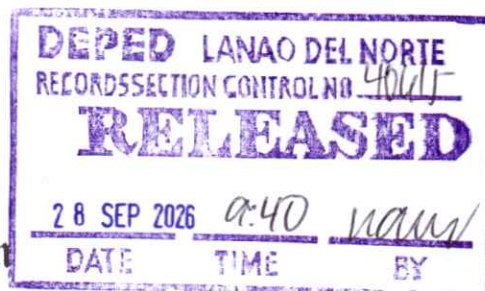




Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

REGION X
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF LANA DEL NORTE



September 20, 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 527, s. 2026

CLUSTERED DISTRICT AND DIVISION MUSABAQAH 2026

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief Education Supervisor – CID
Education Program Supervisors
Public schools District Supervisors, District In-charge
Elementary and Secondary School Heads MEP Implementing
Division Madrasah Education Program Composite Team
ALIVE Teachers
All Others Concerned

1. Pursuant to the regional guidelines on the promotion and enhancement of the Madrasah Education Program (MEP), Division of Lanao del Norte through the Curriculum Implementation Division (CID), announces the conduct of Cluster District and Division Musabaqah 2026 in the following venues and dates.

CLUSTERED DISTRICTS	VENUE	Date	Involved Persons	EVENTS
CLUSTER 1: PANTAO RAGAT/ PANTAR/TAGOLOAN/ BALOI EAST AND WEST/ MATUNGAO	Balo-i CS , Baloi West District	October 8, 2026	Division , Cluster 1 and II MEP Focal persons, District Supervisor s, DICs, School Heads,	Harf Touch/ Reading Qur'an/ IMLA Spelling Bee (Refer to the attached Guidelines)
CLUSTER 2: LINAMON/ KAUSWAGAN/ MUNAI/ POONA PIAGAPO	Jose Balazo ES Kauswagan District	October 9, 2026	District and School MEP	
CLUSTER 3: BACOLOD/MAIGO/ KOLAMBUGAN/TANG CAL	Kolambugan CS, Kolambugan District	October 15,2026		

CLUSTER 4: TUBOD/MAGSAYSAY/L ALA/KAPATAGAN/SA LVADOR	Datu Bebit IS , Magsaysay District	October 16, 2026	Coordinato rs, ALIVE teachers
CLUSTER 5: SND CENTRAL, EAST ,WEST /NUNUNGAN/SAPAD	SND MIS, SND District	October 22, 2026	
DIVISION MUSABAQAH 1st place winners in all categories from the 5 district clusters.	TBA	October 29, 2026	CID Personnel, Division MEP Composite Team, Winning Coaches

2. This year's **CLUSTERED DISTRICT AND DIVISION MUSABAQAH 2026** aims to strengthen learners' appreciation of Arabic language and Islamic heritage while promoting camaraderie, discipline, confidence, healthy competition among participating and to identify participants for the Regional Festival of Talents (Musabaqah).

3. All districts are advised to conduct a district level MUSABAQAH to identify participants for the Cluster District MUSABAQAH. Each cluster district 1st place winner in all categories shall participate for the Division level MUSABAQAH:

4. All Public Schools District Supervisors and District Madrasah Education Program (MEP) lead coordinators shall plan and spearhead the conduct of the Clustered District MUSABAQAH and shall be assisted by all ALIVE teachers.

5. Travel, meals, and other incidental expenses of the participants shall be charged to the division MEP PSF/ schools' MOOE and other funds subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

6. Attached to this memorandum is the 2027 NFOT guidelines for MUSABAQAH.

6. Immediate dissemination of and strict compliance on the contents of this Memorandum is enjoined.

EDWIN R. MARIBOJOC, EdD, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent

Reference: NFOT 2027 GUIDELINES

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

COMPETITION

MUSABAQAH

NFOT 2026

CID/mpm



ARABIC LANGUAGE SPELLING (IMLAH)

