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LIGHTING A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony 2024

■ WORD JIAN KARLO TEOFILO

In November 29, 2024, the Mapúa MCL Center for Service-Learning and Community Engagement (CSCE), in partnership with the Campus Development and Maintenance Office (CDMO) and GAIC Manpower Services Inc., organized a Christmas tree lighting event as part of Paskong Mapúa Malayan. With the theme "KA-ISA: You and Me for Sustainability," the event aimed to promote sustainability among the people of Laguna and reinforce the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing the school's proud motto of excellence and virtue.

During the course of the event, a total of two official barangay representatives and eight residents from various schools around Laguna attended the festivities, with a video tape recording (VTR) greeting from each of the attending partner communities, embodying the "Paskuhan" theme and fostering unity and cooperation among the people of Laguna. Alongside these, a special raffle segment was held in the spirit of giving, with some being lucky enough to have won the prize.

Mary Mae A. Teves, the Senior High School (SHS) Assistant, highlighted the need for sustained, collaborative efforts in creating long-lasting change, stating, "We cannot change the world by changing habits once or twice. It should be sustained. Let us keep learning from each other; ito po ay hindi one-way lang. Sama-sama, you and me, tayong lahat."

In conclusion, the lighting ceremony embodied the spirit of Christmas, while promoting the virtue of sustainability and nurturing solidarity and coordination among the local community. With fun events and awe-inspiring speeches, the event served as a stepping stone to a more sustainable Philippines. This simple tree lighting ceremony marked the good tidings yet to come as the Mapúan community stepped into the new year.



■ ART JAM AMPARO & ALIYAH JUANILLO

A Mapúan student in a Santa hat gently decorates a small tree, symbolizing how simple acts of care can spark warmth and hope, lighting the way towards a brighter, shared future.



CHRISTMAS BLISS

Coming Together for Paskong Mapúa Malayan

■ WORDS AALIYAH CALZADO

The Mapúa Malayan Colleges Laguna (Mapúa MCL) community unveiled the Paskong Mapúa Malayan celebration, last November 29 to December 13, fostering a sense of joy, solidarity, and the true spirit of Christmas at the Mapúa MCL campus.

Prior to this, Mapúa MCL's Center for Service-Learning and Community Engagement (CSCE) held a Christmas Parol Making Contest last November 25, with participants from different departments. Following the competition, the winners were announced on December 3, with the Enrique T. Yuchengco College of Business (ETYCB) emerging as the champion, followed by the Mapúa-Laguna Institute of Aviation (MIA) in second place and the Center for Health Services and Wellness (CHSW) in third.

The Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, held on November 29, marked the beginning of the Paskong Mapúa Malayan, with the theme "KA-ISA: You and Me for Sustainability." The event sought to strengthen community ties and unite people in support of sustainability.

Then, the first day of the Paskuhan event commenced on December 11, bringing a festive atmosphere to the Mapúa MCL campus. This event showcased a Christmas Ornament-making Competition, a diverse list of concessionaires, engaging booth activities and lively open stage performances.

The second day of this joyous occasion continued with entertaining booth activities, concerts and concessions, while featuring competitions for Christmas Carol and Station ID. The Mapúa Institute of Technology at Laguna (MITL) won the championship title in the Christmas Carol Competition, while the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) and the College of Maritime Education and Training (CMET) came in first and second runners-up, respectively. Meanwhile, the CAS department won the Station ID Competition, with CMET taking first runner-up. In the Christmas Ornament Making Competition, CAS once more showed its inventiveness by winning the championship title, followed by MITL in second and Mapúa Malayan Kalikasan (MAPKAL) in third.

The last day of the Paskong Mapúa Malayan 2024 event, held on December 13, culminated with the "Pistang Nayon: A Paskuhan Concert," held at the Grandstand of Mapúa MCL. It was a night packed with music and the Mapúan spirit, dazzling the crowd with performances of *Over October* and *The Riddleys*, who were the main acts of the musical night. Additionally, *DJ Luna* and a lineup of student artists, including the *Mapúa Malayan Vocal Ensemble (MMVE)*, *Malayan Dance Troupe (MDC)*, *Sonata*, *Chronos*, and *Panorama*, gave spectacular stage performances.

Finally, a breathtaking fireworks display marked the end of the event season as the musical night came to a close. Beyond merely being a festival, Paskong Mapúa Malayan 2024 demonstrated the thriving Mapúa MCL community, fostering relationships through shared experiences, music, and innovation. The Mapúan spirit has become stronger than ever, reminding everyone that it's better to enjoy Christmas with one another.



■ ART SHAYNE CALJATE & SEAN NITRO

Christmas, in all of its festivity, is looked forward to in gift-giving. But little do we know that the best gift is the time and effort we spend with the people we care for.



From Our Hearts to Theirs: Paskong Mapúa Malayan's Solidarity with the Aeta Community

■ WORDS DYLAN ALESSANDRA FRANCISCO

Porac, Pampanga – As Christmas approaches, many Filipinos eagerly write wish lists filled with the latest gadgets, designer clothes, and extravagant gifts. Festive lights twinkle in malls, carols fill the air, and tables overflow with holiday feasts. But for the Aeta community in Barrio Pasbul, Porac, Pampanga, **Christmas isn't about abundance—it's about survival.** Generations of marginalization have left them with limited access to education, healthcare, and necessities. Beyond these struggles, they continue to face systemic exploitation, including land grabbing, discrimination, and economic disenfranchisement. Thus, **Mapúa Malayan Colleges Laguna seeks to spread the generous holiday spirit by reaching out to the Aeta community,** bringing gifts, hope, warmth, and the true essence of Christmas—compassion and togetherness.

In response to these hardships, Mapúa MCL stands in solidarity with the Aeta people by leading an annual outreach program focused on sustainable aid and empowerment. **The Office for Strategic Partnerships and Global Engagement (OSPGE) recognizes the Aeta community's struggle with land deprivation due to legal loopholes and a lack of documentation, leaving them vulnerable to displacement and poverty.** Their resilience demands attention and action. From **December 13 to 15,** in partnership with CSCE, the initiative aimed to address these issues while supporting SDGs 1, 2, and 10—going beyond a seasonal tradition to drive real change.

Volunteers joined a donation-driven BINGO initiative to encourage participation, collecting essential items like rice, hotdogs, and canned goods. Beyond gathering donations, this interactive approach fostered empathy and responsibility, reminding participants that **generosity is about understanding struggles and using privilege to uplift others.** It transformed charity into solidarity, ensuring that Aeta families felt seen, valued, and supported beyond the holiday season.

Throughout the outreach, **volunteers worked together to sort and distribute food donations.** A designated cooking area was set up to prepare meals, ensuring that over **117 Aeta households and more than 200 children** received warm, nourishing food. Beyond material aid, **volunteers engaged in storytelling, games, and educational discussions,** bringing joy to the children while providing valuable learning experiences. These interactions helped bridge gaps and deepen understanding between communities.

Programs like Paskong Mapúa go beyond immediate aid by raising awareness, providing resources, and empowering communities for lasting change. **The Puno ng Pasasalamat activity highlighted faith, family, and gratitude, as noted by Ma'am Cecille,** who recognized the dedication of **CGC women—Ms. Marj, Ms. Mylde, and Ms. Zy—along with SPARK volunteers Xcyrril, Dylan, and Crisha** for their time and talents. Students can support these efforts through volunteering, advocacy, and collaboration. By sustaining these initiatives, the Mapúa community contributes to a more inclusive and equitable society. To join SPARK, message the CGC FB page.

Reflecting on the program, **Ma'am Angel Cecille C. Ortez-Kare** shared one of the most touching moments she witnessed. *"One of the most meaningful experiences was seeing the pure joy and gratitude of the women and children when they received simple gifts. Their smiles and excitement were incredibly heartwarming and made me realize how even small acts of kindness can have a profound impact."* She emphasized how the experience **shifted her perspective on gratitude.** *"We often focus on what we lack, but spending time with them made me appreciate what we have. Despite having so little, they are so happy. This experience changed my perspective on giving and gratitude."*

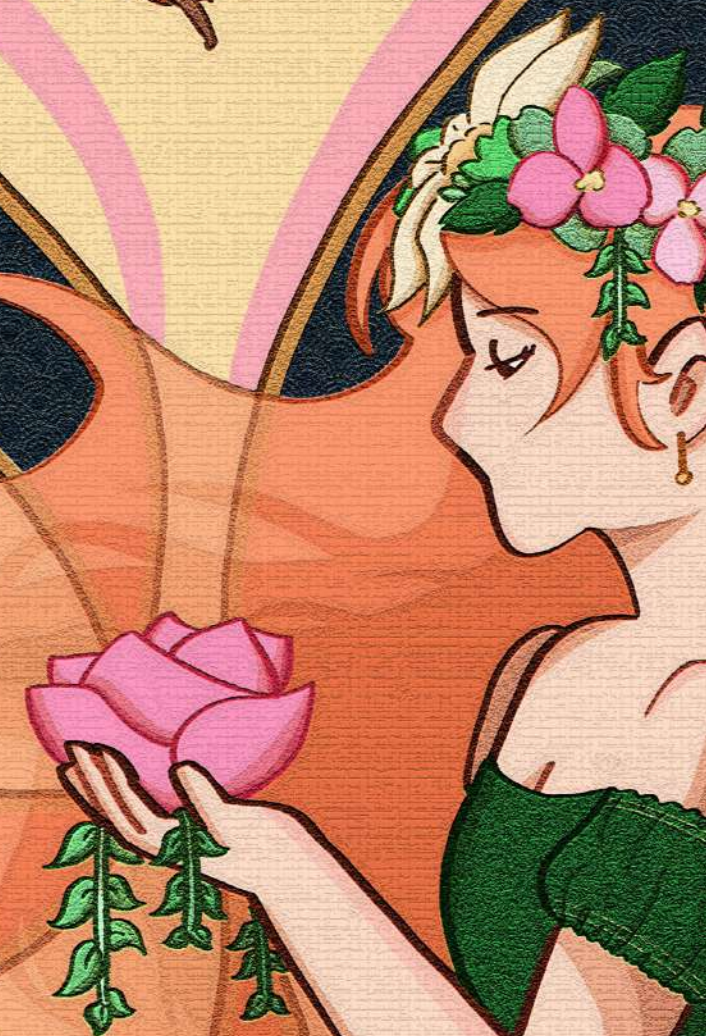
Engaging with the Aeta community also revealed deeper challenges that go beyond daily survival. *"Through conversations, I learned about their struggles, such as limited education, inadequate healthcare, and a lack of necessities. Additionally, many women are married off at a young age, preventing them from finishing school,"* she shared.

