

SSC's SPA Shines with “Bayla Sa’yo” Dance Workshop

By Kaida S. Usman

The Stalwarts Performing Arts (SPA) of Sulu State College (SSC) successfully concluded its three-day dance workshop, “Bayla Sa’yo,” on January 8–10, 2026, at the SSC Gymnasium, Walled City, Jolo, Sulu. The event brought together students and members of the SSC community in celebrating culture, creativity, and confidence through dance.

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“Movement as Identity: Expressing Culture, Creativity, and Confidence through Contemporary, Street Dance, and Folk Dance,”

the workshop opened with an invocation, National Anthem, and SSC Hymn. SPA President Ms. Nuroorahma Suaib welcomed participants and emphasized unity and talent-sharing.



Acting PESS Director Mr. Nick A. Asmad highlighted dance as a medium for expressing identity and preserving cultural heritage.

Participants underwent intensive sessions in street, contemporary, and folk dance, facilitated by Mr. Ar-Eddrin Ustam, Mr. Heinrich Siose, Mr. Joshua Pioquinto, and Mr. Mark Anthony Basilio.

Outstanding performers were recognized during the awarding ceremony across the three dance categories. The program concluded with remarks from Cultural Director Mr. Almashien S. Lipae, reaffirming SSC’s commitment to cultural preservation, artistic expression, and developing students’ creative talents through meaningful cultural initiatives.

Sulu State College Successfully Conducts College Entrance Test

By Kaida S. Usman

Sulu State College (SSC) successfully conducted its College Entrance Test (CET) for Batches 1–10 at the College of Teacher Education (CTE) Building, demonstrating the institution’s commitment to quality education and organized academic processes.

Each examination schedule followed a structured two-session format, morning and afternoon, ensuring an efficient flow of examinees. Despite the growing number of applicants, SSC maintained a calm, orderly, and conducive testing environment that allowed examinees to perform at their best.

The smooth administration of the CET reflected the college’s ability to manage large-scale academic activities with professionalism, fairness, and consistency. Examinees also contributed to the success of the examinations through their punctuality, cooperation, and adherence to testing protocols.

The successful conduct of the CET was made possible through the collective efforts of the SSC Student Government, faculty members, administrative staff, and the Office of Student Affairs and Services (OSAS). Their teamwork ensured that all batches were accommodated in a well-managed and supportive environment.

SSC extends its appreciation to College President Prof. Charisma S. Ututalum, CESE, for her leadership and vision, and to Dean of OSAS Engr. Firash Zhed S. Ututalum for his invaluable support.



Through the successful CET, SSC reaffirms its dedication to academic excellence and its mission of nurturing future Stalwarts.



Sihnag Publication Welcomes New Guiding Light

By Nur-Ana Sahiri and Fatimah Saquena Isnijul

The SSC Sihnag Publication successfully conducted a meeting with its new Acting Adviser on January 17, 2026 (Saturday), at 9:00 a.m. in the College of Teacher Education Building of Sulu State College.



The meeting aimed to formally introduce the new Acting Adviser, Mrs. Hermee-Lizza Bakil-Baklayan, LPT, MALTE, to the publication's staffers.

During the gathering, the staffers introduced themselves by stating their full names and respective positions within the publication. As part of the program, each staffer participated in a "Two Truths and One Lie" activity, during which Mrs. Bakil-Baklayan identified the false statement.

Furthermore, the meeting provided an opportunity to discuss the staffers' roles and responsibilities, expectations, and other matters relevant to the operations of the publication.

The event concluded with a photo opportunity with the new Acting Adviser, symbolizing a continued guidance and strengthened collaboration as Sihnag Publication moves forward under new guidance.



BSTHM Batch Servitium Takes Off with First Pinning and Coating Ceremony

By Albenhasadedson Hussin

The SSC Bachelor of Science in Tourism and Hospitality Management (BSTHM) under the College of Business Administration and Management successfully conducted its first Pinning and Coating Ceremony with the theme, "Service Excellence, Enduring Legacy: Honoring the First, Inspiring the Future," on January 17, 2026, at the Center for Culture and Arts.

The event opened with welcome remarks delivered by Ms. Nedzma B. Jinnul, followed by an inspirational message from Assoc. Prof. Jimsiok C. Asid, DPA, Dean of the College of Business Administration and Management.

The highlight of the ceremony was the Pinning and Coating proper, during which the candidates donned their coats and were pinned by their parents as a symbol of responsibility and readiness for their chosen industries. The Pledge of Loyalty was recited by Bhonzar J. Jainatul.

BSTHM Batch Servitium chose "Long Live" by Taylor Swift as their batch song, representing the struggles they faced throughout their journey and the memories that will be cherished for years to come. Meanwhile, "MAPA" by SB19 was dedicated as a tribute to their guardians for their unwavering love and support.



