



OVPRIES Compendium 2026:

Milestones in Research, Innovation, and Extension Services

Office of the Vice President for Research,
Innovation, and Extension Services



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INNOVARE: Sustainability in Action

Innovation and sustainability took center stage as Mabalacat City College (MCC) officially opened its Innovation Week on May 28, 2025, under the theme “INNOVARE: Sustainability in Action.” The highlight of the event was the Product Research Exhibit, where students showcased a wide range of innovative outputs that reflected both creativity and social responsibility. Among the featured products were eco-friendly innovations derived from the Balakat tree, including handcrafted soaps and sustainable briquettes—demonstrating how indigenous resources can be transformed into practical, value-added solutions. The exhibit not only celebrated student ingenuity but also emphasized the institution’s commitment to research-driven innovation anchored on environmental sustainability.

The event also set the stage for a series of academic and industry engagements, including research presentations and expert-led talks designed to further enrich students’ knowledge and exposure. Strengthening the significance of the initiative was the active participation of partner agencies such as the Department of Science and Technology Region III, alongside representatives from the City Environment and Natural Resources Office and the City Agriculture Office of the Mabalacat LGU. Their involvement highlighted the importance of collaboration in advancing sustainable development goals. Through INNOVARE, MCC continues to cultivate a culture of innovation—empowering students to become catalysts of change and contributors to a more sustainable future.



"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children." — Native American Proverb



MCC Conducts Community Resilience and Transformability Scorecard (CRTS) Under DREAM CapDev Programme



On September 10, 2025, Mabalacat City College (MCC) conducted the Community Resilience and Transformability Scorecard (CRTS) under the DREAM CapDev Programme to gather residents’ insights on hazards and disaster preparedness. The activity, held at the Barangay Hall of Dau and the MCC Cultural Hall in Dolores, was facilitated by Glen S. Nolasco, instructors, and DOST representatives, bringing together local stakeholders, government partners, and student leaders.

Student leaders from BS Biology, BS Legal Management, and AB History actively participated, highlighting MCC’s commitment to engaging youth as catalysts for community-based resilience. Through CRTS, the college strengthens the city’s disaster preparedness framework, ensuring that community-driven perspectives guide local government actions and foster long-term, sustainable resilience.



Strengthening Partnerships for Resilient Communities

On July 29, 2025, the Department of Science and Technology – Provincial Science and Technology Office (DOST-PSTO) Pampanga conducted a courtesy call at Mabalacat City College (MCC) in line with the rollout of the Community Resilience and Transformability Scorecard (CRTS) under the 3C-SHIELD Program, fostering meaningful dialogue on science-based approaches to disaster resilience and sustainable development. The visit highlighted the importance of collaboration between academe and government institutions in strengthening community preparedness and adaptive capacity through data-driven tools and frameworks. This engagement further reinforces MCC’s role in supporting evidence-based planning and community empowerment, in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology, as both institutions work toward building resilient and future-ready communities.



MCC and Mabalacat City Agriculture Office Hold Initial Meeting on Balakat Conservation Project



Finding the perfect outfit inspiration can be a challenge, but with a bit of creativity and an understanding of current trends, you can look stunning on any occasion. Start by choosing clothing that is comfortable yet stylish, such as pairing jeans with a chic casual top. For a more formal look, try combining a blazer with a simple dress or tailored pants. Accessories like necklaces, bracelets, and earrings can add an elegant touch. Shoes also play a crucial role; choose ones that match the occasion, whether they are sneakers, heels, or boots. Don't forget to consider trending colors and patterns, and tailor them to your personality. With the right combination, you can create a captivating and confident look every day.

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OVPRES and CENRO Conduct Ocular Visit in Preparation for Mabalacat River Clean-Up Drive

On September 11, 2025, the Office of the Vice President for Research and Extension Services (OVPRES) of Mabalacat City College (MCC), in collaboration with the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), conducted an ocular visit to the main rivers of Mabalacat City as part of its upcoming environmental initiatives. The activity aimed to assess site accessibility, identify potential hazards, and evaluate river conditions in preparation for a series of interventions, including clean-up drives, physicochemical testing, and water analysis.