Sir James Roland Mesina emphasized that while donations are valuable, **the Aeta people need more than just material aid—they need education and legal literacy.** *"Many Aetas are taken advantage of due to their inability to read and understand legal documents, leading to the loss of their ancestral lands,"* he explained. This ongoing exploitation highlights the **urgent need for accessible education and legal awareness to protect Indigenous communities.** True support goes beyond charity; it means equipping the vulnerable with the knowledge and resources to defend their rights and secure their future.

The Paskong Mapúa outreach program stands as a testament to the Mapúan community's dedication to service, empathy, and gratitude. In a world where many struggle in silence, the responsibility to uplift and support the most vulnerable, particularly Indigenous communities that are often overlooked, becomes a collective duty. As the volunteers bid farewell to the Aeta families, **they carried with them not only cherished memories but also a profound understanding of humanity.** True fulfillment lies not in what one receives, but in the love, kindness, and hope shared with others. This outreach was more than just a visit—it was a **promise of solidarity with the Aeta community,** ensuring that **no one is forgotten,** not only during the season of giving but throughout the entire year.

■ **ART CEL ADVINCULA & VINCE YVAN DIÑO**

A human, blessed by nature, radiates light as they offer gifts to the faeries of the forest. It symbolizes the gifts and generosity extended to the AETA community.



BATTLE ROYALE:

The Fierce Race for MITL Week 2024's Throne

■ WORDS SHAMELLE CLIMACO

The Mapúa Institute at Laguna (MITL) hosted its 2024 College Week, titled "The 11th Cardinal Throne," with the theme "Timeless Myths, Boundless Futures," from January 6 to 10. The event featured intense competition among departments, each striving to earn the distinction of the reigning program of the year.

During the opening ceremony on January 6, departments proudly paraded their flags and colors, showcasing their unity and school spirit. The gathering was then led by Program Chair Arch. Wilfredo G. Gacutan, who officially welcomed the students and encouraged their active participation. The event continued with the introduction of MITL programs, a student pledge, and the formation of a human MITL.

The first day of events showcased back-to-back displays of skill in dance and sports. Spectators gathered to witness the MITL Street Dance competition, marveling at the performers' exceptional talent. This was followed by the board game finals and continuation matches for ball games such as basketball and volleyball. Additionally, table tennis crowned its champion later that afternoon before the day concluded with a talent show featuring the Mr. and Ms. MITL candidates.

The intense rivalries at the Basketball mens and womens continued at the championship match the following day. In the end, the Civil Engineering Wolves: The Power proved dominance after winning against the Mechanical Engineering Lions: The Wrath at the men's division. On the other hand, the women's division crowned its champion to be the Industrial Engineering Eagles: The Protector. Meanwhile, the volleyball semi-finals concluded later in the afternoon.

In the midst of these highlighted anticipated events, a career talk concluded at the Francisco Balagtas Auditorium to guide their students at their future prospects. Following this, MITL Got Talent offered students a platform to showcase their skills and creativity.

On the third day, the spotlight turned to the men's and women's volleyball finals, along with the badminton doubles competition. The gymnasium was packed with enthusiastic students cheering for their teams during the highly anticipated volleyball finals. Each competitor displayed unwavering determination, but ultimately, The Power emerged as the decisive champions in the women's division. Meanwhile, the badminton doubles competition intensified at the South Point Badminton Court, as duos battled fiercely for victory.



Beyond the community's athletic prowess, the MITL Student Council ensured that academics remained a priority by hosting a series of academically enriching events. The Francisco Balagtas Auditorium featured back-to-back sessions, including the Karce Calculator Seminar, which promoted problem-solving skills, and the Battle of the Brains, where participants showcased their intellectual abilities.

The day then concluded with the highly anticipated Mr. and Ms. MITL 2024 Coronation Night. The crowd was mesmerized as each candidate showed immense elegance as they strutted the stage wearing their best attire.

The fourth day commenced with a recognition ceremony honoring the dedication and achievements of the MITL Dean's Listers. This was followed by MITL Feud, where representatives from each program engaged in a battle of wit and humor at the Francisco Balagtas Auditorium. Meanwhile, the excitement escalated as the finals of Ultimate Frisbee, Mobile Legends, and Football captivated the crowd. Each team delivered their best performance, striving to secure well-earned victories.

To conclude the festivities, MITL students came together for a night of music at the Battle of the Bands. The event was filled with electrifying performances as participants showcased their thrilling riffs and melodies. In the end, the reigning champions, OPTIMA, successfully defended their title, securing the top spot once again.

The fifth and final day showcased the debate finals, serving as a last display of talent and intellect from the participants. This was swiftly followed by the MITL Social and Awards Night, where each victory was recognized for their exceptional skill and determination. By the end of the evening, the prestigious title of 11th Cardinal Throne: Program of the Year was awarded to the Civil Engineering Wolves: The Power in honor of their remarkable achievements throughout this year's MITL Week celebration.

■ ART KYLA CAMBA & PAULINE REYES

Two gods fighting to showcase their strengths in their respective domains, symbolizing how everyone has their own unique abilities.



ADLIKHAIN 2025: BECOMING YOUR OWN MASTERPIECE

■ WORDS JUERWYNE BACARRA

The second annual Adlikhain: The Art of Becoming unfolded at the Francisco Balagtas Auditorium last January 15 to 17, 2025, spearheaded by the Creative Learners and Innovative Content Creators (CLICC), the Multimedia Arts (MMA) academic organization of Mapúa Malayan Colleges Laguna. The 3-day long seminar aimed to deliver the MMA student body insights on the respective program's specializations and future career paths, and inspiration for artistic growth through talks from animation, film, and graphic design veterans.

Day 1: From the Ground Up took place on January 15, with a focus on animation and graphic design. To begin, CLICC conducted the presentation and awarding of the CLICC-or-Treat Halloween art competition participants; declaring Colin Badiola as the winner, Louisse Moleno and Sophia Cornelio as 1st and 2nd runners-up respectively. Afterwards, **creative designer Edmund Dela Cruz, also known as Coneboy, delivered the event's first talk.** Here, he expounded on adhering to his passion throughout evolving careers, which resonated with the audience's dynamic world of multimedia arts. He was followed by **Rosaura Adorable, an animation film director, who shared his animation industry experiences** through a showcase of his work. His pieces of advice moved the crowd, particularly **"There is no contentment in life, but there is fulfillment because you are satisfied with your work,"** reminding them of the importance of being proud of their art in pursuing artistic visions.

Succeedingly, **Day 2: Transformation on Screen** followed on January 16, revolving around filmmaking. **James Magnaye, a documentary filmmaker and multimedia specialist, was the first to deliver his insights on navigating the film industry.** His discussion empowered attendees to explore new horizons and seize creative opportunities despite self-doubts, stating that **"your greatest risk could be your greatest opportunity."** Film director **Vince Gregorio then presented his own technical advice on filmmaking, delighting filmmaker aspirants in the audience.** He also motivated the crowd to continuously improve their work, reminding them to stay curious because of new discoveries that await in their artist

Finally, **Adlikhain wrapped up on January 17 with Day 3: Your Unique Self, delving into graphic design and illustration.** Before the talks commenced, the CLICC-Cember art entries showcase and raffle took place, and Owen Gacula was proclaimed the winner. Subsequently, artist and illustrator Haranikala gave her experiential advice on finding personal art style, encouraging the audience to nurture discipline in their craft and continuously expand their creative comfort zones. Afterwards, **graphic designer and freelance illustrator Cyrill Acuña, known as Awkward But Able, followed with his own expertise on artist self-promotion.**

He enlightened budding artists in the crowd on various Philippine art markets and self-promotion methods, urging them to take opportunities to share their artistic abilities. In the end, **CLICC President Arvin Ragaza officially brought the event to a close, marking it as a significant moment for the organization.** During his closing remarks, **he announced his decision to step down from his position, citing his desire to focus on personal growth and new opportunities outside the organization.** As part of this transition, **he formally turned over his role to Amanda Abrahano, expressing confidence in her leadership and dedication to continuing CLICC's mission.**

Overall, CLICC's Adlikhain: The Art of Becoming succeeded in providing a kaleidoscope of insights to Mapúans passionate in Multimedia Arts. The event not only dove into MMA's program specializations and potential career paths, but also cultivated solidarity within the Mapúan art community through the unveiling of mutual artist experiences, deliveries of advice, and a shared love for multimedia arts. Ultimately, it served as a steadfast push for growing Mapúan animators, filmmakers, and artists through their creative self-discoveries, further inspiring them to hone their craft and become their own masterpieces.