KEY STAGE	Key Stage 2 (Grade 4 only)	
NO. OF PARTICIPANT/S PER REGION	One Learner-contestant per region	
TIME ALLOTMENT	Easy Round: 10 seconds per word Average Round: 15 seconds per word Difficult Round: 30 seconds per word Clincher Round: 30 seconds per word	
PERFORMANCE STANDARD	The learner demonstrates proficiency in Arabic Language through accurate spelling, proper handwriting in both <i>nuskhah</i> and cursive forms, and correct placement of vowel marks.	
21 ST CENTURY SKILL/S	● Communication ● Literacy ● Global Awareness	
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DOMAIN	Traditional Cultural Expressions	
CAREER PATHWAYS	Arabic language mastery (writing and spelling), attention to detail, language processing, grammar proficiency	
DESCRIPTION	Arabic Spelling (<i>Imlah</i>) is an NFOT Musabaqah event category that showcases learners' listening and writing skills in the Arabic Language. Contestants demonstrate their ability to accurately spell Arabic words and write them in cursive form with proper vowel marks.	
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS		
A. MATERIALS, TOOLS, AND EQUIPMENT	To be provided by the contestants: - Black abaya and white kombong/hijab for female and white kimon with totob/kopya for male	To be provided by CO: - 3 Judges (to be identified by CO) - 1 Quizmaster To be provided by Host Region: Office Supplies: ● Meta-cards (4.25 by 13 - half lengthwise legal-

		sized neon cartolina) - 860 pieces total: ○ Easy Round (yellow) - 270 pieces ○ Average Round (light blue) - 270 pieces ○ Difficult Round (light pink) - 270 pieces ○ Clincher Round (light green) - 50 pieces ● Permanent markers (broad tip) - 18 pieces ● Envelopes - 20 pieces ● Bell/buzzer - 1 piece ● Tally sheets - 10 pieces Furniture and Equipment: ● 18 tables with chairs for the contestants ● 3 tables with chairs for the judges ● Sound system with microphone ● Video recorder - 1 unit Personnel: ● Proctor ● Timekeeper ● Video Recorder ● Tabulator ● Event Facilitator
B. VENUE	Gymnasium with separate holding room, bleachers, proper ventilation, and that can accommodate the following audience: RMEPCs DMEPCs PSDSs School Coaches Parents Heads	

C. CRITERIA FOR JUDGING	Scoring System: - Easy Round (3-syllable nouns): 1 point per word - Average Round (4-syllable nouns): 2 points per word - Difficult Round (5-syllable nouns): 3 points per word - Clincher Round (2-word nouns): 1 point per word
MECHANICS	
PRE-EVENT: Briefing and Materials Preparation	
A. Participant Eligibility: • One Grade 4 contestant per region, who is either a male or female. • The contestant must be aged 9 or 10 on the day of the contest	
B. Coaches Briefing: • Read and orient coaches on contest mechanics and judging criteria.	
C. Contestants Briefing: • Orient the contestants on the “DURING THE EVENT GUIDELINES”. • Check that the contestants are wearing the prescribed or proper attire (black abayah and white kombong/hijab for females; white kimon with totob/kopya for males).	
D. Board of Judges Preparation: • Determine and prepare the word list for each round before the competition. ○ Easy Round: 10 words (3-syllable nouns) ○ Average Round: 10 words (4-syllable nouns) ○ Difficult Round: 10 words (5-syllable nouns) ○ Clincher Round: 5 or more words (two-word phrases) • Ensure that the words are appropriate for the grade level and align with the Arabic Language and Islamic Values Education (ALIVE) curriculum competencies for Grade 4. • Keep the selected words confidential until the actual competition. • Provide three (3) copies of the master list to the NTWG secretariat before the competition proper. • Prepare a separate set of two-word phrases specifically for potential clincher rounds. • Use the Arabic Language as the medium.	
E. Materials and Equipment Setup: • Arrange 18 tables with chairs for the contestants and 3 tables with chairs for the board of judges. • Provide each participants with meta-cards: ○ Yellow (Easy Round): 15 pieces ○ Light blue (Average Round): 15 pieces ○ Light pink (Difficult Round): 15 pieces ○ Light green (Clincher Round): 5 pieces	

- Distribute black permanent markers (broad tip) to each participant.
- Prepare envelopes, bell/buzzer, and tally sheets.
- Set up sound system with microphone and video recorder.
- Display tally board/score board.
- Assign one (1) quizmaster, one (1) proctor, one (1) timekeeper, one (1) video recorder operator, one (1) tabulator, and one (1) event facilitator.

