

# URDANETA CITY UNIVERSITY: STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING AND LEGAL EDUCATION

Urdaneta City University (UCU) continues to take an active role in advancing effective governance and justice through education, outreach, and community engagement—aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. Specifically addressing **SDG 16.3.2**, which focuses on capacity-building and upskilling for policy- and law-makers, the University demonstrates its commitment to strengthening institutional knowledge and promoting responsible leadership across communities.

Through its **Center for Community Development and Extension Services (CCDES)**, UCU has implemented several capacity-building initiatives aimed at empowering local officials and community leaders. One notable program was the **Leadership Capability Training** for barangay officials and public servants of Barangay Sugcong, Urdaneta City. The training covered essential governance topics such as values formation, human relations, effective communication, and the implementation of the **Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) Act (RA 9262)**. This initiative strengthened participants' leadership skills and encouraged ethical, community-centered decision-making in local governance. UCU also partnered with international and national organizations to further its advocacy for peace and justice. The **Peace Education Capacity Building Program**, for instance, equipped educators with the knowledge and skills to integrate peace education into their teaching practices. By fostering values of understanding, empathy, and collaboration, the program supports UCU's mission to nurture responsible citizens who contribute to societal harmony and resilience.

In 2024, UCU formalized its partnership with the **Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)** through the **Cooperative Laws Awareness Program (CLAP)**. The memorandum of agreement aims to strengthen students' understanding of cooperative laws and provide practical training opportunities within the CDA and local cooperatives. This initiative bridges academic learning and public service, preparing future professionals for roles in governance, legal systems, and cooperative management.

Through these continuous efforts, UCU not only advances **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions)** but also contributes to **SDG 4 (Quality Education)** and **SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals)**. The University's commitment to outreach and capacity development reinforces its role as a vital partner in promoting transparent governance, community empowerment, and sustainable development across Pangasinan and beyond.

Urdaneta City University's initiatives highlight its vision of education as a cornerstone of good governance—where knowledge, ethics, and public service work hand in hand to build a more just and inclusive society.

**MAKE SDG#16 A REALITY**

