



## **Public Forum on Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act Held for Student Beneficiaries**

A public forum on the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act (UAQTE), or Republic Act 10931, was held for student beneficiaries at the Binalonan White Tent on October 10, 2024. The event also included the disbursement of stipends to the CHED-Tulong Dunong Program (TDP) grantees.

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) UNIFAST organized the forum. 278 student-beneficiaries from various institutions, including Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University, Urdaneta City University, Pangasinan State University, Kingfisher School of Business and Finance, Lyceum Northern Luzon, and Polytechnic College of La Union attended in the event. Among these, 147 students were from the University of Eastern Pangasinan.

Key attendees included Dr. Christine N. Ferrer, CHED Region 1 Regional Director; Hon. Nicholi Jan Louie Q. Sison, 5th District of Pangasinan Board Member; Hon. Jesus "Isong" Basco, Special Assistant to the Governor; Hon. Joyce Fernandez, SK Provincial Federation President; Binalonan municipal officials led by Mr. Manuel Luis Jr., Municipal Administrator; Hon. Bryan Louie R. Balangue, Municipal Vice Mayor; Municipal Councilors; Dr. Evelyn Abalos-Tomboc, UEP President; Dr. Gloria C. Nemedez, UEP Vice President for Academic Affairs; and Mr. Mauri Fernandez, Tingog Partylist Representative.

Dr. Tomboc emphasized the importance of using the stipends wisely to shape a better future, while Board Member Sison and Hon. Jesus "Isong" Basco conveyed their congratulations to the beneficiaries on behalf of Governor Ramon "Mon-Mon" V. Guico III and Congressman of the 5th district of Pangasinan, Hon. Ramon "Monching" N. Guico Jr.

Mr. Manuel Luis Jr., representing Municipal Mayor Hon. Ramon Ronald V. Guico IV, announced several upcoming projects aimed at benefiting the University of Eastern Pangasinan (UEP). Additionally, Hon. Vice Mayor Balangue highlighted the administration's dedication to creating a brighter future for students.

Dr. Ferrer expressed her faith in the student's potential for success, stating, "It is also a symbol of faith that both CHED and our local leaders believe in your ability to succeed." Dr. Nemedez encouraged students to value their education and recognize the



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contributions of stakeholders who make such support possible, reinforcing the importance of academic dedication.

The unwavering commitment to academic excellence by CHED and local leaders, coupled with the financial support provided, lays a strong foundation for the students to build a brighter future.





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