Despite several weeks of inclement weather and continuous rainfall, which made some areas difficult to access due to overgrown shrubs and grasses, the team proceeded with the inspection. These challenges provided valuable insights into the current environmental conditions and highlighted the necessary measures to ensure the safe and effective implementation of future activities. The findings will guide strategic planning and resource allocation for upcoming environmental programs.



This initiative underscores the strong partnership between MCC and the local government in promoting environmental protection and sustainable water management. It also reflects a shared commitment to community participation in preserving the natural resources and historical significance of the Mabalacat rivers, aligning with global goals such as Clean Water and Sanitation, Climate Action, Life Below Water, Life on Land, Sustainable Cities and Communities, and Partnerships for the Goals.



Strengthening Partnerships for the Balakat Tree Project

The Office of the Vice President for Research and Extension Services (OVPRES) of Mabalacat City College (MCC), led by Glen S. Nolasco, convened a consultative meeting with partners from the Department of Science and Technology Region III, the City Agriculture Office, and representatives from the Indigenous Peoples community of Sitio Haduan, Calumpang where was held October 2, 2025. The discussion focused on strengthening the Balakat Tree Project through key initiatives such as intercropping Balakat trees with high-value crops (HVCs) and the installation of a sustainable irrigation system to support long-term productivity and community livelihood.

The meeting also underscored plans to revitalize the Balakat Sanctuary by integrating fruit-bearing and high-value crops while preserving Balakat as its core species. This approach envisions a dual-purpose sanctuary that promotes biodiversity conservation and economic opportunities for the Indigenous Peoples community. Through this collaboration, MCC and its partners reaffirm their shared commitment to advancing research-driven innovation, sustainable development, and community empowerment for future generations.



RIVER RESTORATION PROGRAM



In a strong demonstration of environmental stewardship and civic unity, Mabalacat City College (MCC) actively participated in the River Clean-up Drive held on October 24, 2025, along the Quitangil River in Barangay Sto. Rosario, Mabiga. The activity, initiated by the Provincial Government – Environment and Natural Resources Office (PG-ENRO) of Pampanga in partnership with CENRO, the Philippine Air Force, and the Barangay Council, brought together volunteers from various sectors to restore and protect the river. Representing MCC were teaching and non-teaching personnel, along with student leaders, who responded to the call of Glen S. Nolasco, reinforcing the college’s commitment to environmental advocacy and community engagement.

Volunteers worked collectively to collect waste, clear debris, and improve the condition of the riverbanks, contributing to efforts in flood prevention, pollution reduction, and public health promotion. The activity fostered camaraderie and a shared sense of responsibility among participants, culminating in a simple gathering hosted by PG-ENRO to thank all volunteers. MCC’s active involvement highlights its dedication to discipline, service, and social responsibility, extending its mission beyond the classroom and into meaningful community action.



MCC Showcases Eco-Innovations in Bamboo Product Competition

Mabalacat City College (MCC), through the Office of the Vice President for Research and Extension Services, proudly participated in The Search for the Most Innovative Bamboo Products 2025 – Kauayan Arts and Crafts Contest organized by the Provincial Cooperative and Enterprise Development Office (PCEDO), held at the Tarlac Capitol Center Building in Tarlac City. The event gathered innovators and institutions across the region, providing a platform to highlight sustainable and creative uses of bamboo as a valuable local resource.



Representing MCC in the Handcrafted Category were two research-based eco-innovations—BamBuhay Hand Soap and ECOWAYAN Briquettes. BamBuhay Hand Soap features a sustainable blend of bamboo extract and aloe vera, promoting environmental care, biodegradability, and wellness grounded in scientific research. Meanwhile, ECOWAYAN Briquettes highlight the college’s commitment to clean energy and environmental sustainability, utilizing carbonized bamboo combined with natural cassava starch as an alternative fuel source that supports deforestation reduction.



