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SEALING A DEAL FOR EMPLOYEES' WELFARE. Catanduanes State University, represented by its president, Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza (center left) has partnered with the Social Security System (SSS) Virac Branch, through Ms. Divina Avila, (center right) for the social security coverage of its job order and contractual personnel on Wednesday, September 27.

SSS now covers job order, contractual workers of CatSU

Anjo G. Tugay

The **422 job order and contractual** employees of Catanduanes State University (CatSU) will now be covered by the Social Security System (SSS) after the two agencies inked a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on Wednesday, September 27.

Under the SSS Self-

Employed Program, job order and contractual workers at CatSU can now access various social security benefits, such as sickness, maternity, disability, unemployment, death, and funeral benefits.

SSS has agreed to cover the COS and JO personnel of CatSU as Self-employed members under

the Social Security Act of 2018.

The agency has also committed to assist with the remittances of monthly Social Security (SS) and Employees' Compensation (EC) contributions.

Furthermore, the MOA specifies that CatSU's regular and permanent employees, who are already SSS members through

private employment or self-employment, have the option to continue making contributions as voluntary members.

The temporary or contractual government workers were included in the SSS's coverage through the KaSSSangga Collect Program as they were not covered by GSIS Programs.



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CatSU empowers students with digital knowledge 'Information is Power', says President Azanza

Albert G. Clemente

To equip its students with the necessary knowledge and skills to adapt to the digital transformation, Catanduanes State University (CatSU) College of Business and Accountancy, held a seminar titled "Going Digital: A Digitization Seminar," on September 26, 2023, at the CatSU auditorium.

In his message, CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, emphasized the importance of staying ahead in the field of business to become an efficient entrepreneur, highlighting that 'information is power.'

"The one thing that is really behind the digitalization program is efficiency. We want to automatically generate information because information is power," said Dr. Azanza, highlighting efficiency as lacking in the current system.

Dr. Azanza emphasized the significant role of digitalization in transforming every student into an empowered entrepreneur.

"Generating information allows for quicker decision-making, which, in business, means seizing opportunities as a first mover, gaining a competitive edge, and making profitable investments while others are still deciding whether to enter the market," he added.

Dr. Azanza further elaborated on the undeniable advantage that digitalization has offered to CatSU, especially in the efficient operation of the Human Resource Management Office.

"In HR for example, if I have the knowledge of how many [and we were able to use it] vacant items in the university are available, and because they have a computerized system then I could easily understand and decide that these vacant items should be made available to all Catandunganons," he shared.

Meanwhile, the president proudly shared his plans for Digitalization Programs at CatSU, particularly focusing on digitizing online enrollment, providing



UNIFIED IN THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION: Hundreds of students are one with the Catanduanes State University's digitalization effort as they attended the 'Going Digital' seminar, organized by the College of Business and Accountancy, on September 26 at the university auditorium.

access to all enrolled subjects, and making grades accessible to both students and parents.

"I allocated 7 million for our digitalization program here on Campus. So that you will be enrolling online, you will have access to all the subjects that you have enrolled in, and if there is another COVID-19 pandemic, we can easily shift to the learning management systems. And at the end of the semester, just by navigating to your portals [student portal] you would know easily the grades you got. And

whether you like it or not we will provide access to your parents through [parents portal] and they would know easily how you performed," he explained.

Esteemed speakers and industry experts, including Geraldine B. Bagadiiong from the Department of Trade and Industry – Catanduanes, and government agency representatives like Mr. Allan T. Sapanta from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), Ms. Arelle A. Bagadiiong, President of the Catanduanes Bankers Association, Ms. Carmel

Bonifacio-Garcia, Province Supervising Tourism Operations Officer, and Mr. Franklin O. Oclarino, a businessman, shared their expertise on various digitization aspects.

These included digital marketing strategies, e-commerce trends, data analytics, and the role of technology in modern business practices.

CatSU boosts campus connectivity with major Wi-Fi upgrade

Anjo G. Tugay

Catanduanes State University (CATSU) is set to significantly enhance its wi-fi services after Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza has successfully negotiated with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Provincial Officer Mario John D. Gonzales to secure an additional 100mbps of free wi-fi exclusively for the university students.

This boost is in addition to the existing 150mbps dedicated to CatSU offices and the pre-existing 200mbps PLDT line serving the Main Campus.

Moreover, Dr. Azanza has extended his commitment to providing even broader connectivity benefits to the university as he has sought DICT's assistance to install free Wi-Fi connections at Panganiban Campus and to secure Starlink connections for the university.

Dr. Azanza has also approved an upgrade of the PLDT wi-fi connection at the Main Campus, increasing its capacity from

200mbps to 400mbps, complete with a state-of-the-art firewall to ensure security and reliability.

"Under my term, we have upgraded our wi-fi connection from a total of 50mbps when I started at CatSU to 650mbps two years within my term," Dr. Azanza added.

In addition to these enhancements, the university is making significant investments in infrastructure resilience. The President has initiated the installation of an underground fiber optic network throughout all campus buildings.

"Kasama na rin sa mga pagbabago ang pagkabit ng underground fiber optic network sa lahat ng buildings ng CATSU para kahit may bagyo ay safe ang ating mga communication lines," Dr. Azanza said, highlighting this as a forward-thinking move ensuring uninterrupted connectivity during adverse weather conditions.



LENS ON GOOD LEADERSHIP. Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza is with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Provincial Officer, Mario John D. Gonzales, after securing a deal on the additional 100mbps free WIFI for CatSUans.

DOT-R5 operations chief lauds CatSU's 'Edu-Eco Tourism' Project

Anjo G. Tugay

During his visit to Catanduanes State University (CatSU) on September 25, Department of Tourism (DOT) Region V Chief Tourism Operations Officer, Mr. Rommel A. Natanauan expressed his astonishment at the remarkable progress the university has made along with its 'Edu-Eco Tourism' Project.

"In a matter of two years, we are witnessing the great stride of the university under the leadership of its President, Dr. Patrick Azanza, remarkably improving the whole system,

expanding academic programs, and establishing facilities that match the growing demands," Natanauan said in a Facebook post, reflecting on his visit.

Expected to have a far-reaching impact on the development of Catanduanes, initiatives like this project aim not only to utilize the landholdings of CatSU for farm tourism camp but also to maximize learning opportunities for students and visitors, reflecting on the culture of Catanduanes.

