

Sulu State College Marks Transition to University Status with 'Panyata' Ceremony

By Marfroiza Kasim



Sulu State College (SSC) formally transitioned into Sulu State University (SuluSU) through the ceremonial event “Panyata: Where the Tides Reveal the Pearl,” held on April 22, 2026, at the SuluSU Gymnasium.

The event gathered members of the Administrative and Academic Councils, faculty, non-teaching personnel, and students to witness the unveiling of the University's new identity, including its official seal, hymn, and Vision, Mission, Goals, and Objectives (VMGO).

University President Prof. Charisma S. Ututalum, CESE, delivered the opening message, outlining SuluSU's vision and direction as a newly established university.

The highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of the official university seal by Mr. Al-Fauzi Ibno, RCrim, who first honored the former SSC seal before unveiling the new design.

He explained the symbolism behind each element and emphasized that the seal represents the University's identity, values, history, and aspirations.



The ceremony also featured the final singing of the Sulu State College Hymn before the introduction of the Sulu State University Hymn, symbolizing the institution's transition to a new era. The event concluded with a photo opportunity, reaffirming SuluSU's commitment to academic excellence and its mission of serving the people of Sulu.





OSAS Holds Suntuan Student Leadership Summit 2026 at SuluSU

By Munir Ibno

The Office of Student Affairs and Services (OSAS) successfully conducted the Suntuan Student Leadership Summit 2026 on April 26–27 at the Sulu State University (SuluSU) Center for Culture and the Arts, gathering student leaders under the theme,

“Sailing Together: A Leadership Journey Toward Collective Impact.”



University President Prof. Charisma S. Ututalum, CESE, opened the summit by emphasizing the vital role of student leaders in creating positive change within the University and the community. Keynote speaker Prof. Manuel J. De Vera, Ph.D. Assistant Professor at the Asian Institute of Management, inspired participants to embrace challenges, stressing that leadership is defined by action rather than position.

The summit featured the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement, a plenary session by Reynald Jay Belen on youth leadership, and design thinking workshops facilitated by LA Tolentino and Janine Vicente, equipping participants with practical leadership and problem-solving skills.

On the second day, participants attended a plenary talk by Eden Llanillo on youth governance, organizational planning sessions, General Plan of Action (GPOA) presentations, and the World Café collaboration activity, which promoted teamwork and the exchange of innovative ideas among student organizations.

The summit concluded with the awarding of certificates, closing remarks by Engr. Firash Zhed S. Ututalum, M.Sc., and a photo opportunity, reaffirming OSAS' commitment to developing competent, collaborative, and service-oriented student leaders.

SuluSU Holds Orientation on LANDBANK ATM Account Enrollment for CHED Scholars and Grantees

By Munir Ibno



Sulu State University (SuluSU), through its Scholarship Office, conducted an orientation on LANDBANK ATM account enrollment for CHED scholars and grantees of the Tertiary Education Unsubsidy (TES) and Tulong Dunong Program

(TDP) on May 4, 2026, at the SuluSU Multipurpose Gymnasium in Walled City, Jolo, Sulu.

The orientation aimed to facilitate scholars' access to LANDBANK ATM accounts for the efficient release of financial assistance. Participants included beneficiaries of CMSP, MSRS, Estatskolar, ACEF-GIAHEP, COSCHO, TES, and TDP from Region IX and BARMM.

Mr. John Paul R. Labatigan of CHED-UniFAST Region IX welcomed the participants, while Ms. Marivic V. Iriberrri discussed the Memorandum of Agreement between CHED and LANDBANK and emphasized cooperation throughout the enrollment process. Mr. Samir Tiblani of LANDBANK explained the enrollment procedures and requirements.

The activity reaffirmed SuluSU's commitment to providing accessible, efficient, and student-centered support, ensuring scholars receive their educational assistance securely and on time.



SuluSU Holds Graduation Rites Meeting for Batch 2026

By Nurizna Usman

Sulu State University (SuluSU) convened its graduating students for a Graduation Rites Meeting on May 5, 2026, at the SuluSU Gymnasium to discuss preparations for the University's commencement activities.

Students were also briefed on institutional awards, including Paham, Usisa, Sugpat, Bahgu, and Pusaka, recognizing excellence in academics, research, leadership, and other fields.

The University College Registrar's Office presented the schedule of graduation-related activities, graduation fees, and policies on the borrowing and return of academic gowns.

The meeting concluded with a message from Chief Administrative Officer Mr. Kaisar Sakiran, encouraging students to complete all requirements and actively participate in the scheduled activities as they prepare for graduation.



