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READY TO HOP AROUND AND BEYOND THE CAMPUS. (From left to right) Rev. Fr. Eric John T. Rojas, Bicol Isarog's representative Bonifacio Brian Cu, Catanduanes State University President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, and other key officials strike a pose at the right side of the donated airconditioned bus from Bicol Isarog during its turnover ceremony on July 22.

CatSU gets donated bus from Bicol Isarog

Albert G. Clemente

Inscribed with the slogan 'HOPE resides in the Happy Island', the Catanduanes State University unveils the donated air-conditioned bus from Bicol Isarog Transport System Inc. during the blessing and turnover ceremony on July 22.

Witnessing the ceremonial turnover, CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, together with Mr. Bonifacio Brian Cu, extended his gratitude to Bicol Isarog. "Dakulang tabang ini para sa mga estudyante lalo so mga

ga-join sa contest," the president said.

When Dr. Azanza asked the student attendees in the ceremony if they were happy about the donated bus, the students loudly cheered, 'Yes!'

Dr. Gemma G. Acedo, Vice President for Academic Affairs, implored the students to take care of the said donation. "After so long, magkakaigwa na naman kita ning bus, kaya alagaan ta, pahalagahan ta," the vice president stated. Meanwhile, Mr.

Cu was glad to help and grateful for the university's contribution to their company, especially in manpower since they have employees who are products of CatSU. It can be recalled that Dr. Azanza requested an air-conditioned bus unit from Mr. Brian Cu of Bicol Isarog on April 20 this year during his visit, along with Engr. Hechanova at the Office of the President. He also expressed his profound gratitude to Gov. Joseph "Bobby" Cua for all the help extended in securing

the requested unit.

The blessing was presided over by Rev. Father Eric John T. Rojas, and among the present were Dr. Kristian Q. Aldea, OIC Vice President for Research, Extension and Production Affairs (REPA), Mr. Robert Cabilao, and Engr. Romel Hechanova, HR consultants from Bicol Isarog, and the College of Industrial Technology (CIT)

Dean, Dr. Edwin T. Romero, represented by Prof. Jonathan B. Capsa.



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CatSU throws support to Cat'nes Knowledge Pantry For SKale Up! 2023

Albert G. Clemente



FORGING CLOSER TIES WITH YOUTH LEADERS. As a former youth leader and now President of Catanduanes State University, Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza (center) welcomes and supports the leadership training event organized by the Catanduanes Knowledge Pantry and other youth organizations, after their meeting with its convenor Mhar Ariz T. Marino (second from left), San Andres Municipal Councilor Joal C. Cocjin (third from left), and other youth leaders on July 5.

Catanduanes State University (CatSU) President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza gave a clear thumbs-up to Catanduanes Knowledge Pantry's Skale UP! 2023 after a meeting with its lead convenor, Mhar Ariz T. Marino, along side San Andres Municipal

Councilor Joal C. Cocjin and other youth leaders, on July 5.

The leadership training program seeks to empower aspiring Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) candidates, who may opt to run in the upcoming Barangay and SK elections this October

2023.

In a letter addressed to Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, SUC President III of CatSU, Municipal Councilor Joal C. Cocjin, and Mhar Ariz T. Marino, the Lead Convenor of Catanduanes Knowledge Pantry and Kent Richmond D.

Antonio, President of CHS CSC, respectfully requested a meeting with Dr. Azanza last July 5, 2023 (2:00 pm).

The SKale UP! 2023 training program is funded by The Asia Foundation and Youth Leadership for Democracy (YouthLed), with additional support from the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative. As the selected youth organization, Catanduanes Knowledge Pantry received a small youth leadership grant worth \$5,000 to facilitate the Catanduanon Youth Development Framework, in which SKale UP! is a significant component. The training program aims to equip aspiring SK candidates with the knowledge and skills to serve their respective Barangays effectively.

The SKale UP! 2023 program includes lectures and workshops covering various topics relevant to the participants' roles and responsibilities. Additionally, elected trainees from the BSKE 2023 will undergo a mentorship program that includes participation in events such as the Provincial Youth Summit,

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DepEd Usec. Densing to CatSU grads: Sama-sama tayong tumindig para sa bansang makabata, batang makabansa

Albert G. Clemente

Undersecretary Epimaco V. Densing III of the Department of Education (DepEd) told graduates of Catanduanes State University (CatSU) on Monday, July 10, to join together in upholding Filipino children's welfare and contribute to nation-building, no matter the scale.

"Sama-sama tayong tumindig para sa ating bansa, para sa isang bansang makabata, batang makabansa," said Usec. Densing in his video-recorded

keynote address, anchored on DepEd's MATATAG program.

"Gawin natin ang mga bagay na ito dahil mahal natin ang ating bayan, para sa bata, para sa bayan, at para sa tunay na pagbabago," he added, leaving the choice to the 1,103 graduates of Cluster A at CatSU's 52nd commencement to embody patriotism.

The DepEd undersecretary also reminded the CatSU graduates that as they explore the world, 'remember that we

are Filipinos, and we also need to contribute to the growth of our country, no matter how small it is.'

Before Usec. Densing's video message, CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, introduced and called the undersecretary 'a dedicated public servant and an advocate for education'.

