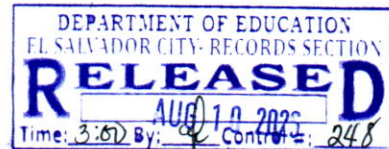




Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region X- Northern Mindanao
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF EL SALVADOR CITY



August 6, 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 248, s. 2026

PARTICIPATION IN THE *TINIG AT PANULAT PARA SA LINGKOD BAYANI*- ESSAY
WRITING AND ORATORICAL WRITING

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chiefs Education Supervisors, CID and SGOD
Education Program Supervisors
All Public and Private Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All Public and Private Elementary and Secondary School Teachers
Others concerned
This Division

1. Pursuant to the letter from the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Regional Office X dated July 29, 2026, regarding the celebration of the 126th Philippine Civil Service Anniversary (PCSA) with the theme "*Puso, Dangal, at Galing*," this Office encourages all public and private secondary schools in the division to participate in the *Tinig at Panulat Para sa Lingkod Bayani* – Essay Writing and Oratorical Competition.

2. The initiative aims to provide students with a meaningful platform to reflect on the importance of public service, express their aspirations for the country, and embody the values of *Puso, Dangal, at Galing* as future contributors to nation-building.

3. The target participants for the competitions are as follows:

Essay Writing Competition

- **High School Category:** High School Students (Grades 7–12) from public and private schools.

Oratorical Competition

- **High School Category:** High School Students (Grades 7–12) from public and private schools.

4. Interested participants may submit their entries directly through the designated Google Drive link: <https://bit.ly/4h3zyUu>.

5. Attached are the guidelines of the said competition.



Address: Zone 3, Tuburan, Poblacion, El Salvador City
Telephone Nos.: (088) 882-6326
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Website: depedelsalvadorcity.org

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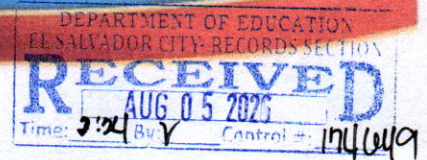
6. For inquiries, clarifications, or further guidelines, school representatives may contact **Ms. Lady May G. Delos Santos-Castaños** of the CSC Public Assistance and Liaison Division at **pald.csc10@gmail.com** or call **0998-977-4715**.
7. This Office adheres to the Equal Opportunity Principle (EOP) in observing all policies and protocols of the said activity. Hence, all actions shall be based on guidelines set with no discrimination on the account of age, gender identity, sexual orientation, civil status, disability, religion, ethnicity or political affiliation.
8. Immediate dissemination and compliance of this Memorandum is desired.


RANDOLPH B. TORTOLA
Schools Division Superintendent

To be included in the **Perpetual Index**
under the following subject

Celebrations and Events	Competition
Essay Writing	Oratorical

CID/gcel



CSC REGIONAL OFFICE X

29 July 2026

Dr. RUTH L. FUENTES, CESO III

Regional Director

Department of Education Regional Office X

Masterson Avenue, Zone 1, Upper Bulalang
Cagayan de Oro City

Dear **Director Fuentes**:

As the Civil Service Commission marks the 126th Philippine Civil Service Anniversary (PCSA), it emphasizes the importance of its theme, "*Puso, Dangal, at Galing*", highlighting how these values promote nation-building and strengthen responsible citizenship.

In line with this, the CSC cordially invites your institution to participate in the *Tinig at Panulat Para sa Lingkod Bayani* – Essay Writing and Oratorical Competition, an initiative that offers students a meaningful platform to reflect on the importance of public service, express their aspirations for the country, and embody the values of *Puso, Dangal, at Galing* as future contributors to nation-building.

The target participants for the competitions listed below are:

Essay Writing Competition

- **High School Category:** High School Students (Grades 7-12) from public and private schools
- **College Category:** College Students enrolled in recognized higher education institutions

Oratorical Competition

- **High School Students** (Grades 7-12) from public and private schools



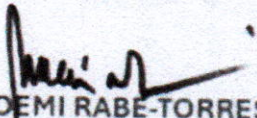
Interested participants may submit their entries through the designated Google Drive link: <https://bit.ly/4h3zyUu>

For further details, kindly refer to the attached guideline.

For any inquiries or clarifications, you may contact Ms. Lady May G. Delos Santos-Castaños of the Public Assistance and Liaison Division at pald.csc10@gmail.com or you may call at 09989774715.