Sulu State University (SuluSU) hosted its 1st Interdisciplinary Research Conference (IRC) on May 7, 2026, at the Center for Culture and Arts (CCA), showcasing student-led research aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Anchored on the theme, "Innovate, Research and Transform: Empowering Young Minds, Shaping Sustainable Development Goals in Sulu and Beyond," the conference featured eighteen research groups representing various schools and colleges, together with their deans, advisers, and faculty members.

The program opened with an invocation, followed by welcome remarks from Engr. Firash Zhed S. Ututalum,

SuluSU's First Interdisciplinary Research Conference Showcases Student Research

By Nurizna Usman

MSc, and a presentation of conference guidelines by Ms. Fatima Zheina I. Daud, RN. Nine research groups presented during the morning session, while nine more presented in the afternoon. SuluSU President Prof. Charisma S. Ututalum, CESE, emphasized the importance of research in fostering innovation and producing globally competitive graduates.

The College of Computing Studies won Best Research Poster, while the School of Computer Engineering received the Best Research Paper award. The conference concluded by reaffirming SuluSU's commitment to strengthening research, innovation, and sustainable development through student scholarship.



Sihnag Publication Conducts Selection of Next Editorial Board

By Albenhasadedson Hussin

Sihnag Publication conducted its Editorial Board Screening and Practical Ranking Examination from May 11 to 15, 2026, as part of the selection process for its Editorial Board for Academic Year 2026–2027.

The screening began with individual interviews held from May 11 to 14, during which staffers were assessed based on their leadership potential, editorial experience, commitment, and readiness to assume key positions within the publication.

On May 15, staffers took a practical ranking examination covering article writing, photojournalism, and layout design to evaluate their technical competencies and journalistic skills.



The activity reflects Sihnag Publication's commitment to a fair, merit-based selection process in identifying its next editorial leaders.

Through the screening and ranking examinations, the publication seeks to ensure that experienced staffers continue upholding excellence, integrity, and responsible campus journalism in the coming academic year.

SuluSU Celebrates N.E.S.P. Day 2026

By Kaida Usman



Sulu State University (SuluSU) celebrated National Education Support Personnel (N.E.S.P.) Day 2026 under the theme, “Committed to Service Today, Creating for Tomorrow,” honoring the dedication and contributions of its non-teaching personnel.

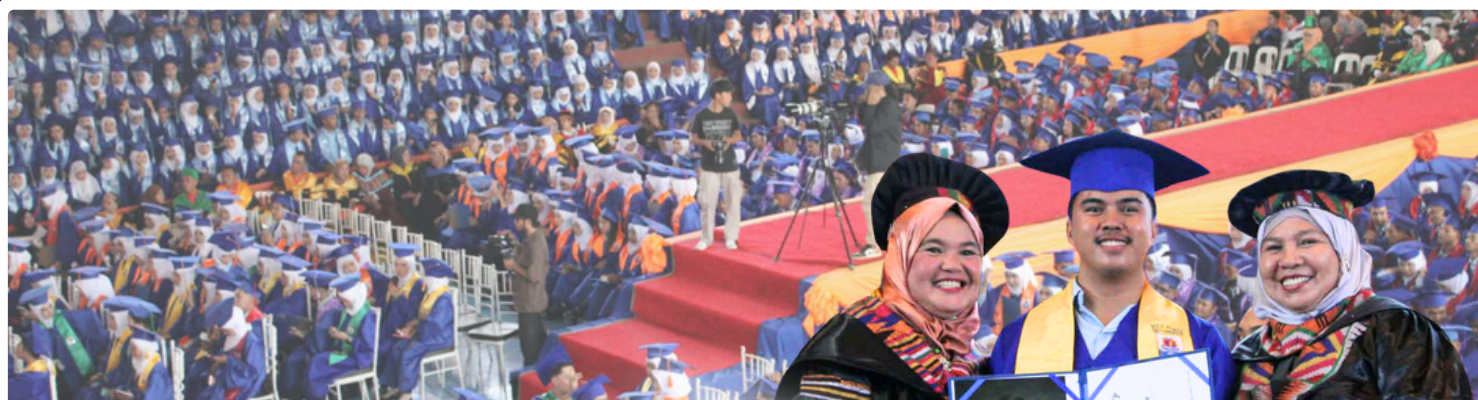
The celebration began with a parade from the SuluSU Main Campus to the SuluSU Gymnasium, followed by an invocation, the singing of the Philippine National Anthem and the SuluSU Hymn, and the opening program. Dr. Almashin S. Lipae, President of the Non-Teaching Personnel Association, delivered the welcome message, while University President Prof. Charisma S. Ututalum, CESE, inspired participants with a message recognizing the vital role of education support personnel in the University's continued growth.