The participation of MCC was made possible through the support of the College President, Dr. Sonny N. De Guzman, alongside local government leaders, reflecting a shared vision of promoting proudly local products from Mabalacat City. This initiative underscores a strong commitment to advancing innovation, sustainability, and community empowerment through environmentally responsible technologies, positioning MCC as a key contributor to regional development and green innovation.



Mabalacat City College: The BEST CEST!

MALOLOS CITY, BULACAN — The Mabalacat City College (MCC), through the Office of the Vice President for Research and Extension Services led by Glen S. Nolasco, proudly represented both the institution and Mabalacat City at the 2025 Regional Science, Technology, and Innovation Week. Held from November 12–14, 2025, at the Malolos Sports and Convention Center, the event gathered innovators, researchers, and institutions across the region to celebrate advancements in science and technology.

MCC LEADS INNOVATION AT REGIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WEEK

Joining the delegation were BS Biology faculty members and students who actively showcased MCC’s research-driven outputs. Featured innovations included a range of Balakat-based products such as nutribars, cookies, tisane, soaps, and carbonized bamboo briquettes—demonstrating the institution’s commitment to sustainability and the utilization of local resources. These products highlight the integration of scientific research and practical application in addressing environmental and community needs.



Through its participation, MCC continues to strengthen its position as a hub for innovation and eco-friendly development. The exhibit not only showcased the college’s growing portfolio of research outputs but also reinforced its mission to promote sustainable solutions and community-oriented innovations, contributing to regional development and environmental stewardship.

MCC Accomplishes Days 5–6 of the DOST 3C-SHIELD Training Workshop

Mabalacat City College (MCC), through the Office of the Vice President for Research and Extension Services (OVPRES) led by Glen S. Nolasco, actively participated in the 3C-SHIELD program under the Universities SDG Action Network (USAN), in partnership with the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office Pampanga and supported by Future Earth Philippines. The training strengthened MCC’s capacity in disaster preparedness and community resilience through science-based and research-driven approaches.



As part of the program’s culminating activities, MCC presented its Capstone Project developed from a comprehensive problem tree analysis grounded on data gathered through the Community Resilience and Transformability Scorecard (CRTS). The proposal highlighted key challenges and strategic interventions tailored for Mabalacat City, positioning MCC as a vital academic partner in advancing data-driven planning and disaster risk reduction initiatives. This output reflects the institution’s dedication to transforming research into actionable solutions that directly benefit local communities.



The final sessions of the program focused on intensive workshops covering problem analysis, strategy mapping, DRRM planning, and project management, culminating in the presentation of capstone proposals by participating LGUs. The sessions were enriched by insights from distinguished experts, including a National Scientist and leading development practitioners, who emphasized the importance of localized, research-based decision-making. These engagements provided MCC participants with valuable knowledge and practical skills, further strengthening their capacity to contribute to resilient and future-ready communities.

MCC Breaks New Ground in Transdisciplinary Research

Mabalacat City College (MCC), guided by Mayor Geld Aquino, Vice Mayor Jun Castro, Hon. Patricia Acorda, and College President Sonny De Guzman, continues to elevate its academic profile both nationally and internationally. Under their leadership, MCC has achieved a historic milestone with its nomination to the Transdisciplinarity for Early Career Researchers in Asia+ (TERRA+) School, a prestigious short-course program endorsed by the Asia Science Mission and Department of Science and Technology Region III, hosted by the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN) in Kyoto, Japan, from December 4–12, 2025. This recognition positions MCC as one of the first Higher Education Institutions selected worldwide, highlighting its leadership and commitment to advancing transdisciplinary research.