He also expressed with pride that this significant milestone signifies that the CatSU graduates

had received the 'best education' from the university despite the challenges brought about by the global pandemic.

"Look back to this day, because today you have proven yourself worthy... and to the world that you are survivors," the president said.

"As you meet challenges, remember the love of your parents, the warmth of their embrace, and the knowledge

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Dr. Azanza calls to support the full implementation of CatSU's LMS

Albert G. Clemente

In a bid to enhance the digital ecosystem of Catanduanes State University (CatSU), President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza urged the newly elected University Student Council (USC) and College Student Council (CSC) leaders to fully operationalize the Learning Management System (LMS). The leaders took their oath before the president on July 10, 2023.

President Azanza emphasized that the LMS would streamline the enrollment process and provide students with convenient access to their grades and certification requests, eliminating the need for long queues at the registrar's office.

"We encourage your cooperation, and hopefully the LMS will be activated this coming academic year," the president stated, highlighting the importance of the system in facilitating student access to necessary information.

"Even during your vacation, you can still enroll online and instantly access your grades when necessary," he added, emphasizing the flexibility and convenience offered by the LMS.

Acknowledging the diverse needs of the student body, newly sworn-in USC President,



MARKING COMMITMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY. Newly-elected University Student Council officials, led by its President, Francine Mae T. Tayo (right side beside SUC President III), sworn-in before Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza (center) on July 10, at the university conference room.

Francine Mae T. Tayo, assured the CatSU community of her administration's openness to suggestions that would improve student services.

"Dae man kaipo ang talent, basta aduman ang puso buda commitment nita na magserbi," she added, emphasizing the commitment of her administration to serve with passion and dedication.

Following the oath-taking ceremony, President Azanza provided updates on the university's ongoing programs and projects, including the establishment of a student development center and sports facility, the procurement of fully airconditioned buses with comfort rooms, and the continuous improvement of the university library.

The oath-taking ceremony was witnessed by Director John Cyrus B. Francis of the Office of the Student Affairs and Development Services and took place at the CatSU Conference Room. The new USC and CSC officers are poised to lead and contribute to the advancement of digital learning at CatSU.

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MAN OF THE HOUR. Representative of Department of Education Undersecretary Epimaco V. Densing III receives plaque of recognition after serving as commencement speaker at Catanduanes State University's 52nd graduation rites. Joining the representative on stage were Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza (standing first from right) and Dr. Gemma Acedo (standing first from left), Vice President for Academic Affairs, on July 10.

"...we have shared with you," he added.

As dusk settled, more than 1,000 graduates from the College of Education, College of Business and Accountancy, College of Health Sciences, and College of Humanities and Social Sciences, along with their parents, friends, and professors, marched and crowded the CatSU Front Grounds.

Atty. Jimenez aka 'The Pinoy Street Lawyer' addresses the CatSU Graduate School Class of 2023

via Catanduanes Knowledge Pantry



STIRRING REMARKS. Atty. Danielito 'DJ' Jimenez, known as 'The Pinoy Street Lawyer' addresses the Graduate School Class of 2023 of Catanduanes State University on July 12, highlighting three lessons to create a lasting impact in the society: teach and become a mentor, embrace research and innovation, and engage in active discourse.

Gawad Manilenyo awardee

Atty. Danielito 'DJ' Jimenez, popularly known as 'The Pinoy Street Lawyer' with his Facebook Page, addressed the Catanduanes State University (CatSU) Graduate School Class of 2023 on the final day of the university's 52nd Commencement Exercises.

There are three ways in which one's education can impact society and make a lasting difference: Teaching and Mentorship, Embracing Research and Innovation, and Engaging in Active discourse and Lifelong

Learning, Atty. Jimenez said to the 42 graduates of advanced higher education degrees on July 12.

He emphasized that education is a gift, and with every gift comes the responsibility to share it with others.'

"As masters, doctoral graduates, and diploma holders, it is your duty to contribute your knowledge, skills, and expertise, and share these gifts with society," Atty. Jimenez implored.

Encouraging to reflect on the profound responsibility

that lies upon their shoulders, the commencement speaker also believed that education is significant to cure the perennial illnesses lingering around our society.

"Illnesses brought are about by ignorance and a lack of critical thinking," he explained.

He also recognized and wanted to impart to the graduates that 'not everyone has equal access to quality education' which results in inequity in education that perpetuates 'social divides, hampers economic growth, and restricts social mobility.'

"It is incumbent upon us to address these disparities and strive for a more inclusive society by contributing our education to improve education opportunities for all," the Pinoy Street Lawyer said, rooted in his own experience as a law practitioner who has been virtually teaching his fellow Filipinos to understand the laws easier through his social media page.

"Let us go forth and bring the change that education can bring to society," Atty. Jimenez urged the graduates to take part.

CONFERRMENT OF DEGREES

On that day, there were 42 graduates nodding to the words of the speaker who were conferred with their respective advanced higher education degrees.

Only two of whom were granted a Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Management for this Academic Year 2022-2023.

Among the master's degrees, the Master of Arts in Educational Management program has the highest number of graduates for this commencement rites; 12 were conferred.