■ ART ANDREA ANDIPA & BENEDICT BUSTAMANTE

This illustration embodies the spirit of ADLIKHAIN 2025: The Art of Becoming, highlighting Vision, Roots, and Passion through the uninhibited creativity of a child. Using vibrant colors, playful shapes, and nostalgic Filipino childhood snacks, it celebrates the joy of creating without seeking validation.



MAPÚA OF MCL IGNITES 19TH ANNIVERSARY OF EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION

■ WORDS KERSTINE NAVASCA

Upholding excellence and virtue for almost two decades, Mapúa Malayan Colleges Laguna (Mapúa MCL) officially celebrated its 19th Founding Anniversary as a pillar of technological education, research, and community service. The whole academic institution gathered for this celebration, which unites all students from various academic departments together with faculty members, to inspire camaraderie and showing of greatness to best represent their teams.

Mapúa MCL's 19th Foundation Week is filled with events that encourage everyone to be and see the "best of the best." It started on February 1 at Nuvali, Sta Rosa where the Mapúa community was invited to join the Night Run 2025 to serve as a pre-beginning event for the week-long celebration. The week-long celebration officially kicked off on February 3 where all departments gathered for the Opening Ceremony and paraded with much anticipated festivities, it not only showcased the prowess of being a competitor but also the appreciation that the supporters gave for their representatives such as in the events of board games, outside sports, and more.

In light of Mapúa MCL's dedication of creating well-rounded students, this year's foundation week further included festivities that balanced the recognition for the fields of sports and academe. The second day onwards was filled with academic seminars and mind games together with outdoor sports such as Frisbee and The Great Malayan Race, as it also focused on the ball games (Basketball and Volleyball) for its semi-finals and battle for championship that resulted in the Mapúa MCL Gymnasium being jam-packed and shaken with cheers.

Furthermore, Kyle Emmanuel Cañeba, a first-year BS Accountancy student from the ETYCB department, shared insights as he participated in five events at the week-long celebration. He stated that he had a lot of fun and it was a nice experience, but it could be better and there is room for improvements in coordination and support. Mr. Cañeba expressed his concern for the safety of student-athletes participating especially in outdoor sports as it should be top priority, such as the providence of sustenance and medical alertness to be more agile.

Mr. Cañeba voiced his expectations for the next Foundation Week based on his experience this year. He has high hopes of having more student participation and greater support from the student body, especially from his home department of ETYCB and the department hosting the big event for the whole academic institution. Mr. Cañeba also expressed his enjoyment of the sportsmanship between academic departments, saying that he looked forward to playing the games because of the healthy rivalry that comes along with the sports and also because he loves to represent his home department.

With exciting wonders that the sports bring, the foundation week also focused on the academe through a research colloquium and insightful seminars that were also organized for all the departments. Moreover, a Career Fair was organized by the Office for Strategic Partnerships and Global Engagement (OSPGE) and the Mapúa MCL Alumni Center, to help support job seekers find opportunities from partner companies.

In light of their service to the Mapúa community, a recognition for the employees was conducted on the fourth day as to also appreciate them for encouraging excellency of students and helping them whether in direct or indirect ways. Triumphs for the festivities were recognized by giving of plaques and certificates on the fifth day of the week-long celebration. Awardees were honored alongside Mapúan historic triumphs themselves, the Champions of National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Season 100 Men's Basketball: Mapúa Cardinals.

MITL continued their reign as the overall champion and "Department of The Year," as they dominated the Foundation Week events once again. CCIS followed as first-runner up and CMET as the second-runner up among the seven departments that competed for the championship.

To continue the momentum of excitement and end the week-long celebration, the "Mapúapalooza: Starlight Symphonies," concert had strong lineup of performers (Itchyworms, Munimuni, Blaster Silonga, SHANNi, and SMS of Enchanted Kingdom) and homegrown talents (Sonata and &Co) for all the Mapúans to enjoy and end the celebration for the 19th year of Mapúa MCL with fireworks to mark the huge event for the whole Mapúan community.

Mapúa Malayan Colleges Laguna have been striving for excellence and virtue for its community and as an academic institution for the past 19 years, the yearly event of celebration for its foundation supports this by encouraging camaraderie, sportsmanship, and greatness that will continue for years to come.

■ ART CLAIRE TAUTOAN & ARVIN RAGAZA

An elegant Art Nouveau gold filigree frame contains the school mascots, Whizzy and Dash, who wears an olive crown symbolizing honor. Sunflowers line the bottom of each frame, representing victory, while a torch at the top signifies knowledge and enlightenment.





Mapúa MCL Celebrates LOVE WITHOUT LIMITS in 'Malayang Feb-Ibig 2025'



■ WORDS RIANNE FAITH JUSTO

Love filled the air at Mapúa Malayan Colleges Laguna this Valentine's Day as the Supreme Student Council (SSC) brought Malayang Feb-Ibig 2025, hosting a vibrant celebration packed with heartwarming moments and exciting activities.

As the name denotes, this event embraced all kinds of love—the romantic, the platonic, and love for oneself—and underscored that *love should always be embraced with no fear or limitation to it*. The Mapúan community was encouraged to express and appreciate love in the most authentic ways possible.

A diverse stream of engaging and entertaining activities made the event a success. The Jail Booth consisted of students attempting to "arrest" their crushes or friends in a light-hearted context, creating moments filled with laughter and easy warmth. The Photo Booth, on the other hand, allowed students to immortalize those special moments with friends or significant others so that their memories of Valentine's Day would last a lifetime.



In a more mysterious nature, the Blind Date Experience engaged participants to depend on conversation instead of looks. This included giving students a chance to take a leap of faith and forge connections beyond physical attraction. For the romantics at heart, there was even a Wedding Booth where one could have some fun "tying the knot" with a friend or that extra special someone just to get some fun conversation going about relationships and commitment. To the amusement of all, the Gift of Love booth rounded up the celebration with some cute gifts, including satin and fuzzy wire flowers, cookies, and popcorn to surprise a loved one – or treat themselves.



The celebration went beyond the traditional celebration of Valentine's festivities, as technology-focused student organizations joined in the celebration of love.

It was made possible that the Mapúa MCL Association for Computing Machinery (Mapúa MCL-ACM) Student Chapter held its third annual "Date with Python," a contest intended to introduce their freshmen to competitive programming while developing interest in technology and problem-solving. This event not only honed the participants' technical skills, but also fostered a sense of camaraderie among students, proving that Valentine's Day isn't just about romance—it can also be a time to connect with peers and explore new interests.



Meanwhile, "Tech Trivia: An IT Quiz Show," was organized by the Mapúa MCL InfoTech Society as part of their Valentine's Day celebration. Held at Café Enrique, contestants engaged in quizzes and minigames centered on Information Technology and Computer Science. The event provided a fun and intellectually stimulating way for students to celebrate the occasion, allowing even those without a romantic partner to enjoy the day through friendly competition and shared enthusiasm for tech.

More than just fun and games, Malayang Feb-Ibig 2025 celebrated love in all forms by promoting inclusivity, self-love, and breaking societal norms on relationships. It welcomed individuals of all backgrounds, fostered self-appreciation through confidence-building activities, and challenged traditional views with interactive booths, art displays, and workshops that highlighted diverse expressions of love. Through collaboration with student councils, the event reinforced that love should be embraced freely, without limitations.

Though the laughter and heartfelt moments may fade into memories, the spirit of love remains—loud, quiet, and unapologetically free. For Mapúans, love isn't confined to a single day or month; it's something they carry with them, celebrating it in all its forms, every day, all year long.

■ ART AALIYAH GUTIERREZ & PAULINE REYES

Artworks depicting events that happened last Valentines, and the flowers that are associated with that event.



Jet Set, Go!

The Takeoff of Mapúa MCL's Institute of Aviation

■ WORDS ANGELENE AALA

Mapúa-Laguna Institute of Aviation (MIA) is one of the new departments here in Mapúa MCL. It was **officially introduced on December 8, 2023**, with its **Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Engineering** program. The department focuses on offering aviation training and education that is future-ready. Although this department is just in its first year, it showed their hardwork and dedication for aviation through achieving numerous significant milestones.

For instance, what began with only one program, the B.S. in Aeronautical Engineering, later expanded with two more programs— namely, **Associate in Aircraft Maintenance Technology** and a **Bachelor of Science in Aviation Management**. These programs are tailored to different career paths in aviation, allowing students to focus on what interests them the most—whether it's aircraft design, maintenance, or operations. For instance, the Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Engineering is more broad and flexible, covering everything from aircraft design and innovation to aerodynamics and system development.

Second, the **Associate Aircraft Maintenance Technology (AAMT)** program is more hands-on and focuses on keeping aircraft in good condition. It focuses more on inspections, troubleshooting, and repairs, making it ideal for people who wish to work directly on aircraft to assure their safety and flying readiness. Lastly, the **Bachelor of Science in Aviation Management** program combines aviation skills with business principles, preparing students for leadership positions.

