



Office of the President

Ateneo de Zamboanga University

The Jesuit University in Western Mindanao, Philippines
Since 1912

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

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UNIVERSITY MEMORANDUM

MEMO NO. : Memo 24-25:75
DATE : May 2, 2025
TO : The AdZU Community
SUBJECT : **New Director of the Social Development Unit**

I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Ms. Aurora C. Gonzales** as the new **Director of the Social Development Unit (SDU)**, effective **June 1, 2025**, for an **initial term of one (1) year**.

Ms. Gonzales brings with her an extensive background in social development, peace advocacy, academic leadership, and community engagement. She holds a Master's degree in Theology major in Pastoral Ministry from Ateneo de Davao University and is currently completing her Doctor of Philosophy in Development Management. Her career includes significant leadership roles within and outside the University, such as Director of the Ateneo Center for Leadership and Governance, and Formation Coordinator of the Higher Education Unit. She has also served as Director of the Institutional Social Concerns Office at La Salle University, Ozamiz City.



Her background and expertise make her exceptionally well-suited to assume the responsibilities of SDU Director, which include academic excellence, robust leadership experience, a commitment to social justice, and a demonstrated capacity for program implementation, resource mobilization, and inter-sectoral collaboration. As Unit Director, Ms. Gonzales will oversee the operations of the SDU's key units—ACCA, ACES, ALTEC, and CCES—ensuring that their work remains aligned with the University's mission of faith, excellence, and service. She will lead the development of innovative, responsive programs that address local and national development challenges while fostering civic engagement within the AdZU community.

We also take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt gratitude to **Mr. Mario S. Rodriguez**, who has **served with dedication and integrity as SDU Director for the past two (2) years**. His leadership has been instrumental in advancing the University's mission in community engagement and social development.

We likewise thank the **Human Resource Selection Committee**, chaired by **Fr. Richard V. Ella, SJ**, for their generous and diligent work in receiving nominations, screening applicants, and providing recommendations to the University President.

We welcome Ms. Gonzales into this new role and ask for your full support and collaboration as she assumes leadership of the SDU. Let us continue to work together in strengthening our University's mission of social transformation and inclusive development.

(ORIGINAL SIGNED)
Fr. Ernard M. Andal, SJ
University President