



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION IV-A CALABARZON



6 July 2026

Regional Memorandum
No.441 s.2026

**2026 DIWANG: SAGISAG NG KULTURA NG FILIPINAS
COMPETITION**

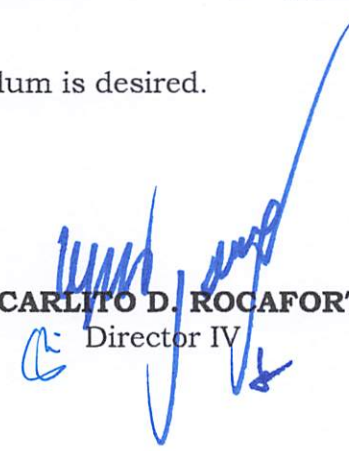
To: Schools Division Superintendents

1. In reference to DM-OUOPS-2026-15-00146 dated March 16, 2026, titled Philippine Cultural Education Program (PCEP) 2026 Programs and the letter from Dr. Joseph J. Cristobal, Director of the Philippine Cultural Education Program (PCEP), dated June 22, 2026, requesting the dissemination of the PCEP 2026 Program Components, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), in partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd), will conduct various cultural education programs in 2026.
2. The primary objective of these projects is to introduce, promote, disseminate, and inculcate the importance of Filipino cultural icons among students, educators, and the general public.
3. As part of the PCEP 2026 initiatives, the regional offices are directed to announce the national-level competition aimed at promoting awareness and appreciation of Filipino cultural icons.

Program/Activity	Deadline for Submission of Contest Piece	Date for Recorded Video Submission (Top 10 Only)	Grand National Finals
The 2026 DIWANG Balagtasan Competition	August 14, 2026	October 4, 2026	November 19, 2026
The 2026 DIWANG Kundiman Competition	September 4, 2026	NA	November 19, 2026

4. Enclosed are the following documents for your reference: the DepEd Memorandum, the official letter of Director Joseph J. Cristobal, and the comprehensive Contest Mechanics.
5. For the contest details, please submit via the following link:
BALAGTASAN: Registration Link - <https://tinyurl.com/26a3vs3k>
KUNDIMAN: Registration Link - <https://tinyurl.com/bdf3xyry>

6. Expenses of the participants relative to the participation in the contest shall be charged against local funds, in accordance with the accounting and auditing rules and regulations.
7. For inquiries and further clarifications regarding the details of the contest, interested parties may contact the secretariat via email at pcep@ncca.gov.ph or by telephone at (02) 8527-2192 local 529.
8. Immediate dissemination of the Memorandum is desired.



CARLITO D. ROCAFORT
Director IV

02/RO/08

Enclosure 1. DepEd Memorandum

Republika ng Pilipinas
Department of Education

OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

MEMORANDUM

DM-OUOPS-2026-15-00146

TO : ALL REGIONAL DIRECTORS
ALL SCHOOLS DIVISION SUPERINTENDENTS
ALL SCHOOL HEADS
ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

FROM : MALCOLM S. GARMA
Undersecretary for Governance and Operations

JOCELYN DR ANDAYA
Regional Director, NCR
Concurrent Officer-in-Charge, Office of the
Assistant Secretary for Governance and Operations

SUBJECT : PHILIPPINE CULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAM (PCEP) 2026
PROGRAMS

DATE : March 16, 2026

This is in reference to the letter from Dr. Joseph J. Cristobal, Director, Philippine Cultural Education Program, dated February 19, 2026, requesting for the dissemination of the PCEP 2026 Program Components. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) will conduct the following programs for 2026:

2026 PCEP PROGRAMS

PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED IMPLEMENTING MONTHS (subject to change)
1. GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN CULTURAL EDUCATION (GDCE)	The twenty-four (24) unit graduate credit program follows a two-summer ladderized curriculum designed for public school teachers of any subject area at the elementary and high school levels. Each phase consists of 12 graduate-level academic credits. Level I scholars are expected to continue to Level II. Successful graduates of this two-summer program have the option to pursue a Master of Education, Major in Cultural	March to December 2026 Qualifying Exam: March to April, 2026 GDCE Level 1 LCUP, Malolos, Region 3 HNU, Tagbilaran, Region 7