Furthermore, one of MIA's most remarkable accomplishments is its involvement in the construction of Mapúa MCL third building, the **Da Vinci Building**, which would soon feature advanced aviation laboratories and learning areas. Additionally, another notable achievement for MIA is the **acquisition of a functional aircraft, the Beechcraft Sierra**, which places it among the few aviation schools with such a vital instructional resource. Its significant advantages is that students gain hands-on experience with an actual, operational aircraft early on.

This allows them to train and practice vital skills before entering the aviation industry. Furthermore, because the airplane is working, they can examine its parts and components up close, gaining a more in-depth grasp of how everything works than they would with textbooks or simulations alone.

In addition, **Mapúa MCL is the only institution offering aviation programs that has been granted permission to conduct engine run-ups and taxiing exercises on school grounds** despite the fact that there is no airport. Considering AEE includes numerous run-ups and taxiing exercises in the curriculum, practicing them on campus allows them to become acquainted with the procedure early on. It boosts their confidence, develops their talents, and makes it simpler to apply what they learn in school. So, by the time they start field training, they are already familiar with the fundamentals.

Aside from infrastructure, MIA has been engaged in hosting events that provide students with hands-on learning experiences. To give an example, on October 1, 2024, the MIA successfully organized the **first Aircraft Model Building Workshop**, providing students with real experience with aircraft design principles. Later that same month, on October 12, MIA had the distinction of participating in the **Annual Worldwide Ringmaster Fly-a-Thon**, co-hosted by the PATTS Alliance of Aeromodellers and Flyers (ALM), where they celebrated their 1000th Ringmaster flight.

This project was spearheaded by **Mr. Oscar B. Mapúa Jr., previous CEO of Mapúa Institute of Technology**, to strengthen MIA's focus on experiential learning and industrial relationships. Lastly, MIA has formed ties with significant firms in the aviation business, including **Sunlight Air and Fast Aviation**. These partnerships facilitate student internships, training programs, and job options, ensuring that the students are well-prepared for the aviation industry.

In summary, the **Mapúa Laguna Institute of Aviation achieved significant achievements in its first year**. Through the different programs, resources, seminars, and workshops, it is recognized that the new department demonstrates their adherence and passion in improving aviation training and education that will benefit the students in the future. In line with this, it is hoped that as they work hard on future aviation developments that will enhance the knowledge and skills of the students, they will reach even more milestones in the years ahead.

■ ART ALTHEA MANCERA & ARVIN RAGAZA

A plane passes by a city at night, reaching for the sun and moon ahead. The plane flows freely in the sky, symbolizing the new beginnings and ambition of the aviation program.

TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE EDUCATION

Mapúa MCL's New Health Sciences Programs

■ WORDS JON RANSON LAPADA

Mapúa Malayan Colleges Laguna, in partnership with Arizona State University, is pleased to introduce its newly offered programs offered under the **College of Health Sciences**. Designed to merge real-world experiential learning with world-class facilities and digitally enhanced instruction, these programs equip students with both practical skills and a robust theoretical foundation. Emphasizing global exposure, the college prepares future professionals to excel in the dynamic healthcare landscape of the Philippines and the world. The new offerings include **BS Medical Technology**, **BS Pharmacy**, and **BS Physical Therapy** program.

The **Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology** is a comprehensive four-year program combining general education with professional courses. Students explore courses like clinical chemistry, hematology, microbiology, blood banking, parasitology, immunology and serology, and histopathology, in addition to new laboratory technologies. There is extensive practical training in established clinical practices so that graduates can conduct accurate chemical and biological analyses on patient samples for proper diagnosis. The program is carefully crafted to create medical technology professionals who are ready for varied careers in the health sector and medical laboratories, as well as prepare graduates for further studies in medical laboratory science, allied life science courses, or a career in medicine. Success in the program is measured in graduates' capacity to gain employment of greater responsibility in their chosen field.

Additionally, there is also the **Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy** program, which provides an interdisciplinary education that is a combination of a strong general education background with intensive training in science-based core courses and pharmacy specialty courses. Through a combination of classroom teaching and practical experiences in community pharmacies, hospitals, and research laboratories, students establish a strong foundation in pharmacology, chemistry, and pharmaceuticals. This program seeks to provide students with integrated knowledge in all aspects of pharmacy sectors, such as the community, hospital, and industrial environments, and advanced practical skills through rigorous laboratory work and actual pharmaceutical exposures. Graduates are prepared to innovate and lead in the fast-evolving world of pharmacy, ensuring competence in contemporary pharmacy practices through current teaching approaches.

Furthermore, Mapúa MCL has also unveiled the **Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy** degree, which provides a robust curriculum that incorporates general education and specific professional courses of study in physical, social, health, and natural sciences. Most notable is the 1,500-hour internship, which submerges students in actual, real-world environments so that they are not only theoretically competent but also capable of optimizing movement, pain management, and improving physical function for a wide range of patient populations. This curriculum seeks to prepare students with the skills necessary to deliver quality care across different healthcare settings, promote professionalism and advocacy, and instill a passion for improving public health and environmental health. It also prepares graduates for lifelong learning and specialization in physical therapy and rehabilitation and places strong emphasis on digital literacy for contemporary clinical practice.

Together, these newly offered programs underscore Mapúa MCL's commitment to nurturing globally competitive, technologically savvy healthcare professionals. By blending rigorous academic coursework with extensive practical experience, the College of Health Sciences is paving the way for a new generation of experts ready to meet the challenges of modern healthcare with confidence and competence.

■ ART ANDREA ANDIPA & ALIYAH JUANILLO

This piece represents a new chapter for Mapúa Malayan Colleges Laguna, highlighting the emergence of its health sciences programs. Through flowing shapes, vibrant colors, and medical-inspired elements, it welcomes students with a sense of endless opportunity.

Think Before You Ink:

CAS Campaign on Voter Responsibility

■ WORDS SHAMELLE FHATE CLIMACO

The Philippine election remains a significant source of concern for many Filipinos, as each ballot not only shapes their future but also the nation's. While many strive to vote wisely, not all have access to the necessary knowledge to make informed decisions. In response, the College of Arts and Sciences launched a campaign emphasizing the importance of voting, the electoral process, and the need to consider not only personal welfare but also the well-being of marginalized communities.

The program, titled "Empower Vote: A Mapúa MCL Voters' Education Campaign," was part of an OBE project by SS033 students. As participants arrived, they were greeted with infographics designed to educate them on electoral responsibility and voter awareness. These materials were later donated to a partner school in Pila, Laguna, to further promote voter literacy within the community.

Sir Angelito D. Platino, Director of the Students Affairs Office (SAO), opened the event by reminding participants that the right to vote carries responsibility. He stressed the importance of avoiding misinformation, selecting the right candidates, and making informed choices. His message was further expounded by Prof. Christie C. Amores, who discussed the event's objectives and significance.

The main segment of the event featured the presentation of seven videos, each highlighting the challenges faced by different communities in exercising their right to vote. These videos underscored the importance of their participation in the electoral process and raised awareness about the accommodations available to support them.

For the first half, the communities represented included the elderly, overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), and uniformed personnel. Later, persons deprived of liberty, indigenous groups, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and the youth were presented. The infomercials were split into two waves to allow for an open forum where Sir Nathan Sison asked each group for further insights.

Following each video, a representative from the respective group provided further insights into the realities of voting for these communities. OFWs often rely on mailed or online voting systems to ensure their participation despite the distance. Meanwhile, indigenous groups have been provided with nearby voting centers to minimize accessibility challenges. Persons deprived of liberty, on the other hand, cast their votes directly within their designated precincts.

Additionally, the discussion highlighted the difficulties faced by PWDs and the elderly, who often struggle with limited accessibility at polling stations. Many require assistance from family members or designated guides, but these accommodations are not always adequately provided, preventing some from fully exercising their right to vote.

In summary, Empower Vote goes beyond a school project and is instead a testament to Mapúa MCL's commitment to serving the community. The Philippines is not a perfect country. It is a nation with many flaws and countrymen with unfulfilled needs. The first step toward change is equipping the youth with the knowledge and responsibility to elect the right leaders.

■ ART KYLE DE GUZMAN & SEAN NITRO

This illustration shows a voter reviewing their ballot even after everyone has passed theirs already. As responsible citizens, we should also realize that every one of our votes count and pick leaders that serve us, not the other way around.



Reign in Jeopardy: VP Sara Duterte Faces Impeachment

■ WORDS ADRIAN JADE FRANCISCO

MANILA, Philippines - Impeachment complaints against Vice President Sara Duterte's was approved by the House of Representatives for allegedly threatening to assassinate President Ferdinand Marcos, misusing public funds, and several more claims on February 5, 2025

Various organizations, leaders of the Catholic Church, and 240 members of the House of Representatives supported the impeachment indictments. House Secretary General Reginald S. Velasco mentioned that the lawmakers had approved 7 major allegations consisted of assassination plots, embezzlement of P 612.5 million in confidential funds, bribery in DepEd, connections to extrajudicial killings of the Davao Death Squad, undeclared assets, destabilization, Insurrection, public disorder, and totality of conduct as vice president.

Waves of criticisms began to flood Duterte when her office spent P 125 million on confidential funds in just 11 days, confirmed by the Commission on Audit on September 25, 2023. Furthermore, requesting P 500 million in an undisclosed budget while DepEd requested P 150 million. The Vice President proceeded to refuse to respond about the usage of her confidential funds during the budget deliberations in August 2024

Duterte lashed out in a Zoom press conference on November 23, 2024 threatening to harm the Marcoses, allegedly indicating to have spoken with an assassin to eliminate the President, First Lady Liza Marcos, and House Speaker Martin Romualdez. Amidst the rift of both parties, Marcos denied being involved in the impeachment, discouraging the lawmakers but had mentioned there was no choice but to continue.

