



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION X
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF LANA DEL NORTE

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September 20, 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM
No. 509, 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, District and School MEP	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		
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



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Arabic Language Spelling (*Imlah*)

KEY STAGE	Key Stage 2 (Grade 4 only)	
NO. OF PARTICIPANT	One (1) learner-participant per region One (1) teacher-coach	
TIME ALLOTMENT	Easy Round: 10 seconds per word Average Round: 15 seconds per word Difficult Round: 30 seconds per word	
PERFORMANCE STANDARD	The learner demonstrates proficiency in Arabic language through accurate spelling, proper handwriting in both nuskhah and cursive forms , and correct placement of vowel marks.	
21 ST -CENTURY SKILLS	Communication Literacy Global Awareness	
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DOMAIN	Traditional Cultural Expressions	
DESCRIPTION	Arabic Language Spelling (Imlah) is an NFOT contest that showcases learner-participants' listening and writing skills in the Arabic language. In this contest, learner-participants are required to accurately spell Arabic words and write them in cursive form with proper vowel marks.	
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	
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS		
A. MATERIALS, TOOLS, AND EQUIPMENT	To be provided by the learner-participants: - black <i>abayah</i> and white kombong/hijab for female and white kimon with <i>totob/kopya</i> for male	To be provided by the NTWG: - 3 panel of experts - 1 Quizmaster To be provided by the Technical Committee: Office Supplies: • Metacards (4.25 by 13 - half lengthwise legal-sized)

		neon cartolina) - 860 pieces total: - o Easy Round (yellow) - 270 pieces - o Average Round (light blue) - 270 pieces - o Difficult Round (light pink) - 270 pieces - o 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 bleachers and 1 holding room	
MECHANICS		
Pre-Event (Briefing and Materials Preparation)		
A. Participant Eligibility: • One Grade 4 learner-participant, either male or female, per region B. Teacher-coaches Briefing: • Brief teacher-coaches on judging criteria, appeal procedures, and time constraints.		

C. Participants Briefing:

- Explain the competition format, timing, and scoring per round.
- Require proper attire (black *abayah* and white *kombong/hijab* for female; white kimon with *totob/kopya* for male).

D. Panel of Experts' Preparation:

- Determine and prepare the word list for each round prior to 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 two-word phrases
- Ensure words are appropriate for the grade level and align with the Arabic Language and Islamic Values Education (ALIVE) curriculum learning competencies for Grade 4.
- Keep the selected words confidential until the actual competition.
- Provide three (3) copies of the master list to the NTWG before the competition proper.
- Prepare a separate set of two-word phrases specifically for potential clincher rounds.
- Use 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 panel of experts.
- Provide each learner-participant with metacards:
 - Yellow (Easy Round): 15 pieces
 - Light blue (Average Round): 15 pieces
 - Light pink (Difficult Round): 15 pieces
 - Light green (Clincher Round): 5 pieces
- Distribute permanent markers (broad tip) to each learner-participant.
- Prepare envelopes, bell/buzzer, and tally sheets.
- Set up a sound system with a 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 the learner-participants at the designated table with their metacards and permanent markers during the contest proper.

- The proctor shall verify 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 twice.
 - Signal to the learner-participants to start writing after saying "uktubu".
 - Ask the learner-participants to write in both *nuskhah* 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)
 - Sound the buzzer at the time limit.
 - As the learner-participants immediately raise their meta-cards after the buzzer.
 - Judges evaluate: Both forms + vowel marks correct = full points; any error = 0 points.
 - Allow learner-participants or official teacher-coaches to raise questions/clarifications immediately after the item before the next word is read in case of appeal.
 - Have the learner-participants place card facedown and prepare for the next word.
3. After each round: Sum up the scores after each round and post them in the tally board/score board.
4. Easy Round: 10 words $\times$ 1 point = 10 points possible
 - Average Round: 10 words $\times$ 2 points = 20 points possible
 - Difficult Round: 10 words $\times$ 3 points = 30 points possible
 - Total: 60 points possible
5. The NTWG shall record the whole proceedings.

After the Event (Review of Scoring and Feedback)

A. Scoring Review:

- Panel of experts shall verify calculations across all rounds.
- They shall identify the top three participants.
- They shall check for ties.