"These developments will translate to meaningful

and inclusive socio-economic development in the island province," Natanauan noted.

He highlighted the importance of higher education institutions like CatSU in driving progress and fostering economic opportunities for the local community.

"CatSU, venturing into tourism is a recognition of tourism as an effective poverty reduction strategy and the island's tourism potential to bring about the much-needed people-centered progressive change," he ended.

As CatSU continues to expand its horizons and enhance its role in both education and eco-tourism, it is evident that the institution is on a path to becoming a significant driver of growth and development in the province, with Chief Natanauan's visit serving as a testament to its progress.

CatSU unveils 'Padayaw sa Isla' exhibit alongside inauguration of Abaca Technology Innovation

Anjo G. Tugay

Catanduanes State University (CatSU) has officially launched a weeklong exhibit activity titled "PADAYAW SA ISLA: Riserts, Teknolohiya, at Abakanobasyon" with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on September 25 coinciding with the inauguration of the Abaca Technology Innovation Center (ATIC) on the university campus.

The event aims to disseminate information and showcase research findings, technologies, and inventions developed by both faculty and students of CatSU.

The public can explore completed and ongoing research projects and technological innovations that have been produced within the university.

Products on display include a wide range of abaca-based items such as abaca paper, abaca canvas, abaca wine, abaca alcohol, abaca fabric, recycled abaca fiber blocks, and abaca soap.

Additionally, the exhibit features communication devices, a 3-in-1 coconut farmers' machine, dress forms made from abaca and recycled paper, a rain collector machine, an automatic fishpond feeder, a solar-powered banca motor, and many more innovative creations.

During the opening ceremony, CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza emphasized the importance of putting research into practical use.

"The true measure of a project is its ability to solve problems and have practical applications. We will invite potential investors to commercially produce our outputs, and those who discover innovations here can enjoy royalties," the president said, encouraging the community to leverage the university's research outputs for practical applications.

President Azanza also announced that the university is set to receive substantial funding from the Department of Science



LISTEN, REFLECT, LEAD. Delivering his speech in 'Padayaw sa Isla' exhibit, Catanduanes State University President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza urged the attendees to lead a kind of research that can solve society's existing problems and has practical application.

and Technology (DOST), with 6 million for its abaca tissue culture, and hopes for the 38 million for ATIC pledged by the DOST.

The president also stressed the significance of utilizing abaca resources to support local abakaleros, highlighting the unity of various government agencies and stakeholders present at the event.

DOST Provincial Director Engr. Marie Grace Molina, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Provincial Director Ms. Maria

Belma Escueta, and Provincial Fiber Officer of the Philippine Fiber Industry and Development Authority (PhilFIDA) Mr. Roberto B. Lusuegro pledged their support to CatSU's initiatives.

Governor Joseph C. Cua commended Dr. Azanza for expanding the university's influence within the community and fostering a stronger connection between the local government and the abaca industry.

The governor expressed

optimism about the ATIC building, seeing it as a 'symbol of hope and a catalyst for innovation and progress' in the province.

The exhibit was organized by CatSU's Research, Extension, and Production Affairs department, led by OIC Vice President Dr. Rosana S. Abundo and Assistant Vice President Dr. Kristian Q. Aldea.

A Proud SARINGGAYA Awardee

CatSU leads the charge at International Coastal Cleanup 2023, mobilizing hundreds of volunteers

Albert G. Clemente & Anjo G. Tugay

A recognized SARINGGAYA awardee and a premier green research institution in the province, Catanduanes State University (CatSU) demonstrates its commitment to green initiatives and environmental stewardship as it took center stage at the International Coastal Cleanup 2023, September 16.

Under the leadership of CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, the university rallied hundreds of volunteers, including faculty, non-teaching personnel, and students, for this crucial environmental initiative along the shores of Antipolo Del Sur and Antipolo Del Norte.

In the opening program at the Provincial Capitol Grounds, Dr. Azanza delivered a message that pinned on the spirit of unity and environmental responsibility.

“Maogma na kita nagkakasararo, para sa maayos asin patanos na kapaributan sa isla,” he said, emphasizing unity in taking care of the environment.

“Mabalik man sana ang problema na satong yatao sa kapaributan,” he continued,

highlighting the potential consequences of our actions, as the waste we discard may return as problems.

“Ipagrokyaw ang pangangaipo. Magkakasararo pirmi para sa karahayan kan satuyang gabos,” he passionately expressed, underlining his Padagos na Patanos Movement, which expands the university’s extension arm in the community.

CatSU’s participation in the cleanup event highlighted its commitment to sustainable practices and environmental stewardship.

The university has long been at the forefront of green research and education, consistently emphasizing the importance of preserving Catanduanes’ natural beauty.

The involvement of CatSU faculty, staff, and students demonstrated the deep-rooted dedication to these ideals, as they worked tirelessly alongside other volunteers to clear beaches and coastal areas of all kinds of wastes.



LEADING THE GREEN REVOLUTION. Catanduanes State University President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza lead the International Clean Coastal Cleanup at Antipolo Del Norte shoreline, as he pours out sack that contains biodegradable waste, together with the employees of the Local Government Unit of Virac on September 16, 2023.

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many [and we were able to use it] vacant items in the university are available, and because they have a computerized system then I could easily understand and decide that these vacant items should be made available to all Catandunganons,” he shared.

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Supervising Tourism Operations Officer, and Mr. Franklin O. Oclarino, a businessman, shared their expertise on various digitization aspects.

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CatSU's preparation in full swing for College of Law opening

Anjo G. Tugay

Catanduanes State University (CatSU) is getting closer towards the establishment of its College of Law, as it progresses toward meeting the stringent requirements set by the Law Education Board (LEB).

Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza expressed optimism about the university's progress in effectively addressing access to costly law books.

"Compliance with the law book requirements is no longer a problem as Rex Bookstore (rebranded as Rex Education) has donated books," he said after he secured this generous contribution by Rex Bookstore.

Dr. Azanza also acknowledged the role played by CatSU Regent Atty. Santiago T. Gabionza Jr., who is also the legal counsel to Rex Publishing.

Furthermore, President Azanza reassured that the moot court's completion is on track to meet the LEB's deadline, with an expected finish date before the end of October.

"Nasa 70 percent completion naman po ang satuyang moot court sa third floor kan Main Building," said Dr. Azanza, indicating significant progress in the establishment of a moot court.