The impeachment's third article claimed that Duterte had been bribing former DepEd officials, with former DepEd procurement head Gloria Mercado testifying that she had been receiving cash envelopes. Moreover, Duterte has been alleged to be inciting political turmoil, acquiring illicit wealth in her unjustified Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth, amounting to P 2 billion.

On January 13, the Iglesia ni Cristo organized the "Rally For Peace" at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila. The Organizers stated that to support Marcos' stance to oppose the impeachment effort towards the Vice President, where a total of 1.4 million people assembled at the venue.

Senate President Francis "Chiz" Escudero has stated that there are ongoing preparations for the approaching impeachment trial, but will not occur while Congress is on break. Duterte will receive a conviction and be removed from the office when at least of the 24-member Senate votes in agreement.

The Vice President has requested the Supreme Court to nullify her impeachment trial, filing a petition for prohibition and certiorari on February 18, 2025. Duterte's petition was rebuked by the House Leaders, declaring that the request was a desperate attempt to avoid accountability.

■ ART MARIT BACAYON & VINCE DIÑO

A traditional oil pastel Filipino theme with abstract-like elements intersects to a political reckoning of the impeachment of Sara Duterte.

A BILL TO BREAK THE CYCLE

Fighting Teenage Pregnancy Through Education

■ WORDS GABRIEL JABOLI

The **Senate Deputy Minority Leader Risa Hontiveros** is pushing for the passage of an updated **Anti-Teenage Pregnancy Bill**, officially known as **Senate Bill No. 1979** or the **Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy Act of 2023**, which aims to address the rising cases of adolescent pregnancies in the country.

The bill mandates **age-appropriate Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE)** for adolescents aged 10 and above, following a curriculum based that covers **cognitive, emotional, physical, and social aspects of sexuality**. It emphasizes scientific, culturally responsive, and rights-based education, ensuring that young individuals are equipped with the necessary knowledge and develop critical thinking skills to make informed decisions regarding their well-being and avoid risk behaviors.

Senator Risa Hontiveros emphasized that the proposal aims to **strengthen the existing Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Law (RPRH)**, focusing on the pressing issue of teenage pregnancy, which remains a national concern. According to the **Commission on Population and Development (CPD)**, there was a **35% increase in early pregnancies among girls under 15 cases in 2021**. Also, **overall adolescent pregnancies had a 10.15% increase in the same year, reaching 136,302**. It is a significant concern due to its profound impact on society as early pregnancies can disrupt education, limiting young mothers' future employment opportunities and perpetuating cycles of poverty.

The senator filed a **substitute bill** to the **Senate Bill No. 1979**, in which some changes were made such as the **removal of the phrase "guided by international standards"**. The revised bill also clarifies that **Comprehensive Sexual Education (CSE)** will only be mandatory to adolescents aged 10 years old and above, and ensures that academic and religious freedom are respected in implementing the curriculum. This appeal comes in the wake of concerns raised by various groups regarding certain provisions in the original draft. In response to the criticisms, **Senator Risa Hontiveros** introduced a substitute bill addressing the contentious issues.

Some senators **withdrew their support** of **Senate Bill No. 1979** or the **Prevention of the Adolescent Pregnancy Act**. Concerns have been raised regarding its provisions on **Comprehensive Sexuality Education** due to **alleged inappropriate concepts**. Among the concerns are the supposed introduction of **masturbation and sexual rights to children**. However, despite the withdrawal of support from some senators, **Hontiveros remains optimistic**. She believes that the **legislative process will allow for thorough discussions and refinements** to the bill.

Moreover, in **addressing misconceptions** about the bill, Hontiveros clarified that the bill **does not contain provisions promoting inappropriate content** for young children. She assured that the comprehensive sexual education component would be **guided by the Department of Education (DepEd)** and be **aligned with international standards**, without including unsuitable topics.

■ "Mr. President, with all due respect, maliwanag na wala po sa bill kahit 'yung salita na 'masturbation'. Wala din po 'yung 'try different sexualities.'" Hontiveros clarified

The senator's remarks came in response to criticisms from some lawmakers and conservative groups who claimed that the bill could introduce explicit content to young students. Those who opposed argued that certain provisions on **Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)** might go against **cultural and religious values**.

As the bill progresses through the legislative process, **Hontiveros urges her colleagues to give the revised measure a fair chance**, emphasizing its importance in addressing the country's adolescent pregnancy rates. She reiterated that the bill is not just about education but also about ensuring young Filipinos have access to **proper healthcare, guidance, and support systems** to prevent early pregnancies. Hontiveros remains hopeful that with continued dialogue and refinements, the bill will gain **broader support** and ultimately help curb the alarming rise in teenage pregnancies in the Philippines.

■ ART KENTAROU CARAIG & ARJAY PANGILINAN

A teenage girl cradles her baby in silence, her school bag untouched in the corner—childhood traded for motherhood too soon.



From One Title to the Next:

How KAMALAYAN's former EICs are flourishing in their careers

■ WORDS NASH PRIMO BESANA

Academic responsibilities on one hand, organizational duties on the other, and the uncertainty of their futures on their backs—this is how most student-leaders traverse the unstable tightrope they know as the college life. As the winds of pressure and expectations blow and the taut wire sways, one must do nothing but to stay balanced and keep on moving forward. But as daunting as this experience may be, **three former Editors-in-Chief (EICs) of KAMALAYAN have recently proved that such a challenge is definitely survivable and even rewarding.** After all, what awaited them at the end of their grueling journeys were their futures, brimming with hope and potential for success.

Balancing the Accounts: From EIC to CPA

The first living proof that a “BS Org” life may illuminate the path to success is **Michael Antonio Santos**, a Summa Cum Laude graduate of the Bachelor of Science in Accountancy program of Mapúa MCL. He served as KAMALAYAN's EIC during the Academic Year 2022-2023 and is now a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) working as a tax professional under one of the Philippines' Big 4 Auditing Firms.

In an online interview with KAMALAYAN, he revealed that being critical of the tiniest details is one of the skills KAMALAYAN gifted him as he challenged the tricky CPA Licensure Examinations. His experience in ensuring that the publication's releases are on par with high standards molded his sharp eye, giving him a vantage point in analyzing accounting problems despite only having around a month to review for his first and only take in the boards.

Despite later proving his talent and skill, his KAMALAYAN journey did not start perfectly. In fact, Santos actually almost failed his application to the organization as a writer. However, this did not stop his passion to write—a mindset he now preaches to future staffers of KAMALAYAN: **“For future staffers, do not be dismayed or reluctant in joining the publication if your heart really wants to join... I can assure you that the whole journey of being a staffer is significantly worthwhile and fulfilling.”**

Balancing the Chemicals: From EIC to RChE, RChT

Next, hailing from the Chemical Engineering program of Mapúa MCL, KAMALAYAN's EIC for the Academic Year 2021-2022, **Jameela Reine Lim** is now a Registered Chemical Technician (RChT) and a Registered Chemical Engineer (RChE). Now starting as a service engineer in an Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) firm, an interview with the publication she once considered home made her reminisce of her student-journalist days.

“Fun fact, I eventually joined [KAMALAYAN] because having newsroom privileges meant I always had a place on campus to stay in,” Lim shared. However, she continued by telling how the skills she developed in the publication actually prepared her “lone wolf” self to face her licensure examinations. **From her experiences of requesting interviews from strangers, she realized that she developed the confidence that she wielded during review classes to ask questions and mingle with other reviewees.** In short, she put emphasis on how the **soft skills mattered a lot as well, most of which were nurtured during her journey in KAMALAYAN.**

As Lim closed the student-journalist chapter of her life story and began filling in its next pages as a budding professional, she encouraged novice writers to just be brave and open-minded in exploring their crafts. And as if she was speaking to her past “lone wolf” self, she asserted: **“This is probably going to sound cliché, but I can't stress this enough. As a beginner, it's okay to suck at your craft as long as you keep striving for improvement. Constructive criticisms are gold. Everyone had to and has to start somewhere.”**

Balancing the Scales: From EIC to Atty.

“Live. The most important preparation to write effectively is to live.”

This is what **Charles Kenneth Lijauco**, Top 20 in the 2024 Bar Examinations, shared when the publication asked for his words of wisdom. Being KAMALAYAN's EIC for the Academic Years 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 and an Accountancy alumnus of the institution, he furthered his studies in the University of the Philippines College of Law, where he built his foundation to become the lawyer that he is now.

As a fresh acquirer of the “Atty.” prefix, he is currently an Associate at a law firm in Makati, where his duties mostly revolve around writing legal opinions and preparing legal documents. And according to him, this is where his life as a writer in KAMALAYAN paid off, with him stating, **“I found that writing is a highly important skill for lawyers... KAMALAYAN was a critical step that I needed to take to become a better writer.”**

Besides handling legal jargon, Lijauco shared that writing is still one of his means of expressing himself. After all, he believes that **“writers should not be afraid of emotions and experiences.”** In KAMALAYAN's interview with him, he said that he translates his feelings and experiences into words whenever he can, may it be through journal entries, poems, or song lyrics, as this is his best way to let his creative juices flow amidst his professional life.

