



ATENEO DE NAGA UNIVERSITY: FOSTERING DIALOGUE, AWARENESS, AND SAFE CIVIC SPACES

Ateneo de Naga University (ADNU), through its academic and social involvement units, continues to uphold its commitment to democratic participation and responsible citizenship by organizing initiatives that encourage open dialogue, civic engagement, and critical awareness. These initiatives bring together diverse political, civic, and academic stakeholders to discuss pressing societal issues in a respectful, inclusive, and truth-centered environment.

The Center for Community Development (CCD) has been at the forefront of these efforts. In 2025, it spearheaded Fake n' Facts: A Multi-Sectoral Group Against Fake News, a province-wide forum responding to the growing spread of misinformation. The event convened representatives from government agencies, civil society organizations, the academe, and the private sector to collectively examine the dangers of disinformation and the ethical use of digital technologies, including artificial intelligence. Participants signed a pledge of commitment to promote fact-based discourse and safeguard truth in public communication, making the forum a milestone in collective media literacy and civic responsibility.



Source: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cyfu2i-KbWFRGH7uYnj7wMJgIKtMsxa7/view>

CCD also launched Pasiring: Atenean Youth for Servant Leadership, a gathering of 26 newly elected Atenean Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials from across the region. The conversation encouraged reflection on public service and ethical leadership, guided by Ateneo's Ignatian values of discernment and magis. The dialogue allowed the University to identify areas for continued mentorship and support for these young leaders, furthering their capacity to serve their barangays with competence and integrity.

In collaboration with the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) and the Archdiocese of Caceres, ADNU organized Harampangan 2025, a major public election forum held on April 28, 2025. The event featured congressional and gubernatorial candidates and drew more than 2,700 participants on-site and over 550,000 online viewers. The forum offered an impartial platform where voters, students, and faculty could hear candidates' positions directly and engage them in meaningful dialogue—an exercise in participatory democracy that encouraged informed and conscientious voting.



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BCh96HGiy/>

Meanwhile, the Creative Endeavors Council (CEC) and the Ateneo Film Society provided cultural and reflective spaces for discussing political and human rights issues. During Buklad Fest 2025, the screening of *Alipato* at Muog—a documentary on the disappearance of activist Jonas Burgos—sparked important conversations about freedom of expression, press freedom, and civic courage. The post-screening discussion with filmmaker JL Burgos and his mother, human rights advocate Editha Burgos, allowed students to reflect on the role of art and media in social awareness and justice.

Across these programs, ADNU demonstrated its continuing role as a university that bridges dialogue among citizens, leaders, and advocates. Through education, media literacy, and creative engagement, the University sustains its mission of being a **safe and neutral space where diverse voices meet in the shared pursuit of truth, accountability, and the common good.**