We look forward to your institution's active participation and to the opportunity to witness your students showcase their talents while upholding the values of service, integrity, and excellence.

Very truly yours,


NOEMI RABE-TORRES
Director IV

TINIG AT PANULAT PARA SA LINGKOD BAYANI: *Essay Writing and Oratorical Competition*

I. Essay Writing Competition

Theme: "*Kung Ako ay Lingkod Bayani...*"

As part of the 126th PCSA celebration, participants are invited to imagine themselves as future public servants and reflect on how they would embody the values of *Puso, Dangal, at Gating* in serving the Filipino people. Through their essays, students are encouraged to articulate their aspirations, ideas, and vision for a more compassionate, ethical, and excellence-driven public service. The competition aims to inspire civic consciousness, patriotism, and a deeper appreciation of the role of public servants in nation-building.

The essay shall be anchored on the 126th PCSA theme, "*Bawat Kawani, Lingkod Bayani: Puso, Dangal, at Gating Para sa Bayan,*" specifically focusing on the sub-theme, "*Kung Ako ay Lingkod Bayani...*"

A. GENERAL GUIDELINES

The following provisions shall apply to both the High School Category and the College Category of the competition:

1. The competition shall be open to eligible high school students (Grade 7-12) from public and private schools nationwide, subject to the qualifications and requirements prescribed in the competition mechanics.
 2. The competition shall be conducted in two (2) categories:
 - High School Category; and
 - College Category.
 3. No registration fee shall be charged to any participant.
 4. Each participant shall submit only one (1) essay entry.
 5. **Entries must be written in Filipino.**
 6. All submissions must be the participant's original work and must not have been previously published, awarded, or submitted to any other competition or similar undertaking.
-

7. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools shall be limited to a maximum of twenty percent (20%) of the overall work and may only be utilized for brainstorming, outlining, grammar checking, and language refinement. The participant must remain the principal author of the essay, ensuring that the ideas, analysis, organization, and written expression are substantially his or her own. Essays determined to contain substantial or predominantly AI-generated content shall be disqualified.
8. All participants shall accomplish and submit the Entry Form attached in **Annex B**. The form shall further affirm that the participant is currently enrolled in the school and is qualified to participate in the competition.
9. All participants shall submit a duly accomplished Student Authorship Pledge affirming that:
 - the essay is their original work;
 - AI use, if any, does not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the overall output; and
 - AI assistance was limited to brainstorming, outlining, grammar checking, and language refinement.

Entries submitted without the required pledge shall not be accepted. Please refer to **Annex C** for the pledge template.

10. All entries shall undergo plagiarism and AI-detection screening at both the regional and national levels. Results generated by screening tools shall serve as preliminary indicators and shall be subject to validation through further review. Any entry found to contain plagiarized material, fabricated information, or substantial AI-generated content inconsistent with the participant's declaration may be disqualified.
11. Participants shall submit a certification signed by the School Principal, Dean, Academic Head, Adviser, or other authorized school official attesting that, to the best of the school's knowledge and based on its review, the submitted essay is the original work of the participant and was prepared in accordance with the competition guidelines. Attached in **Annex D** is the certification template.
12. Entries shall be submitted electronically to Civil Service Commission Regional Office X on or before **August 17, 2026**. Each contestant must use only one (1) email for submission.
13. Each submission shall include the participant's full name, school, grade level, contact information, and other required details in the prescribed format.
14. The essay shall be typewritten and submitted in Portable Document Format (PDF). Handwritten, scanned handwritten, photographed handwritten, or manually written entries shall not be accepted and shall be automatically disqualified.

15. The competition shall undergo a two-level screening and evaluation process, as follows:

- Regional Level Screening - C S C R O s shall evaluate all qualified entries and select one (1) essay winner per category to represent their respective regions in the National Level Competition.
- National Level Evaluation - The CSC CO shall conduct the final evaluation of all regional winning entries and determine the national winners for each category.

16. All contestants shall submit their essay entries and documentary requirements to the CSC Regional Office X through the prescribed electronic submission platform or Google Drive folder/link created by the concerned CSC RO: <https://bit.ly/4h3zyUu>

17. Interested students shall submit the following on or before **August 17, 2026**:

- Essay manuscript in PDF format;
- Accomplished Entry Form (**Annex B**);
- Student Authorship Pledge (**Annex C**); and
- School Certification of Authorship (**Annex D**).

