



Office of the President

# Ateneo de Zamboanga University

The Jesuit University in Western Mindanao, Philippines  
Since 1912

In Consortium with:  
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## UNIVERSITY MEMORANDUM

MEMO NO. : Memo 25-26:41  
DATE : March 27, 2026  
TO : The AdZU Community  
SUBJECT : **Earth Hour 2026**

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Tomorrow, **March 28, 2026, from 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM, Ateneo de Zamboanga University will observe Earth Hour.** All offices, academic units, and campus facilities are requested to switch off non-essential lights and electrical devices during this period, insofar as safety, security, and essential operations permit. **Members of the university community are likewise encouraged to observe Earth Hour in their homes.**

This year's observance comes at a difficult time. Zamboanga City continues to experience rotational brownouts, and the University is already implementing the Interim Guidelines on Energy Conservation and Operational Arrangements. Some may therefore ask whether observing Earth Hour still adds anything meaningful.

It does. Earth Hour is not a separate burden from the practical measures we are already taking. Rather, it is a brief and shared expression of the same responsibility that now guides our institutional response. If the University's current measures help conserve energy through concrete operational decisions, **Earth Hour allows us, as one community, to express the deeper spirit behind those efforts: prudent stewardship, solidarity with those most affected by disruption, and care for our common home.**

In this context, Earth Hour is not merely symbolic. It is a **conscious act of solidarity.** At a time when many families and communities are living with uncertainty and inconvenience, choosing to pause together for one hour reminds us that energy should never be taken for granted and that the burdens of disruption are not borne equally.

As a Jesuit university in Western Mindanao, we are called not only to respond efficiently, but also with conscience. Even modest communal acts can help form habits of responsibility, simplicity, and care, especially when they are joined to larger and more concrete efforts already in place.

Where possible, **may this also be an hour for prayer, reflection, rest, or simple presence with one another.**

Thank you for your cooperation and solidarity.

**May the One who is Creator of all guide us to live with gratitude, wisdom, and care. May we use the gifts of the earth responsibly, stand with those who suffer most, and work together for a more just and sustainable world.**

(ORIGINAL SIGNED)

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