A video presentation highlighted the years of dedicated service rendered by the University's non-teaching personnel. Team leaders from the Scarlet Pillars Red, Green Eagle, Kahel, Yellow Flavion, and Blue Sonic teams also delivered inspirational messages.

The celebration featured a Group Dance Competition, with the Blue Sonic Team emerging as champion, followed by the Kahel Team and the Scarlet Pillars Red Team. Afternoon sports and skill games further promoted teamwork, camaraderie, and unity, reaffirming SuluSU's appreciation for its education support personnel.

Sulu State University Holds Pre-Graduation Ceremony for Its 44th Commencement Exercises

By Kaida Usman



Sulu State University (SuluSU) held its 44th Commencement Exercises Pre-Graduation Ceremony for Batch 2026 on June 4, 2026, at the SuluSU Multipurpose Gymnasium in Walled City, Jolo, Sulu, under the theme

“ Legacy in Motion: A Testament of Excellence. ”

The ceremony opened with an invocation, followed by the singing of the Philippine National Anthem and the SuluSU Hymn. Batch Salutatorian Ms. Avegirl G. Ronie, Magna Cum Laude from the Bachelor of Arts in English Language Studies, delivered the welcome remarks, emphasizing that true education is grounded in integrity, compassion, and unity.

Assoc. Prof. Alijandrina T. Jalilul, Ed.D., Vice President for Academic Affairs, introduced guest speaker Dr. Milabel Enriquez-Ho, Ed.D., RN, Executive Director of the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACUP), Inc. In her inspirational message, she encouraged graduates to pursue success while remaining rooted in their identity, culture, and values as they begin a new chapter.

The ceremony also featured the distribution of diplomas by the respective colleges, the Pledge of Loyalty led by Ms. Ayesha T. Sarabi, Magna Cum Laude, and the Oath of Membership to the SuluSU Alumni Association administered by Mr. Hussin U. Amin.

Vice President Prof. Nelson U. Julhamid, Ph.D., delivered the closing remarks, encouraging the graduates to uphold excellence, resilience, and service as they embark on their professional journeys. The ceremony marked a meaningful milestone as Batch 2026 celebrated the culmination of years of dedication and officially prepared for life beyond the University.



Sulu State University Holds Its 1st Hooding Ceremony and Conferral of Diplomas for Graduate Studies

By Kaida Usman

Sulu State University (SuluSU) Graduate Studies conducted its first Hooding Ceremony and Conferral of Diplomas on June 4, 2026, at the SuluSU Multipurpose Gymnasium in Walled City, Jolo, Sulu, under the theme, “Embracing Tradition, Charting the Future.”

The ceremony opened with an invocation, followed by the singing of the Philippine National Anthem and the SuluSU Hymn. Vice President for Administration and Finance Prof. Nelson U. Julhamid, Ph.D., delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the value of excellence, commitment, and lifelong learning. University President Prof. Charisma S. Ututalum, CESE, also conveyed her message of congratulations and encouragement to the graduates.

Guest speaker Dr. Lillian A. De Las Llagas, former Commissioner of the Commission on Higher Education and retired professor at the University of the Philippines Manila, inspired the graduates to become globally competitive, resilient, and committed to continuous learning as they pursue leadership and professional excellence.

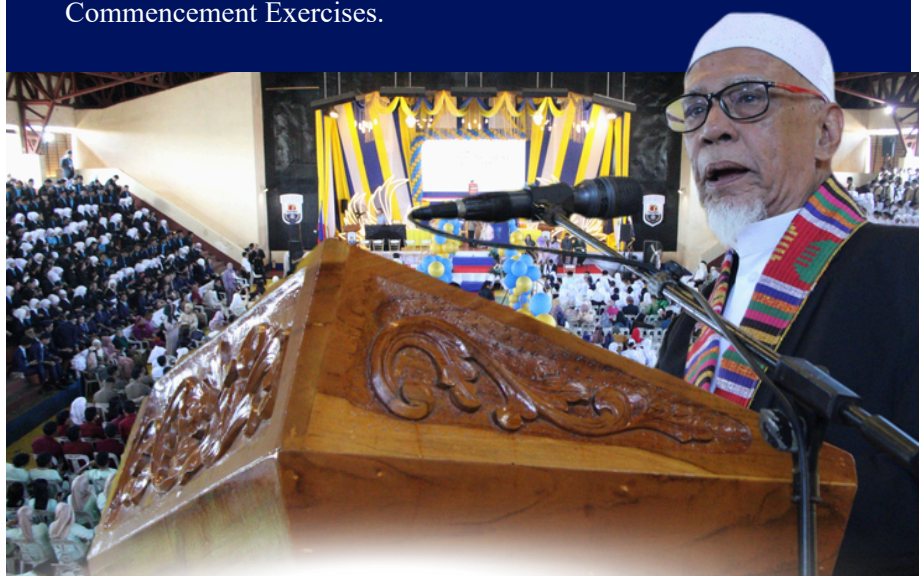
The ceremony's highlight was the hooding and conferral of diplomas for Graduate Studies Batch 2026, followed by the Pledge of Loyalty led by Dadang A. Ramsani and the induction into the SuluSU Alumni Association administered by Mr. Hussin U. Amin.