Following this, Ms. Sahabi shared her message as the student representative from Tourism Management, followed by Mr. Tandih as the representative from Hospitality Management.

The program concluded with closing remarks delivered by the proud Chairperson of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Mrs. Bernayda P. Hassan, CHMP.



L.A.S.A. Project Empowers PWD Community at SSC Hostel

By Kaida S. Usman



The Sulu State College successfully held its launching Project L.A.S.A. (Lead Access Support and Awareness) initiated by the Office of Student Affairs and Services (OSAS) in collaboration with the College Student Government (CSG). A collaborative effort that raises the voice of our Stalwart with Diverse Abilities (SDA), that was successfully held on January 31, 2026, Saturday at the SSC Hostel Hermes.

The event aimed to promote awareness and support for Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) in the community. CSG President Den-Ahmar Rakib delivered an opening message, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity and equal opportunities for PWDs.

Prof. Charisma S. Ututalum, CESE, College President, inspired the audience with a powerful message on the value of empathy and understanding in creating a more accessible society.

Furthermore, Ms. Jaina Asula introduced the guest speaker for this event. Guest speaker, Mr. Ruhoddin Saabdulla, a proud SSC alumnus (Batch 2016) and Disability Affairs Officer of Municipality Jolo, shared his expertise on the rights and privileges of PWDs. He discussed key laws, including R.A. 7277 (Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities); R.A. 9442 and 10754 (Benefits and Privileges of Persons with Disabilities); R.A. 10524 (Equal Opportunity for Employment); R.A. 11106 (Filipino Sign Language Act); and R.A. 11228 (Mandatory PhilHealth Coverage).

The event also highlighted the importance of equal rights for PWDs, with a focus on medical models and approaches that promote inclusivity.

The event was emceed by Al-mufdhasel Kairan, Vice President of CSG, and ended with a plaque of appreciation and a photo opportunity with the speakers and attendees.

Bangsa Sug Youth Council Leads Peaceful Gathering for M/V Trisha Victims

By Marfroiza Kasim

The Bangsa Sug Youth Council organized a peaceful rally on February 1, 2026, along Airport Road fronting the MPW 1st DEO Office in Jolo, Sulu, to express solidarity with the victims of the M/V Trisha Kerstin 3 sinking. The gathering, held at 7:30 PM, brought together residents, youth groups, and concerned citizens in a collective call for justice and accountability.

The maritime tragedy occurred on January 26, 2026, near Baluk-Baluk Island, Basilan, at approximately 1:50 AM. The incident resulted in multiple casualties and affected numerous families, raising concerns over maritime safety and regulatory enforcement.

Participants in the rally emphasized the importance of addressing systemic issues in sea transportation and ensuring that responsible parties are held accountable. The demonstration remained peaceful, with attendees offering prayers and messages of sympathy for the victims and their families.

Organizers stated that the event aimed to amplify the voices of those affected and to urge authorities to take immediate and transparent action. The council also reiterated the need for stricter safety measures to prevent similar incidents in the future.





SSC Marks 54th Birthday of President Ututalum with Campus Celebration



By Munir Ibno

Sulu State College (SSC) held a formal celebration on February 5, 2026, at the SSC Gymnasium in Jolo, Sulu, to mark the 54th birthday of its president, Prof. Charisma Samparani Ututalum, CESE.

The event gathered administrators, faculty, and students to recognize her leadership and contributions to the institution.

The program featured messages from key officials, including Vice President Prof. Nelson U. Julhamid and CSG President Den Ahmar Rakib, who highlighted the administration's efforts in advancing institutional development. Additional remarks were delivered by Dr. Almashien Lipae and Eng. Firash Zhed S. Ututalum, emphasizing ongoing academic and student-centered initiatives.



A performance by the Stalwart Pride added to the program, followed by a message from Prof. Ututalum, who encouraged the academic community to remain committed to excellence and guided by faith.

Under her leadership, SSC has pursued significant developments, including its transition toward university status and expansion of academic programs.

The celebration served as an opportunity for the institution to acknowledge these milestones while reinforcing its commitment to continued growth and service.

SSC Concludes TAGAMA 2026 to Prepare Graduates for Careers and Licensure

By Marfroiza Kasim



Sulu State College (SSC), through its Office of Student Affairs and Services and Guidance and Placement Center, concluded TAGAMA: Job Preparation 2026 on February 13, following a week-long series of activities aimed at preparing graduating students for employment and licensure examinations.

Held from February 6 to 13 at the SSC Gymnasium and Center for Culture and Arts, the program gathered students from multiple academic units, including teacher education, computing, criminal justice, social work, engineering, agriculture, nursing, business, and arts and sciences.