DURING THE EVENT: Conduct of Actual Competition

A. Opening:

- Seat contestants at the designated table with their meta-cards and permanent markers during the contest proper.
- The proctor verifies control numbers and materials.

B. Competition Procedure:

1. Conduct three rounds: Easy Round (10 words), Average Round (10 words), Difficult Round (10 words).
2. For each word:
 - Read the word thrice (facing right, left, and center of the audience)
 - Signal contestants to start writing after saying "uktubu".
 - Contestants write in both *nuskah* and cursive forms with complete vowel marks.
 - Apply time limits:
 - Easy Round (10 seconds per word)
 - Average Round (15 seconds per word)
 - Difficult Round (30 seconds per word)
 - Clincher Round: (30 seconds per word)
 - Sound the buzzer after the time limit.
 - Contestants immediately raise their meta-cards after the buzzer is rung.
 - Judges evaluate:
 - Both forms + vowel marks correct = full points;
 - Any error = 0 points.
 - Allow contestants or official coaches to raise questions/clarifications immediately after the item, before the next word is read in case of appeal.
3. After each Round, sum up the scores and post them in the tally board.
 - Easy Round: 10 words $\times$ 1 point = **10 points**
 - Average Round: 10 words $\times$ 2 points = **20 points**
 - Difficult Round: 10 words $\times$ 3 points = **30 points**
 - Total: 60 points**
4. The NTWG records the whole proceedings.

AFTER THE EVENT: Review of Scoring and Feedback

A. Scoring Review:

- Judges verify scores across all rounds.
- Judges identify the top five (5) scorers
- Judges check for contestants with tied scores.

B. Tie-Breaking:

- In case of a tie, conduct a clincher round among the tied scores from the top 5 scorers only.
- Clincher Round Procedure:
 1. Follow the same format for each phrase:
 - questions shall be read thrice
 - 30 seconds to write both *nuskhah* and cursive forms.
 2. Award 1 point for each correctly spelled word.
 3. Declare the contestant who got the correct answer as the winner for that ranking.
 4. After 5 questions, and still nobody scored, begin a do-or-die round where the first participant to score correctly automatically wins.
 5. Conduct separate clincher rounds for each tied ranking (i.e., if there is a tie for both first and second place).

C. Winners Declaration:

- Award first, second, and third place winners with medals and certificates.
- Award contestants in 4th and 5th places with certificates only.

D. Feedback Session by Panel of Experts:

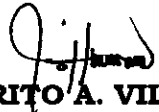
The panel of experts shall:

- provide general feedback on *nuskhah* form: letter formation accuracy, stroke order, specific errors and corrections;
- provide analysis of areas needing improvement in cursive form including connectivity fluency, and letter transitions
- discuss speed/accuracy balance including time management across rounds and strategies for improvement.
- identify common errors including frequently confused letters and challenging words
- conduct round-by-round analysis including performance progression from Easy to Difficult and strengths in specific syllable structures
- share general observations including statistics on common errors and most challenging words
- give coaches feedback including specific words missed with correct forms, formation issues, and connectivity areas.

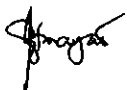
(Enclosure No. 2 to DepEd Memorandum No. s. 2027)

Submitted by:


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HARF TOUCH

KEY STAGE	Key Stage 1 (Grade 2 only)	
NO. OF PARTICIPANT/S PER REGION	One (1) per region	
TIME ALLOTMENT	One (1) minute	
PERFORMANCE STANDARD	The learner demonstrates oral fluency on Arabic phonemes, phonetics, and alphabets by pronouncing the letters correctly with speed and accuracy through cognition and psychomotor.	
21 ST CENTURY SKILL/S	• Literacy Skills • Thinking Skills • Global Awareness	
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DOMAIN	Traditional Cultural Expressions	
CAREER PATHWAYS	This contest enhances participants' accuracy, speed, and proficiency in reading the Arabic letters. These competencies are valuable in careers such as Arabic calligraphy, graphic design, Arabic data entry, language technology, digital publishing, and other professions that require expertise in the Arabic language and script.	
DESCRIPTION	Harf Touch is an NFOT event category of Musabaqah that allows blind-folded learner-participants to touch the surface of the illustration board with engraved Arabic letters. Learner-participants are expected to identify, recognize, and pronounce Arabic letters correctly with speed and accuracy within the allotted time. This activity enhances familiarization of the Arabic letter through cognition and psychomotor.	
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS		
A. MATERIALS, TOOLS, AND EQUIPMENT	To be provided by learner-participants, if any: A. Engraved Arabic Alphabet in A-4 size, landscape	To be provided by the event organizers: A. Goggles covered with soft black cloth

	illustration board (white colored on top and mounted in black colored illustration board) Font type: Traditional Arabic Font size: 720 except for letters kha (700) and ghayn (600). Note: prepare the letters in power point prior to printing to produce the precise measurement B. black abayah and white kombong/hijab for female and kimon with totob/kopya for male	B. Table and chair where Arabic letters will be placed C. Clipped Microphone D. Stopwatch E. Bell/Buzzer F. Tally board and marker G. Tally sheets/pen/pencil H. Score sheets I. Video recorder J. One (1) piece of cardboard (1/8 illustration board) to be placed under the participant's chin during the competition.
B. VENUE	• A gymnasium/hall/or covered court with adequate facilities, proper ventilation, and sufficient capacity to accommodate at least five (5) authorized spectators from each region. • 1 holding room for the contestants	
C. CRITERIA FOR JUDGING	There shall be one (1) point given for every Arabic letter that is correctly identified and pronounced by learner-participants.	
MECHANICS		
PRE-EVENT: Briefing and Materials Preparation		
A. Participant Eligibility:		
• Each region shall have one (1) participant who is a Grade 2 learner, either male or female, who is 7 to 8 years old during the current School Year.		
B. Coaches Briefing:		
• Orient coaches on appeal procedures and grievance protocols. • Designate areas where coaches will remain during contest. • If clarification is needed, the coach may raise his/her inquiry after the judges' feedback session.		
C. Participants Briefing:		
• Explain the competition format: Participants shall identify and correctly pronounce the engraved Arabic letters while blindfolded within one (1) minute. A piece of cardboard shall be placed under the participant's chin during the activity.		

- Clarify the scoring system: 1 point per correctly identified and pronounced letter.
- Inform participants that the facilitator will mix the 28 letters for each turn.
- Allow clarification questions.

D. Materials and Equipment Setup:

- Each region shall prepare twenty-eight (28) engraved Arabic alphabet boards (A4 size, landscape orientation, white letters on a black background, Traditional Arabic font, size 720, except Kha 700 –) خ(and Ghayn 600 –) غ(). These shall be submitted to the NTWG during the screening for verification. After verification, the NTWG shall seal the boards in a signed envelope, which shall be opened only immediately before the contestant begins the competition.
- Provide goggles covered with soft black cloth for blindfolding.
- Set up clipped microphone, bell/buzzer, and stopwatch.
- Arrange video recorder, tally board with markers, and score sheets.
- Assign one (1) timekeeper/buzzer, one (1) recorder, one (1) tabulator, a panel of judges, and one (1) facilitator.

E. Holding Area Setup:

- Seat the participants in the designated holding area. Ensure that they cannot see the stage or observe the competition proceedings while another contestant is performing.

DURING THE EVENT:

A. Competition Procedure:

- Participants take turns on stage to identify the letters engraved/cut on illustration board within one (1) minute.
- The facilitator mixes the 28 letters as they take their turns.
- The timekeeper shall signal the start and the end of time allotted for each participant.
- Missed or unintentionally casted letters shall not be counted.
- The panel of experts shall confirm the number of the correctly identified Arabic letters and tally the scores.
- The corresponding time of each participant shall be flashed on the screen.
- The whole proceedings shall be recorded by the NTWG.