18. A Regional Board of Judges composed of three (3) members shall be constituted in each region to evaluate all qualified entries.

19. The Regional Board of Judges shall review and assess the submitted essays based on the prescribed criteria for judging. To promote fairness, objectivity, and consistency in the evaluation process, the CSC Regional Office X shall conduct a collective deliberation of the scores and evaluation results.

20. Based on the results of the evaluation, the Regional Board of Judges shall select one (1) winning essay per category to represent the region and endorse the same to the CSC CO for National Level Evaluation.

21. The same entry submitted at the regional level shall serve as the basis for national evaluation.

B. SUBMISSION AND FILE SPECIFICATIONS

To ensure uniformity and facilitate the evaluation process, contestants shall comply with the following submission and file specifications:

1. The essay manuscript shall be submitted in Portable Document Format (PDF) only.

2. The PDF file shall contain only the essay title and the body of the essay. The participant's name, school, region, pen name, logo, watermark, photograph, or any identifying mark shall not appear anywhere in the manuscript.
3. The essay manuscript shall have a minimum of eight hundred (800) words and maximum of one thousand two hundred (1,200) words and shall conform to the following format:

- Language: Filipino;
- Font Style: Arial;
- Font Size: 12;
- Line Spacing: Double-spaced;
- Paper Size: A4; and
- Margin: One (1) inch on all sides.

4. The essay manuscript shall be saved using the following file name format:
Essay_Region_School_LastName_FirstName
(example: Essay_RegionIV_BatasanHS_Santos_Juan)

The CSC RO shall assign the corresponding entry number upon receipt of the submission.

5. The Entry Form shall be submitted in PDF format using the file name:
EntryForm_Region_School_LastName_FirstName
(example: EntryForm_RegionIV_BatasanHS_SantosJuan)
6. The Student Authorship Pledge shall be submitted in PDF format using the file name:
Pledge_Region_School_LastName_FirstName
(example: Pledge_RegionIV_Batasan HS_Santos_Juan)
7. The School Certification of Authorship shall be submitted in PDF format using the file name: SchoolCert_Region_School_LastName_FirstName
(example: SchoolCert_RegionIV_Batasan HS_Santos_Juan)
8. Entries shall be submitted via electronic submission platform or Google Drive folder:
<https://bit.ly/4h3zyUu>
9. Contestants shall ensure that all uploaded files are complete, readable, and free from corruption or password protection.
10. The CSC Regional office X shall not be responsible for incomplete, unreadable, corrupted, misfiled, or late submissions.

11. Any submission that fails to comply with the prescribed deadline of submission and/or file specifications shall be disqualified.

II. Oratorical Competition

Theme: ***"Puso, Dangal, at Galing Para sa Bayan"***

All speeches shall be anchored on the 126th PCSA theme, specifically focusing on the subtheme, ***"Puso, Dangal, at Galing Para sa Bayan"***

Contestants are encouraged to articulate their aspirations, ideas, and vision for public service while demonstrating an appreciation of the values of compassion, integrity, and excellence in nation-building.

A. GENERAL GUIDELINES

1. The competition shall be open to eligible high school students from public and private schools nationwide, subject to the qualifications and requirements prescribed in the competition mechanics.
2. No registration fee shall be collected from any participant.
3. Each contestant shall submit and deliver only one (1) original speech.
4. Entries shall be written and delivered in Filipino.
5. The speech must be the contestant's original work and must not have been previously published, awarded, or submitted to any other competition.
6. The competition shall be conducted entirely through video-recorded submissions at both the regional and national levels. Contestants shall submit a **video-recorded speech**, which shall serve as the official entry for evaluation.
7. No live delivery shall be required at any stage of the competition.
8. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools shall be limited to a maximum of twenty percent (20%) of the overall speech and may only be utilized for brainstorming, outlining, grammar checking, and language refinement. The contestant must remain the principal author of the speech and shall be responsible for its ideas, analysis, organization, and final content.
9. All submitted speeches shall undergo plagiarism and AI-detection screening. Any speech found to contain plagiarized material, fabricated information, or substantial

AI-generated content inconsistent with the contestant's declaration will be disqualified.

