

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



13 August 2026

Regional Memorandum
No. 541 s.2026

**ADDENDUM TO 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**

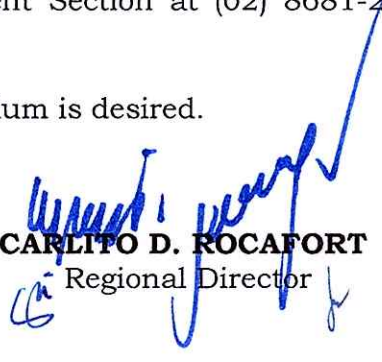
To **Schools Division Superintendents**

1. Relative to Regional Memorandum No. 477, s. 2026, titled "Conduct of the Regional Gawad Teodora Alonso 2026 in Support of the Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning (ARAL) Program," the Department of Education Region IV-A CALABARZON, through the Curriculum and Learning Management Division–Learning Resource Management Section (CLMD-LRMS), announces the inclusion of Special Categories in the Regional Gawad Teodora Alonso (GTA) 2026.
2. The inclusion of these Special Categories aims to provide opportunities for education leaders to contribute to the preservation, appreciation, and promotion of local cultural heritage through the documentation and creative retelling of local legends, folktales, and folklore.
3. Accordingly, Enclosure No. 1 of Regional Memorandum No. 477, s. 2026 is hereby supplemented to include the following Special Categories:

Special Category	Eligible Participants	Focus / Description
UNTOLD: KUWENTO NG BAYAN KO Stories from Education Leaders	Schools Division Superintendents (SDS) and Assistant Schools Division Superintendents (ASDS)	Creation and narration of local legends, folktales, and folklore that reflect the community's culture, history, beliefs, traditions, and identity of their respective communities, intended for learners in Grades 1-3.
SALINLAHI: KUWENTO NG ATING BAYAN	Chiefs, Education Program Supervisors (EPS), Public School Division Supervisors	Creative retelling and reimagining of local legends, folktales, and folklore to preserve,

Legends and Folklore Retold	(PSDS), and School Heads	celebrate, and transmit the community's cultural heritage to future generations, intended for learners in Grades 4 to 6.
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4. For these Special Categories, participants shall submit manuscripts only. Illustrations, book layout, and other components of a fully developed storybook shall not be required at the time of submission.
5. The deadline for the submission of manuscripts for **UNTOLD: KUWENTO NG BAYAN KO** and **SALINLAHI: KUWENTO NG ATING BAYAN** shall be on **September 30, 2026**. Specific mechanics, technical standards, and other guidelines for the Special Categories are provided in Enclosure No. 1 to this Addendum.
6. All other provisions of Regional Memorandum No. 477, s. 2026 that are not inconsistent with this Addendum shall remain in full force and effect.
7. For clarification and further inquiries, you may contact the Curriculum and Learning Management Division- Learning Resource Management Section at (02) 8681-2114 local 420.
8. Immediate and widest dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.


CARLITO D. ROCAFORT
Regional Director

**REGIONAL GAWAD TEODORA ALONSO (GTA) 2026
GUIDELINES AND MECHANICS FOR SPECIAL CATEGORIES**

I. DESCRIPTION

The Special Categories of the Regional Gawad Teodora Alonso (GTA) 2026 aim to engage education leaders in the preservation, documentation, creative retelling, and promotion of local cultural heritage through literary manuscripts based on local legends, folktales, and folklore.

Special Category	Eligible Participants	Focus / Description
UNTOLD: KUWENTO NG BAYAN KO Stories from Education Leaders	Schools Division Superintendents (SDS) and Assistant Schools Division Superintendents (ASDS)	Creation and narration of local legends, folktales, and folklore that reflect the community's culture, history, beliefs, traditions, and identity of their respective communities, intended for learners in Grades 1-3.
SALINLAHI: KUWENTO NG ATING BAYAN Legends and Folklore Retold	Chiefs, Education Program Supervisors (EPS), Public School Division Supervisors (PSDS), and School Heads	Creative retelling and reimagining of local legends, folktales, and folklore to preserve, celebrate, and transmit the community's cultural heritage to future generations, intended for learners in Grades 4 to 6.