AFTER THE EVENT: Review of Scoring and Feedback

A. Scoring Review:

- The panel of judges verifies all tally sheets for accuracy.
- The panel of experts shall review the video recording to validate the scores.
- The tabulator ranks participants by the highest number of correctly identified letters.
- The three participants with the highest number of correctly identified Arabic letters in the shortest recorded time shall be declared as the winners.

B. Tie-Breaking:

- In case of tie in the number of correctly identified Arabic letters, use the shortest recorded time to determine the ranking.
- In case of tie in both the number of correctly identified Arabic letters and speed, administer another round using the same format and procedures.

C. Winners Declaration:

- Declare the three participants with the highest number of correctly identified Arabic letters in the shortest recorded time as the winners.
- Award first, second, and third place winners with medals and certificates.
- Award participants in 4th and 5th places with certificates only.

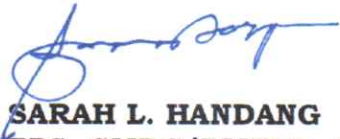
D. Feedback Session by Panel of Experts:

- The panel of experts shall provide general feedback highlighting correctly identified letters and pronunciation strengths, commonly confused or mispronounced letters with specific corrections, discuss general observations including common challenges across participants, and offer guidance on Arabic phonetics and proper articulation.

AFTER THE EVENT

1. All learner-participants and teacher-coaches shall receive invaluable insights and feedback from the panel of experts to improve the teaching and learning of the contest's target learning competencies.
2. The top five (5) winners shall be announced during the Awarding and Closing Ceremonies.
3. The decision of the panel of experts shall be final and irrevocable.

Prepared by:



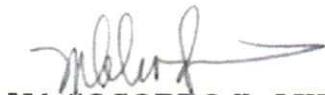
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Region III



QUR'AN READING

KEY STAGE	Key Stage 2 (Grade 6 only)
NO. OF PARTICIPANT/S PER REGION	One per region
TIME ALLOTMENT	Five (5) minutes actual performance and 1 minute preparation including entrance and exit of the learner-contestant.
PERFORMANCE STANDARD	The learner demonstrates the proper way to pause, continue and full stop in reading the verses (<i>ayat/surah</i>) with proper <i>Tajweed</i> , clear voice in <i>Tawasot</i> and stage presence.
21ST CENTURY SKILL/S	• Communication • Literacy • Global Awareness
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DOMAIN	Traditional Cultural Expressions
CAREER PATHWAYS	This contest develops public speaking, vocal performance, recitation skills, religious studies, adherence to specific rules and standards. It prepares learner-contestants for real-world roles in leadership education, community engagement and other communication driven fields. They specifically serve as religious scholar, imam (prayer leader), <i>Qari</i> or Islamic scholar or Qur'an reciter and Madrasah or Arabic and Islamic Values Education teachers/ <i>asatidz</i> .
DESCRIPTION	<i>Qur'an Reading</i> is an NFOT event category of <i>Musabqah</i> that allows learner-contestants to showcase their reading skills while developing proficiency skills in the Arabic language. The Qur'an is the material to be used as it is an authentic source of stories and literature for Muslims.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

A. MATERIALS, TOOLS, AND EQUIPMENT	To be provided by learner-contestant: • black <i>abayah</i> and white <i>kombong/hijab</i> for female • white <i>kimon</i> with <i>totob/kopya</i> for male	To be provided by the Technical Committee: • Copy of the Holy Qur'an • Book stand • Wired microphone • Stopwatch • Video recorder												
B. VENUE	Well-ventilated gymnasium or hall with bleachers, 1 holding room													
C. CRITERIA FOR JUDGING	<table><tr><th>Criteria</th><th>Percentage</th></tr><tr><td><i>Tajweed</i>/Pronunciation</td><td>40%</td></tr><tr><td><i>Tawasot</i>/Chant</td><td>30%</td></tr><tr><td><i>Sawt</i>/Voice Clarity</td><td>20%</td></tr><tr><td><i>Hay'ah</i>/Stage Presence</td><td>10%</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>100%</td></tr></table>		Criteria	Percentage	<i>Tajweed</i> /Pronunciation	40%	<i>Tawasot</i> /Chant	30%	<i>Sawt</i> /Voice Clarity	20%	<i>Hay'ah</i> /Stage Presence	10%	Total	100%
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Total	100%													