It was followed by the Master of Arts in Teaching Biology with six (6) graduates,

and then four graduates from the Master of Arts in Industrial Education, Master of Arts in Filipino Education, Master of Arts in English, and Master in Business Administration, respectively.

In terms of the least number of graduates in advanced higher education level, only one conferred with the Master of Arts in Agricultural Education and the Master of Public Administration, followed by the Master of Arts in Teaching Chemistry and the Master of Arts in Mathematics Education with two graduates. And only one made it to claim the Diploma in Public Administration.

LEARNING THE ULTIMATE LESSON

Before the investiture of hood and cap took place, President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza introduced and described the graduation speaker as 'an advocate, an educator, and a beacon of hope for justice' and a 'man who dedicated his life to making the law accessible to all.'

In his remarks, he shared with the newly minted master's and doctorate degree holders the ultimate lesson by sharing the result of a longitudinal study conducted by Harvard University that revolved around monitoring the success of 725 participants.

"The result showed that it is not physical fitness, it is not financial wealth, or even the academic or research accomplishments, the accolades, or the awards you gather in life, but rather what is more important is social fitness or positive relationships; having positive relationships makes one feel successful and happy," Dr. Azanza justified.

CatSU hosts Capacity Building on University Research Futures Thinking and Foresight

Via CatSU Research and Development Services

Catanduanes State University (CatSU) collaborated with Camarines Norte State College and Central Bicol State University of Agriculture to organize a comprehensive Capacity Building program on University Research Futures Thinking and Foresight. This initiative aimed to enhance the skills of State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in adopting a futures thinking and strategic foresight approach to planning, aligning with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The program consisted of three phases:

Phase 1 (June 14-16) focused on Foresight-Insight-Action, utilizing lectures, video presentations, and facilitated workshops.

Phase 2 (June 19-30) involved field research related to identified commodities.

Phase 3 (July 12-14) included scenario and strategy development, covering environmental scanning, strategy development, backcasting, and moonshots.

The training was hosted by CatSU in partnership with Aptissimi Development Innovations, Inc. (ADII) and



REIMAGINING THE FUTURE. To become future-prepared, educators across Bicol region come together and join the capacity building on university Futures Thinking and Foresight, hosted by the Catanduanes State University (CatSU), which runs from July 12-14, 2023.

the Philippine Futures Thinking Society. The goal was to democratize futures thinking through education, research, training, and advocacy.

During the program, participating universities identified various commodities for futures thinking research, such as smoked fish, seaweeds, and pineapple. Distinguished guests and lecturers, including

experts in futures thinking, provided valuable insights and guidance.

The Presidents of CatSU, CBSUA, and CNSC expressed their gratitude to Sen. Pia Cayetano for providing this opportunity to capacitate their universities in futures thinking and foresight. They emphasized the importance of these skills in sparking innovation, managing

change, and facilitating social transformation.

Overall, the program aimed to prepare Philippine HEIs for an increasingly complex and uncertain future, ensuring they contribute effectively to the SDGs and address societal challenges through forward-thinking approaches.

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Local Youth Development Program Consultation Program, Bicolano Young Leaders' Congress 2024, and CSOs Converge 2024.

To materialize the leadership training, the university president allowed the organizer to use some of its facilities including auditorium and Ladies Dormitory.

To strengthen the program, the organizers have invited Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza to participate in

the launching of SKale UP! on August 5, 2023, as the Keynote Speaker during the Opening Program and as a Resource Person on the topic of Character Formation. Dr. Azanza shared his youth initiatives as a former NYC Ambassador and his achievements as the JCI President of Mandaluyong. The attendees gained valuable insights on conflict management and organizational leadership. Dr. Azanza also supports activities like SKale UP! 2023 because it promotes

the growth of the positive political sphere among Catandunganon Youth and the No To Vote Buying Campaigns.

SKale UP! 2023 is organized by Young Catanduanes Leaders Institute and Catanduanes Knowledge Pantry in cooperation with Political Science Society, CatSU Central Women's Circle and CatSU College of Health Sciences College Student Council.

In addition to the training program, the Catanduanes Knowledge Pantry has requested

CatSU's partnership in an ongoing research project titled "Civic Engagement, Political & CSOs Participation, and Needs Analysis of Catandunganon Youth." This research aims to provide baseline data for formulating Local Youth Development Plans by future SKs in their respective municipalities and the province. CatSU students have been encouraged to participate in the survey questionnaire related to the research.*

Despite the threat of raindrops:

CatSU graduation rites pushes; Dr. Azanza tells grads to 'look beyond the cloudy skies'

Albert G. Clemente

An hour before the 1,515 graduates of Cluster B marched, a heavy downpour pelted their caps and gowns while they were heading to Catanduanes State University (CatSU) Front Grounds to celebrate the 52nd Commencement Exercises on Tuesday afternoon, July 11, 2023.

Despite the threat of the gloomy weather and drizzles at the start of the program, the graduates did not deter, and the university pushed through with the much-awaited celebration of the year.

Associating the event's situation with limitations on conquering life, CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza urged the graduates to 'look beyond'.

"These (cloudy skies and heavy rains) are all limitations to make sure that you conform to the norms of life. Outside these limitations are unlimited potentials," the president said.

"By looking beyond, you will be more, you will grow," he assured the graduates.

