a notable experience in university leadership, curriculum development, quality assurance, and peace education. She is designated as the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Mindanao State University Marawi. As former Dean (January 2022 to June 2025) of the College of Education, she spearheads initiatives to enhance teacher education and advance educational excellence.

She is a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Home Economics in Mindanao State University Marawi Main Campus and also earned her graduate degree in Master of Arts in Education (major in Reading) in the same university. She is one of the few qualified faculty members who had the opportunity of being an AUSAID PAHRDF-Long Term Training (Australia Development Scholarship) Scholar at the University of Melbourne (Melbourne, Victoria, Australia) and admitted to the degree of Master of Assessment and Evaluation. Furthermore, she has completed her postgraduate degree in Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Administration at Central Mindanao University. She is a LET Passer (1997), and has been in the government service for 28 years.

Dr. Naga's professional experience is notable as she has been participating and has been being designated in various field of works in the university. She is actively involved in MSU system-wide and university-wide program activities as a committee chair/member. To mention a few, she is a member of Campus Quality Assurance Board (CQuAB)-Mindanao State University-Marawi Campus (2016-to-date) as an affiliate member accreditor of the Accrediting Agency for Chartered Colleges & Universities in the Philippines (AACUP), a member of the University System Curriculum Committee (2012-to-date), the former Director of the Office of

Admissions, Mindanao State University-Marawi Main Campus for 6 years (2016- 2021); former Special Assistant at MSU-Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs (2012- 2015); and former Peace Education/Research Coordinator of MSU-Institute for Peace & Development in Mindanao (2009-2012). She is affiliated in professional organizations, such as: Australia Global Alumni, AACUP, State Universities & Colleges Teacher Educators Association (SUCTEA), Philippine Association for Graduate Education (PAGE), Philippine Educational Measurement & Evaluation Association (PEMEA), Association of Social Sciences, Education Researchers and Trainers (ASSERT), Inc.

She has been engaged with foreign-assisted programs (such as AUSAID Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao-Preservice Unit, CheckMySchool by the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability-East Asia and the Pacific (ANSA-EAP), UNDP-Action Conflict Transformation for Peace Programme on Peace Education), and in national and local programs as resource speaker, researcher, documenter, trainer, facilitator, area coordinator, pedagogical support provider, evaluator, and a peace advocate. At present, she is engaged with Australia Government-Pathways to Education partnered with MBHTE-BARMM in the development of teacher needs assessment tools. She has attended various international, national, regional, and local conferences, congress, seminar-workshops and trainings for professional growth and advancement.

Her academic and professional expertise has led to her active involvement in both national and international programs, particularly in advancing inclusive and transformative education. With a deep commitment to educational innovation and quality assurance, she continues to contribute to shaping the future of teacher education and fostering a culture of academic excellence, leadership, and service.



PROF. RAKIM B. CASNOR
Director, COE's Division of Engineering Technology
 Per Special Order No. 1058, Series of 2025

Prof. Rakim B. Casnor is a distinguished agricultural and biosystems engineer with a strong focus on agricultural machinery. He currently serves as the Director of the Division of Engineering Technology and is an Associate Professor in the Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Department.

A Registered Professional Agricultural Engineer, Mr. Casnor earned his Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering from Mindanao State University - Marawi in 2004. He further specialized in agricultural power and machinery by obtaining his Master of Science in Agricultural Engineering from Central Luzon State University.

His expertise is evident in his academic and professional work, which includes teaching a variety of courses such as Machine Design for Agricultural and Biosystems Production, Agricultural and Biosystems Electrification, Renewable Energy for Agricultural and Biosystems Applications, and Thermodynamics and Heat Transfer for Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering.

His scholarly contributions include the development of a chicken defeathering machine and the design and fabrication of a pyramid-type plant bed hydroponics system for romaine lettuce production under lowland conditions. These publications showcase his practical approach to solving agricultural challenges through engineering and research.

Editor's *Note*

Welcome to the latest issue of the MSU Marawi Newsletter! As we navigate a new chapter in our university's storied history, we are thrilled to spotlight the dynamic leadership of our 9th System President, Atty. Paisalin P.D. Tago, CPA. Since assuming office on July 4, 2025, President Tago has hit the ground running, unveiling a transformative nine-point agenda during his investiture on August 14, 2025, aimed at advancing academic excellence, fostering innovation, and strengthening community engagement across the Mindanao State University System.

This issue also captures the vibrant pulse of our campus and system, with updates on academic milestones, such as the 61st Commencement Exercises, the investiture, the Executive Strategic Planning, alongside ongoing efforts to elevate MSU as a beacon of peace and progress in the MINSUPALA region. We invite you to explore these stories of resilience, collaboration, and forward-thinking leadership that define the MSU spirit.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Together, let's continue to make MSU a premier institution of higher learning and a catalyst for positive change.

Yours in service,



PROF. SORHAILA L. LATIP-YUSOPH, PhD
The Editor-in-Chief



Trivia



The Mindanao State University's 64th Founding Anniversary logo is layouted by **DR. HAMMIM B. CASAN**, the Assistant Dean of the College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Mindanao State University-Main Campus.

The logo captures the theme "MSU at 64: Inklusibong Pamantasan." The bold maroon 6 represents strength and the university's deep roots; and the golden 4 with its intersecting lines depicts harmony, inclusivity, and the interconnected paths of knowledge that bring diverse cultures together at the university.

Also to establish continuity, the green and yellow Meranaw ferns and okir, originally designed by **MR. ABDUL KARIM TAWAKIM**, are taken from the elements of the MSU 63rd commemorative logo. The Meranaw ferns and okir are symbols of nature and growth. These further emphasize the 'humane learning' which is relevant to this year's theme.

Inklusibong Pamantasan

