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P02 - The First Planetarium in Mindanao: DOST-PAGASA Mindanao Planetarium

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Astronomy, as a scientific discipline, has remained largely absent from formal academic curricula in Mindanao, leaving a gap in opportunities for students and the public to explore the wonders of the universe. With this, the establishment of the first planetarium developed by DOST-PAGASA in Molugan, El Salvador City, Misamis Oriental marks a groundbreaking step toward making astronomy accessible to the region. This facility is envisioned not merely as an educational space but as a cultural and scientific hub that fosters curiosity, discovery, and appreciation of the cosmos.

The planetarium offers immersive shows that simulate the night sky, allowing audiences to experience celestial phenomena in a vivid and engaging manner. Complementing these shows are interactive exhibits that highlight astronomical concepts, instruments, and discoveries, bridging the gap between abstract science and tangible learning. The planetarium also features an observation deck where stargazing activities are conducted, enabling visitors to directly observe stars, planets, and other celestial bodies. These activities provide hands-on exposure that strengthens both scientific understanding and personal connection to the universe. By integrating education and entertainment, the Mindanao PAGASA Regional Services Division (MPRSD) Planetarium serves as a vital source of astronomical knowledge in a region where formal courses are lacking. It not only enriches public awareness of astronomy but also inspires future generations to pursue scientific inquiry, fostering a deeper appreciation of the skies above.

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