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	Education, which will be offered in HEIs selected by the NCCA. The NCCA shall provide a scholarship grant covering full tuition.	GDCE Level 2 AIMS, Pasay, NCR UST, Manila, NCR Xavier, CDO, Region 10
2. GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN TEACHING ARTS (GDTA)	A 24-unit post-baccalaureate program is divided into Level I and Level II, offering foundation and major courses that enhance students' understanding of the basic theories, processes, and applications of arts, culture, and heritage in culture-based teaching within the basic education curriculum. GDTA scholars can apply classroom concepts in professional settings through internships and independent studies at various arts organizations in their own region. The arts management program maintains academic and professional relationships with numerous national and regional institutions. Level I scholars are expected to continue to Level II. The NCCA shall provide a scholarship grant covering full tuition.	March to December 2026 Qualifying Exam: March to April, 2026 GDTA Level 1 UC Cebu, Region 7 LCUP Malolos, Region 3
3. PAGSASANAY SA EDUKASYONG PANGKULTUR A (PEP)	Orientation on Culture-based Education using a Decolonization Framework for Basic to Senior High School Teachers. This project aims to promote the integration of culture-based education into teaching practices at the basic education level while incorporating decolonization methods. It will consist of a series of three-day workshops and conferences. The orientation will focus on key topics such as: Culture-based education approaches and methodologies.	July - September 2026 Proposed Date and Venue: July 10 - 12, 2026 Xavier University, CDO



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	- Development of culture-based lessons and curriculum frameworks to improve educational outcomes and foster inclusivity. - Activity on Creative Thinking and Lesson Exemplar	
4. NATIONAL RETOOLING OF CULTURAL EDUCATION SCHOLARS & FACULTY	This retooling of teachers focuses on integration of social, cultural, and environmental justice approaches, methodologies and theories in decolonial, culture-based heritage studies that promote education for sustainable development and global citizenship to enhance cultural competencies in formal, non-formal, and informal education under the PCEP Training Program. The program includes the recognition of PCEP Graduate-Scholars and series of online meetings for PCEP faculty and coordinators.	April to June 2026 Proposed Date and Venue: May 9, 2026 National Capital Region And March 27-28, 2026 Cebu Normal University
5. DIWANG: <i>Sagisag Kultura ng Filipinas</i> Competition & Material Development	A national-level contest aimed at promoting awareness and appreciation of Filipino cultural icons while fostering a deeper understanding of Filipino identity. This competition seeks to engage students, student artists, cultural workers, educators, and the broader artistic community in celebrating and preserving the nation's cultural heritage. Participants will base their works and performances on the rich cultural references found in the three volumes of <i>Sagisag Kultura ng Filipinas</i> published by NCCA-PCEP and KWF. Components: Lesson Exemplar: Culture-based Module Writing Contest for Teachers (for in-service teachers)	April to December 2026 Finals: November 19, 2026 Quezon City, NCR Online Announcement of Winners: December 14, 2026





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	2. Gawad PCEP para sa Culture-based Lesson ng Gurong Mag-aaral (for Educ-students) 3. KUNDIMAN writing and singing Competition 4. BALAGTASAN writing & performance Competition	
6. DUNONG KATUTUBO SA KASALUKUYANG DAIGDIG writing & publications	Kuwentong Supling will emphasize the importance of contextualizing teaching and learning materials. The program is a re-telling of various Philippine folktales in selected language communities to develop a Filipino - Regional Language children's book. Is a writing workshop of selected IP/speaker of L1 and at the same time Filipino subject teachers.	March - December 2026
7. AGORA: Crossroads of Creativity, Culture, and Ideas	A two-day promotion of Creative Industries or <i>Sining Pangkabuhayan</i> of SPA/TLE schools and Cultural Education Products, such as Book Publications, exhibitions, & other Intangible Cultural products - songs, dances, drama, and literature. The event includes on-site cultural performance & contest, exhibition, talks & workshops.	March - November, 2026
8. LOCAL EXECUTIVES TRAINING ON CULTURE-BASED EDUCATION	This program aims to enhance the capacity of Local Government Unit (LGU) executives (including Local Education Institutions & Heads) and community leaders in implementing culture-based governance to strengthen the conservation and protection of Philippine cultural heritage.	July - December 2026