B. Tie-Breaking:

- Declare the three learner-participants with the highest total points as winners.
- In case of tie, conduct a clincher round between the tied learner-participants only.
- Clincher Round Procedure:
 1. Follow the same format for each phrase: read twice, 30 seconds to write both *nuskhah* and cursive forms.
 2. Award 1 point for each correctly spelled phrase with proper vowel marks.
 3. Declare the first learner-participant to score 3 points as the winner for that ranking.
 4. If no learner-participant reaches 3 points after 5 phrases, the learner-participant with the highest points in the clincher round shall win.
 5. Begin do or die round where the first learner-participant shall correctly spell a phrase wins if still tied after 5 phrases.

Conduct separate clincher rounds for each tied ranking (i.e., if there is a tie for both first and second place).

C. Winners Declaration:

- The top five winners shall be awarded during the Awarding and Closing Ceremonies.

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
- provide teacher-coaches with insights and feedback including specific words missed with correct forms, formation issues, and connectivity areas.



Harf Touch

KEY STAGE	Key Stage 1 (Grade 2)	
NO. OF PARTICIPANT	One (1) Grade 2 learner-participant per region One (1) teacher-coach 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 SKILLS	Literacy Skills Thinking Skills Global Awareness	
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DOMAIN	Traditional Cultural Expressions	
DESCRIPTION	Harf Touch is an NFOT contest that allows blind-folded learner-participants to demonstrate tactile recognition by touching engraved Arabic letters. They are expected to accurately identify and engage with the letters on the surface of an illustration board.	
CRITERIA FOR JUDGING	There shall be one (1) point given for every Arabic letter that is correctly identified and pronounced by learner-participants.	
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS		
A. MATERIALS, TOOLS, AND EQUIPMENT	To be provided by the learner-participants: None	To be provided by the Technical Committee: - Engraved Arabic Alphabet in A-4 size, landscape 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 - Goggles covered with black cloth - Table and chair where Arabic letters will be placed - Clipped microphone - Stopwatch - Bell/Buzzer - Tally board and marker - Tally sheets/pen/pencil

		• Score sheets • Video recorder
B. VENUE	Gymnasium with bleachers; 1 holding room	
Mechanics		
<i>Pre-Event (Briefing and Materials Preparation)</i>		
A. Participant Eligibility:		
• One Grade 2 learner-participant, either male or female, per region		
B. Coaches Briefing:		
• Orient teacher-coaches on appeal procedures and grievance protocols. • Designate areas where teacher-coaches shall remain during the contest.		
C. Participants Briefing:		
• Explain the competition format: identify and pronounce engraved Arabic letters while blindfolded within one (1) minute. • Clarify the scoring system: (One) 1 point per correctly identified and pronounced letter. • Inform learner-participants that the facilitator shall mix the 28 letters for each turn. • Allow clarificatory questions.		
D. Materials and Equipment Setup:		
• Prepare 28 engraved Arabic alphabet boards (A-4 size, landscape, white on black, Traditional Arabic font: size 720, except kha-700 and ghayn-600) on a table with a chair on stage. • Provide goggles covered with black cloth for blindfolding. • Set up a 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 learner-participants in the designated holding area and ensure that they have no visual or auditory access to the stage or to the process being undertaken by their peers who are currently performing.		

During the Event:

Procedures:

- Learner-participants shall take turns on stage to identify the engraved/cut letters on the illustration board within one (1) minute.
- The facilitator shall mix 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 Technical Committee.

After the Event (Review of Scoring and Feedback)

A. Scoring Review:

- The panel of experts shall verify all tally sheets for accuracy.
- The panel of experts may review the video recording to confirm the scores.
- The tabulator shall rank the participants by the highest number of correctly identified letters.

B. Tie-Breaking:

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

C. Winners Declaration:

- The top five (5) learner-participants with the highest number of correctly identified Arabic letters in a shortest recorded time shall be declared as the winners during the Awarding and Closing Ceremonies.