This moot court, as another LEB requirement, is designed to replicate a real courtroom environment, providing law students with practical experience.

He noted that the bidding process was followed diligently to ensure the quality and integrity of the construction materials used in the moot court's construction.

President Azanza expressed hope that once CatSU passes the ocular inspection by the LEB and fulfills all requirements, the university will be able to offer the Juris Doctor degree by 2024.

He emphasized the significance of this achievement, particularly for the people of Catanduanes.

"Base sa survey, nasa 200



ON THE GRIND. Workers are on the move of crafting and grinding the moot court of Catanduanes State University, one of the requirements to offer Juris Doctor program under the College of Law.

po ang nagrespond positively sa satuyang feasibility study na requirement nin law board," the President highlighted, underscoring the feasibility and demand for the law program.

Additionally, President Azanza revealed that the applications for the College of Law and the College of Medicine are top priorities in the university's plans.

Under his leadership, CatSU has already introduced seven new courses in just over two years, including the Master of Arts in Nursing (MAN), Bachelor of Science in Architecture, BS Entertainment & Multimedia Computing with Majors in Game Development and Digital Animation, BS Electronics Communication Engineering, BS Library Science, and BA English Language.

These new offerings have significantly boosted enrollment at CatSU, as noted by the President.

In a remarkable surge, CatSU has witnessed a substantial increase in enrollment, climbing from 9,060 students in 2021 to an impressive 14,150 this year, marking a substantial growth of 56.09 percent.

"It is also a help for the people of Catanduanes because students need not go to mainland universities to study, highlighting that CatSU really serves the people," he said, highlighting this achievement.

He expressed his concern for students and parents who may face financial challenges when seeking education elsewhere, emphasizing that CatSU has responded to this need by introducing industry-related new courses.

"Ibig sabihon mas dakula ang naseserbisyuhan nin CatSU. Kung pigpili ta sana, sain daw mapunta ang mga estudyante? Dakulang gastos sa mga magurang," President Azanza empathized, underscoring the importance

of making quality education accessible to local students.

President Azanza also outlined CatSU's mission to provide opportunities for island residents, both in terms of education and employment.

"With our project na i-expand ang enrolment sa paagi nin pag-open nin bagong kurso, natawan nin opportunities ang mga taga-isla lalo sa employment. Iyan po talaga ang sarong sakuyang programa na gibuhon ang CatSU na maging number one employment organization digdi sa isla," he explained.

Dr. Azanza has secured approval for 56 new instructor positions from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and is awaiting approval for another 25 non-teaching positions, including five Administrative Officer V items at Salary Grade 18.

On board and ready to serve HRMS orients newly-hired teaching faculty members

Joy Antoinette G. Ordoña



WELCOMING REMARKS. As the head of the premier educational institution, Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza warmly welcomes the newly hired faculty employees of the University on September 28, highlighting meritocracy-based hiring process in the University and not exercising his discretionary power.

As the Catanduanes State University continues its hiring initiatives and commitment to delivering public service effectively, the Human Resources Management Services (HRMS) conducted the New Employee Orientation and Induction designed to aid the 88 newly hired teaching personnel, adapt to their workplace environment, September 28-29.

Dr. Patrick Azanza, CatSU President, welcomed and encouraged the new hires to internalize the mission and vision of the university so that they could render excellent and noteworthy public service and know more about their rights, responsibilities, and benefits as the next generation of employees of CatSU.

“We shall not only open CatSU to the outside world, we will go out and serve the community, where CatSU is much needed. Out of your expertise,

we want to usher you into public service to achieve the university’s mandate,” he added.

Atty. Gregorio M. Sarmiento Jr., Chief Administrative Officer for Administration, discussed the organizational structure, management, and offices. He reminded the participants of their vow as government employees when they took the Oath of Office and pledged to fulfill their duties and responsibilities.

Aside from expounding on the different information systems that new employees must learn to navigate, Dr. Gemma Acedo, Vice President for Academic Affairs, touched on the core principles of the Strategic Performance Management System, performance rewards, development planning, and coaching and monitoring learning interventions.

Meanwhile, Dr. Rosana S. Abundo, OIC Vice President

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Safeguarding Catandunganon women’s livelihood through ‘WE Empower project’: CatSU inks pact with CARE

Albert G. Clemente

In a move to increase Catandunganon women’s economic capability, the Catanduanes State University (CatSU) and the Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE) International signed an agreement that aims to benefit Catandunganon women to gain sustainable livelihoods.

Dubbed as Women and Youth Economic Empowerment (WE Empower) Project, the residents of four barangays in Bato and four barangays in Virac will be the target beneficiaries of the program.

“The project focuses on two commodities: abaca and root crops and [to be] implemented in two municipalities covering eight barangays,” expressed in the Memorandum of Agreement

(MoA).

Held at the university’s conference room, the joint partnership was signed by CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza and witnessed by CARE’s Asia Regional Director, Dr. Musa Muhammad, together with his staff on Tuesday, September 19.

Present also during the MoA signing were the newly installed Vice-President for Research, Extension, and Production Affairs Dr. Rosana S. Abundo, Extension Services Director Dr. Adem Nalu V. Rubio, and other university’s key officials.

CARE is an international humanitarian organization that works with women and girls to combat worldwide poverty and hunger.



CONNECTED COMMITMENTS: (left to right) Extension Director Dr. Adem Nalu V. Rubio, Vice President for Research, Extension and Production Affairs, Dr. Rosana S. Abundo, Catanduanes State University President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza forge partnership with CARE International through Dr. Musa Muhammad and his staff on Tuesday, September 19 for the benefits of Catandunganon women.

Bicol SUC's Pioneering Educational Tourism DOT inspects CatSU's unique 'Edu-Eco Tourism' project

Anjo G. Tugay

In an effort to transform the tourism sector in Catanduanes, the Department of Tourism (DOT) Regional Office V carried out an extensive evaluation of Catanduanes State University (CatSU) Edu-Eco Tourism Project on September 24, 2023.

The visit was related to CatSU's pursuit of DOT accreditation in the Farm Tourism Camp – Day Camp category for its unique Edu-Eco Tourism Project, distinguishing it as an educational tourism destination.

Positioned to reshape tourism in Catanduanes, the project places a strong emphasis on education and sustainability, making it as its defining feature.

