

# URDANETA CITY UNIVERSITY FOSTERS OPEN DIALOGUE AND ETHICAL LEADERSHIP THROUGH NEUTRAL PLATFORMS

Urdaneta City University (UCU) continues to strengthen its commitment to peace, justice, and strong institutions under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 by providing safe and inclusive spaces for dialogue and civic engagement. Through academic forums, leadership symposia, and partnership initiatives, the University promotes transparency, ethical leadership, and mutual understanding among diverse stakeholders in governance, education, and community development.

One of UCU's major initiatives was the **Leadership Symposium titled "Leading the Public Good: Strategies for Ethical and Equal Governance"** held on June 13, 2024. The event gathered student leaders, faculty members, and public servants, including former Vice President **Maria Leonor "Leni" Robredo**, to discuss key issues in public service, leadership, and governance. The symposium served as a neutral and educational platform where participants exchanged insights on promoting integrity, social equity, and responsible citizenship — reflecting UCU's role as a bridge between academic learning and civic engagement.

Through its **Office of External Affairs and Linkages (EAL)** and the **Center for Community Development and Extension Services (CCDES)**, UCU establishes partnerships with government agencies, civil society organizations, and local institutions to encourage dialogue and collaboration on community and governance issues. The University's policies ensure that these engagements remain nonpartisan, inclusive, and focused on the common good, fostering an environment where stakeholders can address challenges constructively and respectfully.

These efforts align closely with **SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions**, as well as related goals such as **SDG 4 (Quality Education)** and **SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)**. By promoting informed discussion, ethical leadership, and civic awareness, UCU contributes to building a culture of dialogue and participatory governance within and beyond the campus.

Through its continuing programs and partnerships, Urdaneta City University reaffirms its role as a **neutral academic platform for open discussion**—empowering students, educators, and leaders to work collectively toward just, inclusive, and accountable institutions that uphold democratic values and sustainable development.

**MAKE SDG#16 A REALITY**