In this regard, all DepEd Regional Directors are requested to release a Regional Memorandum per program indicating the final dates, venue, and program design in consultation with PCEP. The PCEP Secretariat shall coordinate with the Regional Coordinators regarding the details and requirements per program. Expenses of the participants relative to the programs shall be charged to local funds, in accordance with all relevant accounting and auditing rules and regulations.



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Furthermore, all Regional Coordinators are required to attend the PCEP 2026 Program Orientation and Evaluation. Individual letters with the date, venue, and program will be sent via email. Enclosed is the directory of DepEd Regional Coordinators.

Additionally, all Officers and Members of the National Association of Cultural Educators and Scholars (NACES) are requested to participate in all PCEP 2026 Programs. Enclosed is the list of Officers per Island Cluster.

For inquiries regarding the PCEP Projects, you may contact the PCEP Secretariat

DR. JOSEPH J. CRISTOBAL, PCEP Director
Telephone: (02) 8527-2192 local 529
Email: pcep.secretariat@gmail.com; pcep@ncca.gov.ph
Facebook: [@pcepofficial](https://www.facebook.com/pcepofficial)
Website: www.philippineculturaleducation.com.ph

In view of the foregoing, the Department of Education enjoins all concerned offices to actively disseminate this information, through print and online platforms, within their respective jurisdictions.

Kindly see attached files, for your reference and immediate action.

Enclosure 2. Letter of Director Joseph J. Cristobal



PAMBANSANG KOMISYON PARA SA KULTURA AT MGA SINING



QRD-HLAD1-2026-327

22 June 2026

CARLITO D. ROCAFORT, CESO IV Director III
REGIONAL DIRECTOR
DEPED REGION 4A

ATTENTION: LOWIESITO O. ERNI
EDUCATION PROGRAM SUPERVISOR

Greetings from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA)-Philippine Cultural Education Program (PCEP)!

The Philippine Cultural Education Program (PCEP), in partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd), will conduct the **2026 DIWANG: SAGISAG NG KULTURA NG FILIPINAS COMPETITION** for the following components:

- The **2026 DIWANG Balagtasan Competition** intends to revive the traditional arts of poetry and debate by discussing contemporary issues.
- The **2026 DIWANG Kundiman Competition** intends to revive and promote the traditional kundiman.

In connection with this, we would like to request a **DepEd Regional Memo** to formally announce the program to the regional coordinators, school divisions, city superintendents, and heads of public elementary and secondary schools.

DIWANG aims to introduce, promote, disseminate, and inculcate the importance of Filipino cultural icons to our students, educators, and all Filipinos.

If you have further questions regarding the matter, please don't hesitate to email us at pcep@ncca.gov.ph.

We are hoping for your favorable and immediate response.

Thank you very much.

Truly Yours,

JOSEPH J. CRISTOBAL
Director, Philippine Cultural Educational Program
<https://www.facebook.com/pcepofficial/>
<https://philippineculturaleducation.com.ph/about-pcep/>

Reference: Philippine Cultural Education Program
(PCEP) 2026 Programs - [DM-OUOPS-2026-15-00146 PCEP Project Components](#)

Attachment(s):

1. [2026 DIWANG Balagtasan Contest Guidelines](#)
2. [2026 DIWANG Kundiman Contest Guidelines](#)



Republic of the Philippines • Office of the President

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS

633 General Luna Street, Intramuros, 1002 Manila / Tel. 537-2192 to 98 / Fax 537-2191 / 94 / e-mail: info@ncca.gov.ph / website: www.ncca.gov.ph