"Dito inaasahang matuto tungkol sa modern agriculture (Aquaponics, Hydroponics at Aeroponocs), abaca innovation, abaca wine making, solar farming, livestock industry, latest technologies na gamit sa CATSU habang sila ay nageenjoy mamasyal sa Isla," CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza said, highlighting the project's uniqueness and commitment to impart knowledge and showcase sustainable practices.

"Kasama sa mapapasyalan sa CATSU ang Catandungan Heritage at Sentro ng Wikang Filipino na tampok ang ilang display at impormasyon hinggil sa history and culture ng Catanduanes kasama ang mga aklat at obra ng mga manunulat at alagad ng sining na mula sa isla. Isa sa mga rare items na nakadisplay ay ang Bicolano translation ng Noli Me Tangere ni Jose Rizal," the President furthered.

Led by Rommel A. Natanauan, Chief Tourism Operations Officer and Antonio M. Imperial, Tourism Operations Officer II, the DOT inspection team arrived at CatSU with keen interest.

The inspection team from DOT V Office of Tourism



ECO-TOURING AT SOLAR FARM. In a bid to become Bicol's pioneering educational tourism, Catanduanes State University President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza leads the tour and unveils the solar farm of the University to the Department of Tourism evaluators on September 24, 2023.

Standards and Operations saw CatSU's potential to enhance tourism in Catanduanes significantly with its educational and sustainable tourism initiatives.

"Buong pusong sinusuportahan namin ang proyektong CatSU Edu-Eco Tourism, dahil ito ay may malaking potensyal na magpataas

ng turismo sa Catanduanes. Ang Department of Tourism Regional Office 5 ay nakikiisa sa inisyatibang ito at umaasa sa tagumpay nito," said the team.

CatSU's Edu-Eco Tourism Project not only seeks to boost tourism but also aims to inspire visitors with its blend of education and sustainability while simultaneously creating

job prospects for the local community.

"Sa CATSU Edu-Eco Tourism Project inaasahang may dagdag na kikitain ang mga taga-Isla dahil tataas ang bilang ng turista sa isla." Dr. Azanza said, highlighting the employment opportunities for the islanders, one key aspect of his 'Padagos na Patanos Movement'.

CatSU partners with CSC, CHRMP for gov't benefits seminar workshop

Darwin M. Bongon

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investments while others are still deciding whether to enter the market," he added.

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GCTO's 'growth, wellness' program supports freshies with College Adjustment Session

Anjo G. Tugay

Catanduanes State University's (CatSU) Guidance, Counseling, and Testing Office (GCTO) hosted the College Adjustment Session 2.0 on September 27, 2023, as part of their 'Pagtalubo Series', aiming to support the holistic development of first-year students by addressing academic, personal, social, relational, and psychological needs.

The program was designed to empower first-year students by offering guidance on university life, strategies to overcome learned helplessness, and techniques for emotional self-management, all aimed at helping students reach their academic potential during their college transition.

The event was divided into two sessions to accommodate students from all colleges.

The morning session saw the participation of students from the College of Business and Accountancy, College of Health Sciences, College of Education, College of Sciences, and College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

In the afternoon, the program extended its reach to students



WELLNESS FORUM. Hundreds of students from different colleges attend a half-day session spearheaded by the University Guidance Office.

from the College of Engineering and Architecture, College of Information and Communications Technology, College of Agriculture and Fisheries, and

College of Industrial Technology.

The College Adjustment Session 2.0 was an opportunity for CatSU's more than 4 thousand first-year students to gain

insights, knowledge, and support necessary for a successful transition to university life.

Empowering student organizations CatSU's OSADS, USC host 'Kumustahan' conference

Albert G. Clemente

Aimed at orienting and briefing recognized student organizations, Catanduanes State University's (CatSU) Office of the Student Affairs and Development Services (OSADS) partnered with the University Student Council (USC) to organize "Kumustahan," held at the Auditorium on September 27.

Nurturing responsible organizations

The half-day conference brought together over 100 participants from various recognized student organizations.

OSADS Director Prof. Francis John B. Templonuevo and Mr. John Mark Villaflor, led discussions on the requirements for organizations seeking recognition within the University, such as the submission of audited financial statements and establishing a constitution and by-laws (CBL).

Prof. Templonuevo also emphasized the importance of empowering others within the organization, encouraging senior leaders to allow lower-year students to take on leadership roles and highlighting that such empowerment is vital for grooming future leaders.

Leadership insights and administrative guidance

The conference featured insights from seasoned leaders at the University, including CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza and Vice President for



EMPOWERED LEADERS STRIKING A POSE. Student leaders of the University pose a picture with CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, after the conduct of 'Kumustahan' activity organized by the Office of Student Affairs and Development Services (OSADS) and the University Student Council (USC) on September 27, 2023.

Academic Affairs Dr. Gemma G. Acedo. They underscored the significance of a harmonious student body for the university's progress.

The event included practical exercises, such as crafting letters of request and notices of meetings, facilitated by OSADS. Darcy Rinsfer, University Student Council Auditor, provided a detailed explanation of financial statement auditing procedures and fee collection provisions while USC PIO Virgilio Cortado

briefed attendees on their oath-taking obligations.

Richard Abenir, USC Vice President, elaborated on the hierarchy of power in organizing events and the role of the USC in reviewing proposed amendments to organization CBLs. Joshua M. Argarin, USC Senate President, explained the dynamics of creating bills and resolutions within student organizations.

USC's commitment to 'oversight'

Francine Mae T. Tayo, USC President and Student Regent, concluded the conference by emphasizing USC's strict commitment to overseeing all organizations within the University. She urged participants to familiarize themselves with the necessary processes and technicalities, cautioning them about potential liabilities.

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Research, Extension, and Production Affairs highlights the importance of their section to the faculty as a venue for systematically disseminating the learning gained from direct practice to other academics, students, and practitioners.

Furthermore, the HRMS

team, led by Administrative Officer V Ma. Sionne May T. Crispino, laid out the different privileges, compensation packages, benefits, and rewards and recognition given to CatSU employees.

They also tackled the general policies under the Civil Service Commission that new employees

must take to heart to fulfill their functions as public servants. These include working according to the prescribed government working hours, flexible work arrangements, submission of DTR, and leave application.

On the second day of orientation, the participants familiarized themselves with

employee accountability, rights and welfare, gender and development laws, and emotional well-being in the workplace to be followed by the commitment setting and induction ceremony.