Participation in TERRA+ is expected to strengthen MCC’s capacity for solution-oriented, cross-sectoral research addressing complex societal challenges. Following the training, the Office of the Vice President for Research and Extension Services (OVPRES), in partnership with DOST Region III and the Asia Science Mission, will conduct workshops, seminars, and webinars to institutionalize the knowledge and methodologies gained. These initiatives will ensure that TERRA+ insights benefit MCC faculty, students, partner communities, and local stakeholders, reinforcing the college’s long-term vision of becoming a competitive academic leader in Asia.

“SUPPORT LOCAL FARMERS AT MCC’S FARMERS’ FIELD” - VP NOLASCO

The Office of the Vice President for Research and Extension Services of Mabalacat City College (MCC) invites everyone to join the upcoming Farmers’ Field, an activity that brings local farmers from Sitio Haduan directly to the MCC community. As part of the Sustainable Agriculture initiative under the Balakat Project, the event aims to promote sustainable livelihoods, strengthen community partnerships, and provide farmers with a platform to showcase the fresh produce they proudly cultivate.



Visit MCC Dolores Campus tomorrow in front of the clinic to get fresh, locally-grown crops such as saging, papaya, kamote, ube, luya, pusung saging, laing, kamoting kahoy, luyang dilaw, and gabi. Your support not only helps farmers thrive but also celebrates community spirit, bringing home healthy produce while making a meaningful impact in the lives of those who cultivate the land.

This initiative is made possible through the support and visionary leadership of Gerald Guttrie Aquino, Jun Castro, Patricia Acorda, and College President Sonny N. De Guzman. Their collective commitment uplifts local farmers, demonstrates community solidarity, and highlights the importance of sustainable agriculture in supporting local livelihoods.



“OVPRES Joins Strategic Planning for Institutional Growth”



The Office of the Vice President for Research and Extension Services (OVPRES) of Mabala City College (MCC) actively participated in and presented during the Strategic Planning session held at Glory Hotel, bringing forward key plans to help shape the college’s strategic direction in the coming years. The session highlighted OVPRES initiatives aligned with strengthening institutional governance, advancing academic excellence, enhancing quality assurance, and promoting sustainable development.

Discussions also emphasized ensuring that OVPRES Vision, Mission, and Goals remain responsive and aligned with the overall direction of MCC and the mandates of the Commission on Higher Education. This ongoing initiative reflects MCC’s strong commitment to continuous improvement and responsive leadership in delivering quality higher education and meaningful community impact.



MCC Takes Mt. Pinatubo Resilience Initiative



The Office of the Vice President for Research and Extension Services of Mabalacat City College (MCC) participated in the preparatory meeting for the Asia Science Mission Project: Mt. Pinatubo Region Resilience Escalator Strategy (MPRES), a collaborative initiative focused on advancing science-based and community-centered approaches to regional resilience. Organized in partnership with the Provincial Government of Pampanga through the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office Pampanga, together with Future Earth Philippines and the International Science Council, the meeting brought together academic, policy, and community stakeholders to align efforts for upcoming regional activities.

Key discussions, led by national scientists and experts, emphasized the importance of multi-sectoral collaboration in addressing disaster risks and strengthening community resilience. Representing MCC were Vice President, Glen S. Nolasco and Research Assistant Ally Julian Liwanag, reinforcing the institution's active role in research-driven initiatives. Through its engagement in the Asia Science Mission—aligned with the 3C-SHIELD Program—MCC continues to support the translation of research into practical, field-based solutions that empower communities and promote sustainable development.



MCC Echoes TERRA+ Learnings to Address Wicked Problems

Mabalacat City College (MCC) has begun localizing insights gained from the 7th TERRA+ School on Transdisciplinarity held in Kyoto, Japan, reinforcing its commitment to addressing complex “wicked problems” through innovative and collaborative approaches. The program introduced practical frameworks for tackling pressing challenges such as water scarcity, solid waste management, environmental restoration, and socio-environmental risks—emphasizing the need to integrate scientific knowledge with stakeholder engagement and community contexts. These transdisciplinary strategies highlight the importance of collaboration among academe, government, and local communities in developing sustainable and inclusive solutions.