D. Feedback Session by Panel of Experts:

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



Qur'an Reading

KEY STAGE	Key Stage 2 (Grade 6)	
NO. OF PARTICIPANTS	One (1) Grade 6 learner-participant per region One (1) teacher-coach per region	
TIME ALLOTMENT	Five (5) minutes	
PERFORMANCE STANDARD	The learner demonstrates the proper way to pause, continue and full stop in reading the verse (<i>Ayah</i>)/chapter (<i>surah</i>) with proper Tajweed, clear voice in <i>Tawasot</i> and stage presence.	
21 ST -CENTURY SKILLS	Communication Literacy Global Awareness	
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DOMAIN	Traditional Cultural Expressions	
DESCRIPTION	Qur'an Reading is an NFOT contest that allows learner-participants to showcase their reading skills while developing their good speech habits. They use the Qur'an as an authentic source of literature to demonstrate their proficiency.	
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS		
A. MATERIALS, TOOLS, AND EQUIPMENT	To be provided by the learner-participants: - black <i>abayah</i> and white <i>kombong/hijab</i> for female and white kimon with <i>totob/kopya</i> for male	To be provided by the Technical Committee: • Holy Qur'an • Book stand • Clipped wired microphone • Stopwatch • Video recorder
B. VENUE	Gymnasium with bleachers and 1 holding room	
CRITERIA FOR JUDGING		
	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%	

MECHANICS

Pre-Event (Briefing and Materials Preparation)

A. Participant Eligibility:

- One (1) Grade 6 learner-participant, either male or female per region

B. Coaches Briefing:

- Brief teacher-coaches on judging criteria and appeal procedures.

C. Participants Briefing:

- Explain the competition format and judging criteria.
- Inform learner-participants that the panel of experts will choose the *surah* to be read.
- 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 the seating area on the floor with proper lighting.
- Test clipped wired microphones for audio and prepare bell/buzzer and stopwatch.
- Set up a video recorder and distribute score sheets to the panel of experts.

E. Holding Area Setup:

- Seat the learner-participants in the designated holding area and ensure that they have no visual or auditory access to the stage or to the process being undertaken by their peers who are currently performing.

During the Event (Conduct of Actual Competition)

- The learner-participant shall sit on the floor with the book stand and the clipped microphone properly attached.
- The panel of experts shall select the *Surah* to be read by the learner-participants.
- The learner-participants shall be given **30 seconds** of preparation time.
- The panel of experts shall give the go signal by ringing the bell once.
- Each learner-participant shall read the selected *Surah* in *tawasut* within **five (5) minutes**.
- The panel of experts shall evaluate each learner-participant's performance throughout the reading.
- The Technical Committee shall record the whole proceedings.

After the Event (Review of Scoring and Feedback)

A. Scoring Review:

- The tabulator shall compile individual scores for each learner-participant, calculate weighted scores, and rank learner-participants by total weighted scores.

- The panel of experts may review video recordings if any score disputes arise.
- The panel of experts shall confirm the top five (5) learner-participants based on the total weighted scores and ranks.

B. Winners Declaration:

- The top five (5) learner-participants shall be declared as the winners during the Awarding and Closing Ceremonies.

C. Feedback Session by Panel of Experts:

- The panel of experts shall provide general insights and 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.

Scoring Rubrics for Qur'an Reading

CRITERIA	4	3	2	1
Pronunciation (40%)	The assigned <i>Surah</i> was read with perfect and accurate pronunciation	The assigned <i>Surah</i> was read with 2-5 mispronounced letters	The assigned <i>Surah</i> was read with 6-10 mispronounced letters.	The assigned <i>Surah</i> was read with 11 or more mispronounced letters.
Tawasot/ Chant Mastery (30%)	The assigned <i>Surah</i> was read with perfect and accurate words	The assigned <i>Surah</i> was read with 2-5 missed words.	The assigned <i>Surah</i> was read with 6-10 missed words.	The assigned <i>Surah</i> was read with 11 or more missed words.
Voice Clarity/ Enunciation (20%)	The assigned <i>Surah</i> was read with clear and loud voice.	The assigned <i>Surah</i> was read with 2-5 unclear words.	The assigned <i>Surah</i> was read with 6-10 unclear words.	The assigned <i>Surah</i> was read with 11 or more unclear words.
Stage Presence (10%)	The assigned <i>Surah</i> was read with the following: • Proper attire <i>jubbah/ th awb</i> and <i>tutob</i> • Proper placement of the hands • Apparent and strong confidence	The assigned <i>Surah</i> was read with confidence but less proper attire.	The assigned <i>Surah</i> was read with noticeable less confidence and incomplete attire.	The assigned <i>Surah</i> was read with noticeable least confidence and incomplete attire.