Meanwhile, the commencement speaker also acknowledged the limitations and challenges confronted by the Class of 2023 through his representative, Dr. Maria Christina F. Campita, DA-RFOV Supervising Agriculturist, praising the graduates as "it was not an easy journey" and "not for the weak-hearted".

"As graduates of this institution, you have a significant role to fill in and rise above these challenges," Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office V (DAROV) Director Rodel P. Tornilla said.

As a certified Abaca farmer and a Catandunganon himself, the DA regional director recognized the resilient character of the Catandunganon people and challenged the newly minted graduates to emulate this on their first job.

"Ang mga Bicolano, pagkatapos bagyo, maririnig,



'LOOK BEYOND THE CLOUDY SKIES'. Catanduanes State University (CatSU) students ignore the wet weather as they stand firmly under a gloomy sky in front of the University Main building to attend 52nd Commencement Exercises on Tuesday, July 11.

mapakaray mga naraot, yu iba mairinuman ngani, at palaging may pag-asa. This is a positive attitude that you can infuse in your first job," he implored the graduates of the College of Engineering and Architecture, College of Sciences, College

of Agriculture and Fisheries, College of Industrial Technology, and College of Information and Communications Technology.

"I encourage you to take the first step, be bold, be confident, and be ready to face the challenge and make a difference.

Show them what graduates of this university are made of," the commencement speaker concluded.

Present certificate of indigency if no medical tests during enrollment, Dr. Azanza tells CatSU incoming students on pre-enrollment orientation

Albert G. Clemente

Attended by hundreds of students from five colleges, Catanduanes State University President, Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza told the incoming first year, transferees, and returning students to submit their certificate of indigency in the absence of medical tests during the Pre-enrollment Orientation on Monday, July 31.

"Do not worry, mag-present sana kamong certificate of indigency sa medical officer, libre man an na makukuha sa mga barangay. No one should be refused to enroll dahil daeng imo para magpa-medical buda laboratory tests," the president assured the students at the university gymnasium.

"Gigibuhan ta an ning paagi, later on, kung papano kamo maka-comply sa mga requirement," the president added.

In response to the president's pronouncement, students, including the faculty from the College of Agriculture and Fisheries, College of Business and Accountancy, College of Education, College of Health Science, and College of Engineering and Architecture, cheered and gave a round of applause.

Echoing the directive of the president, the university registrar, Ms. Marilyn G. Tejada, reiterated to the students the importance of securing the above-cited certificate and advised them to countercheck their Certificate of Enrollment (COE) upon issuance with their prospectus to avoid conflicts.

"Provide a certificate of indigency before proceeding to your respective deans' offices and compare your COEs to your prospectus," Tejada stated while discussing the topic about the policies on admission, registration, evaluation, and grading systems.

Meanwhile, Office of Student Affairs and Development Services (OSADS) newly-



ADDRESSING ENROLLMENT CONCERNS. First year students give thumbs-up to the pronouncement of Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, Catanduanes State University president, on the submission of certificate of indigency if no medical tests during pre-enrollment orientation on July 31.

designated Director Prof. Francis John B. Templonuevo, informed the incoming students about their office's mandate and urged them to participate in the university's co-curricular programs and activities.

"Partner tayo, if may concern kayo, bukas ang aming opisina para ryan. Kami rin ang in-charge sa pag-monitor at guide sa mga students' activities," the OSADS director said.

Introducing University Student Council (USC) President Francine Mae T. Tayo to

present the new design of the proposed student uniform, Prof. Templonuevo urged the incoming CatSUans to practice wearing their school uniform since this is a 'form of discipline and will serve as their identities' as students of CatSU.

Also present at the event were Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Gemma G. Acedo, the deans of the five colleges, Prof. Noly T. Benavidez from the Guidance, Counseling, and Testing Office, and National Service Training Program (NSTP)

Director Emlyn Lanon.

August 1, Cluster B students and faculty will attend similar orientations from four colleges: the College of Information and Communications Technology, College of Industrial Technology, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and the College of Science.

The start of classes for undergraduate students will be on August 14, and August 19 for graduate students.

CatSU grad soars to Top 6 in July 2023 Master Plumbers Board Exam

Albert G. Clemente

Engr. Divina V. Gonzales of Catanduanes State University (CatSU) ranks 6th in July 2023 Master Plumbers Licensure Examination

With a rating of 85.70%, Engr. Gonzales, 25, presently working as a structural engineer since 2021 in a private construction firm in Quezon City, bested 5,107 other examinees and made it to the list of topnotchers as announced by the Professional Regulation Commission on July 19, 2023.

Engr. Gonzales has been a consistent achiever even during her elementary days, as she emerged as their class valedictorian and graduated

later on under the Science and Technology Oriented Class (STOC) in high school.

During her formative years in college, she became a representative of the university in various engineering quiz competitions and eventually graduated Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering.

After graduating in 2019, she took and passed the November licensure examination for civil engineers with a remarkable rating of 89.35%, falling short of only two points to the Top 10 spot at the National level.



SELF-REVIEW TOPNOTCHER. CatSU alumna, Engr. Divina V. Gonzales, is among the national placers of 2023 Master Plumber Exam, clinching the 6th spot.

