



Empowered to Lead: MPSU–Bontoc Strengthens Student Governance and Participatory Leadership

Mountain Province State University (MPSU)–Bontoc Campus held its Mass Induction and Oath-Taking Ceremony for the newly elected student leaders for the Academic Year 2024–2025 on December 10, 2024, at the lobby of the Administration Building. The event marked a significant milestone in empowering student organizations that serve as vital partners in upholding the university’s commitment to leadership development, academic excellence, and social responsibility.

Student organizations at MPSU play a crucial role in shaping the character and potential of students, providing them with avenues to develop leadership skills, foster unity, and practice responsible citizenship. They serve as training grounds where students learn the values of teamwork, accountability, and public service key competencies that prepare them for future leadership roles in their communities and professions. Beyond campus activities, these organizations also contribute to the realization of peace and sustainable development, echoing MPSU’s mission of producing globally competent and socially responsive graduates.

At the forefront of student governance is the Student Supreme Council (SSC), the highest student governing body that represents the collective voice of the student body. The SSC serves as the unifying arm of all recognized student organizations and acts as a bridge between the administration and the student body. Through its leadership and advocacies, the SSC promotes participatory governance, defends student rights, and ensures that student concerns are effectively addressed in policy formulation and campus initiatives. Student representatives are also enjoined to participate in planning assessment of the University, Budget Forum and Consultation, and other matters concerning the student body.

The university takes pride in its wide range of student organizations, which reflect the diversity of academic disciplines and student interests comprising of 9 Departmental Organizations, 12 Non-Departmental Organizations, and 5 Geographical Organizations.

Among the **departmental organizations** are the *Criminology Student Association (DOCSA)*, *School of International Hospitality and Sustainable Tourism Management (SIHSTM)*, *Business Administration Student Organization (BASO)*, *Office Administration Student Organization (OASO)*, *United Elementary Educators (UnEED)*, *Liberal Arts Students Organization (LASO)*, *Future Mentor Society (FMS)*, *Student Nurses Organization (SNO)*, and *Information Technology Society Organization (ITSO)*. These groups support



academic excellence through initiatives such as academic forums, outreach programs, research advocacy, and professional development activities.

The **non-departmental and allied organizations** such as the *Mathematics Society*, *Defenders Organization*, *Justifiers of Equity and Wide Spreaders of Equality (JEWEL)*, *Junior Marketing Organization (JMO)*, *Junior Auditors Group (JAG)*, *Junior Financial Executives (JFinEX)*, *Societas Scientia Organization (SSO)*, *School of Teacher Education Academic Educators Sports Club (AcES)*, *Social Studies Society Student Organization (SSSSO)*, and *United Lingo Society (ULS)* further enhance student engagement by promoting academic collaboration, social awareness, and advocacy for equality and innovation.

In addition, **geographical organizations** such as the *Guina-ang Bontoc Youth Organization (GBYO)*, *Upper Bauko Students' Association (UBSA)*, *Betwagan-Anabel Students Association (BASA)*, *GAWIS ay Bauko Students Organization (GABSO)*, and *Sadanga Students Association for Peace and Development (SSAPD)* serve as bridges of cultural unity and community solidarity, strengthening students' regional identity and connection to their roots. The religious organization, *Gospel Light Bible Baptist Youth Organization (GLBBYO)*, nurtures spiritual growth and moral grounding among students, promoting respect, faith, and compassion. Meanwhile, the performing arts organization, *Student Cultural Arts Group (SCAG)*, showcases student creativity and talent, preserving local culture and fostering artistic excellence.

Among the notable accomplishments of these various student organizations for the year includes the following: providing free printing services to students, conducting class tutorials on math-related subjects, organizing clean-up drives and tree-planting activities, and initiating seminars, workshops, and self-awareness programs aimed at holistic student development. They also spearheaded student competitions such as the *Student Cultural Showdown* and *Battle of the Brains*, which foster creativity, camaraderie, and academic excellence. Moreover, the Student Nurses Organization took the lead in conducting health assessments to promote health and wellness among the MPSU faculty, staff, and students a testament to their commitment to community service and well-being.

Through these organisations, MPSU continues to uphold its commitment to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, by promoting participatory governance, civic engagement, and inclusive leadership among the youth. The mass induction ceremony thus symbolises not only the formal assumption of leadership but also the collective responsibility of student leaders to embody integrity, service, and unity in advancing the university's vision and mission.

With its strong network of organisations, MPSU remains steadfast in its mission to mold leaders who are not only academically competent but also socially aware, ethically grounded, and committed to the pursuit of peace and development for the greater good.



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