



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION IV-A CALABARZON
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF BATANGAS

9 Feb 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 083, s. 2026

CONDUCT OF GAWAD TEODORA ALONZO (GTA) 2026 COMPETITION

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendents
Chief- Curriculum Implementation Division (CID)
Chief- School Governance and Operations Division (SGOD)
Education Program Supervisors
Public Schools District Supervisors
Elementary/Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

1. In reference to the Regional Memorandum No. 487, s. 2025, and following the attached signed Advisory of the Bureau of Learning Resources, this office, through the Curriculum Implementation Division (CID) – Learning Resource Management Section (LRMS), announces the Conduct of the Gawad Teodora Alonso 2026.

2. The competition aims to:
a. appreciates the role of stories and illustrated storybooks as a tool in the development of reading and learning curricular content standards;
b. harvest original stories that demonstrate learning competencies of the DepEd Basic Education Curriculum;
c. recognize the skills and talents of classroom teachers and non- teaching personnel
d. contribute to the treasury of content materials for utilization as reading resources.

3. Relative to this, all schools are hereby informed of the indicative dates and corresponding timeline of activities:

Activity	Date	Persons Involved
Sub - office evaluation of manuscript and recorded storytelling	April 10, 2026	LR coordinator, School Heads, PSDS, judges
Congressional District-level evaluation of the manuscript and recorded storytelling	April 17, 2026	LR coordinators, School Heads, PSDS, judges
Division-level evaluation of the manuscript and recorded storytelling	April 24, 2026	LRMS Personnel, all learning Area EPS, judges, and TWG members

4. The main, seasonal, and special categories are hereby adopted as per the guidelines. The following categories are open for competition:



Address: Provincial Sports Complex, Bolbok, 4200 Batangas City

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- a. Chapter Books for Young Readers** (for Grades 7 and 8, for Grades 9 and 10, and Illustrated Young Adult (YA) Literature)
b. Comics for YA (DepEd Canon, Open Comics)
c. Illustrated Thematic Storybooks (Wordless storybook, Storybook on Gender and Development, Storybook on DRRM, Storybook on Local Tangibles)
d. Lolay Storytelling Sessions (recorded storytelling from Real-Life storytellers, recorded storytelling from teachers)
e. Untold Kuwento ng Bayan Ko (Stories of untold legends and folklore)
f. Stories for Young Readers by Young Writers (for grades 7 and 8, for Grades 9 and 10, and Tulang Pambata ng mga Bata)
5. The **top three** GTA entries for **sixteen sub-categories** will be submitted to the CD Level, while the **top 2 winning** entries will be forwarded to SDO, LRMS section. Please submit 3 copies of the manuscript. The recorded storytelling will be forwarded the link, which will be given during the CD level evaluation.
6. All GTA entries must:
a. Be original, unpublished, and not submitted elsewhere
b. Be written in Filipino or bilingual (Filipino-Mother tongue or Filipino-English)
c. Observe the DepEd Social Content Guidelines
d. Be free from AI-generated or stock content.
7. For further reference, please see the attached Advisory dated June 18, 2025, from the Bureau of Learning Resources and the criteria for judging.
8. In connection with this, there will be an online orientation of all Sub-Offices' LR coordinators on February 13, 2026.
9. For inquiries, please get in touch with the LRMS office at telephone number 043-722-1840, loc 216.
10. Immediate dissemination of this Memorandum is earnestly desired.