CatSU, Congressional District Office serve more than 2K Catandunganon on PRC's mobile service

Albert G. Clemente

Serving as an accessible and strategic venue, Catanduanes State University (CatSU), through its auditorium, accommodated for free over 2,000 Catandunganons who availed the three-day mobile services of the Professional Regulation Commission Region V (PRC V), sponsored by the Office of Congressman Eulogio 'Leo' Rodriguez.

Extending his gratitude to Congressman Rodriguez, CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza expressed that the outreach program of PRC, through the initiative of the lawmaker, benefitted the Catandunganons, saving them both time and travel expenses.

"First of all, we would like to thank Cong. Leo Rodriguez for this initiative of providing accessible service to our fellow Catandunganons. CATSU is always willing to support projects such as this that directly benefits our beloved kababayans," the president shared.

From July 18-20, at

least 2,566 transactions were processed and finished through the PRC's mobile services.

Among these services offered, the highest number of recorded transactions within three days of the said activity, is the authentication of certificates, with a total of 1,014.

Followed by certification with a total of 911 recorded transactions, while 247 newly registered Catandunganon professionals applied for the initial registration.

Meanwhile, a total of 204 transactions were recorded in the renewal of professional identification cards; 148 aspiring professionals filed their applications; and 42 applied for changes of entries and status.

Before the start of the application, the applicants were advised by the PRC V 'to register online at <https://prc.gov.ph> to secure an appointment before proceeding to the mobile service venue'.

Dr. Azanza reaffirmed the



NARROWING THE GAP. One of the staff of the Professional Regulation Commission Region V (PRC V) assisting Catandunganon woman in filing her registration on July 18, at the Catanduanes State auditorium. This is part of PRC Mobile Service caravan in the province, sponsored by the Office of Congressman Eulogio 'Leo' Rodriguez.

university's commitment to serving the Catandunganons particularly those residing in remote areas, emphasizing that

as a public institution, CatSU is always open and ready to cater to their needs.

CatSU President leads green initiative: donates 150 packs of vegetable seeds to Catanduanes local government

Rochellee Jane C. Idanan

Catanduanes State University (CatSU) President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza led the turnover of 150 packs of assorted vegetable seeds to the Provincial Local Government of Catanduanes on Tuesday, July 25, 2023.

The said seeds, comprised of upo, ampalaya, cucumber, and pole sitaw, were donated to CatSU by the University of the Philippines Los Baños' Institute of Plant Breeding through Ms. Virma Rea G. Lee, University Researcher II and Head of the Extension and Business Development Division.

This green initiative aligns with the President's vision of promoting sustainable agriculture not only within the campus but

throughout the province.

It can be remembered that one of his advocacy campaigns is the One Million Trees Project as the adviser of the Catanduanes Clean and Green Movement.

PROMOTING GREEN INITIATIVES. Catanduanes State University President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza (2nd from the left) personally handed out a box containing 150 packs of assorted seeds to Governor Joseph C. Cua (2nd from the right), along side Provincial Agriculturist Ace William Tria (1st from the left) and Human Resource Officer Prince L. Subion (1st from the right) on July 25.



CatSU teams up with VDMC to offer incoming students 5% discount on medical service package

Anjo G. Tugay

In a joint effort to promote social responsibility, Catanduanes State University (CatSU) has partnered with the Virac Medical Clinic and Diagnostic Center (VMDC) to offer incoming students a valuable benefit of a 5% discount on a comprehensive service package, encompassing essential medical tests such as chest x-rays, complete blood counts (CBC), and drug tests at VMDC.

These medical tests are crucial components of the enrollment process for incoming first-year students at CatSU. Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza personally announced this partnership through his Facebook page. The collaboration came to fruition after successful negotiations between CatSU and VMDC.

Dr. Azanza emphasized the significance of this discount, acknowledging its positive

impact on students and, notably, their parents. Availing of the discount is a straightforward process; students need only inform the cashier at VMDC about their status as incoming CatSU students.

This collaboration further solidifies CatSU's commitment to its students, employees, and alumni. The university has established agreements with various businesses across the island, ensuring they also enjoy similar discounts on products and services simply by presenting their CatSU ID. By fostering such partnerships, CatSU continues to demonstrate its dedication to the welfare and support of its educational community, reinforcing its position as a beacon of learning and progress in the region.

CatSU teams up with **Virac Medical and Diagnostic Center (VMDC)** to offer incoming students



5% discount

on a comprehensive service package, encompassing essential medical tests such as chest x-rays, complete blood counts (CBC), and drug tests

Pro-student, Pro-people: Dr. Azanza addresses enrollment concerns, unveils innovative initiative for CatSU, Catandunganon

Anjo G. Tugay

In a significant display of pro-student leadership, Catanduanes State University's President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza takes proactive measures to address enrollment requirements concerns while unveiling transformative initiatives for the institution.

Proactive response to enrollment requirements Concern

President Azanza, during an interview on Radyo Pilipinas Catanduanes, Inc., took a proactive stance in addressing a minor concern about enrollment requirements from concerned students who cannot afford the medical laboratory costs such as the CBC, chest x-ray, and Drug Test. However, the President's swift response demonstrated the university's commitment to caring for its students.