10. All participants shall accomplish and submit the Entry Form as attached in **Annex B**. The form shall further affirm that the participant is currently enrolled in the school and is qualified to participate in the competition.
11. All participants shall submit a duly accomplished Student Authorship Pledge affirming that:
 - the speech is their original work;
 - AI use, if any, does not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the overall output; and
 - AI assistance was limited to brainstorming, outlining, grammar checking, and language refinement.

Entries submitted without the required pledge shall not be accepted. Please refer to **Annex C** for the pledge template.

12. Participants shall submit a certification signed by the School Principal, Dean, Academic Head, Adviser, or other authorized school official attesting that, to the best of the school's knowledge and based on its review, the submitted speech is the original work of the participant and was prepared in accordance with the competition guidelines. Attached in **Annex D** is the certification template.
13. Entries shall be submitted electronically to the CSC Regional Office X on or before **August 17, 2026** through a prescribed electronic submission platform or Google Drive folder/link: <https://bit.ly/4h3zyUu>. Each contestant must use only one (1) email for submission.
14. Each submission shall include the participant's full name, school, grade level, contact information, and other required details in the prescribed format.
15. The competition shall undergo a two-level screening and evaluation process, as follows:
 - Regional Level Screening-CSC ROs shall evaluate all qualified entries and select one (1) winner to represent their respective regions in the National Level Competition.
 - National Level Evaluation - The CSC CO shall conduct the final evaluation of all regional winning entries and determine the national winners.
16. The interested students shall submit the following on the prescribed timeline and file specifications:

- Official video recording of the speech delivered by the contestants;
- Written copy of the speech;
- Entry Form; • Student Authorship Pledge; and
- School Certification of Authorship.

17. A Regional Board of Judges composed of three (3) members shall be constituted in each region to evaluate all qualified entries.
18. The Regional Board of Judges shall review and assess the submitted video entries based on the prescribed criteria for judging. To promote fairness, objectivity, and consistency in the evaluation process, the CSC ROs shall conduct a collective deliberation.
19. Based on the results of the evaluation, the Regional Board of Judges shall select one (1) official finalist who shall represent the region and shall be endorsed to the CSC CO for national evaluation.
20. The same entry submitted at the regional level shall serve as the basis for national evaluation.

B. SPEECH DURATION

1. Each contestant shall deliver a speech with a minimum duration of five (5) minutes and a maximum duration of seven (7) minutes.
2. A grace period of thirty (30) seconds shall be allowed. Speeches delivered below four (4) minutes and thirty (30) seconds or beyond seven (7) minutes and thirty (30) seconds shall be subject to point deductions.
3. Timekeeping shall commence upon the contestant's first spoken word and shall end upon the final word of the speech.
4. Exceeding the prescribed time limit shall result in deductions from the contestant's final score.

C. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

1. The video must be recorded in an indoor, well-lit, and quiet setting, free from background noise, interruptions, or visual distractions.

2. The speech must be delivered without a live audience or visible observers. Only the contestant shall appear in the recording.
3. The video must be captured in a single, continuous take, with no cuts, pauses, or interruptions from the beginning of the contestant's introduction until the conclusion of the speech.
4. The recording device must remain stationary throughout the performance. Camera movements such as panning, zooming, tilting, or reframing are strictly prohibited.
5. The use of any audio or video editing, special effects, filters, overlays, sound enhancement, or post-production adjustments is strictly prohibited.

D. AUDIO-VISUAL QUALITY

1. The contestant must remain fully visible within the frame at all times, from the waist or chest up. The face, gestures, and overall delivery must be clearly observable throughout the speech.
2. The audio must be clear, audible, and free from distortion, echo, or background interference. The use of external microphones is allowed, provided no audio enhancement is applied.

E. DELIVERY AND PRESENTATION

1. The speech must be delivered from memory. The use of scripts, teleprompters, cue cards, or any form of external prompting during recording is strictly prohibited.
2. The use of visual aids, presentation materials, captions, subtitles, props, or additional performers is strictly prohibited.
3. Contestants must maintain natural eye contact with the camera and demonstrate fluency, coherence, and confidence.
4. Contestants must wear appropriate formal or smart attire.
5. The background must be simple, neutral, and non-distracting. The use of virtual or digital backgrounds is not allowed.