Unfolding innovative inventions:

Bato RDHS students take a closer look in CatSU's Padayaw Exhibit

Albert G. Clemente

Thirty-five Grade 11 students from Bato Rural Development High School (BRDHS), together with their adviser, take a behind-the-scenes tour of the Catanduanes State University's (CatSU) Padayaw sa Isla: Riserts, Teknolohiya, at Abakanobasyon, unfolding the CatSUans' inventions, innovations, and research.

Featuring communication devices, a 3-in-1 coconut farmers' machine, and dress forms made from abaca and recycled paper to name a few, the Grade 11 Science Technology and Engineering Mathematics (STEM) students enjoyed exploring while walking within the university's lobby along the different displayed inventions.

"Ang aim ng visit ay para ma-expose and magkaigwa sinda ning background sa research na puwedeng maging inspirasyon ninda," said Jairus John Clarianes, BRDHS' Grade 11 STEM adviser.

"Salo ini sa pinakamagayon na exhibit sa isla na puwedeng

alagon ning DepEd schools para 'yong kada school, mabisita sa bawat eskwelahan. Mahiling man 'yong research ninda buda malipat na naman sa ibang school," Clarianes stated, hoping for replication of similar activity in the public secondary schools across the province.

For 16-year-old Grade 11 STEM student, Cindy Tejada, the 'Padayaw Exhibit' was a good opportunity to witness the different inventions made by CatSU faculty and students, as this would inspire and guide them to innovate their own research.

"Maganda po 'yong lahat na inventions dito sa exhibit. As a Grade-11 STEM student, marami po kaming makikita rito na puwede po ring makatulong sa paggawa ng sarili naming research," Tejada shared during the visit on Wednesday, September 27.

Organized by the Office of the Vice-President for Research, Extension, and Production



CURIOSITY AND ADMIRATION. Being observed by his fellow students, Bato Rural Development High School student gets a chance to grasp one of the equipment exhibited at the university lobby.

Affairs (VP-REPA), the weeklong exhibit was launched on Monday, September 25, which coincided with the inauguration of the

Abaca Technology Innovation Center (ATIC).

As part of TAP-LGU initiatives,

CatSU-CoEd eyes replication of CDT training among other municipalities

Rochellee Jan C. Idanan

Recognizing the profound impact of early childhood education, the Catanduanes State University - College of Education (CatSU-CoEd) Extension Services is eyeing to replicate its Pundasyon 2.0 (Pundasyon+Educasyon): Instructional Enhancement Training for Child Development Teachers (CDTs) across the province after its successful implementation in Virac.

"Panduwang taon na kang programa na ini, so with that masasabi talagang na-sustain natin. Our target [after this]

is to have a replication of the Pundasyon activity in other municipalities in the province since this activity is also in line with the TAP-LGU initiatives of the president," newly-installed Vice President for Research, Extension, and Production Affairs (VPREPA) and CoEd faculty, Dr. Rosana S. Abundo, expressed during her opening remarks for the second staging of Pundasyon activity on September 20.

"We are working na magkaigwa kita ning MOA between CatSU and DSWD. 'Yon

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TALKING POINT. CoEd faculty, Asst. Prof. Emyln Lanon, talks and gives meaningful insights about early childhood education strategies to Virac child development teachers at CoEd's extension activity.

Padagos na Patanos in CoEd

Dr. Azanza bares more transformative plans for the college

Anjo G. Tugay



RECALIBRATING QUALITY INSTRUCTION. Catanduanes State University President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, along with the College of Education students and parents, acknowledges the need to review the retention policy of the college to make it more flexible during crises such as pandemic and other calamities.

'Sa satuyang pagreparo nababago ang CatSU,' Catanduanes State University (CatSU) President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza said this during the General Orientation for College of Education (CoEd) students and their parents, September 20, underscoring the transformative 'care' initiatives undertaken by CatSU under his leadership, which have significantly improved the university's infrastructure and internal processes.

Dr. Azanza outlined his commitment to continue such initiatives within CoEd, one of which is the comprehensive review of the 'retention policy' of the College in collaboration with CoEd faculty and OIC-Vice President for Research, Extension, and Production Affairs

Dr. Rosana S. Abundo, Dean Dr. Maria Sheila R. Gregorio, and CoEd faculty members.

"Pigaadalan mi man, in a thorough review, ang retention policy kan College of Education. Gusto tang ireview ini so that it can be flexible in certain circumstances like during pandemic and calamities, na pwedeng makaapekto sa performance ninda," he explained, also emphasizing the importance of maintaining educational quality throughout this process.

He has also plans to lobby this in the Board of Regents, where he serves as Vice-Chairperson, and to include considerations for graduating students.

Dr. Azanza also encouraged CoEd students to excel in their

studies and succeed in licensure exams, especially since the university has made available a review center within CatSU to alleviate the financial burden on parents.

"Dinara ta sa CatSU ang review para sa mga estudyante. Dakulang tabang tabi iyan, ta ang gusto ta, dai magparagastos ang mga magurang," he said, further imploring that the cost of review within CatSU ranges from 10 to 15 thousand pesos, significantly lower than the 50 thousand pesos and above charged on the mainland.

The President mentioned that he has already opened the Men's Dorm and Ladies Dorm, allowing students to use

see page 15

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



In swift response to President Azanza's 'call for support' **E-Crown is 'major sponsor' of CatSU's basketball team**

Anjo G. Tugay

E-Crown has become the major sponsor and partner of the Catanduanes State University's (CatSU) basketball team participating in the National SCUAA (State Colleges and Universities Athletic Association) tournament, after its generous donation of 75 thousand pesos to support the athletes, handed over to the coaches in cash yesterday, September 27.

Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza took to his Facebook post expressing his gratitude to E-Crown for this swift response to his 'call for donation' just an hour after his post.

"Mabalos tabi to my neighbor Manay Edna Segismundo for always supporting CatSU and especially our basketball team that has brought pride not only to CatSU but to the entire Happy Island. God bless E-Crown Family!!! Our deepest gratitude tabi," the President said.

With the donation, the

athletes will have the opportunity to choose their own shoes to be purchased when they arrive in Tarlac, with brands like Nike being an option.

This collaboration is another 'first' in CatSU's sports program, and the president urged CatSUan community to reciprocate the kindness of E-Crown by supporting, in what the President said, their 'pro-people initiatives'.