The university adheres to the guidelines set forth by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). Similar policies are also followed by other reputable institutions like Bicol University and the University of the Philippines. Nevertheless, Dr. Azanza empathized with the financially disadvantaged students and vowed to find a solution that would not hinder their enrolment.

He stressed that no student should be turned away due to financial constraints, and all students will be allowed to enroll regardless of whether they've completed the medical requirements. "Those students who cannot afford the required tests but can present a Certificate of Indigency will not be denied enrolment," the President assured the students.

Dr. Azanza also emphasized that students who test positive for any condition will be protected under the Data Privacy Act, and appropriate interventions will

be provided to support their wellbeing.

"We will protect the privacy of the students. Kung may intervention na gigibuhon, we will help. Dai tabi sinda irerefuse sa enrolment; ang slot nya saiya po iyan. May mga apprehension ang mga magurang, nasasabutan ta po iyan. Never refuse them in their enrolment."

While some may perceive these measures as anti-poor, Dr. Azanza emphasized that his motivations lie in supporting the students and ensuring a fair and accessible educational experience for all. He takes pride in his role as a pro-student leader, as evidenced by the distribution of one thousand tablets to students during online classes in the midst of the pandemic.

The President welcomes feedback and criticism, acknowledging that they play a vital role in driving positive changes for the betterment of government service and the university as a whole.

"Sa mga kiritisimo, I am a very openminded person. Magayon man na may gareparo para mapagayon ang satong serbisyo."

CatSU's mobile medical laboratory: advancing community healthcare

Understanding the importance of medical tests for students, CatSU is taking a forward-thinking approach to address this concern and enhance its services. The President's visionary plan involves transforming one of the university's buses into a fully functional mobile medical laboratory. Having already acquired four buses and received one donated by Bicol Isarog, the university is setting its sights on creating this innovative medical facility. The mobile medical laboratory will travel across the

province to conduct necessary laboratory tests, including CBC, x-rays, and drug testing, benefiting students and the broader community.

Expanding medical services is especially significant for CatSU, which has recently opened a Master of Arts in Nursing program and has plans to establish a Medicine course.

"Bako sana sa enrolment concerns this time, kundi long term na solusyon sa lambang munisipyo and barangay. Naaraman ko na igwang mga dai nakakaavailing health services, pigadaradara ang namati. Gigibuhon ta ang serbisyo with the opening of MAN [Master of Arts in Nursing] ipapakusog ta ang College of Health and Sciences for the extension services."

President Azanza is actively seeking donations from partners like Unilab, Catanduanes Medical Society, and the Philippine Nursing Association Catanduanes Chapter to fund the mobile medical laboratory.

The mobile medical laboratory will conduct regular check-ups in barangays across the province, ensuring access to quality healthcare and providing free medicines to those in need. This initiative aligns with CatSU's ongoing EduKain Program, which has been led by Professor Jane Rose C. Azanza for two years.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Embracing efficiency: CatSU's vision for a computerized university

In its pursuit of continuous improvement and enhanced services, Catanduanes State University is gearing up for a comprehensive Computerization Program. Under this initiative, the university will implement a range of modern technologies to expedite various processes, ensuring a more streamlined and efficient experience for students and faculty.

One of the program's

key features will be the introduction of smart IDs for students. These IDs will grant access to the university campus and serve as a safety measure. Parents will be able to track their children's whereabouts, providing peace of mind and strengthening the university's commitment to student welfare.

The Computerization Program will extend beyond student-related services, encompassing the HR system, financial processes, and faculty and student portals. Integration of these systems will enable

students to access essential information such as enrolment status, subjects, and grades, and faculty members can easily upload grades and share academic updates.

Funding for this ambitious endeavor will come from the university's savings, reaffirming the administration's commitment to investing in cutting-edge technology for the benefit of the entire university community.

As CatSU moves toward a more computerized future, its proactive and student-centric approach under President

Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza continues to uplift students, inspire progress, and position the institution as a beacon of quality education and service in the province.

"Pirmi kitang gapatanos sa laog kan University; ipadagos ta iyan, for as long as igwa kitang magayon na intensyon, good things will come."

Dr. Azanza orders advance release of CatSU faculty salaries

Albert G. Clemente

In view of Typhoon 'Egay' and 'for humanitarian reasons', Catanduanes State University (CatSU)

President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza ordered the deans of respective colleges, human resources, and finance departments regarding the advance release of the teaching staff's salaries of the university for this month, July 2023.

The CatSU president made the pronouncement and

issued the order to ensure the advance disbursement of the faculty salaries even without accomplishing their clearances yet.

"In view of Typhoon Egay, as well as mainly for humanitarian reasons, I am ordering the release of faculty salaries for the month of July 2023," Dr. Azanza

wrote on his Facebook page on Tuesday, July 25.

Setting a condition and urging the faculty members, the president concluded that their clearances must be accomplished by the month of August.



In view of Typhoon Egay, as well as mainly for humanitarian reasons, I am ordering the release of faculty salaries for the month of July 2023.



SOWING THE SEEDS OF HOPE:

SR. DULAI'S CALLING TO HER INCREDIBLE SUCCESS AS AN OUTSTANDING WOMAN ENTREPRENEUR

Rochellee Jane C. Idanan

In this age where people desire instant gratification, planting may seem unbearable and tiresome with its waiting process. It sometimes becomes disheartening not to see swift results as we wait for the seeds to grow into fruition.

