



# RADlines Gazette

“Breaking Waves,  
Making Headlines”



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### Feature News

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# Tumandok:

Man-up Ati Community makes historic debut at Altavas Ati-Atihan '25

● Anthoneth Maslog

**ABORIGINAL.** A father carries his child to grace the streets in Altavas, marking their historic first appearance at the Altavas Ati-Atihan Festival, Wednesday, Jan. 22.

● Chan Ginoy

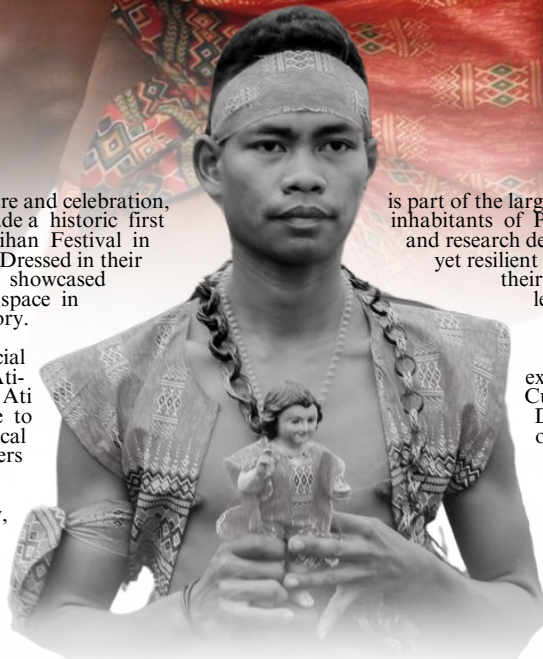
**E**mbracing the spirit of culture and celebration, the Man-up Ati Community made a historic first appearance in this year's Ati-Atihan Festival in Altavas, Aklan, on January 22. Dressed in their traditional attire, they proudly showcased their heritage, reclaiming their space in a festival rooted in their history.

Despite not receiving an official invitation to participate in the Ati-Atihan Festival, the Man-up Ati Community took the initiative to ask for permission from the local government and event organizers to be included.

The Man-up Ati Community, an indigenous group based in Barangay Man-up, Altavas,

is part of the larger Ati ethnic group, the original inhabitants of Panay Island. Historical records and research describe the Ati as a marginalized yet resilient community, striving to preserve their traditions despite modern challenges, particularly in land rights and social integration.

Across Aklan, Ati communities exist in Boracay Island, Barangay Cubay Sur (Malay), and Sitio Dinaut (Altavas). While land ownership programs and other initiatives have been introduced to support them...





...these efforts have diminished over time, leaving many Ati families in vulnerable conditions that need urgent attention.

Kalibo Bishop Jose Corazon Tala-oc has called on local officials and the public to support the Ati communities, emphasizing that their presence is central to the Ati-Atihan Festival. "If we forget the Ati, there is no reason to celebrate Ati-Atihan," he stated via Panay News, urging greater recognition of their role in the province's cultural heritage.

The Ati-Atihan Festival originated from the Ati people, commemorating the Barter of Panay, when Malay chieftains acquired land from them. Over time, the festival evolved into a Catholic celebration honoring the Santo Niño, often overshadowing the Ati's presence.

The 2025 Altavas Ati-Atihan Festival marks a significant shift, as the Man-up Ati Community steps forward to reclaim its rightful place. Their participation restores authenticity to the festival, reconnecting it with its indigenous roots and reinforcing the enduring cultural significance of the Ati people.



*In truth, kaabu kita nga mga Ati, especially sa probinsya it Aklan. Kun amat naga kasubu kita nga kita man mismo gaduea kanda...*

*Please help them. They (Ati) will not only enhance our community life with them but also the celebration of Sto. Niño...*

—Bishop Jose Corazon Tala-oc



**TUMANDOK.** For the first time in history, the aboriginal Man-up Ati Community joined the Altavas Ati-Atihan Festival this year, showcasing their traditional attire on Wednesday, Jan. 22.

## 75-Year-Old Devotee honors Sr. Sto. Niño through "Paeapak" Tradition

In a heartfelt display of faith and devotion, 75-year-old Carmencita Gallardo marked this year's Ati-Atihan Festival by observing the age-old religious tradition of Paeapak at the Cathedral Parish of St. John the Baptist in Kalibo, Aklan, on January 10.

Paeapak is a sacred healing ritual where a statuette of the Sto. Niño is gently pressed onto the bodies of devotees as prayers for healing and blessings are whispered.

For nearly two decades, Gallardo has upheld this spiritual vow (panaad) as an expression of gratitude and reverence for the miraculous Senior Sto. Niño, keeping alive a tradition deeply woven into Aklanon faith and culture.

● Anthoneth Maslog



*By doing this, I feel like Sr. Sto. Niño's presence gives me strength and healing—not just during this Paeapak but in my daily life," she shared.*



● Chan Ginoy

This is the old image of Señor Santo Niño that she previously used for Paeapak, which has now been replaced with a newly introduced and prescribed image by the parish.



## Kalibo Ati-atihan, Ibajay Ati-ati Festivals '25 showcase creative giant floats

● Anthoneth Maslog



Gracing the streets with artistic and cultural creations from Aklan, locals showcased their creativity by crafting giant floats during the 2025 Kalibo Ati-Atihan and Ibajay Ati-Ati Festivals.

On January 16, the Higante Parade of the Kalibo Ati-Atihan featured displays of the distinctive trademarks from various municipalities across Aklan.

On January 26, the Ibajay Ati-Ati Festival showcased floats decorated with locally sourced products from the barangays, highlighting the town's main sources of livelihood.

The float parades were added to the central part of the festivals, celebrating Aklan's rich history and cultural heritage.



## ASU inaugurates its 5th University President

**D**r. Jeffrey A. Clarin was officially inaugurated as the 5th University President of Aklan State University (ASU) during an Investiture Ceremony held at the Marzon Convention Center on Friday, January 31.

The event was attended by distinguished guests, university officials, faculty members, and students, all gathered to witness this historic milestone in the university's leadership.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Clarin shared his vision for ASU, highlighting his commitment to guiding the institution into a new era of growth, academic excellence, innovation, and strengthened community engagement.

● Ciara Buhayo

Photos from Aklan State University - Information Office/FB Page

## ASU-GCSO holds GCSO THRIVE for first-year students

● Ciara Buhayo

To help first-year students smoothly transition from high school to college, the Guidance and Counseling Services Office (GCSO) held GCSO THRIVE (Transformational Habits for Resilience, Insights, Values, and Enhanced Well-being), on Thursday, January 30, at the ASU Amphitheatre.

The event provided students with essential life skills and guidance aimed at fostering both academic success and personal growth. Through interactive sessions, first year students explored ways to build resilience, develop healthy habits, and embrace values that promote overall well-being.

## ASU launches GPT-Based Admission Assistant

● Ciara Buhayo



Aklan State University (ASU) introduced its GPT-Based Admission Assistant, a digital tool designed to guide students through the application process for the academic year 2025-2026.

This innovative assistant leverages advanced AI technology to provide fast, easy, and personalized guidance on admission requirements, application procedures, and important deadlines, ensuring that students can easily access information.

This tool is a GPT-based research in collaboration with the office of the University Admission.