II. QUALIFICATIONS

1. **UNTOLD: KUWENTO NG BAYAN KO** is open to Schools Division Superintendents (SDS) and Assistant Schools Division Superintendents (ASDS) of DepEd Region IV-A CALABARZON.
2. **SALINLAHI: KUWENTO NG ATING BAYAN** is open to Chiefs, Education Program Supervisors (EPS), Public School Division Supervisors (PSDS), and School Heads of DepEd Region IV-A CALABARZON.
3. Each participant may submit only one (1) entry under the applicable Special Category.
4. Only one (1) writer shall be credited for each manuscript.

III. MECHANICS

1. Manuscripts for both Special Categories shall be submitted directly to the Regional Office through the CLMD-LRMS on or before September 30, 2026. **No division-level screening or selection shall be required.** The submission link and other related instructions shall be communicated through a separate advisory.
2. Only the manuscript shall be submitted for the Special Categories. Illustrations, book layout, and other components of a fully developed storybook are not required at the time of submission.

3. Each manuscript shall feature or creatively retell a local legend, folktale, or folklore associated with a locality or community in CALABARZON.
4. The manuscript shall demonstrate the participant's own literary treatment, narrative structure, and creative expression while respecting the essential cultural context and meaning of the source narrative.
5. The writer shall identify the origin or locality of the story and acknowledge, whenever applicable, the community, tradition bearer, storyteller, published reference, archival material, or other source from which the narrative was derived.
6. Entries shall respect cultural diversity and shall not contain discriminatory, derogatory, or culturally inappropriate representations.
7. Entries involving Indigenous Peoples, Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP), sacred traditions, or culturally sensitive community knowledge shall observe applicable DepEd policies and relevant cultural and intellectual property considerations.
8. Manuscripts shall undergo screening, content validation, originality checking, and quality assurance as deemed necessary by the Regional Technical Working Group (RTWG).

IV. TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Component	UNTOLD: KUWENTO NG BAYAN KO	SALINLAHI: KUWENTO NG ATING BAYAN
Required Output	Manuscript only	Manuscript only
Target Participants	SDS and ASDS	Chiefs, EPS, PSDS, and School Heads
Story Focus	Creation and narration of local legends, folktales, and folklore that reflect the community's culture, history, beliefs, traditions, and identity of their respective communities, intended for learners in Grades 1-3.	Creative retelling and reimagining of local legends, folktales, and folklore to preserve, celebrate, and transmit the community's cultural heritage to future generations, intended for learners in Grades 4 to 6.
Number of Entries	One (1) manuscript per participant	One (1) manuscript per participant
Number of Writers	One (1)	One (1)
Maximum Length	2,000 words	3,000 words
Language	Filipino	Filipino
Manuscript Format	A4 paper; Arial, 12 pt; 1.5 line spacing; 1-inch margins	A4 paper; Arial, 12 pt; 1.5 line spacing; 1-inch margins
Illustration / Book Layout	Not required upon submission	Not required upon submission

Source Acknowledgment	The source/origin of the legend, folktale, or folklore shall be indicated in the manuscript.	The source/origin of the legend, folktale, or folklore shall be indicated in the manuscript.
Submission Deadline	September 30, 2026	September 30, 2026

V. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. All manuscripts shall comply with the applicable provisions of Regional Memorandum No. 477, s. 2026, unless otherwise specified in this Addendum.
2. The Regional Office may subject qualified manuscripts to further technical mentoring, manuscript enhancement, illustration, book development, and learning resource quality assurance in accordance with subsequent guidelines or advisories.
3. The decision of the duly constituted screening and judging committees shall be final.