The initiative focused on career readiness, professional development, and examination preparation. Sessions included discussions on digital platforms for job applications and licensure processing, test-taking strategies, workplace professionalism, and business correspondence.

Speakers emphasized the importance of adaptability, ethical practice, and continuous learning as students transition into professional environments. A lecture on life after graduation from an Islamic perspective highlighted values formation in career paths.

The program also introduced the Stalwart Career Portal, designed to assist graduates in accessing employment opportunities. Organizers noted that TAGAMA 2026 forms part of SSC's ongoing efforts to equip students with practical skills for post-graduation success.





SSCMPC Holds 31st General Assembly, Highlights Growth and Cooperative Initiatives

By Munir Ibno

The Sulu State College Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SSCMPC) conducted its 31st Annual General on February 14, 2026, at the SSC Multipurpose Gymnasium in Jolo, Sulu. The event gathered members and stakeholders to review accomplishments and discuss future plans.

Carrying the theme focused on unity and shared prosperity, the assembly emphasized the cooperative's role in supporting community development and institutional progress. Members participated in discussions on improving services, expanding programs, and strengthening member engagement.

SSC President Prof. Charisma S. Ututalum delivered a message underscoring the value of collaboration, integrity, and collective responsibility in sustaining cooperative growth.

The assembly also served as a venue to present reports on the cooperative's performance and ongoing initiatives. Leaders highlighted achievements in service delivery and financial management while outlining strategies to address emerging challenges.

Organizers stated that the annual gathering is essential in reinforcing the cooperative's mission and ensuring transparency among members. The event concluded with a renewed commitment to advancing cooperative principles and fostering inclusive growth within the SSC community.



SSC CTE Students Earn Top Recognition in ELT Seminar

By Fatima Saquena Isnijul



Students from the Sulu State College College of Teacher Education (SSC CTE) received the Most Outstanding Performance Award during a seminar on Instructional Planning and Learning Measurement in English Language Teaching held on February 14–15, 2026, at Mindanao State University–Sulu.

The two-day seminar gathered participants from various institutions to enhance competencies in instructional design and assessment practices. Sessions covered topics such as Bloom's domains, integrated language skills, flipped classroom strategies, and the washback effect of language testing.

SSC representatives actively participated in discussions, workshops, and collaborative activities, demonstrating strong engagement and academic competence. Their performance during group tasks and open forums was recognized by organizers and facilitators.

Faculty members accompanied the student delegation, providing guidance throughout the event. Organizers noted that the award was based on criteria including participation, teamwork, and application of concepts.

The recognition highlights SSC's commitment to teacher education and the preparation of future educators equipped with relevant pedagogical skills. It also reflects the institution's continued involvement in academic engagements that promote professional growth and instructional excellence.



Sihnag Publication Earns Recognition at OSSEI Journalism Conference

By Munir Ibno and Marfroiza Kasim



Sihnag Publication earned an Honorable Mention in Page Layout Design during the Organization of Student Services Educators Incorporated (OSSEI) National Conference on Campus Journalism and 20th Writing Competition held March 23–25, 2026.

Layout artist Ruhida Asid received the award, representing the publication alongside staff writer Marfroiza Kasim and Filipino editor Munir Ibno. They were joined by members of Stalwart TV and Visual Arts with their adviser, Mr. Julius King I. Vivas.

The three-day conference gathered student journalists nationwide for lectures and competitions aimed at strengthening campus media skills.

Sessions included discussions on the evolving media landscape, sports reporting, news reporting, editorial writing, multimedia journalism, page design, and feature writing, facilitated by media practitioners and educators.

The final day featured editorial cartooning activities and the awarding ceremony recognizing winners across categories.

Organizers said the event continues to promote excellence in campus journalism by providing student journalists with national-level training and competition.

Sihnag Publication's recognition reflects its continued participation in journalism initiatives.

Sulu State College Becomes Sulu State University Under R.A. 12296

By Fatima Saquena Isnijul



Sulu State College (SSC) has officially been converted into Sulu State University (SSU) following the enactment of Republic Act No. 12296.