In response, E-Crown conveyed its message of support for Dr. Azanza's initiatives, through its manager Ms. Eva

Isidoro Guites who happened to be celebrating her birthday yesterday.

"We are more than honored to extend our help and support for you because we believe in Dr. Azanza, sa kaniyang malasakit sa mga estudyante and the whole CatSU. Kaya ang E-Crown permi sana masuporta sa abot ning makakaya basta para sa mga students and athletes who bring honor to the university and the province."

With E-Crown as their major
see page 15



DARE TO LEAD, INSPIRE TO TRANSFORM. Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza speaks with the aspiring candidates to hold Federated Faculty Union positions.

UNOCHA meets with Dr. Azanza to 'evaluate' DRR needs, priorities for climate resilience

Anjo G. Tugay and Caroline I. Vecilles



Climate Action. UNOCHA delegates, alongside President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, discuss climate resilience strategies and disaster risk reduction priorities for the Philippines, emphasizing collaborative efforts towards a more resilient future.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) had a meeting with President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza regarding the evaluation of the Philippines' DRR needs and priorities, on September 21. This is to support their efforts of reducing climate-related disaster risks, which are aligned with international agreements like the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework on DRR, in line with the UN's ERC flagship initiative. The delegation included Mr. Marcus Oxley and Mr. Benigno Balgos, both Senior Non-Key

Experts from the EU NDC Facility, along with Ms. Maria Agnes Palacio of UNOCHA Philippines. The meeting also included Dr. Jose Z. Tria, Engr. Dexter M. Toyado, and Dr. Rosana S. Abundo as requested by UNOCHA. The meeting mainly discussed CatSU's contributions and contingencies in the occurrence of climate-related disasters like typhoons and the problems that come with it. Dr. Azanza described the many people-centered projects and programs provided by CatSU

such as the designation of Evacuation Centers, the use of the Solar farm, and the creation of food supply establishments such as fish ponds and other foods and amenities required in the event of a disaster.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



from page 12

a common kitchen to save on expenses.

"Inopen ta na ang Men's Dorm and ang Ladies Dorm, allowed na magluto ang mga aki ta kung igwang bagas na dara, makaluto mismo sa dorm. At the lowest rate of 1 thousand per

student compared sa mga presyo nin dorms sa luwas," he said.

Moreover, Dr. Azanza proudly announced that the university's four buses will be delivered in a few weeks, and these will operate free round-trip routes from North to South,

further easing the financial burdens of parents.

The president also encouraged students to study smart for them to graduate, and consider pursuing a Master's degree, saying that the university continually opens new plantilla

instructor positions, following the approval of 56 new instructor items by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

from page 13

sponsor, CatSU's basketball team, now dubbed Team CATSU E-Crown, is now poised to compete in the upcoming National

SCUAA, representing not only CatSU but also the entire of Bicol.

The President concluded by extending his heartfelt appreciation to all those who

have rallied behind and promised support to CatSU teams.

"Mabuhay tabi an gabos na gatabang sa satuyang Team! Sa iba pang gatabang sa Team,

an sakuya tabing taos-pusong pamabalos."



DARE TO LEAD, INSPIRE TO TRANSFORM. Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza speaks with the aspiring candidates to hold Federated Faculty Union positions.

#CatSUpgrade

CAMPUS NEW



SPORTS FACILITIES

A New Era for Athletics at Catanduanes State University

Joy Antoinette G. Ordoña

In the midst of echoing infrastructural developments at Catanduanes State University (CatSU), another powerhouse that plays a significant role in bringing the university closer to the community has transformed into a leading-edge facility — the University Extension Office.

Located at the Risen Christ access gate, the new facility has tripled the size of the old extension office and features modern and functional working spaces.

The newly-built two-story building, which was completed in December 2022, has three area-wide office rooms, including a separate office for its director.

A mini-conference room has also been added, as well as rooms for extension services staff and extension coordinators.

Its features are amplified with a display room, stock room, electrical room, janitorial services rooms, and a functional hall with an audio-video control room.

Three spacious comfort rooms, both for male and female, can also be found on the ground floor.

Today's Extension Office also includes a suite room, mess halls, a spacious kitchen, and two dormitory rooms with comfort rooms to accommodate and elevate the experience of its visitors and extensionists.

Its roof deck can also be turned into a functional space for hosting a range of other activities or for simply harnessing solar panels to maximize its functionality and productivity, while also offering a unique and versatile area for work and relaxation.

Committed to enhancing the overall productivity and effectiveness of the office, the CatSU Extension Services recognized the need for additional tables, chairs, and air-conditioning units to accommodate a larger number of experts, volunteers, and benefactors, fostering more collaboration while providing a blend of comfort.

Despite the said concerns, the office ecstatically expressed their gratitude for the convenience offered by the new facility, which they now call home.

Beyond its physical transformation lies an empowered department poised for sustainable and optimal performance.

With these noteworthy transitions, it unveils a welcoming work environment, empowering every dedicated CatSU extensionist to amplify service rendered to the community within the university's embrace.



With the exemplary

performance of the student-athletes of Catanduanes State University (CatSU) in the Regional State Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SCUAA) 2023 games — reaping 13 gold, 47 silver, and 33 bronze medals, the university’s strong position in the regional landscape of college athletics is a testament to its steadfast support in sports, especially through the game-changing upgrade of its sports facilities.

Regional SCUAA gold medalist in swimming, Rudy Geromo, recounted how he used to promptly head to Sto. Domingo river for training before the start of his classes.

“Ang inot namong training [was held at Sto.

Domingo river]. Si Sir Roger Tagle and Mam Berna [together with] Ma’am Beverly, ‘yong among coach, talagang yahatod kami nin 5 to 7 AM para yong klase [namo] dae man ma-[compromise],” Geromo shared.

However, with the recent opening of an Olympic-sized pool within the campus, Geromo now rises at the break of dawn inside CatSU’s newest facility for his training to prepare for the upcoming National SCUAA competition. This exciting development is set to benefit not only Geromo but also other talented athletes at CatSU.

“Hindi na kami masyadong nahirapan pag-contest kasi nga yong five days na concentration namo sa swimming pool naka-adjust na rin [kami] about sa length [at] yong breathing, praktisado na namo,” Geromo

proudly expressed on how the said facility helped him to notch the coveted gold medal.

