



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION IX, ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF DAPITAN CITY

Office of the Schools Division Superintendent

April 6, 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 174, s. 2026

**OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION OF THE SCHOOLS DIVISION
IN THE 2026 NATIONAL SCHOOLS PRESS CONFERENCE**

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief Education Supervisors (CID & SGOD)
Education Program Supervisors
Public Schools District Supervisors/PICDs
Elementary & Secondary School Heads
Teachers
This Division

1. In line with DepEd Memorandum 021. 2026, dated March 19, 2026 on the conduct of the 2026 National Schools Press Conference (NSPC), this Division, announces the participation of Division Journalism Coordinators, qualified journalists, coaches, paper-based category qualifiers, and School Paper Advisers to the national event on April 13-17, 2026 (exclusive of travel dates) hosted by DepEd Division of Ormoc City, Region VIII.
2. This is aligned with the mandate of RA 10533, or the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013, to establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people, country, and the society at large. The attendance to the 2026 NSPC responds to the region's commitment to foster the holistic development of the learners across the region.
3. The traveling, board and lodging, and other incidental expenses of the official delegates shall be charged against the school MOOE, local/regional funds, special education funds, and/or the campus journalism fund, and other applicable sources. However, travel expenses of the journalist-participants shall be subsidized by the Central Office through the 2026 Development and Promotion of Campus Journalism (DPCJ) funds, all subject to the usual government accounting, budgeting, and auditing rules and regulations.
4. Any excess funds in the allocated budget may be used for other journalism related expenses. However, if the downloaded funds are insufficient to cover the subsidized travel expenses of the 2026 NSPC journalist-participants, available local funds or other alternative sources may be utilized, following government accounting, budgeting, and auditing rules and regulations.



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5. The participants, school paper advisers, coaches, and officials' traveling, board, and lodging, and incidental expenses shall be charged against school/division MOOE and/or local funds, subject to the usual accounting, budgeting, and auditing rules and regulations.
6. Participants not covered by the downloaded subsidy from the Central Office, including but not limited to the school heads, school paper advisers, among others who will represent their school publication in the 2026 NSPC School-paper categories, may charge their traveling, food and accommodation, and other incidental expenses to their respective School MOOE, and/or any available funds, subject to the usual accounting, budgeting, and auditing rules and regulations.
7. Participants shall be granted with service credits and/or Compensatory TimeOff (CTO), whichever is applicable, in lieu of the services provided during weekends or holidays in accordance with DepEd Order No. 53, s. 2023, Updated Guidelines on Grant of Vacation Service credits to Teachers, and CSC-DBM Joint Circular No. 2, s. 2015, Policies and Guidelines on Overtime Services and Overtime Pay for Government Employees, respectively.
8. Attached to this Division Memorandum is the List of Official Qualifiers and participants for the 2026 National Schools Press Conference.
9. Anyone who will request clarifications for the participants are advised to coordinate with the following contact persons from the Office of the Curriculum Implementation Division (CID):

Lindo O. Adasa, Jr. – Education Program Supervisor - Filipino
Division Journalism Coordinator
Email address: lindo.adasa@deped.gov.ph

Analisa A. Bagarinao - Education Program Supervisor - English
Division Journalism Alternate Coordinator
Email address: analisa.bagarinao@deped.gov.ph

10. For the information, guidance, and compliance of all concerned.




Jay S. Montealto
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JAY S. MONTEALTO, CESO VI
Schools Division Superintendent



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Department of Education
 REGION IX, ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA
 SCHOOLS DIVISION OF DAPITAN CITY

Enclosure No.1 to Division Memo No. __, S. 2026

**LIST OF OFFICIAL QUALIFIERS AND PARTICIPANTS
 FOR THE 2026 NATIONAL SCHOOLS PRESS CONFERENCE**

A. List of School Paper Entries for National Competition

No.	School Paper	School Paper Adviser	Medium	School	School Head
1.	The Efflux	Janessa Y. Elumbaring	English	Carang ES	Liezl Y. Ombay
2.	Panorama	Clair G. Labisig	English	Taguilon ES	Genelyn T. Dabodabo
3.	Rotonda	Janeth P. Saldon	English	Polo ES	Lyra L. Balladares
4.	The Equalizer	Jomar A. Banua	English	JRMSU Laboratory High School	Kathryn Rose B. Archulita
5.	Ang Gaod	Goldilock E. Hamoy	Filipino	Taguilon ES	Genelyn T. Dabodabo
6.	Ang Bagong Pananaw	Cristylen F. Bucol	Filipino	JRMSU Laboratory High School	Kathryn Rose B. Archulita
7.	Ang Pluma ni Pepe	Jocel P. Icao	Filipino	Dapitan City NHS	JR Simed Joseph B. Saguin