In line with these learnings, Glen S. Nolasco conducted a courtesy visit on January 21, 2026, with officials from the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) to explore collaborative initiatives. Key discussions included the River Restoration Program, the proposed establishment of a school-based Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), and other environmental projects aimed at improving waste management, water quality, and ecosystem rehabilitation. Through this partnership, MCC continues to align research with policy and community needs, advancing transdisciplinary solutions that promote sustainability and long-term environmental resilience.



MCC Secures Partnership with Tambay Coffee for Balakat Products

Mabalacat City College (MCC), through the Office of the Vice President for Research and Extension Services (OVPRES), has officially secured a partnership with Tambay Coffee for the promotion and distribution of its research-based Balakat products. These include the Balakat Tisane (Balakat Tea) and Balakat Bites (Balakat Cookies), which are now available at the Madapdap Branch in Mabalacat City and the Angeles City branch, making these locally developed products more accessible to the public.

This collaboration underscores MCC’s commitment to transforming research outputs into community-driven and enterprise-linked initiatives. Beyond their value as food products, the Balakat Tisane and Balakat Bites embody cultural and historical significance, drawing inspiration from the Balakat tree—the very symbol and namesake of Mabalacat City—thereby promoting both local heritage and sustainable innovation.



OVPRES CONDUCTS IMRC 2026

The Office of the Vice President for Research and Extension Services (OVPRES) of Mabalacat City College (MCC) successfully conducted the Institutional Multidisciplinary Research Conference (IMRC) on January 29, 2026, bringing together faculty researchers, students, and academic leaders in a dynamic platform for knowledge sharing and innovation. The conference highlighted a wide range of research outputs across disciplines, reflecting MCC’s growing commitment to fostering a strong research culture and promoting evidence-based solutions to real-world challenges.

The IMRC served as a venue for presenting completed and ongoing research, encouraging collaboration among various academic units, and strengthening the integration of research into instruction and extension services. Through this initiative, OVPRES continues to empower researchers and students to contribute to the advancement of knowledge, innovation, and community development, reinforcing MCC’s role as a center for academic excellence and research-driven impact.



Mabalacat City College and Pampanga State University Legalize Strategic Research Partnership

Mabalacat City, Pampanga — April 29, 2026 — Mabalacat City College (MCC) and Pampanga State University (PampangaStateU) formalized a strategic academic partnership through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the MCC Cultural Hall in Dolores, Mabalacat City. The agreement establishes a structured framework for inter-institutional collaboration, encompassing joint research initiatives, resource sharing, and co-publication of scholarly outputs. This initiative is designed to strengthen research productivity, enhance knowledge exchange mechanisms, and support institutional development through coordinated academic and research activities.



The partnership further outlines the implementation of research-driven programs, faculty and student mobility initiatives, and capacity-building efforts aligned with national and global development priorities. The signing ceremony was attended by key officials from both institutions, signifying a shared commitment to sustainable academic linkages and collaborative excellence. The event concluded with formal documentation, networking engagements, and a campus tour, reinforcing the institutions' collective objective of advancing innovation, evidence-based practices, and inclusive growth within the higher education sector.

MCC and DOST Extend Research Services Program in Sitio Haduan

Mabalacat City College (MCC), in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Pampanga, continues to advance community extension initiatives in Sitio Haduan through sustainability- and livelihood-focused interventions under Project Talakad, conducted on April 30, 2026. As part of the implementation, the Indigenous Peoples (IP) community received gardening toolkits, food packs, and Balacat seedlings through a multi-agency collaboration involving DOST, the City Youth Development Office (CYDO), the City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO), and MCC. Institutional representatives emphasized that the initiative forms part of a continuing framework for community support and development, anchored on science-based interventions and extension services.