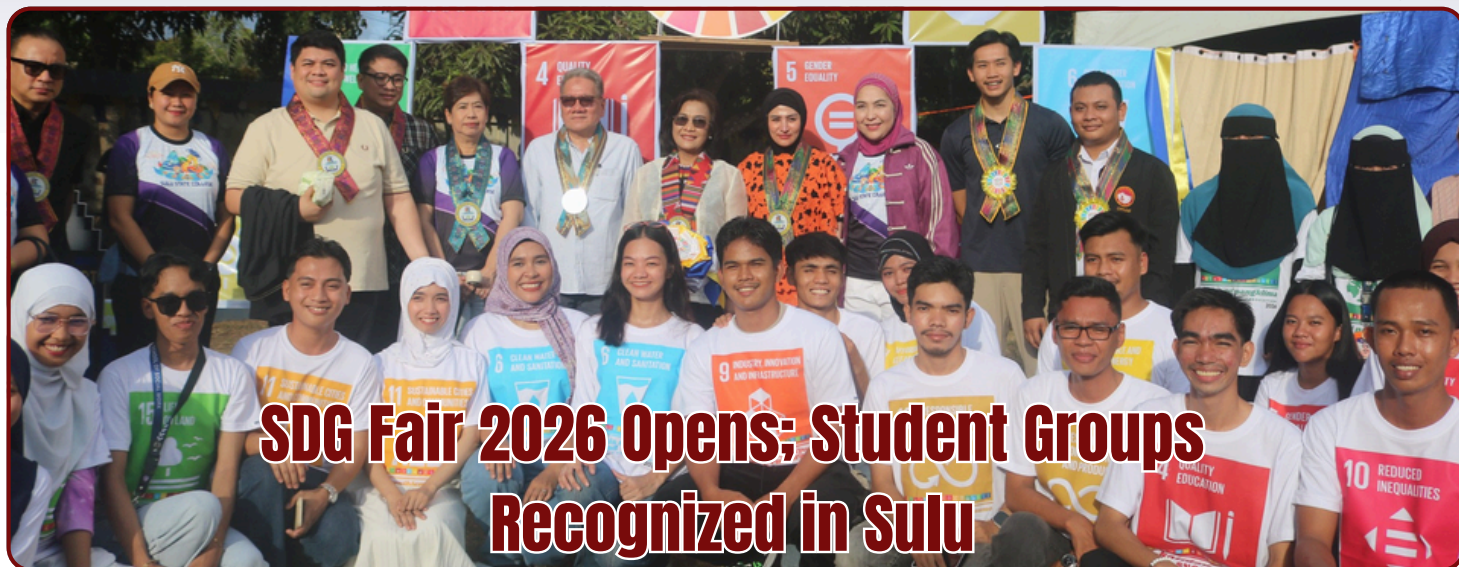
The conversion formalizes the institution's elevation to university status after years of development and compliance with national standards for higher education.

School officials said the transition is expected to expand academic programs, strengthen research capabilities, and improve facilities for students and faculty.

SSC has served as a key provider of higher education in the province, producing graduates in various fields. With its new status, SSU aims to enhance its role in regional and national development.

The change also reflects the institution's readiness to meet the increasing demands of tertiary education while maintaining its commitment to academic excellence and community service.

Officials added that the university will continue building on its legacy as it moves forward under its new identity.



By Fatima Saquena Isnijul

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Fair 2026 opened on March 28 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Chairperson Dr. Shirley C. Agrupis.

The event gathered local officials, academic leaders, and representatives from national agencies, including Sulu State University President Prof. Charisma S. Ututalum, to promote sustainable and transformative education.

Organized by the Office of Student Affairs and Services, the fair featured student-led initiatives aligned with the SDGs, focusing on innovation, community engagement,

as judges, highlighting youth involvement in sustainability efforts.

During the awarding ceremony, the Junior Social Workers Association of the Philippines–SSC Chapter was named SDG Excellence Champion. The Future Teachers' Organization placed first runner-up, while the Nursing Student Association secured second runner-up.

Special awards were also given to the Computer Engineering Student Society for Most Innovative and Stalwart TV for Community Impact. Organizers said the event strengthens partnerships and encourages student participation in sustainable development initiatives.

A New Chapter: SSC's 44th Founding Anniversary Marks Historic University Conversion

By Nurizna Usman

Sulu State College (SSC) marked its 44th Founding Anniversary on March 28–29, 2026, in a historic celebration that also signaled its transition into Sulu State University.

With the theme “Legacy in Motion: A Testament of Excellence,” the two-day event highlighted over four decades of academic service and institutional growth. Activities opened with a parade participated in by administrators, faculty, alumni, and students, which started at Patikul’s Grand Stand Road and concluded at the SSC grounds.

During the opening program, SSC President Prof. Charisma S. Ututalum emphasized that the celebration

reflection of the institution’s achievements and a step toward a new chapter.

The highlight of the event came when Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Chairperson Dr. Shirley C. Agrupis announced the official conversion of SSC into Sulu State University through Republic Act No. 12296.

Festivities continued with cultural presentations and competitions, including group dance, quartet, and street dance. A music video launch and fireworks display capped the celebration.

The anniversary marked a transition as the institution moves forward under its new university status.



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