However, for Sr. Teodula T. Forones, fondly called by many as 'Sr. Dulai', an alumna of Catanduanes State University (CatSU), planting is a demonstration of one's faith, a chance to create opportunities, and an act of giving hope.

Through her strong faith and hard work, the opportunity blossomed at the perfect time after her debut on the national scene, clinching the Top 4 for this year's Search for Outstanding Women Entrepreneurs: National Innovation Challenge spearheaded by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

Her incredible feat is rooted in the 'golden' spice called turmeric. Its wonders not only provide health and medicinal benefits but also empower people's lives, like Sr. Dulai.

Currently serving as the School Principal of Mother Crucifix Caputo Academy, Inc. (MCCA), Sr. Dulai kickstarted

turmeric planting to support the daily operation of the school and to continue the school's mission of providing educational opportunities for children belonging to underprivileged families.

Since the school merely relies on donations and assistance from several benefactors.

To make the most of the turmeric plants, she started formulating turmeric tea to provide free books to the students. The initiative grew, and soon enough, Sr. Dulai opened Caputo's farm to give employment opportunities to the parents. The farm also paid for the tuition of the children of the mother-workers.

This innovative and altruistic program by Sr. Dulai and the MCCA earned the support of DOST, which equipped them with more machines for turmeric tea formulation and a hand tractor for the farm.

With the success of the farm work operations, DOST invited Sr. Dulai to participate in the UNLAD BAYI Search for Innovative Women in the regions where she landed in the Top 3 spot. In addition to the P50,000 prize money, Sr. Dulai represented Region VIII in the national

competition.

She later conquered the national competition and received P100,000 in addition to the machine and equipment grants to continue the farm operations and provide more opportunities to the students and their parents.

The search is part of the WomenHelping-Women: Innovating Social Enterprise (WHWise) Program of DOST, which aims to provide women with opportunities to showcase their innovative business ideas through an inclusive startup ecosystem.

A



JOURNEY TOWARDS SUCCESS

However, similar to the planting process, Sr. Dulai's feat did not immediately flourish. It was a



from Pangangan, Calape, Bohol, Sr. Dulai endured her longing for her home as she decided to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education major in General Science at then Catanduanes State Colleges in 1992. While pursuing the noblest profession, she also entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. John the Baptist.

When her graduation was nearing, her life was full of doubt and confusion. As if she was a seed buried under the soil, she found herself lost in the darkness. Sr. Dulai almost gave up her vocation.

"A month before my graduation, I was in crisis. I told my critic teacher, Mrs. Sonia Vargas-Sapeco about [my] plan of giving up my vocation. [However], she asked me if I prayed for my decision. Her question awakened me, and I said no... It was an eye-opener." she recounted.

With her strong faith renewed, Sr. Dulai was able to graduate in 1996 and later proceeded to her formation as a sister in Manila. She emerged from the darkness and continued growing until she became a fruitful teacher at the Ville St. John Academy in 2022. Three years later, Sr. Dulai became its principal after finishing her Master's Degree at the Philippine Women's University.

culmination of years of waiting while enduring the pruning of life.

Although she hails

After some time, she returned to her roots in the island province of Catanduanes to serve

as the Principal of Ville St. John School Virac from 2012-2017.

When she was transferred to Biliran, Sr. Dulai took on the challenge of establishing a junior and senior high school under the congregation of MCCA to give children from remote areas a chance to enter high school. The school, which she established with the help of its benefactors and other stakeholders, is now the home of Caputo's Farm.

What was once an initiative to support the school's daily operation is now a project with 54 scholars, 180 students with free books, 30 parents as association members, and 32 microbusiness partners for the Caputo farm

products.

As she continued with her selfless and genuine love for her work, she was able to plant seeds of hope in the hearts of the children at MCCA.

Despite the years it took and the gloominess she had to endure on her journey, Sr. Dulai remained faithful to the Lord and to her profession as a teacher. Like seeds, the darkness in our lives is sometimes God's way of letting us grow.

Her story reminds us that the value of waiting is not always found at the end of the process but in the process itself and in the hope that allows us to keep waiting.





Turning the pebble into marble:

CatSU's self-review board topnotcher walks the less traveled road to success

Albert G. Clemente

silang mabigyan ng mas maayos na buhay. Ang sarap lang po sa pakiramdam na nakakatulong na ako sa kanila," Gonzales said.

MAPPING OUT OPPORTUNITIES

During her five years stay at CatSU after graduation in 2019, the native Viracnon not only excelled in academics but also in off-campus competitions, learning to always enter a door of opportunities.

"As CatSU student, you have to make the most out of every opportunity na binibigay sayo. Ilang beses din ako nabigyan ng chance para i-represent ang CatSU sa iba't ibang contest, at dahil dito na-invite ako ng isang review center upang bigyan ng free review for civil engineering board exam kasama na lodging," she recounted.

One of the contests she joined with flying colors was the 37th National Civil Engineering Students Quiz as a grand finalist, after notching first place at the regional level.

Her achievement did not end after graduation, falling short of only two points to the Top 10 spot at the National level, she attained an incredible rating of 89.35% during the November licensure examination for civil engineers.

