



Narrative & Documentation Report

TAKE PRIDE 2025: A TWO-DAY CELEBRATION OF COLORS, COURAGE, AND COMMUNITY

June 20–21, 2025 | 1L West Concourse, Event Center, Limketkai Mall, Cagayan de Oro

I. NARRATIVE REPORT

The City College of Cagayan de Oro in collaboration with City Gender and Development Office, Andam Higala Inc., Sangguniang Kabataan of Barangay Gusa, and 12 key partner organizations, successfully conducted *Take Pride 2025*—a two-day celebration of diversity, identity, and equality held at the Event Center of Limketkai Mall. With rainbow flags raised high and hearts wide open, students, advocates, and community members gathered to honor Pride Month through forums, performances, games, and solidarity actions—anchored in advocacy and expression, and aimed at fostering a more inclusive and informed Cagayan de Oro.

DAY 1: PRIDE TALKS & FIERCE AND FREE: HIP HOP DANCE COMPETITION

June 20, 2025 | 1L West Concourse, Event Center, Limketkai Mall, Cagayan de Oro City

The program officially began with Opening Remarks from Dr. Ray Butch D. Mahinay, one of the event organizers and a known advocate for safe spaces in education. He welcomed the attendees—students, advocates, public servants, and allies—emphasizing the importance of community-centered advocacy, awareness, and youth participation. This was followed by Solidarity Messages from key institutional partners:

Dr. Jestoni P. Babia, President of City College of Cagayan de Oro, emphasized the college's ongoing commitment to championing inclusive education, gender sensitivity, and student-led initiatives for equity.

Ms. Sol Mosqueda, Interim Head of the City Gender and Development Office, highlighted the role of government and academic institutions in upholding and advancing LGBTQIA+ rights through policy, partnerships, and platforms such as Take Pride. These inspiring messages set the tone for the rest of the event.

Immediately after, the symbolic Ribbon Cutting Ceremony took place, officially opening the Pride Exhibit—a vibrant installation of artworks, photo displays, and community narratives that showcased LGBTQIA+ history, resilience, and pride in Northern Mindanao.

The day's centerpiece followed shortly after: the much-anticipated Pride Talks, a four-part discussion series that explored current issues and challenges faced by the LGBTQIA+ community.

AIM HIGHER





A1C Gregory Louis Cadeatan Magsanua of the Philippine Commission on Women – North Mindanao Field Office delivered a powerful keynote on the SOGIESC Equality Bill, discussing its relevance and impact on legal protections for diverse sexual and gender identities. Ms. Jade Dapal presented on the Safe Spaces Act, calling for more intentional efforts to create inclusive, respectful, and harassment-free environments in schools, workplaces, and public areas. Mx. Raffy Aldemir, a counselor and outreach worker from DOH CHD–Northern Mindanao, gave an insightful talk on HIV and AIDS awareness, blending facts with her personal advocacy journey. Mx. Alvin Neyra closed the segment with a compelling discussion on intersectionality, challenging attendees to recognize how gender and identity intersect with other systems of oppression.

To cap off the forum, the speakers came together for a panel discussion, moderated by Mr. Hamilcar Chanjuco, Founder of Mindanao Pride. The discussion allowed students and participants to raise questions and engage in dialogue, deepening the learning experience and affirming the importance of representation, compassion, and policy reform.

In tandem, a Signature Campaign Booth was opened, urging the public to support the recognition of LGBTQIA+ couples' medical rights in city-run health institutions. The initiative aimed to address institutional discrimination in healthcare and advocate for equal access to care.

As dusk fell, the stage was taken over by eight powerful dance crews for the Fierce and Free: Hip-Hop Dance Competition. Each performance electrified the crowd and told stories of confidence, resilience, and identity through movement and music.

The first day of Take Pride 2025 was a balanced celebration of education, empowerment, and expression. From the institutional leaders' messages of solidarity to the dynamic forum and community-driven campaigns, the event provided a vibrant, safe, and affirming space. Through music, movement, and message, Day 1 proved that Pride is not just a celebration—it's a call to action.





DAY 2: PAWS WITH PRIDE, PRIDE GAMES RAINBOW HALLYU, AND SHANTAY YOU STAY!

June 21, 2025 | 1L West Concourse, Event Center, Limketkai Mall, Cagayan de Oro City

The following day, June 21, carried the energy forward, beginning with the charming Paws with Pride Pet Show. Students and families alike cheered as fur babies in rainbow outfits walked the runway, proving that love and celebration know no species.

In the afternoon, the Take Pride Games kicked off, featuring CDO Trivia Night, where 16 groups tested their wits on topics such as queer icons, LGBTQIA+ history, and even local trivia. Between laughs and prizes, students walked away learning something new.

The crowd grew even larger for the Rainbow Hallyu: KPOP Dance Competition, where 29 groups channeled popular Korean idols through dazzling performances. The excitement was palpable, with audiences waving banners and cheering on their favorites.

But the most anticipated segment came at sundown—Shantay You Stay!: The Drag Show Competition. Twelve drag queens owned the stage with lip-syncs, fierce runway walks, and jaw-dropping transformations. From glittering gowns to emotional performances, the show was both a celebration and a statement of self-expression.

Finally, the two-day event closed with an awarding ceremony, recognizing the outstanding talents who competed in dance, trivia, and drag, capping off the event with thunderous applause.