Enclosure 3: Contest Mechanics

A. 2026 DIWANG BALAGTASAN CONTEST GUIDELINES

1. **Ang kompetisyon ay bukas para sa lahat.**
2. Bawat pangkat ng kalahok ay may **tatlo na kasapi**: dalawang mambabalagtas at isang lakandiwa.
3. Ang pangkat ang siyang inaasahan na susulat ng kanilang orihinal na piyesa na tatalakay alinman sa mga sumusunod na paksa:
Paksa 1: Ang 15-taong implementasyon ng K+12, epektibo o hindi?
Paksa 2: West Phil Sea – dapat ipasok sa kurikulum ng DepEd o hindi?
Paksa 3: Pabor o hindi pabor sa paggamit ng AI?
4. Bawat piyesa ay inaasahang sumusunod sa ganitong daloy:
 - Pagsisimula ng Lakandiwa
 - Unang Tindig ng Mambabalagtas 1
 - Unang Tugon ng Mambabalagtas 2
 - Ikalawang Tindig ng Mambabalagtas 1
 - Ikalawang Tugon ng Mambabalagtas 2
 - Ikatlong Tindig ng Mambabalagtas 1
 - Ikatlong Tugon ng Mambabalagtas 2
 - Paglalagom ng Mambabalagtas 1
 - Paglalagom ng Mambabalagtas 2
 - Pagtatapos ng Lakandiwa
5. Maaring lumihis nang kaunti sa daloy sa pamamagitan ng maiikling pagsingit ng Lakandiwa at iba pang kaugnay na dagdag na sangkap, subalit inaasahang susundin ang nabanggit na daloy.
6. Sumangguni sa *lectures* nina Dr. Michael Coroza, Dr. Galileo Zafra, at National Artist Virgilio S. Almario tungkol sa mga wastong katangian ng maayos na paglikha ng TULA at BALAGTASAN na matatagpuan sa PCEP website: <https://philippineculturaleducation.com.ph/webinar-videos-balagtas-workshop/> o <https://philippineculturaleducation.com.ph/agora/>
7. Ang piyesa ay susulatin ayon sa mga kumbensiyon ng tradisyunal na tula na may sukat at tugma.
8. Pipili ng 10 na magsusumite ng video ng kanilang pagtatanghal na may habang labing limang (15) minuto.
9. Pipili ng apat na (grupo) finalists na iimbitahan sa Finals na gaganapin sa **Nobyembre 19, 2026 sa MICE Center, Quezon City Hall**. Pagkakalooban ng pamasaha at accommodation para sa 4 na miyembro ng grupo ang mga finalist.
10. Ang mga mapipiling finalists ay makakatanggap ng opisyal na liham mula sa PCEP na ipapadala sa pamamagitan ng email.
11. Tanging ang apat na mapipiling finalists lamang ang bibigyan ng sertipiko ng PCEP.
12. Ito ang mga pamantayang susundin sa ebalwasyon ng mga lahok sa finals (*Criteria for Judging*):

PIYESA	- 50%
a. Paglinang sa paksa/husay ng katwiran	- 20%
b. Pagtatagpo ng katwiran	- 15%
c. Sukat at Tugma	- 15%
PAGBIGKAS	- 50%
a. Linag ng pagbigkas	- 15%
b. Pagsaulado ng piyesa	- 15%
c. Damdamin ng pagtindig/pagtugon	- 15%
d. Kasuotan	- 5%

13. Ang **Deadline ng Pagsusumite ng piyesa** ay sa **Agosto 14, 2026**. Isumite ang piyesa gamit ang link na: <https://tinyurl.com/26a3vs3K>
14. Ang **Deadline ng Pagsusumite ng recorded video** ay sa **Oktubre 4, 2026** samantalang ang **Grand National Finals** ay sa **Nobyembre 19, 2026**.
15. Premyo: Ang **mangunguna** ay **tatanggap ng Php 30,000.00** at ang **pinakamagaling sa pag-awit** ay **makakatanggap ng Php 5,000.00**. Samantala, Ang apat na finalists ay makakatanggap ng Php 5,000.00.