B. 2026 NSPC Qualifiers (Campus Journalists and Coaches)

No.	Name of Contestant	Category	Medium	Coach	School
1.	Martiens Satur A. Jumawan	Editorial Cartooning	English	Sharon D. Daganasol	Dampalan ES
2.	Shainova Claire C. Gapol	Pagkuha ng Larawang Pampahayagan	Filipino	Jean J. Elumba	Dapitan City Central School
3.	Jebee D. Miraflor	Photojournalism	English	Abygaile Pardillo-Laurente	Potungan NHS
4.	Hanah D. Balwit	Pagsulat ng Lathalain	Filipino	Ruth P. Agalot	Baylimango NHS
5.	Glyndie M. Siangco	Pagkuha ng Larawang Pampahayagan	Filipino	Joel T. Baje	Kauswagan NHS
6.	Ariakezxa Dhallia O. Mones	Collaborative Desktop Publishing	English	Jay H. Sagario	Dapitan City SPED Center
7.	Ruel M. Romaguera Jr.	Collaborative Desktop Publishing	English	Jocel P. Icao	Dapitan City NHS
8.	Norie Jean T. Paglalunan	Newswriting	English	Mary Cris E. Banzuela	RMIDCI

C. Division Coordinators and Support Staff

No.	Name	Position
1.	Lindo O. Adasa, Jr.	Education Program Supervisor - Filipino
2.	Analisa A. Bagarinao	Education Program Supervisor - English
3.	Ma. Perga A. Cadiente	Education Program Supervisor - LRMS



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

MAR 19 2026

DepEd MEMORANDUM
No. **021**, s. 2026

2026 NATIONAL SCHOOLS PRESS CONFERENCE

To: Undersecretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Bureau and Service Directors
Minister, Basic, Higher, and Technical Education, BARMM
Regional Directors
Schools Division Superintendents
Public and Private Elementary and Secondary School Heads
Attached Agencies
All Others Concerned

1. Pursuant to DepEd Order (DO) No. 94, s. 1992, titled Promulgating the Rules and Regulations Necessary for the Effective Implementation of Republic Act (RA) No. 7079, Otherwise Known as the Campus Journalism Act of 1991, the Department of Education (DepEd) shall sponsor periodic press conferences to be held at the institutional, divisional, and regional levels, culminating in the holding of the annual national elementary and secondary schools press conferences in places of historical and cultural interest in the country.

2. Accordingly, DepEd, through the Bureau of Curriculum Development (BCD), announces the conduct of the **2026 National Schools Press Conference (NSPC)** with the theme, *Mapanuri, Mapanindigan, at Mapanagutang Pamamahayag* (Critical, Principled, and Accountable Journalism).

3. The 2026 NSPC is aligned with the mandate of RA 10533, or the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013, to establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education relevant to the needs of the people, the country, and society at large. The 2026 NSPC also responds to the Department's commitment to foster the holistic development of Filipino learners. It incorporates the 21st-century skills that learners continuously develop as they progress in the basic education program. These standards and skills are manifested in diverse journalistic experiences across print, broadcast, and new media.

4. The 2026 NSPC, which is scheduled from **April 13–17, 2026** (exclusive of travel time), will be hosted by DepEd Region VIII together with the DepEd Division of Ormoc City.

5. The primary objectives of the 2026 NSPC are as follows:

- a. Demonstrate understanding of journalism through skillful execution across various platforms (e.g., print, broadcast, online);

- b. Recognize the role of journalism in advocating for social consciousness and environmental awareness;
- c. Promote the fair and ethical use of media as a tenet of responsible journalism;
- d. Foster camaraderie and enrich learning experiences through healthy and friendly competitions; and
- e. Provide learners with the opportunity to apply the skills learned in campus journalism toward their future careers.