MARITES A. IBANEZ, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent *dmr*

Encl: Advisory dated 18 June 2025, Criteria for Judging
Reference: BLR Advisory, RM No. 487, s. 2025

To be indicated in the perpetual Index under the following subject:

RAM/ CONDUCT OF GAWAD TEODORA ALONZO (GTA) 2026 COMPETITION/R2-149295 02/09/2026



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Criteria for judging:

STORY NARRATIVES

(Category 1 Manuscripts, Category 3 Manuscripts, Category 5, Category 6)

Criteria	Factors	Percentage
Concept	Originality and local flavor	20%
Storytelling Style	Artistic presentation, use of literary device (idioms, figures of speech, etc.), appropriate tone of the story, story progression (three-act, framing, etc.), unpredictability, conflict presentation and resolution, utilization of character, effective use of dialog (as needed)	40%
Development of the Theme and Learning Competency	Clarity of the theme, effective presentation, and treatment of learning competencies, appropriateness to grade level	25%
Presentation Standards	Spelling, punctuation, grammar, usage, orthographic compliance, styling	15%

ILLUSTRATIONS, WORDLESS STORIES, AND COMICS

(Category 1 Illustrations, Category 2, Category 3 Illustrations)

Criteria	Factors	Percentage
Concept	Originality and local flavor	10%
Appropriateness of the Illustration	Purpose, intent, message	30%
Media/mode of Presentation	Use of appropriate media for the story	15%
Technique and Skill	Expertise, consistency, etc.	25%
Viewer Reception/ Overall Design and Artistic Composition	Use of elements and principles of art relative to readers' perspectives	20%



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ILLUSTRATED STORY PACKAGES

(Category 1 and Category 3)

Criteria	Factors	Percentage
Text	Concept/Premise Storytelling Style, Plot and Pacing, Characterization and/or Dialog	50%
	Development of the Theme and Competencies Presentation Standards	
Art	Appropriateness of the Illustration Media/ Mode of Presentation Technique and Skill Viewer Reception/ Overall Design and Artistic Composition	50%

RECORDED STORYTELLING VIDEO

(Category 4)

Criteria	Factors	Percentage
Story	Concept, message, style, plot and pacing, characterization, dialog, presentation and development of the story, script and dialog	35%
Performance	Narration style, facial expression, body language, vocal quality, audience engagement	35%
Multimedia Quality	Video quality, audio quality, editing and post-production, appropriateness of sound and graphics	30%

POEMS COMPILATION

(Category 6)

Criteria	Factors	Percentage
Originality and Creativity	Perspectives, ideas, imagery Unique voice and linguistic freshness (avoiding cliches and overused expressions)	20%
Language and Literary Quality	Age-appropriate language Poetic devices	20%
Thematic Relevance	Development and significance of presented themes of learners' experiences	20%
Structure and Form	Intentional use of structure Coherence and flow	20%
Impact and Clarity	Message and meaning Emotional resonance and evocativeness	20%



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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
BUREAU OF LEARNING RESOURCES

Office of the Director

ADVISORY
18 June 2025

**ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES ON THE CONDUCT OF PRE-COMPETITION
ACTIVITIES FOR GAWAD TEODORA ALONSO (GTA) 2025**

This is to inform all concerned that the Regional Offices (ROs) may now conduct pre-competition activities in line with the implementation of Gawad Teodora Alonso (GTA) 2025. These activities will be supported by the program funds already directly released to the regions through the Guidelines on the Utilization of Directly Released Funds Under FY 2025 Textbooks and Other Instructional Materials Fund.

The P350,000 allocation per region includes provisions for the engagement of one (1) GTA Shepherd per region, who must meet the following minimum qualifications: *must* have published two (2) children's or young adult fiction books at the national level. At least one onsite activity shall involve the GTA Shepherd, with additional activities permitted depending on feasibility and the local calendar of activities. The ROs are encouraged to plan and implement relevant pre-competition activities in alignment with the goals of GTA 2025. The names of the selected GTA Shepherds must be submitted to the National Technical Working Committee (NTWC) and emailed to **blr.creatives@deped.gov.ph**, with copies furnished to **blr.od@deped.gov.ph** and **blr.lrpd@deped.gov.ph** **on or before June 20, 2025**. A professional undertaking, including a nondisclosure agreement, shall be drafted by the Regional Technical Working Committee and agreed upon by the Regional Management Committee and the GTA Shepherd.