Meanwhile, Prof. Mark Anthony R. Dalipe, Chairperson of the College of Education’s **P h y s i c a l**

sa oval nila kasi meron na diyan. ‘Yong world-class Olympic-sized pool nagamit [din] ito ng mga student-athletes for the SCUAA training, unlike before they go to Sto. Domingo to have their training. It has a really big impact sa mga students lalo sa

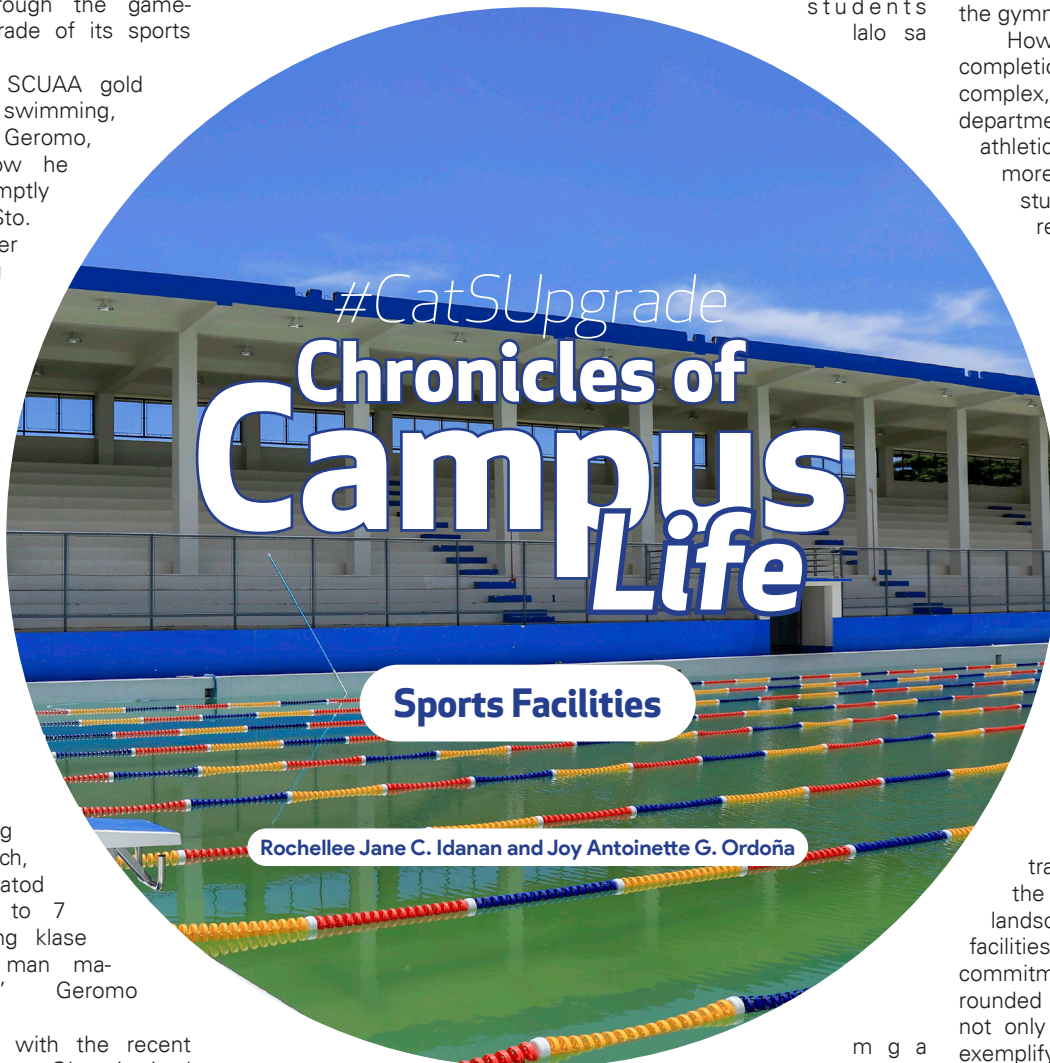
the gymnasium.”

However, with the completion of the sports complex, Prof. Dalipe and the PE department can now utilize the athletic oval and grandstand more effectively, providing students with improved resources for physical education and sports activities.

Prof. Dalipe further highlighted the three key benefits that students can derive from the upgraded sports facilities—overall enhancement of performance and skill development among athletes, promotion of injury prevention by offering appropriate training spaces, and exposure to a professional sporting environment.

More than the transformation of the university’s sports landscape, today’s sports facilities symbolize CatSU’s commitment to producing well-rounded individuals who excel not only in academics but also exemplify discipline, leadership skills, and hard work.

This new era for athletics at CatSU brings with it a promising future and a dedication to athletic excellence.



Education Department shared that the completion of the sports complex has become a trailblazer in boosting the morale of the student-athletes as they prepared for the SCUAA.

“Our student-athletes have facilities na magagamit na, we are not going to [DepEd’s Division Office] para doon na magtraining

mga student-athletes natin,” Prof. Dalipe explained.

“As a teacher in my one-year term, I observed na there are lots of improvement in CatSU talaga,” he added, mentioning that previously, physical education classes and activities were scattered across various areas of the campus, often resulting in activities being held under trees, beside the auditorium, or inside

#CatSU Upgrade CAMPUS NEW LOOK

EXTENSION BUILDING

Darwin M. Bongon

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“

Magayon na igwang alog kaining pa training ta igwa na kaming i-substitute sa mga dating namatidan mi,

”

Pu Marinela Romero
 Francia CDT
 (PUNDASYON+EDUKASYON):
 Instructional Enhancement Training for
 Child Development Teachers (CDT)

September 26, 2023
 September 27, 2023
 CatSU-Accredited



“

Bukod sa mga inot ming naadalan, igwa pa palan ning karagdagan. Sa mga alog kong edad, na-refresh ako kung pano mi i-handle so mga aki na dae sinda maging magulo,

Basilisa T. Zafe
 Hicming CDT



Strengthening the early childhood education:

How CatSU-CoEd's Pundasyon 2.0 training is making a difference for child development teachers in Virac

Albert G. Clemente

Meet Basilisa T. Zafe, a child development teacher in Barangay Hicming, Virac. She is one of the participants of Pundasyon 2.0 (Pundasyon+Educasyon): Instructional Enhancement Training for Child Development Teachers (CDTs), organized by the Catanduanes State University - College of Education (CatSU-CoEd) Extension Services.