B. 2026 DIWANG KUNDIMAN CONTEST GUIDELINES

1. **Ang kompetisyon ay bukas para sa lahat.**
2. Ang **letra (lyrics)** ay **maaaring lokal na wika, may tugma** ayon sa tradisyon ng pagtutugma sa Panulaang Filipino at nauukol sa Sagisag Kultura ng Filipinas. Ang mga letra na nasa mother tongue ay dapat may pagsasalin sa Tagalog.
3. Sumangguni sa *lectures* nina Dr. Michael Coroza at Prof. Felipe de Leon Jr. tungkol sa mga wastong katangian ng maayos na paglikha ng KUNDIMAN na matatagpuan sa PCEP website: <https://philippineculturaleducation.com.ph/webinar-vidcos-kundiman-workshop/>
4. Hindi kailangan sundin ang anyong mula sa *minor* tungo sa *major mode*, maaring pawang *minor* o pawang *major*, o kaya'y iba pang kombinasyon ng mga ito. Kung ang diwa ng kundiman ay maipapahayag gamit ang iba pang *modes*, gamitin ito. Ang isusumite ay **score ng melodiya na may titik na, naka-areglo para sa piyano o gitara, at recording nito sa mp3 format.**
5. Ang lahat ng lahok ay dapat **orihinal na likha.**
6. Ang manunulat ng kanta ay may karapatang pumili ng mang-aawit.
7. Dapat walang ingay sa *background* ang pagrecord at hindi ginamitan ng *audio enhancements*.
8. Pipili ng apat (4) na finalist na iimbitahan sa Finals na gaganapin sa **Nobyembre 19, 2026 sa MICE Center, Quezon City Hall**. Pagkakalooban ng pamasaha at accommodation para sa 2 (kompositor at mang-aawit) ang mga finalist.
9. Ang lahat ng mga desisyon ng lupon ng mga hukom ay pinal.
10. Ang mapipiling 4 na finalist ay maaring gawan ng recording ng PCEP na iupload sa mga *online streaming platform*.
11. Ang *organizer* ay maglalaan lamang ng *standard sound system*. Hindi magbibigay ng instrument gaya ng piyano, gitara, o iba pang instrumentong gagamitin para sa *live accompaniment*. Maaring gumamit ng *recorded accompaniment* sa *final round*. Maaari ring magdala ang mga finalist ng sarili nilang instrumento o *accompanist* para sa kanilang pagtatanghal na kompatibol sa *standard equipment available*.
12. Ang **Deadline ng Pagsusumite** ng mga lahok (*entries*) ay sa **Setyembre 4, 2026**. Ang mga sumusunod ang kailangang isumite gamit ang link na: <https://tinyurl.com/bdf3xyry>
 - a. Audio file na nasa mp3 format;
 - b. Music Sheet na nasa pdf format; at
 - c. Lyrics na nasa pdf format.
13. **Ownership of Entries:** Mananatiling hawak ng mga lumikha ng musika at tagapagletra ang karapatang-ari sa mga awit na napabilang sa finals at nagwagi. Gayunman, pinahihintulan ng lumikha ng musika at tagapagletra na gamitin ng NCCA ang mga nasabing mga awit sa anumang pagkakataong

kailangan ng hindi kailangang hingan ng permiso o bayaran ang mga naghahawak ng karapatang-ari.

14. Ito ang mga pamantayang susundin sa ebalwasyon ng mga lahok (*Criteria for Judging*):

Musika (Estruktura, armonya, atbp.)	- 35%
Letra (Linaw at husay ng pahayag, lalim ng diwa at timyas ng damdamin, atbp.)	- 35%
Pagkanta (Pagkamadamdamin, husay ng pagbigkas ng letra, atbp.)	- 30%
Kabuuan	- 100%

15. Premyo: Ang mangunguna ay tatanggap ng Php 30,000.00 at ang pinakamagaling sa pag-awit ay makakatanggap ng Php 5,000.00. Samantala, Ang apat na finalist ay makakatanggap ng Php 5,000.00.