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According to DOST Pampanga, the Balacat Project—initiated in 2020 and deployed in 2022 under the Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) program—targets geographically isolated and economically disadvantaged communities by integrating technology-driven livelihood opportunities, particularly through the utilization of the native Balacat tree. Community stakeholders expressed appreciation for the assistance, citing its direct contribution to local agricultural activities, while also identifying persistent challenges such as limited access to potable water, with residents traveling significant distances to obtain supply. MCC reiterated its commitment to sustained collaboration with partner institutions to enhance program impact and address critical community needs.





MCC Conduct RRA!

On May 28, 2026, Mabalacat City College (MCC)—through its Office of the Vice President for Research and Extension Services—joined forces with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Region III and the Mabalacat City Agricultural Office to conduct a Rapid Rural Assessment (RRA) in the remote community of Sitio Haduan, Marcos Village. This critical fieldwork marks the launch of Project BALAKAT (BAgong pag-asa LAYon para sa mga kapatid na KATutubo), a collaborative initiative funded under the DOST-CEST (Community Empowerment through Science and Technology) Program. Backed by the strong leadership of MCC President Dr. Sonny N. De Guzman and Mayor Atty. Gerald Guttrie P. Aquino, the team engaged directly with Indigenous Peoples (IP) community members to identify critical needs and resources, laying the groundwork for sustainable, science-based livelihood interventions. By bridging the gap between urbanized progress and remote ancestral domains, this powerful alliance champions inclusive, grassroots development that ensures no one is left behind.

DOST & OVPRIES ASSESSED THE IMPACT OF STARTBOOKS

MABALACAT CITY, PAMPANGA — To ensure its academic resources remain on the cutting edge, the Department of Science and Technology Region III (DOST-R3) conducted a comprehensive impact assessment of the STARBOOKS technology deployed at the Mabalacat City College (MCC) Dapdap Annex on May 28, 2026. Developed by the DOST-Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), STARBOOKS (Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosks) serves as the nation's pioneering offline digital library, providing critical access to thousands of STEM resources, research journals, and instructional videos without requiring an internet connection.



The evaluation engaged key campus stakeholders—including the campus librarian, faculty members, and former senior high school STEM students now pursuing science-related degrees at MCC. The assessment revealed that these digital kiosks have significantly enhanced academic research engagement and fostered innovative, technology-driven teaching practices across the college community, highlighting a highly successful and ongoing partnership between DOST-R3 and MCC.

