



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**

REGION I  
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF THE CITY OF BATAC

Advisory No. **223** s. 2025  
**09 SEP 2025**

In compliance with DepEd Order (DO) No. 8, s. 2013  
this advisory is issued not for endorsement per DO 28, s. 2001,  
but only for the information of DepEd Officials, Personnel/staff, as well as the concerned  
public.

(Visit [www.deped.gov.ph](http://www.deped.gov.ph))

**JOSEFA LLANES ESCODA COMMEMORATION PROGRAM**

The Municipality of Dingras, in partnership with the Girl Scouts of the Philippines, will conduct the Josefa Llanes Escoda Commemoration Program on **September 20, 2025**, at the Dingras Municipal Civic Center, with the theme: "Pepa: Empowering Generations Through Service, Courage, and Leadership."

As part of the celebration, the Pepa & Tonio Look-Alike Competition (Elementary Level) and Original Songwriting Competition (Secondary Level) will be conducted.

The activity aims to inspire patriotism, leadership, and civic responsibility among learners while fostering creativity, cultural appreciation, and community pride.

Participation of schools, teachers, and learners is voluntary. Attendance should not disrupt regular classes, learner-participants secure parents' consent and no fees shall be collected from learners and teachers. Teachers and coaches designated to guide participants may be entitled to Service Credits in accordance with DepEd Order No. 13, s. 2024.

Attached is the communication from the Municipality of Dingras for reference.

For information and guidance.

SGOD/dro/25004  
2512970/September 9, 2025



DepEd Batac City



[batac.city@deped.gov.ph](mailto:batac.city@deped.gov.ph)



[www.csdbatac.com](http://www.csdbatac.com)

Asuncion Street, 16-S Quiling Sur,  
City of Batac, Ilocos Norte  
Telephone No.: (077) 677-1993



Republic of the Philippines  
Province of Ilocos Norte  
**MUNICIPALITY OF DINGRAS**  
*the Rice Granary of Ilocos Norte*  
**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

August 18, 2025

**ANSELMO R. ALUDINO, CESO V**  
Schools Division Superintendent  
Schools Division Office, City of Batac

Sir,

Naragsak a Kablaaw Kadakayo!

In commemoration of the life and legacy of our beloved national heroine, **Josefa Llanes Escoda**, the Municipality of Dingras, in partnership with the **Girl Scouts of the Philippines**, will host the culminating activities of the **Josefa Llanes Escoda Commemoration Program** on **September 20, 2025**, at the Dingras Municipal Civic Center. This year's theme is: **"Pepa: Empowering Generations Through Service, Courage, and Leadership."**

As part of the celebration, we have prepared meaningful competitions to highlight the heroism and values of Pepa and her husband Antonio Escoda, namely the **Pepa & Tonio Look-Alike Competition (Elementary Level)** and the **Original Songwriting Competition (Secondary Level)**. These activities are envisioned to inspire patriotism, leadership, and civic responsibility among learners, while also nurturing creativity, cultural appreciation, and community pride. (Attached here are the guidelines for reference.)

In this connection, may we respectfully request your kind assistance in the following:

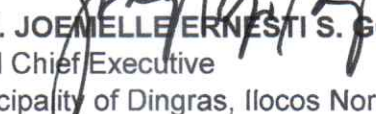
1. Encouraging **participation and registration of all learners** in the Division to ensure inclusivity in the commemoration;
2. Directing the attendance of the official school representatives in the scheduled competitions;
3. Permitting the presence of teachers and coaches who will guide and accompany the participating learners, and granting them **Service Credits** in accordance with the provisions of **DepEd Order No. 13, s. 2024**; and
4. Extending any other form of support that may contribute to the success of the celebration.

We are confident that with your esteemed office's support, this event will become a meaningful opportunity for our learners to embrace and live by the values of **service, courage, and leadership** exemplified by Josefa Llanes Escoda. It is also our hope that this commemoration will further strengthen our continuing partnership in fostering holistic, values-driven education for the youth.

May this request merit your most favorable approval!

Thank you very much.

Yours truly,

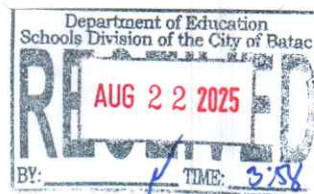
  
**HON. JOEMELLE ERNESTI S. GO SY**  
Local Chief Executive  
Municipality of Dingras, Ilocos Norte

09455893970



SDCB RECORDS UNIT

2512970





## **GUIDELINES FOR THE COMPETITIONS**

### **ELEMENTARY LEVEL COMPETITION GUIDELINES**

**Sub-Theme: "Serving with Heart, Learning from Escoda's Example"**

**Event: Pepa & Tonio Look-Alike Competition**

#### **I. Rationale**

The Pepa & Tonio Look-Alike Competition seeks to honor the legacy of Josefa Llanes Escoda (Pepa) and Antonio Escoda (Tonio) by engaging elementary learners in a meaningful celebration of their life and values. The competition aims to promote patriotism, service, and leadership while fostering creativity, confidence, and advocacy among young learners.