Your Own Kind of Balance

Conclusively, what their stories prove is that whether you are balancing financial transactions, chemical equations, scales of justice, or even your academic and extracurricular responsibilities, success all lies down with how you turn your experiences into meaningful fragments of your life. After all, those are what made Santos, Lim, and Lijauco the inspiring professionals that they are today. In fact, if you resonated or even daydreamed about your future with this read, maybe you are the tightrope walker once mentioned in this article, getting a glimpse of what is ahead. Maybe the tasks on your seemingly unending to-do list—the ones you most struggle to keep a balance of—are the things that will gravitate you towards your dreams, letting you glide from one title to the next.

■ ART KRISHA DELA CRUZ & BENEDICT BUSTAMANTE

This piece honors KAMALAYAN's former Editors-in-Chief, portraying their growth from campus journalists to thriving professionals. Inspired by Philippine contemporary art, it blends digital collage, indigenous patterns, and symbolic elements to reflect their journey and cultural roots.



DOUBLE DUTY!

The Challenges in the Life of a Working Student

■ WORDS RACHELLE ANNE ABEL

“When life gives you lemons, make lemonade.”

-Dale Carnegie

As children, we often look up to adults and wonder how they navigate life. But **as we grow older, we come to realize that life is tough.** Upon reaching college, sometimes we set expectations of ourselves, whether they're reachable or not. One of those expectations is to alleviate the burden of allowances and tuition from our families by becoming financially independent; thus, **some of us resort to working while still being students.** Others build their resumes early on to streamline getting a job after graduation, regardless of the reason, many students walk this ragged path out of practicality and resilience.

In **Mapúa MCL**, the institution offers a **Student Assistant (SA)** position to qualified students. After passing the interview, these students are put in various offices with vacancies by the Student Affairs Office (SAO). Beyond the campus, **some Mapúans take on external jobs** to expand their networks and gain real-world experience before graduation. As such, KAMALAYAN interviewed Patricia Ann Arena, a 3rd-year BA Communication student, and Colleen Dacara, a 3rd-year BMMA - Graphic Design Major student, and shared their experiences as working students.

Patricia Ann Arena, who is currently working as a **Community Manager** at “Nawa,” a coworking space near Mapúa MCL, said, “**It’s not easy to juggle work and academics, especially now that I am on my junior year— that includes writing our undergraduate thesis—** so I am sometimes seen doing school works in the middle of my shift. To maintain my sanity and to become less exhausted from work and school, I plan on how I will spend my day and which tasks I can do in the middle of my shift.”

The reality of managing your time within a day is an extra challenge for a working student, especially if you are a kind of student who aims for better grades. Oftentimes, bringing your activities to your shift is the norm for working students, and this is very evident during exam seasons, where you will see most of them multitasking to review for their exams while doing their duties in their shifts.

Similarly, **Colleen Dacara**, currently working as a **Multimedia Content Producer Consultant** in a company in BGC, shared, “... time management between all those is one of the things that I’m still having trouble with, but you try to get better in time. As for the better side, I guess the fact that you are already earning your own money. **Having consistent income has helped me become better with finances** as well as having that sense of being more responsible and independent, I guess.”

For some students, the **paycheck is their most rewarding moment when they are students consistently juggling between work, academics, and personal lives.** Also, the experiences one will eventually learn when finding a balance between these responsibilities are essential when they enter the industry. **It is an advantage for working students because they have already tried to live the life of an adult, even though it’s just the beginning of what’s yet to come.**

These statements from two working Mapúans show only the tip of what to expect when we enter adult life, while still studying. As a student assistant myself, balancing your academics between work plus organizational responsibilities is quite hard, and it took some time to adjust my time properly. It’s like juggling between what’s most important for me at the moment, as there are times I do my activities on my duty. My Sunday also becomes my activity day, as this is the only spare time of my week. It’s exciting yet quite thrilling at the same time, with the thought of getting my paycheck and finally feeling what adulthood really is.

The things we learn while working as students teach us many things we may encounter when we enter the professional world. **It gives us opportunities to ponder, and the work ethics we gain shape our attitude.** The more we learn about adulthood, the more we become aware of its harshness, and maybe, to some of us, this awareness can catalyze us to improve ourselves.

As we reach adulthood, or perhaps while still navigating our young adult years, realization often hits us hard: **the adults we admired in our childhood turned challenges into opportunities, much like making lemonade from lemons.** Each of us copes with the expectations we create for ourselves and those imposed on us in different ways. Some wanted to go back to the innocence and simplicity of childhood, while others started working early to build connections, or to just gain experience before embarking on their careers.

The reason for juggling work and study is unique to each of us, but it might also be our way of turning difficulties into success as we enter adulthood. After all, as Virat Kohli said, “**Self-belief and hard work will always bring you success.**” While they may be working students now, success is definitely within their reach.

■ **ART BERNADETTE SERVIÑO & ARVIN RAGAZA**
Throughout life, we discover passions shaped by key moments. Now, we face challenges while chasing our dreams, always looking ahead with hope.

"SCATTER"

■ WORDS AIDEN JOSEPH PANTOJA

"Gambling is a tax on ignorance." - Warren Buffett.

Online gambling ads are rampant these days. You can see them on billboards as you go by expressways and major highways. They are also behind public buses. You can even see them hung upon small sari-sari stores to provide shade.

And to make matters worse, **they are more common on our smartphones.** Everyone can see them—gamblers and non-gamblers, even the youth. You are living under a rock if you have not heard of the word "scatter." It has taken the Filipinos by storm.

These are special symbols in slot games that do not necessarily need to land on a traditional pay line (horizontal, diagonal, cross) to trigger a win or a bonus feature. **You win as long as they show up on the board despite being scattered across it—hence the infamous word.**

And just like its name, marketing for it is also scattered everywhere. You can see them in ads for a mobile game or as you watch videos on YouTube and Facebook. Everywhere, anywhere, we are bombarded by these ads, tempting us to reel ourselves into this deep hole of addiction and degeneration disguised by the promise of making a quick fortune.

The biggest influencers and personalities in the Philippines are used in deepfake videos to hook players. **Online casino operators weaponize influencers and celebrities to market their operations—even though they did not consent.**

In a post, Alodia Gosiengfiao addressed a concern **about her face being unknowingly used in an online gambling ad.** Such unethical practices only show that these online gambling operators have no dignity and respect, seeking only to satisfy their never-ending thirst for money.

They aim to make us think that gambling is just like playing a video game, but you have a chance to earn real money. We may not realize it now, but I assure you that this will only lead society to crumble.

Mind you, these gambling sites claim that they are regulated by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR). This means that part of their revenue goes to the corporation, which generates revenue for the country's socio-civic and national development programs.

PAGCOR earned 112 billion pesos in 2024. However, only 12 billion pesos were allotted to fund socio-civic and development projects for the same year. I ask you now, has the Filipino ever felt the benefits of such massive income?

There is more than meets the eye with its impact on people. **Gambling addiction is a gateway to heavier problems.** It buries players deep in debt, leading to spending their hard-earned savings or selling their properties just to sustain their desire to gamble. This situation can make them feel anxious, hopeless, shameful, or depressed, which could then lead to alcoholism or substance abuse.

Families of gambling addicts are also affected by their financial ruin and mental health problems, straining their relationships. They could also place the weight of their debts on their families, and neglect them to gamble. These stressful situations can lead to family breakups, which affect their children.

Also, crime rates could go up, as gamblers may resort to illegal activities to make money for gambling. Impoverished sectors, allured to the sugar-coated promises online gambling makes, could grow higher, as gambling only drains the pockets of its players.

The deceptive promise of easy money is what drives people to get on with the destructive cycle of online gambling. Behind the bright screens and attractive online casinos lead more and more people into a downward spiral of addiction, risking their chances for a better future. The blinding shine of gold strays us away from the fact that it shatters lives, breaks families apart, and burdens people with massive debts.

The problem lies in how easy it is to access these sites, drawing in vulnerable people with a few taps. This is a problem that needs to be addressed quickly and decisively. I, for one, cannot stomach the fact that day by day, lives and families are ruined by online gambling.

The time for empty promises and selfishness shall be over. **We need a concerted effort to dismantle this industry and implement harsh censorship to prevent those at risk from gambling.** Most importantly, we must provide comprehensive support for those who struggle with gambling addiction.

What we can do best as individuals is spread awareness of this problem in our country. Knowledge is power! Tell your friends and family that it is not worth risking everything they have just to seek the promises of online gambling. Together, let us kill the parasite that pesters our society—the deadliest parasite we call

■ ART KYLA CAMBA & PAULINE REYES

A Filipino in an ordinary household, caught up in online gambling, with only a few coins on the table as a stark reminder of what little he has left.



I'D BE THE MAN—IF POLITICS WEREN'T SO MISOGYNISTIC

■ WORDS GERALDINE ENRIQUEZ

Unequal gender representation has always been evident in Philippine politics. Despite an increase in female leaders, misogyny—defined as a deep-seated prejudice or contempt toward women—and sexism remain deeply embedded in the system. The country has had two female presidents—Corazon Aquino and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo—and three female vice presidents—Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Leni Robredo, and Sara Duterte. Yet, leadership continues to be shaped by patriarchal norms that reinforce gender biases.

