



**INVESTITURE RITES  
ACCEPTANCE SPEECH (EXCERPT)  
OF THE 8<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BAGUIO**



*Naimbag nga bigat kadakayo amin!*

I am humbled at this moment to be standing where UB presidents stood. I pray that I be granted the strength to accomplish even only half of what they had achieved. I am honored to be one among them and pledge my best.

The impending challenges of transition to the K to12 system, ASEAN integration and quality assurance for internationalization along with the requirement of providing access to education embracing diverse learners will be no easy task.

When asked, Why should you accept at such a time when things will be difficult? My answer was: "I have no right to complain." The founders, my grandparents, spilt blood, sweat and a lot of tears building the legacy that we know UB is today. I have no right to complain and I am ready to give back. Little did I know that my experiences from childhood, sports, arts and my formal academic training including my exposure to entrepreneurship in managing family businesses prepared me for this gargantuan task in leading a university such as this.

To become an effective educator, one must possess nurturing capacity. No doubt this institution was built because of the love for wisdom and the youth. The founders of the University of Baguio, Rosa Castillo Bautista and Fernando Gonzaga Bautista, were public school teachers who became principals, finished their master's degrees at the University of the Philippines, had a family, and decided that education would be their vocation as they dealt with supporting their family. They served the nation while they took care of their own. Few are granted that privilege.

The founders and the first president of UB are the most to be thankful for this education institution standing today. UB has expanded from two classrooms to several buildings, from two then called technical courses – automotive and secretarial – to programs that encompass the lifespan from early childhood to adulthood, from basic education to post-graduate programs. From establishing an education community of their own, the founders collaborated with the community, sowing seeds in education and civic-oriented organizations that continue to influence national and international policy. These provide UB with strong linkages for students and stakeholders. They believed in and implemented open admission since 1948, while the world is only discovering the challenges of inclusion today. UB has been inclusive since the beginning but it was not called inclusion then. Open admission simply fulfilled the desire to do what was right – to provide access to education for every child. Before the famous "No Child Left Behind Act" in America, UB implemented it in principle in 1948. Before the early childhood program in education, the UB founders believed in early training of values that required reinforcement at home, within community and society in the pursuit of perfection. They believed that a good teacher could motivate learning. They taught and took care of students through assistantships towards professional life.

Their sons as chairpersons in the board or presidents and administrators continued the legacy, opening more doors for international linkages and school sisterhood, building infrastructure, and embarking on national benchmarking processes. In fact, three days ago, PACUCOA awarded UB as the institution with the highest number of accredited programs in the region.

My mandate as the new president is to continue the legacy and advance UB to progress, nurturing diverse learners and teachers who motivate learning and facilitate ethical practice, good academic performance, and appreciation of life through arts, culture and sports. We must empower students to be independent while keeping their cultural identity, contributing to society constructively. This is the UB graduate's identity, competent for industry and life at large.

To the UB community, I pray that we work together, maintaining our industrial peace as we uphold the vision of the founders. They taught us how to be prudent and you and I must live with the tenets of wisdom.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to all of you here, our honored guests, retirees, the alumni, my children Nik and Trix, my parents Bnn and Malu, the Bautista family, all UB directors and staff, colleagues in the academe, friends, media and last but definitely not the least Bishop Cenzon.

Thank you all so much for sharing this moment with us. *Mabuhay!*

*Dhanna Kerina Bautista - Rodas*

**8<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENT  
UNIVERSITY OF BAGUIO**