F. SUBMISSION AND FILE SPECIFICATIONS

1. The video entry must be submitted in MP4 format.
2. Minimum resolution of 720p (HD); higher resolution is encouraged provided file size remains manageable.
3. Files shall follow the format file name: OratoricalRegion_School_LastName_FirstName (example: OratoricalRegionIV_CentralHS_SantosJuan.mp4)
4. The Entry and Registration Form shall be submitted in PDF format using the file name: EntryForm_Region_School_LastName_FirstName (example: Entryform_RegionIV_CentralHS_Santos_Juan)
5. The Student Authorship Pledge shall be submitted in PDF format using the file name: Pledge_Region_School_LastName_FirstName (example: Pledge_RegionIV_Central HS_Santos_Juan)
6. The School Certification of Authorship shall be submitted in PDF format using the file name: SchoolCert_Region_School_LastName_FirstName (example: SchoolCert_RegionIV_Batasan HS_SantosJuan)
7. Entries shall be submitted via electronic submission platform or Google Drive folder/link <https://bit.ly/4h3zyUu>
8. Submitted video must be accessible and viewable without restrictions. Any inaccessible or corrupted file shall be grounds for disqualification.

III. Criteria for Judging

A. Essay Writing Contest

Criteria	Description	Weight
Content and Relevance	Alignment with the theme, depth of discussion, clarity of message, and significance of ideas presented, and significance of ideas presented	40%
Originality and Insight	Freshness of perspective, authenticity of ideas, and ability to provide meaningful reflection or analysis	25%
Organization and Coherence	Logical arrangement of ideas, effective flow of arguments, and unity of the essay as a whole	20%
Language Use and Mechanics	Correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, sentence structure, and appropriate use of language	15%
TOTAL		100%

Failure to comply with the prescribed requirements shall result in the following deductions from the final score:

Unable to meet the minimum word count (800 words) or exceeding the maximum word count (1,200 words)	Five (5) point deduction from the final score
Did not follow the prescribed formatting requirements (font, spacing, paper size, margins)	Three (3) point deduction from the final score

B. Oratorical Competition

Criteria	Description	Weight
Content and Relevance to Theme	The speech clearly articulates the contestant's vision and aspirations under the theme <i>"Kung Ako ay Lingkod Bayani..."</i> demonstrating insight, originality, civic awareness, and appreciation of the values of <i>Puso, Dangat, and Gating</i> .	30%
Mastery, Delivery and On-Camera Presence	The contestant demonstrates mastery of the piece, confidence, poise, and sincerity, with effective use of gestures and clear eye contact directed toward the camera, reflecting strong engagement and natural, expressive delivery of the speech.	25%
Organization and Clarity of Ideas	The speech presents ideas in a logical, coherent, and well-structured manner, with a clear introduction, development of key points, and conclusion.	20%
Originality and Insight	The speech reflects originality and authenticity of perspective through fresh, meaningful insights, and must be the contestant's own work that has not been previously published, awarded, or submitted to any other competition.	15%
Language and Voice Quality	The contestant exhibits proper diction, pronunciation, articulation, modulation, fluency, and effective use of language.	10%
TOTAL		100%

Each participant is given a maximum of seven (7) minutes for the speech, measured from the first spoken word to the last. Noncompliance with the prescribed requirements shall warrant the corresponding deductions from the final score, as follows:

Undertime Duration <i>(under 4 minutes and 30 seconds)</i>	Overtime Duration <i>(over 7 minutes and 30 seconds)</i>	Deduction/ s
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31 seconds to 59 seconds	31 seconds to 59 seconds	1 point
1 minute to 1 minute and 59 seconds	1 minute to 1 minute and 59 seconds	2 points
More than 2 minutes	More than 2 minutes	3 points

For transparency and consistency, the same criteria shall be used in both the regional screening and final screening stages.

IV. Prizes and Awards

A. Regional Awards

- All contestants will receive an e-Certificate of participation via email.
- Each C S C R O shall recognize one (1) regional winner, who will receive a certificate of recognition and a PCSA token.

B. National Awards

Awards	Cash Prizes		Recognition
	Essay Writing	Oratorical	
Champion	P30,000.00	P35,000.00	Certificate of Recognition + Token
1 st Runner-up	P20,000.00	P25,000.00	Certificate of Recognition + Token
2 nd Runner-up	P15,000.00	P20,000.00	Certificate of Recognition + Token

V. Final Provision

By participating in the competition, contestants grant the Civil Service Commission the right to reproduce, publish, display, and feature their speeches and recordings for official, educational, advocacy, and promotional purposes, with proper acknowledgment of authorship.

The decision of the Regional and National Boards of Judges shall be final and non-appealable.