The second day was a vibrant showcase of student creativity, unity, and culture. The mix of fun and advocacy gave campus and community members alike the space to celebrate while continuing conversations around equality and acceptance.

More than just a two-day festivity, Take Pride 2025 served as a learning ground for many young people, especially students, to see what advocacy in action looks like. It was where conversations about gender, identity, and rights were made accessible, inclusive, and empowering.

For the students of City College of Cagayan de Oro, the event demonstrated that Pride is not just about rainbows and parades—it is about creating a future where no one is left behind. Through stories shared, stages conquered, and petitions signed, every act throughout the event became a thread in the fabric of a more inclusive community.

As one student attendee put it:

“I came to Take Pride expecting fun—but I left with purpose.”





II. DOCUMENTATION



The event started by an opening program of Dr. Mahinay



Atty. Princess Kimberly Ubay-Ubay on her Solidarity Messa



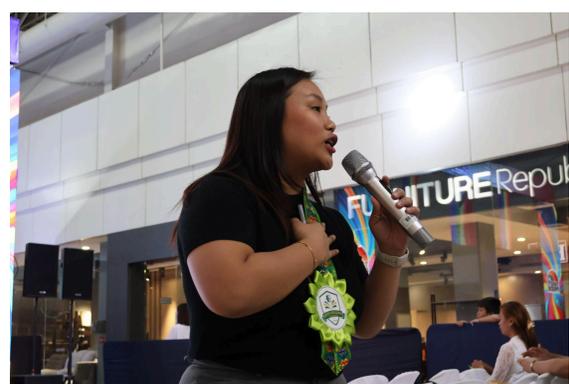
Dr. Jestoni Babia also showed his support of the event by giving his solidarity message.



The Official opening of the Take Pride 2025 through a Ribbon Cutting



Mr. AIC Gregory Louis Cadeatan Magsanua of the Philippine Commission on Women – North Mindanao Field Office photo



Ms. Jade Dapal presented on the Safe Spaces Act photo documentation during his talk about the SOGIESC

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<p>documentation during his talk about the SOGIESC</p> 	
<p>Mx. Raffy Aldemir, a counselor and outreach worker from DOH CHD–Northern Mindanao, gave an insightful talk on HIV and AIDS awareness</p>	<p>Mx. Alvin Neyra closed the segment with a compelling discussion on intersectionality</p>
	
<p>Signature Campaign about the Petition of LGBT Couples for Medical Rights in City-owned and Controlled Facilities by Kahilwayan and Out and Proud League of Colors</p>	<p>Free HIV Testing by Pilipinas Shell Foundation Inc.</p>
	
<p>Hugyaw Balangaw Pride Exhibit by Mindanao Pride</p>	

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Day 1 wrap-up photos with the team, speakers and the participants of the event



JUST IN!
Happening Now
Pet Fashion Show



JUST IN!
Happening Now
Pride Games



Day 2: PAWS WITH PRIDE: PET FASHION SHOW

Day 2 PRIDE GAMES



JUST IN!
Happening Now
Rainbow Hallyu: KPOP Competition



JUST IN!
Happening Now
Shantay you Stay!: Drag Show Competition

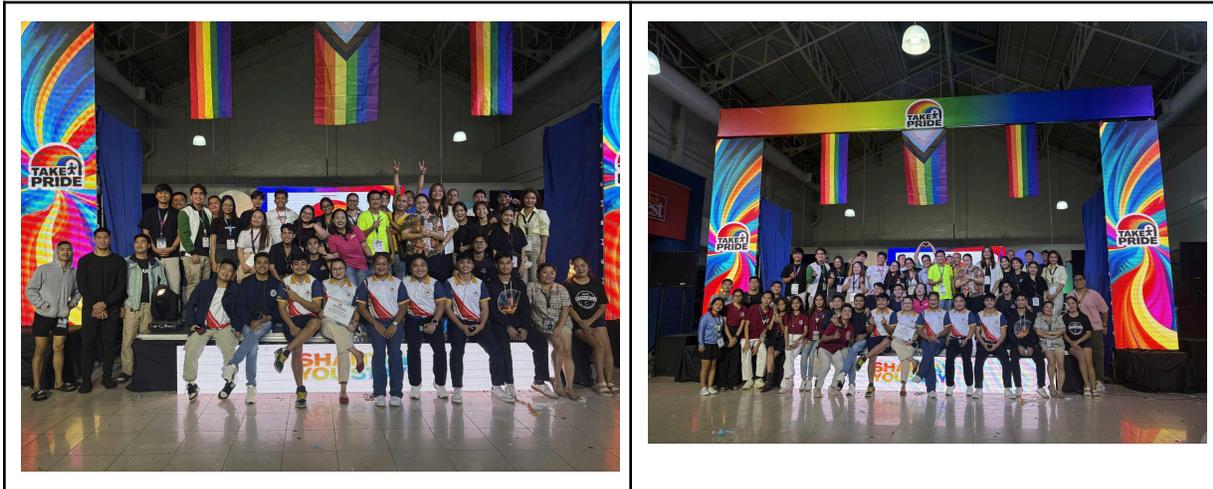


Day 2 Rainbow Hallyu: KPOP with Pride

Day 2 Shantay You Stay!: Drag Show Competition

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Day 2 wrap-up photo documentation with the entire team of Take Pride 2025

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