Dean of the School of Graduate Studies Prof. Masnona S. Asiri, DPA, concluded the program by congratulating the graduates and encouraging them to uphold the University's ideals of excellence, service, and lifelong learning as they embark on the next stage of their professional and academic journeys.

SuluSU Holds Baccalaureate Service for Class of 2026; Grand Mufti Speaks on Service and Faith

By Nur-Ana Sahiri

Sulu State University (SuluSU) formally commenced its pre-graduation activities with the Baccalaureate Service for the Class of 2026 on June 6, 2026, at the SuluSU Gymnasium in Walled City, Jolo. Held under the theme, “Legacy in Motion: A Testament of Excellence,” the gathering brought together graduating undergraduate and graduate students for a solemn celebration of thanksgiving, reflection, and spiritual preparation ahead of the University's 44th Commencement Exercises.



Serving as the guest speaker, Sheikh Abdulwahid A. Inju, Grand Mufti of Zamboanga, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi (ZamBaSulta), and Palawan, emphasized the importance of faith, humility, integrity, and service. In his message, he reminded the graduating class that academic success should be accompanied by strong moral values and encouraged them to use their education to make meaningful contributions to their families, communities, and the nation.

Meanwhile, a symbolic presentation of offerings by representatives from each college and school reflected the graduates' gratitude, loyalty, and enduring connection to the University.

Furthermore, Assistant Professor Adawiya Jamasali delivered an expression of appreciation on behalf of University President Prof. Charisma S. Ututalum, CESE, while Engr. Firash Zhed S. Ututalum, Dean of the Office of Student Affairs and Services, formally introduced the University's college deans.

Finally, the ceremony concluded with a photo opportunity, marking the beginning of SuluSU's graduation rites and celebrating the Class of 2026's academic journey while inspiring graduates to move forward with excellence, faith, and a commitment to serving society.

SSU Celebrates Its First Commencement Exercises with "Legacy in Motion: A Testament of Excellence"



Alhamdulillah – in every hardship, there is ease.

By Kaida Usman

Sulu State University (SuluSU) marked a historic milestone as it held its first Commencement Exercises as a University at the SuluSU Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Walled City, Jolo, Sulu on Monday, June 22, 2026. With the theme "Legacy in Motion: A Testament of Excellence," the ceremony set the tone for a program that honored both achievement and the journey behind it.

The program opened with a formal processional. Marshals in academic regalia led the graduates into the SuluSU Multi-Purpose Gymnasium. They were followed by the Order of Colors, with the Philippine flag and the SuluSU flag carried at the front, and by the

mace bearer carrying the academic mace, a symbol of the university's authority and academic tradition. The graduating class entered in full regalia as processional music played, and was met with applause from families, faculty, and guests.

An invocation came next, followed by the singing of the Philippine National Anthem and the SuluSU Hymn.

After the graduates were presented and formally accepted, Prof. Charisma S. Ututalum, CESE, University President, introduced the day's keynote speaker: Hon. Dr. Shirley C. Agrupis, Ph.D., CHED Chairperson.

Class Valedictorian Almufhdasel P. Kairan then delivered his Address of Thanks. He reflected on the challenges the batch overcame and expressed gratitude to mentors, families, and the SuluSU community for their support.

Serving as Master of Ceremony was Asst. Prof. Firash Zhed S. Ututalum, M.Sc., Director of Student Affairs and Services.

The program concluded with the singing of the commencement song, "Saranggola."



SuluSU's First Commencement Exercises affirmed the essence of a HALAL University – to excel in a global community while remaining humble and committed to service.

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