Women are often seen as substitutes or mere accessories to powerful men rather than as capable leaders. As Collier (1974) put it, they are treated as “pawns to be used in the political maneuvers of men.” This reflects a long-standing bias that continues to shape how society views women in politics. Their worth is often tied to their sexuality or their ability to be mothers as if their contributions begin and end at home. This mindset is not only outdated but deeply frustrating. A woman's value is not defined by her body or her role in the family; it lies in her intellect, leadership, and ability to create meaningful change. Yet, the political system in the Philippines remains built on these limiting beliefs, making it far more difficult for women to step into positions of power. These biases don't just harm women; they hold the entire country back from true progress and democracy.

Misogyny in Philippine politics is glaring. From Senator Vicente “Tito” Sotto III's sexist “na-ano lang” remark toward former Social Welfare Secretary Judy Taguiwalo, to the relentless slut-shaming and ostracization of former Senator and Justice Secretary Leila de Lima over her alleged affair and explicit video, to Senator Robin Padilla's controversial statements on marital consent and men's “uncontrollable sexual urges”—these examples expose the country's deeply regressive views on women, both in leadership and society as a whole.

Perhaps most disturbing is how misogyny and sexism thrived openly during the Duterte administration. Then President Rodrigo Duterte was notorious for his misogynistic remarks, rape jokes, and victim-blaming—statements that not only garnered global criticism but also set a dangerous precedent for public discourse on gender. From proudly admitting he molested their housemaid, ordering soldiers to shoot female rebels in the genitals, and declaring that the presidency is “not a woman's job,” these are just a few examples of his appalling and demeaning treatment of women. Duterte's promotion of violence, misogynistic remarks, and benevolent paternalism have shaped how the Philippine electorate views women in leadership and feminist ideals, often casting them in a negative light.

A clear example is the 2022 national elections. Leni Robredo, known for her pink campaign and compassionate “motherly” image, ran for president in stark contrast to Rodrigo Duterte's violent strongman persona—an image that, unfortunately, appealed more to many Filipinos. In fact, the 2022 World Values Survey revealed that over half of Filipinos believe men make better political leaders than women. Robredo, a longtime target of disinformation since assuming the vice presidency in 2016, faced relentless attacks on her intelligence and competence, death threats, and even false claims linking her daughter to an explicit video during the campaign. Despite being highly qualified for the presidency, she lost to Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr., the son of a dictator, who had been found guilty of tax evasion and falsifying his academic credentials.

While more women in politics serve as role models, the systemic barriers they face remain deeply entrenched. As political analyst Jean Encinas-Franco stated, “In the Philippines, traditional norms about women's role in public life remain an obstacle.” The government should lead efforts to protect women's rights and eradicate misogyny, with public officials exemplifying respect and accountability rather than perpetuating discrimination. However, when those in power openly spread sexism and misogyny, dismantling patriarchal structures becomes even more challenging.

In summary, while political dynasties and necropolitics heavily influence elections, misogyny continues to shape how Filipinos perceive women leaders, ultimately affecting their electability and political influence. To achieve true progress and create a safer, more inclusive society for women, the Philippines must break free from these deeply ingrained biases. Women in leadership must be recognized not as exceptions but as integral to national development, serving as role models who challenge outdated norms and pave the way for future generations. At the same time, voters must open their eyes to these systemic issues and educate themselves to make informed decisions—ones that prioritize competence, integrity, and genuine public service over gender biases and political theatrics. Until these changes take root, the country will remain trapped in a cycle of discrimination and inequality, hindering both its democratic progress and the empowerment of women in all sectors of society.

■ ART JANNA AMPARO & BENEDICT BUSTAMANTE

A woman stands strong at a podium, supported by subtle pink figures symbolizing quiet feminine strength, amidst a loud, hostile, and misogynistic crowd.

HOW ELECTRIC VEHICLES (EV) REDEFINE THE FUTURE OF PHILIPPINE TRANSPORTATION

■ WORDS WILFRED LOPEZ

The automotive industry in the Philippines has been one-sided, with most of the vehicles on the road today being gasoline or diesel powered. However, due to circumstances leading in the quest of finding carbon-friendly options to everyday transportation, it is currently facing new competition from EVs (electric vehicles) in hopes of making a sustainable-powered alternative to public and private transportation.

The history of electric-powered vehicles started in the early 20th Century, when automobiles were starting to become mainstream due to rapid development and production, some passenger vehicles were electric-powered, but a demand for efficiency and capability to travel longer ranges was the talisman of making electric power obsolete. It took car manufacturers until the early 1990s to experiment with electric-powered vehicles as the efficiency of batteries and a more streamlined approach to car design justified the reasoning behind it. Electric power was gradually introduced in the form of hybrid (using both gasoline power and electric power) vehicles such as the Toyota Prius and the Honda Insight. It was not until the mid-2000s when electric vehicles were seen as the future of the automotive industry, with advances in battery technology such as the introduction of lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries in 1991 and solid-state batteries, which are both used in current EVs.

A long-term alternative is the objective, as the advantage of an electric vehicle over gasoline-powered vehicles is its lower carbon footprint. The International Energy Agency (IEA) has found that EVs emit 50% less CO₂ (carbon dioxide) both in usage and in the production of batteries than gasoline-powered vehicles in their lifetime. However, the sustainability of EVs still depends on its charging's energy source. For the Philippines' case, the Department of Energy in 2023 reported that coal still accounts for 57% of the country's generation of electricity. This counters the benefit of an EV being carbon-neutral processes.

As of 2025, mainstream EV automaker Tesla offers their Model 3 and Model Y, with the cheapest being the Model 3, starting at 2.1 Million PHP. BYD, a Chinese automaker has also introduced one of the cheapest electric vehicles you can buy, the Seagull, with a starting price of 898,000 PHP.

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To create opportunities for EVs here in the Philippines, the government has created the Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act (EVIDA) in 2022, aiming to encourage consumers to purchase an EV through less tax, exemptions from coding schemes and cheaper rates in charging.

In result, the groundbreaking for the EV market creates promising results, such as the development of its market in the Philippines. As of 2025, mainstream EV automaker Tesla offers their Model 3 and Model Y with the cheapest being the Model 3, starting at 2.1 Million PHP. BYD, a Chinese automaker has also introduced one of the cheapest electric vehicles you can buy, the Seagull, with a starting price of 898,000 PHP.

For what it's worth, an electric-powered vehicle is a good alternative to gasoline-powered vehicles due to its benefit on environmental impact. However, a challenge in infrastructure is still a priority in hopes of making EVs mainstream. Even though it will take a long time to eradicate these problems, the benefits of an EV will outweigh its negatives. With rapidly advancing technologies aiding its development, it makes a compelling argument in what a consumer needs. As we progress to better alternatives of energy sources, there will come a time where we can easily consider an EV, where its potential lies in redefining the future of our transportation.

■ ART KRISHA DELA CRUZ & BENEDICT BUSTAMANTE

This piece reimagines the future of Philippine transportation through electric vehicles (EVs), using the bold, vibrant style of Philippine contemporary art. Jeepsneys evolve into sleek EVs amid layered textures, urban skylines, and traditional patterns symbolizing progress and sustainability.

THIRD TIME'S THE CHARM: REDEMPTION GAME FOR THE CARDINALS

■ WORDS ASHLEE GONZALES

The long wait is finally over for the Mapúa Cardinals. On December 7, 2024, under the bright lights of the Smart Araneta Coliseum, they claimed a triumphant victory over the College of St. Benilde Blazers in Game 2 of the NCAA Men's Basketball Finals. With a 94-82 win, the Cardinals sealed their championship dream and finally broke over 33 years of a championship drought.

The head coach, **Randy Alcanatara**, expressed their hunger for a win after almost snatching the throne for two consecutive years. He knows that both teams are desperate to snatch and to keep the title, but only the best will be the victorious. Hence, even after enduring cervical spine injury and undergoing surgery, the head coach refused to back down. Pushing through the pain, he continued to lead the Cardinals with unwavering passion, determined to finally claim the crown.

The Cardinals sharpened their talons after bidding farewell to their seniors and former captain, **Warren Bonifacio**. With adjustments and relentless training, new captain **Clint Escamis** placed his trust in his teammates, believing in their hard work and potential. Together, they doubled down on defensive strategies while emphasizing the importance of mindset—carrying passion, trust, and the mentality of having nothing to lose but everything to gain.