#### **II. Eligibility and Participation**

1. Participants
  - a. Each entry must consist of two (2) learners representing Pepa and Tonio.
  - b. The learners must be officially enrolled in any public or private elementary school within the three (3) Schools Division Offices (SDOs): Ilocos Norte, Laoag City, and Batac City.
  - c. A Certificate of Enrollment, duly signed by the School Head, and indicating the Learner Reference Number (LRN) of each participant, shall be required and submitted as proof of eligibility.
  - d. Participants must not have any pending disciplinary case and must be in good academic and behavioral standing, duly certified by the School Head.
2. Representation
  - a. Each SDO shall conduct its own elimination process or screening to determine its official pair of representatives.
  - b. Only one (1) pair per SDO shall be endorsed to compete at the Division Level Competition on September 20, 2025, to be held at the Dingras Civic Auditorium.

#### **III. Costumes and Portrayal**

1. Costumes must closely resemble the historical attire and dignified bearing of Josefa Llanes Escoda and Antonio Escoda.
2. Participants are expected to observe decency, appropriateness, and respect in their choice of clothing and props.
3. Accessories, props, or symbolic items used must not be offensive, discriminatory, or hazardous.

#### **IV. Presentation Format**

Each pair shall present themselves in two (2) required appearances:

1. Parade and Introduction
  - The pair shall parade onstage in a cut-walk style.
  - Each participant must deliver a brief self-introduction, including name, school, and division, in either English or Filipino.
2. Advocacy Presentation

- The pair shall deliver a short advocacy message or dramatization aligned with the values, principles, and advocacies upheld by Pepa and Tonio (e.g., nationalism, women empowerment, leadership, civic service).
- The advocacy segment shall not exceed 3 minutes in length.

#### **V. Criteria for Judging( TOTAL – 100%) and Prizes**

Each participating pair shall be judged based on the following criteria:

1. Stage Presence & Confidence – 40%
  - Confidence in delivery, clarity of voice, proper posture, and graceful movement.
2. Faithfulness to Pepa & Tonio Portrayal – 50%
  - Accuracy and appropriateness of costumes, resemblance to historical figures, and authenticity of role portrayal.
3. Audience Impact – 10%
  - Ability to captivate, inspire, and connect with the audience through presence and advocacy.
4. **Prizes**

Champion: 10,000.00

1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up: 7,000.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up: 5,000.00

#### **VI. Mechanics and Rules**

1. Time Limit – Each pair shall be given a maximum of 5 minutes for the entire presentation (introduction + advocacy). Exceeding the time limit shall result in a 2-point deduction from the final score.
2. Order of Presentation – The order shall be determined by drawing of lots prior to the start of the program.
3. Rehearsals – A technical rehearsal shall be conducted prior to the competition proper. Participants must attend to ensure familiarity with stage layout, lighting, and sound system.
4. Conduct and Decorum – Participants and coaches must observe proper decorum. Any act of disrespect towards fellow participants, judges, or organizers may lead to disqualification.

## SECONDARY LEVEL COMPETITION GUIDELINES

### Original Songwriting Competition Guidelines

Sub-Theme: "The Spirit of Pepa in Today's Generation"

#### I. Rationale

The Original Songwriting Competition with the sub-theme "The Spirit of Pepa in Today's Generation" is designed to honor the enduring legacy of Josefa Llanes Escoda, a national heroine whose life embodied service, courage, and patriotism. This competition provides an avenue for secondary learners to creatively express their interpretation of Pepa's values through original musical compositions. By blending artistry, history, and advocacy, the contest aims to develop students' talents in songwriting, foster appreciation of cultural and historical heritage, and strengthen character formation among the youth.

##### 1. Eligibility

- a. The competition is **open exclusively to bona fide secondary school learners** enrolled for School Year 2025–2026 in any of the three Schools Division Offices (SDOs): **Ilocos Norte, Laoag City, and Batac City**.
- b. Participants may compete as:
  - o **Individual entry**; or
  - o **Group entry** composed of a maximum of three (3) members.
- c. In the case of group entries, **all members must be enrolled in the same school**.
- d. A **valid Certificate of Enrollment** duly issued and signed by the school registrar/principal shall serve as the primary basis for eligibility.
- e. **One group/entry per school** shall be officially endorsed by the School Head.