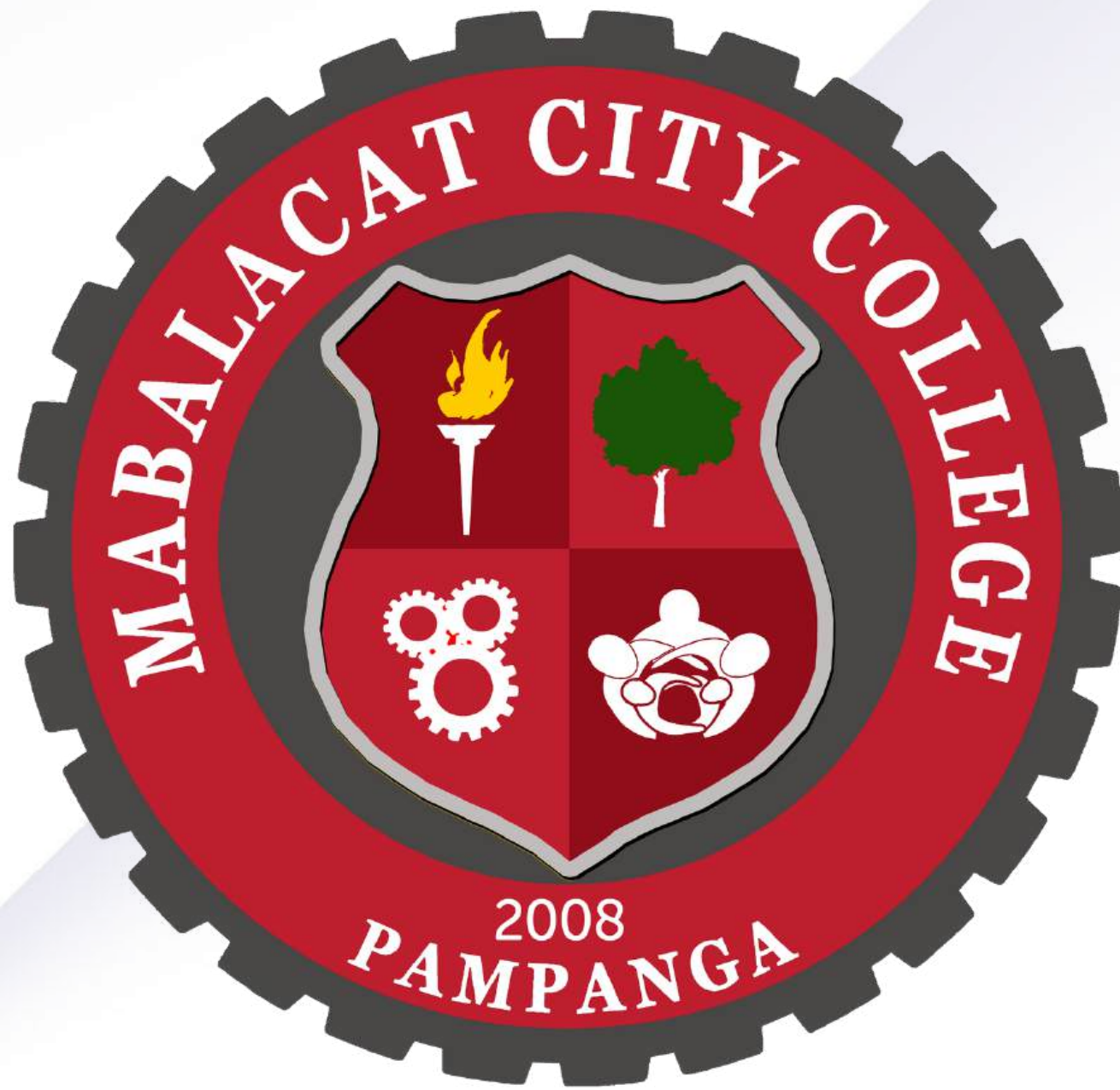
Shaping an Inclusive Future: MCC and City POP-GAD Align for Gender-Responsive Development

MABALACAT CITY, PAMPANGA — Moving closer to a fully inclusive, people-centered community, the Mabalacat City College (MCC) Office of the Vice President for Research and Extension Services recently convened a vital consultative meeting with the City Population and Gender and Development (POP-GAD) Office at Filhomes. Led by MCC Vice President Glen S. Nolasco, M.Sc., and Research Assistant Ally Julian Liwanag, alongside City POP-GAD officials Ms. Zafyr C. Aquino, RN, Ms. Jenalyn O. Arguelles, RSW, and Michelle Philippe R. Roque, MPA, the session established critical pathways for mainstreaming GAD principles. This collaborative effort represents a significant step in embedding gender sensitivity deeply within both the college's academic curriculum and local community extension programs.



A central focus of the partnership is the revitalization and expansion of Project GABAY, which will drive upcoming institutional webinars, capacity-building workshops, and community-centric programs designed to foster social equity. This joint endeavor directly aligns with the shared advocacy of City Mayor Atty. Gerald "Geld" P. Aquino and MCC President Dr. Sonny N. De Guzman to champion an empowered, gender-responsive Mabalacat City. By bridging the resources of the academe with local government expertise, MCC and the City POP-GAD Office are paving the way for a more diverse, fair, and inclusive environment where equal opportunities are actively upheld for all sectors.

MABALACAT CITY COLLEGE



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