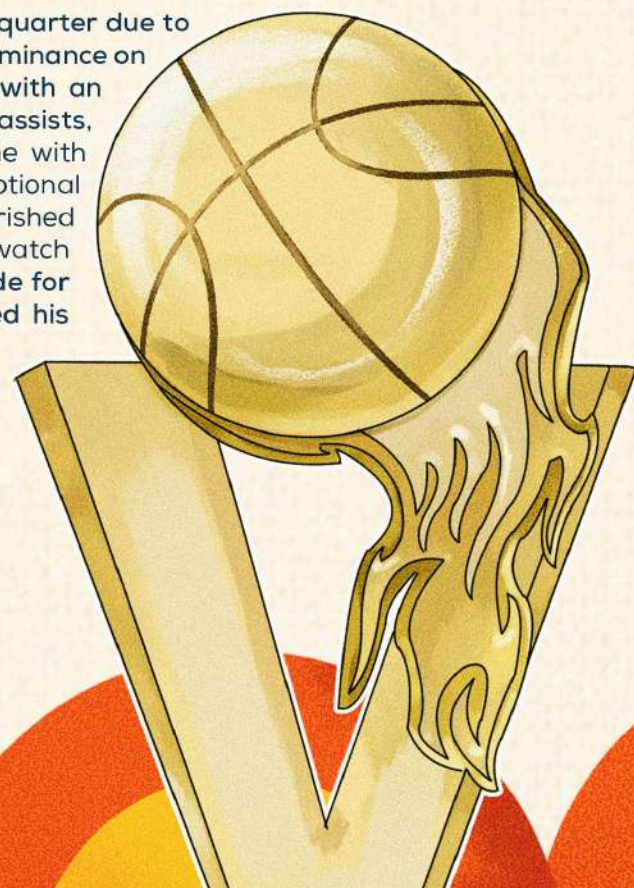
Finally, despite being sat out in the third quarter due to cramps, Escamis once again proved his dominance on the court, earning the title Finals MVP, with an impressive stat line of 18 points, four assists, three steals and one rebound. Overcome with gratitude and joy, he reflected on the emotional moment of finally cutting the net—a cherished tradition for champions—after having to watch others celebrate last year. Filled with pride for himself and his teammates, he concluded his statement, *"We did it. Job is finished. Redemption tour is complete."*

But the Cardinals' triumph was far from a one-man show. While Clint Escamis sidelined for most of the third quarter, his teammates showed their unstoppable power. With **Marc Cuenco** also firing up his performance with a game-high 19 points and four assists, while Rookie and Freshman of the Year **Chris Hubilla** delivered an impressive 15 points, eight rebounds, and two steals. **Lawrence Mangubat** also stepped up, contributing 17 points to seal the team's victory.

Ultimately, the Mapúa Cardinals' historic NCAA Season 100 championship is a story of continuous patience of once dreamers. Fueled by discipline, excellence, commitment, integrity, and relevance, they refused to let past setbacks define them, fighting their way to the title with unwavering determination. *This victory isn't just about winning a trophy—it's about proving that hard work, unity, perseverance, and resilience can turn dreams into reality.* As the entire Mapúa community celebrates, Mapúa Malayan Colleges Laguna also beams with pride, standing behind this incredible achievement. The 2024 Cardinals batch have etched their names in the history of sports in our country, inspiring the present and future generations to carry the Mapúan spirit both on and off the court.

■ ART KENTAROU CARAIG & ARJAY PANGILINAN

A championship trophy and a vibrant thread linking passionate basketball players symbolize the unity of hard work and the relentless pursuit of victory. These values are at the heart of every NCAA competition and are crucial in achieving success.



Student Spotlight

December 2024

Sampung Namumukod-Tanging Kabataan ng Laguna Gawad Laguna Inc.

Marnie Jemuel M. Marcos

Seal of Excellence in Educational Leadership Awardee Inc.

Dr. Glenda P. Lizardo

January 2025

The School Showdown Grand Finalist: Tawag ng Tanghalan Inc.

A. G. Maelynn A. Rapista

Included in the Top 50 Cengage Digital Innovators in the Philippines

Ms. Aubrey P. Alagos
Mr. Christian M. Foronda
Ms. Venus Ellaine G. Pablo

February 2025

1st Runner-Up Boys' Football 7 a-side Game Southern Luzon College and Universities Athletics Association Season 25, S.Y. 2024-2025

MAPÚA MCL FOOTBALL BOYS' VARSITY TEAM

Champion Men's Football 7 a-side Game Southern Luzon College and Universities Athletics Association Season 25, S.Y. 2024-2025

MAPÚA MCL FOOTBALL MEN'S VARSITY TEAM

Gold Award Thailand International Mathematical Olympiad (TIMO) Heat Round - Senior Secondary

Joanne Kirsten T. Racelis

Silver Award Hongkong International Science Olympiad (HKISO) Heat Round

Joanne Kirsten T. Racelis

February 2025

Merit Award Thailand International Mathematical Olympiad (TIMO) Heat Round - Senior Secondary

Reanne Mireille L. Rodenas

2nd Place Regional Press School Conference: RSPC Editorial Writing and English

Amira Dominique L. Soriano

13th Place Regional Press School Conference: RSPC Editorial Writing and English

Mahrel Jolee J. Manabat

March 2025

Champion Vocal Duet South Luzon Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SLCUAA) 25th Season Final Showdown of Talents and Closing Ceremonies

Romer R. Jose

Champion Group Singing South Luzon Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SLCUAA) 25th Season Final Showdown of Talents and Closing Ceremonies

Mapúa Malayan Vocal Ensemble

4th Place Sineliksik: An On-the-Spot Filmmaking Contest 2025 Regional Festival of Talents

Philip Renzo V. Perez
Gene Ezrell P. Ramirez

Bronze Award Guangdong-Hongkong-Macau Greater Bay Area Mathematical Olympiad (BBB) Heat Round

Reanne Mireille L. Rodenas

Board and Other Examinations Passers

December 2024

MARINA Licensure Exam for Officer-in-Charge of a Navigational Watch

Hanna Claire N. Samiano

Certified Public Accountants

Rica D. Dimaculangan, CPA
 Lean Joelle F. Mondido, CPA
 Michael Antonio S. Santos, CPA

2024 Bar Examinations

Atty. Charles Kenneth F. Lijauco (20TH PLACER)

January 2025

MARINA Licensure Exam for Officer-in-Charge of a Navigational Watch

Bernie P. Oxales

Licensure Examination for Architects

Ar. Ferdinand R. Alitagtag
 Ar. Jewel May B. Andres
 Ar. Angelo Kyle G. Caranzo
 Ar. Lenard Vinci S. Catabay
 Ar. Jane Audrey M. Dela Cruz
 Ar. Francis Anne E. Dorado
 Ar. Rosebelle Anne D. Comez
 Ar. Jarico L. Inocencio
 Ar. Remari N. Lantacon
 Ar. Mary Danielle B. Oida
 Ar. Anthony O. Palisoc
 Ar. Fernando Angelo T. Sarmiento
 Ar. Jose Vicente A. Vergara

February 2025

Licensure Exam for Mechanical Engineering

Engr. Xenabelle Nehemiah A. Audije
 Engr. Dave I. Avellaneda
 Engr. Clint Jefferson E. Belan
 Engr. Jose Luis A. Bergonio
 Engr. Ferdinand Jr, P. Buen
 Engr. Von Emyrson C. Cardino
 Engr. P-jay S. Corral
 Engr. Rendelle Kyle I. Cruz
 Engr. Ron Aldrene A. Cruz
 Engr. Luke Dave M. De Luna
 Engr. Franz Aerial L. Escamilla
 Engr. Mark Merlyn C. Fernandez
 Engr. Jerome M. Gonzales
 Engr. Christopher M. Jusi
 Engr. Daniel Angelo A. Lava
 Engr. John Marco T. Licuanan
 Engr. Jollene B. Lopena
 Engr. Carl Angelo L. Mago
 Engr. Lucas Damien F. Mancera

Licensure Exam for Mechanical Engineering

Engr. Maeryl Ann A. Marin
 Engr. Gian Paolo L. Martinez
 Engr. Reuben Angelo D. Montillano
 Engr. Eugene Roy C. Muyco
 Engr. John Carlo L. Nambio
 Engr. Ralph Nicholson R. Nora
 Engr. Kristel Aunt Dei B. Ozenia
 Engr. Angelo P. Quiambao
 Engr. Riahleen M. Ramos
 Engr. Aira Elliezel P. Saddoy
 Engr. Ralph Eugene C. Sagay
 Engr. Nimrod Augustine R. Salazar
 Engr. Dean Jarius V. Tuiza
 Engr. Medard Francis S. Yapsangco

Master Plumbers Licensure Examination

Emil John B. Baticula
 Angelica Mae P. Dumayas

Joshua Paolo D. Licsi
 Roceli Missy M. Mendoza
 Ylroyna Gail S. Montero
 Franchezca Mae N. Roque

Engine Management Level Chief Engineer Exam

Rene G. Gilpa

March 2025

MARINA Licensure Exam for Officer-in-Charge of a Navigational Watch

John Wilcer B. Aranas

Certified in Cybersecurity by the International Information System Security Certification Consortium

Marc Andreau R. Blastique
 Elijah Justin R. Centino

Certified in Cybersecurity by the International Information System Security Certification Consortium

Richthofen Rush T. Gamet
 James Daryl D. Manalo
 John Michael L. Marasigan
 Kyle Emmanuel T. Mariano
 Jericho Ross B. Paglinawan
 Vincent Angelo A. Pascua
 Brian Migel R. Salita
 Chester John M. Valles
 Matthew C. Villena

TERM IN PHOTOS



TERM IN PHOTOS






We would like to thank the following offices, student councils, and student organizations for participating in the creation of KAMALAYAN's Second Term Newsletter for the Academic Year 2024-2025.

Student Affairs Office (SAO)
Corporate Communication Office (CCO)
Mapúa MCL Center for Service-Learning and Community Engagement (CSCE)
Campus Development and Maintenance Office (CDMO)
Office for Strategic Partnerships and Global Engagement (OSPGE)

Supreme Student Council (SSC)
College of Arts and Science Student Council (CAS-SC)
Mapúa Institute of Aviation Student Council (MIA-SC)
Mapúa Institute of Technology at Laguna Student Council (MITL-SC)
Mapúa MCL Senior High School Student Council (SHS-SC)

Creative Learners and Innovative Content Creators (CLICC)
Mapúa MCL Association for Computer Machinery (Mapúa MCL-ACM)
Mapúa MCL Infotech Society

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