6. To ensure impartial and unbiased selection of contestants for the 2026 NSPC, the division schools press conference (DSPC) and the regional schools press conference (RSPC) shall be conducted. These conferences shall be held within the school year (SY) in compliance with DO 9, s. 2005, titled Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-On-Task and Ensuring Compliance Therewith. The consent of the parents or guardians for learners' participation shall first be secured before allowing them to join any journalism-related conference or training.

7. Learner-participants at the elementary and secondary levels (both junior and senior high schools) for SY 2025–2026 may participate in only one event, which may either be under the individual or group category.

8. The qualifiers eligible for the 2026 NSPC are as follows:

Table 1. NSPC Qualifiers

Individual Categories	Top one regional winner per medium
Group Categories	One team per medium (Composed of seven members, except for Online Publishing, which shall have five members)

9. Both schools division offices (SDOs) and regional offices (ROs) shall ensure that the schools participating in the DSPC, RSPC, and NSPC have school publications in either portable document format (PDF) or digital format, as well as a printed copy.

10. The 2026 NSPC activities shall include the following:

a. Individual Contests (English and Filipino, Elementary and Secondary)

- i. News Writing
- ii. Feature Writing
- iii. Editorial Writing
- iv. Sports Writing
- v. Copyediting and Headline Writing
- vi. Science and Technology Writing
- vii. Photojournalism
- viii. Editorial Cartooning
- ix. Column Writing
- x. Mobile Journalism (exhibition for secondary level only)

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b. Group Contests

- i. Radio Scriptwriting and Broadcasting (English and Filipino, Elementary and Secondary)
- ii. Collaborative Desktop Publishing (English and Filipino, Elementary and Secondary)
- iii. Online Publishing (English and Filipino, secondary only)
- iv. Television (TV) Scriptwriting and Broadcasting (English and Filipino, secondary only)

c. Exhibit of Best Regional School Papers

d. Awarding of Outstanding School Paper Advisers (SPAs) and Campus Journalists (CJs)

11. Recognizing and respecting intellectual property rights, DepEd adheres to rules concerning plagiarism. Also, artificial intelligence (AI)-generated content cannot be submitted as the participant's sole work. The participant remains responsible for all ideas, analysis, and conclusions. Thus, participants whose articles and/or outputs are found to be plagiarized shall be disqualified based on the decision of the Board of Judges. Such a decision shall be **final and irrevocable**.

12. Below is the list of **enclosures** on the guidelines of individual and group contests, the exhibit of best regional school papers, and the selection of outstanding SPAs and CJs:

Table 2. Summary of Contest Guidelines

Enclosure Number	Content
Guidelines for the Individual Contests	
3	General Guidelines for the Selection of Winners in the Different Individual Writing Contests
3a	Score Sheet for News Writing
3b	Score Sheet for Feature Writing
3c	Score Sheet for Editorial Writing
3d	Score Sheet for Sports Writing
3e	Score Sheet for Copyediting and Headline Writing
3f	Score Sheet for Science and Technology Writing
3g	Score Sheet for Photojournalism
3h	Score Sheet for Editorial Cartooning
3i	Score Sheet for Column Writing
3j	Score Sheet for Mobile Journalism (Exhibition Category)
Guidelines for the Group Contests	
4	Radio Scriptwriting and Broadcasting
4a	Score Sheet for Radio Scriptwriting and Broadcasting
5	Collaborative Desktop Publishing
5a	Score Sheet for Collaborative Desktop Publishing
6	Online Publishing
6a	Score Sheet for Online Publishing

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7	TV Scriptwriting and Broadcasting
7a	Score Sheet for TV Scriptwriting and Broadcasting
8	Guidelines for the School Paper Exhibition
8a	Score Sheet for the News Section
8b	Score Sheet for the Features Section
8c	Score Sheet for the Editorial Section
8d	Score Sheet for the Science and Technology Section
8e	Score Sheet for the Sports Section
8f	Score Sheet for the Layout and Page Design
9	Guidelines in the Selection of Outstanding Campus Journalists and School Paper Advisers
10	Computation for the Overall Standing

13. The top five winners in each contest event shall be recognized.
14. Each region is expected to submit the required documents signed by the regional director (RD) using the prescribed format:

Enclosure No. 1: List of Delegates and Parental Consent

- a. List of Learner-Participants for the Individual Categories,
- b. List of Learner-Participants for Radio Scriptwriting and Broadcasting,
- c. List of Learner-Participants for Collaborative Desktop Publishing,
- d. List of Learner-Participants for Online Publishing (for secondary only),
- e. List of Learner-Participants for TV Scriptwriting and Broadcasting (for secondary only), and
- f. List of Other Official Delegates from the SDOs and ROs.