For the Negros Island Region (NIR), the Interim RO may request program support funds to facilitate its regional and division-level activities. While funds were already released to DepEd Regions VI and VII, which previously housed the divisions under NIR, the fund allocation follows a per-region basis with no population consideration. As such, DepEd NIR remains without funding for the program at present.

Attached are the proposed guidelines for the main activities, including mechanics, qualifications, and standards, which are subject to the final approval and will be published as a DepEd Memorandum.

For information and guidance.

ARIZ DELSON ACAY D. CAWILAN
Director IV

Attached:

1. GTA 2025 Composition of Committees
2. Draft Guidelines and Mechanics of GTA 2025
3. 2025 TBIMs Guidelines

DIVISION CODE



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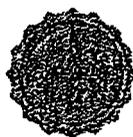
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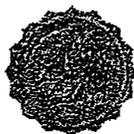
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Gawad Teodora Alonso 2025

THE COMMITTEES OF GAWAD TEODORA ALONSO 2025

	Management Committee	Technical Working Committee	Screening Committee
Terms of Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversees the conduct of activities • Approves plans, calendar of activities, and other components of the Competition as recommended by the Secretariat • Resolves issues and concerns on the conduct of the Competition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans out programs, projects, and activities, and their calendar of implementation • Spearheads the conduct of the series of activities approved by the Management Committee • Upholds the integrity of the Competition by maintaining the confidentiality of records and exercising fairness in the treatment of entries and submissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selects the best manuscripts and/or storybooks submitted • Upholds the integrity of the Competition by maintaining the confidentiality of the judging process and results
Composition - National	Bureau of Learning Resources <i>Atty. Ariz Delson Acay D. Cawilan, Director IV</i> <i>Edward C. Jimenez, Director III</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BLR specialists • BCD specialists • BLD specialists • Recipients of Gawad Teodora Alonso as end-user representatives Chairperson: <i>Beay C. Agamata</i> Head, GTA Categories: <i>Sharon B. Buti</i> Head, OFA Categories: <i>Julie Ann V. Vertudes</i> Head, Results and Processes: <i>Ryan T. Lactaotao</i>	Storybook experts and academicians; published and celebrated authors and illustrators; book collectors and enthusiasts
			Screening Committee for Manuscript Categories includes members of the National TWC
Composition - Regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Director • Assistant Regional Director 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairperson: Chief Education Supervisor, Curriculum Learning and Management Division • Personnel assigned at the Learning Resources Management Section of the Regional Office 	Required members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author and/or illustrator of storybook • Reading specialist/s • Learning area specialist/s Optional members: (1) Non-DepEd academician specializing in reading (2) Enthusiast or collector of storybooks
Composition - Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools Division Superintendent • Assistant Schools Division Superintendent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairperson: Chief Education Supervisor, Curriculum Implementation Division • Personnel assigned at the Learning Resources Management Section of the Schools Division Office 	Required members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading specialist/s • Learning area specialist/s Optional members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Author and/or illustrator of storybook • Non-DepEd academician specializing in reading enthusiast or collector of storybooks



Gawad Teodora Alonso 2025

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES SUMMARY ON THE CONDUCT OF GAWAD TEODORA ALONSO 2025

The following information were curated from the general guidelines and mechanics of the Gawad Teodora Alonso (GTA) 2025, subject to final approval, and will be published as a Department of Education Memorandum:

Categories Open for GTA 2025

- 1. Main Categories: These categories are eligible for the Gawad Teodora Alonso and Gawad Fernando Amorsolo Honor Roll:

Table with 5 columns: Categories, Description, Subcategories, Outputs, and Qualifications. It lists categories like 'Chapter Books for Young Adults (YA)' and 'Comics for Young Adults' with their respective subcategories, output requirements, and qualification criteria.

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	art (panels), with or without text (speech bubbles, captions, or sound effects)		settings, or plots from Ibong Adarna, Florante at Laura, Noli Me Tangere, and/or El Filibusterismo; minimum of 30 pages (6x9 layout)	the DepEd and full-time teachers of non-DepEd basic education institution
		Open Comics	Comics based on themes and interests relevant to teenage readers; minimum of 30 pages (6x9 layout)	Note: The illustrator will also serve as the writer for comics entries.

