



Mayor Beng Climaco-Salazar
receiving her Fr. William Materson SJ
Award

If March 27, 2014 marks a significant history for Mindanao (signing of the Bangsamoro Peace Agreement), this day is also a feast day for Zamboanga City. Ateneo de Cagayan University-Xavier University honored our beloved Zamboanga City Mayor Beng Climaco-Salazar with the Fr. William Materson SJ Award during the university's 75th Commencement Exercise on the same day. Xavier University is the premiere university in Northern Mindanao that has produced top leaders in the government and private sectors.

The Materson Award is a special recognition award given to an individual who has rendered outstanding service to the community that ultimately rebounds to the growth and development of Mindanao. Zamboanguenos who are now based in CDO and who witnessed the awarding ceremony were so proud that they gave the loudest applause and cheers. The audience composed of the graduates, faculty, staff, and prominent guests gave Mayor Beng a standing ovation after her speech.

To quote from the Xavier University website, "Mayor Climaco-Salazar has done tremendous work in her home city, rallying the Zamboanguenos to rebuild Zamboanga after the MNLF siege in 2013." Her speech gave hope and smile that Zamboanga City will regain back its glory as the Pearl of Mindanao.



Xavier University Convocation

— InstaMag —

The audience gave a standing ovation after the speech of Mayor Beng Climaco-Salazar (Photo by: Dale Lagonera)



Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Oscar Moreno welcomes Zamboanga Ecozone Chair and Administrator Chris Arnuco during the event that honored Mayor Beng Climaco-Salazar



Cagayan de Oro turns over the proceeds of the advance screening of the film "ILO-ILO" to Mayor Ben Climaco for the victims of the Zamboanga siege (photo by Mike Baños)



Cagayan de Oro City Mayor Oscar Moreno and El Circulo Zamboangueno de Cagayan de Oro welcomes Zamboanga City Mayor Beng Climaco-Salazar. Both chief executives were previously colleagues in the Lower House of Congress.



Some members of the El Circulo Zamboangueno de Cagayan de Oro ^{2/3}



By Dante Corteza