##### 2. Ownership and Copyright

- a. All entries submitted to the competition shall become the **exclusive property of the Organizing Committee** (Josefa Llanes Escoda Commemoration Committee).
- b. The organizers shall hold **full rights, privileges, and authority** to use, reproduce, record, publish, perform, and distribute the submitted songs for any purpose (educational, promotional, or commemorative), without the obligation to provide royalties or compensation to the composer(s) or their respective schools.
- c. By submitting an entry, participants **waive any future copyright claims** in favor of the Organizing Committee.

##### 3. Language and Theme

- a. Lyrics may be written in **Iluko, Filipino, English, or a mixture thereof**.
- b. The lyrical content must explicitly align with the **life, legacy, heroism, and enduring service of Josefa Llanes Escoda ("Pepa")** and must promote the values of **patriotism, selflessness, women empowerment, youth engagement, and civic duty**.
- c. Entries containing offensive, derogatory, or inappropriate language or allusions are **strictly prohibited** and will result in disqualification.

##### 4. Musical Arrangement

- a. Songs must be **original compositions**:
  - Lyrics must be personally written by the participant(s).
  - Melody may be:
    - i. Composed by the contestant(s); or
    - ii. Generated through Artificial Intelligence (AI), provided the contestant(s) demonstrate **substantial creative contribution** (e.g., arranging, modifying, and



contextualizing AI-generated melodies).

b. Songs may be performed using:

- **Minus-one tracks**; or
  - **Live instrumental accompaniment** (maximum of three instruments allowed).
- c. The **maximum performance duration is five (5) minutes**. Exceeding the time limit shall result in a deduction of three (3) points from the total score for every 30 seconds exceeded.

5. **Performance Requirements**

- a. Participants shall perform live during the competition. Lip-syncing or pre-recorded vocal tracks are not permitted.
- b. Costumes and props may be used provided they are **modest, relevant to the theme, and non-distracting**.
- c. Vulgar gestures, politically motivated content, or indecent performances shall lead to **immediate disqualification**.

## II. Competition Mechanics

5. **School-Level Selection**

- a. Each participating school shall conduct its own **internal screening/selection process** to determine its official entry.
- b. Only **one (1) entry per school** shall be endorsed for the division-level competition.

6. **Division-Level Competition**

- a. The endorsed school entries shall compete at the **Division Eliminations** organized separately by each of the three SDOs.
- b. Only **one (1) winning entry per SDO** shall be endorsed to represent the division at the **Final Round**.

7. **Final Round (Inter-Division Level)**

- a. The three (3) winning entries from the Division Eliminations (Ilocos Norte, Laoag City, and Batac City) shall compete in the **Grand Finals** to be held on **September 20, 2025 at the Dingras Civic Center, Dingras, Ilocos Norte**.

8. **Prizes**

Champion: 10,000.00

1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up: 7,000.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-up: 5,000.00

## III. Criteria for Judging

The official criteria for judging are as follows (100 points total):

- Lyrics Content & Relevance to Theme – 30%
- Melody & Musicality (Harmony, Arrangement, Creativity) – 25%
- Originality (Freshness, Uniqueness, Innovation) – 20%
- Performance & Stage Presence (Delivery, Confidence, Expression) – 15%
- Audience Impact (Emotional Appeal, Connection, Resonance) – 10%

*In the event of a tie, the higher score in "Lyrics Content & Relevance" shall determine the winner. If still tied, the panel will deliberate to make a final decision.*

#### **IV. Technical and Administrative Provisions**

##### **1. Judging Panel**

- a. Judges shall be composed of at least three (3) but not more than five (5) professionals with proven expertise in the fields of **music, literature, education, and performing arts**.
- b. Their decision shall be **final, executory, and irrevocable**.

##### **2. Entry Submission**

- a. Schools must submit:
  - Official endorsement letter signed by the School Head;
  - Certificate of Enrollment of all participants;
  - A copy of the **lyrics sheet** (typed, printed, and signed by the composer/s);
  - A soft copy of the minus-one (if applicable).
- b. Submission deadline shall be set by the respective SDOs and strictly observed. Late submissions will not be entertained.

##### **3. Disqualification Grounds**

An entry shall be automatically disqualified if:

- a. The participant(s) is/are proven to be non-bona fide learners of the participating school.
- b. The lyrics or melody is found to be plagiarized or copied.
- c. The performance exceeds the maximum time limit by more than two (2) minutes.
- d. Any form of cheating, misrepresentation, or violation of these guidelines is committed.

##### **4. Code of Conduct**

- a. All participants are expected to demonstrate **sportsmanship, discipline, and respect** towards co-contestants, judges, organizers, and the audience.
- b. Any misconduct, unruly behavior, or disrespect shall lead to disqualification.