MECHANICS**PRE-EVENT: Briefing and Materials Preparation****A. Participant Eligibility:**

- One (1) participant per region, male or female.
- The learner-contestant shall be 11 or 12 years-old as of the current school year.
- The learner-contestant shall be a regular cohort in Grade 6 and not a "*balik-aral*".

B. Coach Briefing:

- Brief coaches on judging criteria and appeal procedures.

C. Participants Briefing:

- Explain the competition format and judging criteria
- Inform participants that the panel of experts will choose one common *Surah* to be read by all learner-contestants.
- Require proper attire (black *abayah* and white *kombong/hijab* for female; white *kimon with totob/kopya* for male).

D. Materials and Equipment Setup:

- Provide Holy Qur'an copies (verified authentic editions) and book stands on stage.
- Arrange seating area on floor with proper lighting.
- Test wired microphones for audio, prepare bell/buzzer and stopwatch.
- Set up video recorder and distribute score sheets to judges.

E. Holding Area Setup:

- Seat participants at the designated holding area.
- Ensure participants cannot see or hear the process undergone by the contestant on stage.

DURING THE EVENT: Conduct of Actual Competition

- The learner-contestant shall sit on the floor with the book stand and wired microphone.
- The panel of experts shall select the Surah to be read by the learner-contestant.
- The participant shall be given **1 minute** of preparation time.
- The panel of experts shall give the go signal by ringing the bell once.
- The learner-contestant shall read the selected Surah in *tawasut* within **five (5) minutes**.
- The panel of experts shall evaluate the participant's performance throughout the reading.
- The NTWG records the whole proceedings.

AFTER THE EVENT: Review of Scoring and Feedback

A. Scoring Review:

- The tabulator compiles individual scores for each participant, calculate weighted scores and rank participants by total weighted scores.
- The panel of experts shall review the tabulated scores before printing and they shall sign the final printed copy of the rating/scores of learner-contestants.
- The panel of experts may review video recordings if any score disputes arise.
- Confirm the top three participants.

B. Winners Declaration:

- Declare the three participants with the highest total weighted scores as the winners.
- Award first, second, and third place winners with medals and certificates.

- Award participants in 4th and 5th places with certificate of recognition only.

C. Feedback Session by Panel of Experts:

The panel of experts shall provide general feedback on the following, but not limited to: Tajweed analysis, correctly applied rules, specific pronunciation errors (*makhraj*), proper application of *mad* and *ghunnah*, recommended correction techniques, common Tajweed errors, and notable exemplary performances.

Rubric for Qur'an Reading

CRITERIA	1	2	3	4
Pronunciation 40%	Read the assigned Surah with 11 or more mispronounced letters	Read the assigned Surah with 6-10 mispronounced letters	Read the assigned Surah with 2-5 mispronounced letters	Read the assigned Surah with perfect and accurate pronunciation
Tawasot/Chant Mastery 30%	Read the assigned Surah with 11 and above missed words	Read the assigned Surah with 6-10 missed words	Read the assigned Surah with 2-5 missed words	Read the assigned Surah with perfect and accurate words
Voice Clarity/ Enunciation 20%	Read the assigned Surah with 11 and above unclear words	Read the assigned Surah with 6-10 unclear words	Read the assigned Surah with 2-5 unclear words	Read the assigned Surah with clear and loud voice
Stage Presence 10%	Read the assigned Surah with noticeable least confidence and incomplete attire	Read the assigned Surah with noticeable less confidence and incomplete attire	Read the assigned Surah with confidence but less proper attire	Read the assigned Surah with the following: • Proper attire jubbah/thawb and tutub • Proper placement of the hands • Apparent and strong Confidence

Prepared by:


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