Enclosure No. 2: 2026 NSPC Confirmation Sheet

15. **Only the RO** is authorized to submit the documents through the folder shared with the regional journalism coordinators (RJC)/education program supervisors (EPS) in charge of journalism.
16. A comprehensive RSPC report, including the list of winners and judges, shall be submitted within four weeks after the conduct of the activity through email at bcd.od@deped.gov.ph
17. The Official Regional Delegation shall consist of **194 delegates. The delegates are expected to arrive at the venue on April 12, 2026.** The first meal will be **dinner on April 12, 2026**, and the last meal will be the **afternoon snack on April 17, 2026.**
18. Advisers of the top five overall winning school papers in their regions may attend the Conference, provided they cover their own travel and related expenses, either through personal funds or subsidies extended by their respective schools or local government units. Their participation must be approved by the region through a travel authority, and the host region will provide them with a certificate of appearance.

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19. For TV Scriptwriting and Broadcasting contestants, an orientation will be conducted on **April 12, 2026**. Details of the venue will be relayed through the regional supervisor in charge of campus journalism one week before the orientation.

20. The National Technical Working Group (NTWG) shall not be liable for any damages or losses of personal belongings for the entire duration of the activity. Thus, participants are strongly advised to take the necessary precautions to safeguard their personal belongings.

21. ROs and SDOs requesting assistance for the participants are advised to coordinate with the following contact persons from Region VIII:

Mr. Dean Ric M. Endriano

Education Program Supervisor
dean.endriano@deped.gov.ph
0927-418-3061

Mr. Dandy G. Acuin

Education Program Supervisor
dandyacuin@deped.gov.ph
0917-700-9519

Ms. Mylane Barquera

Education Program Supervisor
mylane.barquera001@deped.gov.ph
0915-595-0913

22. Travel and incidental expenses incurred by official delegates shall be covered by the school's maintenance and/or other operating expenses, local/regional funds, special education fund, or the school campus journalism fund, and other applicable sources. However, travel expenses of learner-participants shall be subsidized by the Central Office and charged against the 2026 Development and Promotion of Campus Journalism (DPCJ) funds, subject to the usual accounting, budgeting, and auditing rules and regulations.

23. Any excess funds in the allocated budget may be used for other campus journalism-related expenses. However, if the downloaded funds are insufficient to cover the subsidized travel expenses of the 2026 NSPC learner-participants, available local funds or other alternative sources may be utilized, following government accounting, budgeting, and auditing rules and regulations.


24. The fund transfer amounting to **P26,949,003.04** shall be downloaded to the host region to cover the cost of the following:

- a. Board and lodging of Executive Committee, NTWG, and judges;
- b. Travel expenses of learner-participants;
- c. Meals of official delegates;
- d. Rental of venues and equipment;
- e. Planning meetings;
- f. Rental of service vehicles for NTWG, judges, and official delegates;
- g. Payment of utilities;
- h. Supplies and materials;
- i. Honoraria of judges;
- j. Medals, plaques, and certificates/tokens; and

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- k. Contingency and other related expenses incurred in the conduct of the 2026 NSPC.
25. The host region shall submit the Statement of Expenditures, audited by the local Commission on Audit and noted by the RD, to the DepEd CO within one month after the conduct of the activity.
26. For clarifications, please contact the **Bureau of Curriculum Development**, Department of Education Central Office, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, through email at bcd.od@deped.gov.ph.
27. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is desired.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY:


ATTY. FATIMA LIPP D. PANONTONGAN
Undersecretary and Chief of Staff *FW*

Encls.:
As stated

References:
DepEd Order (Nos. 9, s. 2005 and 94, s. 1992)
DepEd Memorandum Nos. 039, s. 2025 and 024, s. 2023



To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS
CONTESTS
LANGUAGE
LEARNERS
PRIZES OR AWARDS

PROGRAMS
RULES AND REGULATIONS
SCHOOLS
SECONDARY EDUCATION