“Bukod sa mga inot ming naadalan, igwa pa palan ning

karagdagan. Sa mga alog kong edad, na-refresh ako kung pano mi i-handle so mga aki na dae sinda maging magulo,” Zafe shared on Wednesday, September 27, during the Demonstration Teaching workshop.

“Dae kamo naging selfish na itao so mga idea or sikreto kung paano ma-handle ang mga aki,” she added, lauding the effort of the CoEd faculty.

Echoing similar feedback,

Barangay Francia Child Development Teacher Marinela Romero recognized the significance of the training in enhancing their pedagogical skills in childhood education.

“Magayon na igwang alog kaining pa training ta igwa na kaming i-substitute sa mga dating namatidan mi,” Romero stated.

is a series of seminar-workshops aimed at equipping the CDTs with the

latest pedagogical skills and knowledge used in teaching pre-kinder pupils.

It is now in its second year of implementation and eyeing to replicate across the province through the Technical Assistance Program for Local Government Units (TAP-LGU) of the university.



#CatSUUpgrade
Chronicles of
Campus
Life

Extension Building Testimonial

Rochellee Jane C. Idanan

As Catanduanes State University opens its door to a more empowered community service, the new Extension Office is set to redefine the way the university makes a lasting impact on the community.

Equipped with modern amenities and spacious rooms, the new Extension office offers a conducive and comfortable working environment that fosters innovation and inspires the collaboration necessary for launching community-driven projects.

"[The new office] offers a convenient working environment. Natatapos mo nin madari ang trabaho, nakapagisip-isip ka nin marinas na mga ideas. Ta kung maalingahot baga maga para reklamo ka, buda magapapamamaypay ka ta maaringahot," Thelma Socito,

Community Development Officer II, shared in an interview.

A far cry from the previous worn-out extension office, the new two-story building has a function hall, dormitory rooms, mess hall, and kitchen that can accommodate large groups of training-participants, volunteers, and extensionists.

"Yung dating office [is very luma na], may mga crack ang walls, gaturoro, and ang floor medyo galubog...Kalahati lang [ito] ng newly established two-story building na kaya na mag-accommodate not only employees but also training participants, dati dae kaan. Dae na kaipuhan niamo na mag-rent nin venue or magpa-schedule, halimbawa, sa auditorium ta igwa na Kami nin sadiring facilities."

"So far ang building magayon... igwa siya nin

spacious na function hall and dormitory for live in participants – pag may session sa gabi na hindi na makakauwi ang participants. Meron pang spacious kitchen and mess hall, all of these are never in the old," she added, emphasizing that the expansion is a testament to the university's deeply rooted commitment to creating positive changes to the lives of every Catandungan.

As the major implementor of one of the four-fold functions of CatSU- extension services, the new building is the university's promise to the community it serves that CatSU is for the people and will always be in the service of its people.

“So far ang building magayon... igwa siya nin spacious na function hall and dormitory for live in participants – pag may session sa gabi na hindi na makakauwi ang participants. Meron pang spacious kitchen and mess hall, all of these are never in the old,”

Coaches, trainers, sports coordinators convene for solidarity meeting

Caroline I. Vecilles

Sports officials from 17 regions participating in the 2023 National SCUAA, convened at the Tarlac Agricultural University Stadium for the Solidarity Meeting.

The meeting's agenda includes health precautions and emergency preparedness.

Security measures, as well as parade procedures and opening ceremony were also emphasized during the meeting.

Break out sessions per event also followed thereafter.

The grand Opening Ceremony for the country's biggest olympics of all state universities and colleges is set to happen on October 1, 2023 Sunday, at the New Clark City, Capas, Tarlac.

About 5, 000 student-athletes along with coaches, trainers, and sports coordinators are expected to participate in the grand opening.



SOLIDARITY MEETING. Sports officials from various universities across the country convene at National SCUAA.

Celebrating 3 Million Reasons to Believe!

Since Dr. Azanza took the helm in 2021, Catanduanes State University has transformed into a beacon of HOPE and efficient public service.

With 46K Likes, 54K followers, and counting, we're committed to being

your 'Vessel of Hope' through the 'Padagos na Patanos Movement.'

Stay connected with us to see the positive changes we bring to our beloved community!

from page 11

yong mga future plans and we just started it, madami pa tayong pupuntahan sa mga maabot na panahon [and] that is our dream, para man gabos na CDTs [sa probinsya] ay mataw'an man ning Extension para maka-assist sa kung ano man ang kaipuhan niyo," she added, encouraging the participants to volunteer as facilitators once the activity is rolled out to other municipalities.

Joining the VPREPA, CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza lauded the efforts of the 30 participating CDTs in providing support and education to the crucial formative years of a child's life, emphasizing the foundational role they play in shaping the potential of young learners.

"[Grabe] ang effort niyo everyday and yet most of them, kadalasan dae natatawan ning pansin. Kung hihilingon tabi, sisay daw an mga bayani kang satuyang barangay? Kamo baga. Kasi kamo mismo ang gatao

ning serbisyo, ning suporta para sa pangangaipo kang sektor na dae naataman ning husto sa mga barabarangay," he said, underscoring the university's commitment to providing support to the often overlooked sectors through the Padagos na Patanos Movement.

"Kaya kami man sa CatSU, sa paagi kang Pundasyon na programa kan COED, mamati niyo man na ang CatSU kaibahan niyo tabi, nakasuporta sainyo," the president ensured.

The Pundasyon activity is a series of seminar-workshops aimed at equipping the CDTs with the latest pedagogical skills and knowledge used in teaching pre-kinder pupils. The third part of the series will be conducted on September 27 and will feature a Demonstration Teaching among the participants to showcase their acquired knowledge and skills throughout the series.



Catanduanes State University
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Facebook reach

3,145,708 ^{+100%}

A Resounding Celebration of Victory of Blue-blooded CatSUan student-athletes

Albert G. Clemente

After the team's resounding feat in the Regional State Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SCUAA) Games, the Catanduanes State University student-athletes, coaches, and key officials headed by CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza gathered on Friday night, September 22, for the Awarding

Ceremony and Victory Party inside the university gymnasium.

Bringing home 13 gold, 47 silver, and 33 bronze medals from the regional athletic event, the winning student-athletes and coaches are set to receive a monetary incentive as announced by Dr. Azanza.

Present as a guest speaker

at the event was Provincial Board Member Jan Ferdinand A. Alberto.

Together, let us toast the remarkable triumph of our student-athletes!



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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