



Office of the President

# Ateneo de Zamboanga University

*The Jesuit University in Western Mindanao, Philippines*  
Since 1912

*In Consortium with:*  
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*Xavier University - Ateneo de Cagayan*

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## A Letter from the President

May 27, 2025

Dear members of the AdZU community,

Last night, May 26, a fatal shooting occurred just outside our campus along Gov. Alvarez Avenue. Two individuals lost their lives in this tragic incident. We extend our deepest sympathies to their families and loved ones.

I want to assure you that **no member of the Ateneo community was harmed**. Our security team responded swiftly and remains in close coordination with local authorities. We are reviewing and strengthening our existing protocols to ensure that our campus continues to be a safe and secure environment for everyone.

This is not the first time our city has faced such violence. In recent months, we've seen a series of attacks in public places—often involving unidentified gunmen. These incidents have left many of us feeling unsettled, and understandably so.

Still, the most important thing is not to retreat into fear, but to respond with steadiness, compassion, and care for one another. We may not be able to solve everything beyond our walls, but **we can do our part here: to stay alert, to support each other, and to create a community grounded in trust and vigilance**.

If you need someone to talk to or pray with, our Campus Ministry and Guidance offices are always open to you.

Thank you for continuing to be a community that chooses courage over fear, and kindness over indifference.

**In solidarity and care,**

(ORIGINAL SIGNED)

**Fr. Ernald M. Andal, SJ**  
University President