2. Seasonal Categories. These categories are subject to change every year, anchored on the needs, advocacies, and exhibition try-out for newer categories:

Categories	Description	Subcategories	Outputs	Qualifications
Illustrated Thematic Storybooks	Illustrated children's stories based on specific themes	Wordless Storybooks on Inclusion	Wordless storybooks for Kindergarten: 20, 28, or 36 pages (including cover), centered on themes of inclusion	Teaching and non-teaching personnel of the Department of Education and full-time teachers of non-DepEd basic education institutions The illustrator will also serve as the writer of the wordless storybook.
		Storybook on Gender and Development	Illustrated storybooks for Grades 1 to 3; 20, 28, or 36 pages (including cover), focused on Gender and Development themes.	Teaching and non-teaching personnel of the Department of Education and full-time teachers of non-DepEd basic education institutions
		Storybooks on Disaster Risk Reduction Management	Illustrated storybooks for Grades 4 to 6; 20, 28, or 36 pages (including cover),	

			focused on Disaster Risk Reduction Management themes	Option 1: one writer and one illustrator Option 2: one writer-illustrator
		Storybooks on Local Tangibles	Illustrated children's stories for Grades 1 to 3; of 20, 28, or 36 pages, including cover pages, with themes of local tangibles, man-made, or natural	
Lolay Storytelling Sessions	Live and recorded storytelling videos with multimedia elements	Recorded Storytelling from Real-life Storytellers	Storytelling video using original or adapted stories from the GTA 2024 and 2025 editions	Individual or group storytellers who are members of the Parent-Teacher Association, not employed at the school
		Recorded Storytelling from Teachers		A team of teaching and non-teaching personnel of the Department of Education
		Live Storytelling	Live sessions utilizing the ReadEx Picks of GTA 2025 Categories 1, 2, or 3	All attendees of the Storybook Recognition Rites and Reading Exhibit, except the members of the National Technical Working Committee
Untold Kuwento Ng Bayan Ko	Non-competitive category dedicated to education leaders, focusing on familiar local narratives	Stories from Education Leaders	Story narratives for Grades 4 to 6, focusing on legends and folklore	Education leaders occupying third-level positions within the Department of Education system

	from fresh perspectives			
	A category dedicated to lesser-known concepts and stories of Philippine communities	Stories of Untold Legends and Folklore	Lesser-known stories, legends, and folklore from the localities	Open to all teachers of DepEd and educational institutions, including retired teachers
Stories for Young Readers by Young Writers	A category for the young readers written by the young writers	Kuwentong Pambata ng mga Bata	A story narrative for elementary learners based on the themes of friendship and family	Grades 4 to 6 learners of DepEd and non-DepEd schools
		Kuwentong Pambata ng mga Bata	A story narrative for high school learners based on the themes of self-discovery and sense of community	Grades 7 to 12 learners of DepEd and non-DepEd schools
		Tulang Pambata ng mga Bata	A compilation of at least five poems on learners' experiences and perspectives	

3. Special Categories. These categories will be selected based on specific merits.

Categories	Description	Qualifications
Gawad Teodora Alonso Honor Roll	An award given to storytellers who have won in the main categories a cumulative three times for GTA Volume III (GTA 2025, GTA 2026, and GTA 2027)	Three-time winners as writers in Category 1
Gawad Fernando Amoroso Honor Roll		Three-time winners as illustrator in Category 1 and writer-illustrator in Category 2
Kuwentong Guro	An award given to entries in the main category that best address the intended learning competencies of the curriculum. Selected by Central Office specialists	The entry must be included in the ReadEx Picks list of the main categories.
	An award chosen by the	

	Selected by learners of identified schools with diverse reading profiles	
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Entry Standards and Mechanics