SETTING WISE CUES

Imparting advice to fellow CatSUans to pass and even top the board exam, Engr. Gonzales

pinaghirapan ko, kahit maraming beses ako pinanghinaan ng loob. Ipinagpatuloy ko lang para sa sarili at pamilya ko," she added.

CHARTERING A DIFFERENT PATH

Unlike many aspiring master plumbers who join review centers, Engr. Gonzales decided to take a different route. With her full-time job, she undertook a selfreview journey.

"Pagkatapos ng office hours, pagod na physically at mentally, 'di na po ako nakaka-review nang maayos. Wala rin akong maayos na space para magreview dahil may mga kasama po ako sa staffhouse at lights off na usually ng 10-11 p.m., kaya nagbabasa na lang po ako ng reviewer sa phone," she shared.

But drawing inspiration from her parents' struggle in raising five children, the daughter of a surveyor and a housewife persisted in achieving her ultimate goal.

"Nakita ko 'yong hirap nila para makapag-aral kaming magkakapatid. Gusto ko lang po

civil engineering graduate of the Catanduanes State University turned the impossible into possible after the results of the July 2023 MPLE unfolded, and was still in utter disbelief.

Raised in Hawan Grande, in the capital town of Virac, this young achiever attained a rating of 85.70 percent and bested 5,107 other examinees across the country.

"Hanggang ngayon 'di pa rin ako makapaniwala dahil kaonti po 'yong oras ko sa review at sinabay ko po 'iyon sa trabaho. May mga tanong na 'di ko naencounter during self-review," Gonzales shared in an interview.

"Pero sobrang saya ko kasi knowing na nagbunga 'yong

FOR 25-YEAR-OLD Engr. Divina V. Gonzales, acing the 6th spot in the Master Plumbers Licensure Examination (MPLE) was not easy, defying all odds to achieve greatness as a full-time structural engineer while selfreviewing for the board examination.

But through her hard work and perseverance, the cum laude

shared some important tips to follow: study routine, possess self-discipline, take care of one's health, focus, and avoid distractions.

"Be consistent and make studying a habit. Kailangan sanayin ang sarili sa pagsagot ng exams sa reviewers para pagdating ng actual na board exam 'di ka na mabibigla at medyo confident ka nang sumagot," Gonzales stated.

"Gumawa ka ng sarili mong schedule at magbigay ng extra effort para masundan ito. Make studying easier. Hindi mo kailangang kabisaduhin lahat ng nasa reviewer word by word. Puwede kang gumawa ng patterns and mnemonics, or i-relate mo sa ibang bagay 'yong inaaral mo," she added.

Also, the master plumber topnotcher advised the takers to avoid distractions and always set priorities.

"Magpahinga rin nang tama sa oras at alagaan ang katawan. Balewala lahat ng aral mo kung magkakasakit ka sa mismong araw ng exam," Engr. Gonzales added.

With her unwavering spirit, Engr. Gonzales has proven that she is not just a master plumber but a master of life's extraordinary journey.

She has now etched her name in the records of CatSU's historical feats and serves as a beacon of hope for aspiring engineers, especially for young women, for taking the uncharted path and now standing with pride in the middle of a less traveled road.



Be consistent and make studying a habit.



CatSU incoming first-year students can now avail free medical services through TGP Partylist assistance

Albert G. Clemente

Catanduanes State University (CatSU) incoming first-year students will be provided with free medical services by the office of TGP Partylist and Deputy Majority Leader Jose 'Bong' Teves Jr.

"TGP will cover the cost of the Complete Blood Count (CBC), Chest X-ray, and Drug Test, which are needed to secure

a medical certificate through its medical assistance program provided that the students comply with all the requirements for medical assistance for indigent constituents," wrote on its announcement on July 31.

Immediately responding to the pronouncement, CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza extended his heartfelt

gratitude to the lawmaker through his Facebook post.

The students who will be able to submit all the prescribed documents by the TGP partylist, from August 1-5, will proceed to the Catanduanes Doctors Hospital Social Services Office.



HERALD

The **HERALD** is the official publication of Catanduanes State University which is produced by Corporate Communications and Multimedia Services (CCMS).

The **HERALD** complements the multi-platform communication arm of CCMS Office which utilizes print, radio broadcasting, and social media, as well as the World Wide Web, in the dissemination of the different milestones, programs, projects, activities and achievements of the University, particularly on areas of Instruction, Research, Extension, Production, Governance and Management, and Student Services.

The **HERALD** exists to advance the interest of development communication in higher education, and to provide another venue in informing, involving, and empowering the stakeholders of the Catanduanes State University.

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Congratulations!



Catanduanes State University (CatSU) commends the exemplary performance of **Engr. Divina V. Gonzales, Top 6 (85.70%)**, and warmest congratulations to the 19 passers who triumphantly nailed the **July 2023 Master Plumbers Licensure Examination**.

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This year's passers obtained an astonishing passing rate of
61.29% (19 out of 31)
above the **44% (2,247 out of 5,107) National Passing Rate**.

To all the passers and our lone topnotcher, we are proud of what you have achieved and thank you for bringing honor and pride to our institution.

Together, let us serve the people!