



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



22 July 2026

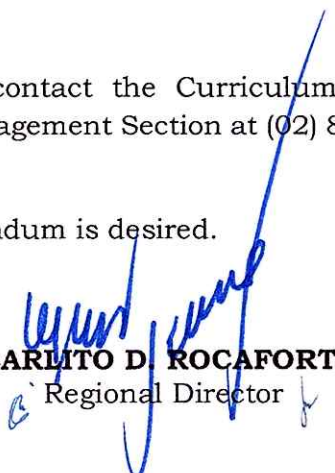
Regional Memorandum
No. 477 s.2026

**CONDUCT OF THE REGIONAL GAWAD TEODORA ALONSO 2026
IN SUPPORT OF THE ACADEMIC RECOVERY AND
ACCESSIBLE LEARNING (ARAL) PROGRAM**

To **Schools Division Superintendents**

1. In line with the Department of Education's commitment to strengthening literacy development, promoting a culture of reading, and supporting the implementation of the Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning (ARAL) Program through the development of quality supplementary learning resources, the Department of Education (DepEd) Region IV-A CALABARZON, through the Curriculum and Learning Management Division – Learning Resource Management Section (CLMD-LRMS), shall conduct the Regional Gawad Teodora Alonso (GTA) 2026 from August to December 2026, following the implementation schedule attached as Enclosure No. 2.
2. The Regional Gawad Teodora Alonso serves as a regional initiative to encourage teachers, school leaders, education personnel, and other qualified participants to create original literary works that promote literacy, creativity, and appreciation for Philippine literature while producing high-quality learning resources responsive to the needs of learners. Beyond recognizing exemplary literary works, the program adopts a developmental approach by providing opportunities for technical mentoring, manuscript enhancement, and quality assurance to transform promising literary outputs into quality supplementary learning resources.
3. Specifically, this activity aims to:
 - a. encourage the development of original storybooks, chapter books, comics, storytelling materials, and other literary works that promote reading and creativity;
 - b. strengthen the competencies of writers and illustrators through technical mentoring, creative literacy development workshops, manuscript enhancement, and quality assurance activities;
 - c. produce technically sound, age-appropriate, culturally responsive, and curriculum-aligned supplementary learning resources that may support the implementation of the ARAL Program and other literacy and reading intervention initiatives; and

- d. recognize and showcase outstanding literary works, writers, illustrators, storytellers, and participating Schools Division Offices during the culminating program.
4. The competition shall adopt the official Gawad Teodora Alonso (GTA) 2025 Categories, Qualifications, Technical Specifications, and Competition Requirements, which are attached as Enclosure No. 1 of this Memorandum.
 5. Each Schools Division Office (SDO) is encouraged to conduct a division-level selection process to determine its official entries to the regional competition. Only winning entries officially endorsed by the Schools Division Superintendent shall be accepted for regional evaluation and deliberation. All manuscript writing and illustration activities shall be undertaken outside instructional hours to avoid disruption of classes and protect learners' instructional time.
 6. Following the submission of the official division-winning entries, the Regional Technical Working Group (RTWG) shall conduct a preliminary deliberation to select the Best Five (5) entries in each category. The writers and illustrators of the selected entries shall participate in a series of Creative Literacy Development Workshops, Technical Mentoring Sessions, Manuscript Enhancement Activities, and Learning Resource Quality Assurance Processes. These activities aim to further improve the content, language, illustrations, layout, and overall quality of the selected literary works prior to the final regional evaluation and judging.
 7. The enhanced manuscripts developed through the workshops and quality assurance process are expected to become potential supplementary learning resources that may be utilized to support literacy development, reading intervention initiatives, and the implementation of the ARAL Program, subject to existing DepEd policies on the development, quality assurance, utilization, and management of learning resources.
 8. Teacher-participants whose entries qualify for the Best Five (5) after the regional pre-deliberation shall coordinate with their respective School Heads, with the guidance and coordination of the Division Learning Resource (LR) Supervisor, to arrange appropriate classroom management and instructional schedules before attending the regional workshops. This is to ensure that classes remain uninterrupted and learners continue to receive quality instruction during their participation in the activity, in accordance with DepEd Order No. 009, s. 2026.
 9. Separate advisories shall be issued regarding the official participants, venue, workshop mechanics, and other implementation details.
 10. For clarification and further inquiries, you may contact the Curriculum and Learning Management Division- Learning Resource Management Section at (02) 8681-2114 local 420.
 11. Immediate and widest dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.


CARLITO D. ROCAFORT
Regional Director

Enclosure 1

The Regional Gawad Teodora Alonso 2026 shall adopt the official categories, subcategories, qualifications, required outputs, technical specifications, and competition mechanics prescribed under the Gawad Teodora Alonso (GTA) 2025 Guidelines.

A. Main Categories

1. Chapter Books for Young Adults (YA)

- Chapter Books for Grades 7 and 8
- Chapter Books for Grades 9 and 10
- Illustrated Young Adult Literature

2. Comics for Young Adults

- DepEd Canon
- Open Comics

B. Seasonal Categories (Illustrated Thematic Storybooks)

1. Wordless Storybooks on Inclusion
2. Storybooks on Gender and Development
3. Storybooks on Disaster Risk Reduction Management
4. Storybooks on Local Tangibles

C. Lolay Storytelling Sessions

1. Recorded Storytelling from Real-life Storytellers
2. Recorded Storytelling from Teachers

Enclosure 2:

**Regional Gawad Teodora Alonso (GTA) 2026
Schedule and Time Frame of Activities**

Date	Activities
August 4, 2026	Online Orientation on RO GTA 2026
September 17, 2026	Submission of Manuscripts to RO
September 18-24, 2026	Judging of Manuscripts
September 25-26, 2026	Preliminary Deliberation Release of Results for Best 5 Manuscripts per Category
September 26-October 2, 2026	Illustrations Competition
October 1, 2026	Lolay Storytelling Submission
October 2, 2026	Illustrations Submission
October 3-9, 2026	Judging Lolay Storytelling and Illustrations Entries
October 10-11, 2026	Preliminary Deliberation Release of Results for Best 5 Illustrations
October 14-16, 2026	Regional Creative Literacy Development Workshop in Support of the ARAL Program and Reading Innovation in CALABARZON (Phase I)
October 20-22, 2026	Regional Creative Literacy Development Workshop in Support of the ARAL Program and Reading Innovation in CALABARZON (Phase II)
November 9-13, 2026	Regional Evaluation and Judging (Top 3 entries for each category)
December 1-3, 2026	CLRE-LIKHA: Showcase, Exhibit, Storytelling Festival, and Recognition Program