1. Writing and illustrating entries must be done outside official office hours.
2. All entries must be original, unpublished, and not submitted to other competitions.
3. Entries must not contain identifying information of the author, illustrator, layout artist, school, or affiliated institution.
4. Authenticity is a key requirement. Entries must be entirely **original**, without artificial intelligence-generated content, stock images or videos, or manipulated existing materials.
5. Adaptations or retellings of local stories are allowed, provided they are done respectfully and with cultural sensitivity.
6. All entries must be written in Filipino, except for the illustrated storybook category, which must be rendered in diglot/bilingual format. The diglot format shall use either (a) Filipino and Mother Tongue or (b) Filipino and English.
7. Each entry must be aligned with one or more competencies from the current basic education curriculum, as specified in the individual category guidelines.
8. Themes should reflect tradition, culture, environment, art, or local concepts, consistent with the overarching theme #KuwentoNgBayanKo.
9. Entries must comply with the DepEd Social Content Guidelines.
10. Stories must be self-contained and must not include processing questions or supplementary activities.
11. Writers are encouraged to follow the Ortograpiyang Pambansa (latest edition). For other stylistic rules, the Chicago Manual of Style, 17th edition, shall be the reference.

Shepherding Process

1. To further enhance the quality of submissions and provide meaningful mentorship to participants, GTA 2025 will implement a Shepherding Process at the regional level. This initiative will introduce external published authors and illustrators as "shepherds" to guide and mentor contest management personnel and participants while maintaining the integrity of the judging process.
2. Each of the 16 regions will have one designated Shepherd, whose name shall be endorsed to the NTWC for final approval.
3. Shepherds will not be employed in an administrative capacity but will serve as mentors and creative guides.
4. The Regional Technical Working Committee (RTWC), responsible for all administrative tasks related to the contest, will collaborate with their respective Shepherds to ensure the effectiveness of mentorship activities.
5. Shepherds will not be involved in the formal judging to maintain objectivity and fairness. However, they may recommend potential judges for the competition based on their industry experience.
6. Shepherds shall encourage originality and minimize reliance on AI-generated content.

Timeline of Activities

1. The following is the recommended timeline of activities:

Activity	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4A	Category 5	Category 6
Storybook Forum	May 27 to 29, 2025					
Division Manuscript Screening	July 31, 2025		July 31, 2025			
Regional Manuscript Screening	August 7, 2025		August 7, 2025			
Judging at the Regional Level	August 25, 2025					
Submission to the National Level	September 1, 2025				August 15, 2025	August 1, 2025
Judging at the National Level	September 2025 (specific schedule confidential)					
Storybook Recognition Rites and Reading Exhibit	November 11 to 14, 2025					

2. Registration for Categories 5 and 6 will be open upon issuing the Official Guidelines.
3. The RTWC must convene all Division TWCs to prepare a local calendar of activities for their Competition for Categories 1, 2, 3, and 4.
4. The deadline for submission to the NTWC and all other activities from thereon may not be rescheduled by the Regional and Division TWCs.

Logistics

1. A logistical support to the RTWCs amounting to P300,000, chargeable against 2025 Current TBIM Funds of the BLR, was directly released to the ROs to cover expenses incurred during the various activities related to the program, including honorarium fees for Shepherds, local incentives to winners, and conduct of pre-competition and judging activities.
2. Additional budget for preparatory and related activities may be augmented by available local funds of the ROs and/or the Schools Division Offices.
3. All expenses are subject to accounting and auditing rules and regulations.
4. Travel expenses incurred during the Storybook Forum, Storybook Recognition Rites, and Reading Exhibit were directly released to the ROs. The logistical support or any available local funds may augment this.
5. Competition winners will be invited through a formal letter to their respective ROs. Individual invitation cards, marked as "GTA Socmed Cards," will be sent to the respective registered email addresses of winners upon validation of their win, and sent before the formal invitation to the ROs.
6. Winners will receive Certificates and Plaques of Recognition. Tokens and other incentives will be given subject to existing rules and regulations.