



Republic of the Philippines  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
Region VIII  
**SCHOOLS DIVISION OF CATBALOGAN CITY**




**DIVISION MEMORANDUM**

No. 402 s. 2018

TO: Chief Education Supervisors  
Education Program Supervisors  
Public Schools District Supervisors  
Elementary and Secondary School Heads  
Public and Private  
All Others Concerned

FROM: **CARMELINO P. BERNADAS, Ph. D., CESOVI**  
Schools Division Superintendent

For the Schools Division Superintendent:

  
**EDGAR V. CALVADORES**  
EPS I, Mathematics

SUBJECT: **OBSERVANCE OF THE 2018 NATIONAL READING MONTH CELEBRATION  
AND SUBMISSION OF PICTO-NARRATIVE REPORT**

DATE: November 6, 2018

1. The Schools Division of Catbalogan City leads the celebration of the **2018 National Reading Month (NRM)** this November.
2. With the local theme: "*Celebrating Diversities through Sustained and Collective Reading Activities*", the celebration aims to:
  - a. support the DepEd Ten-point Agenda 2017-2022 entitled *Quality, Accessible, Relevant and Liberating Basic Education For All*;
  - b. strengthen the DepEd's *Every Child A Reader Program*, making every child a competent reader and a writer appropriate for his/her grade level; and
  - c. commemorate the works of the 7 Most Legendary Filipino Authors.
3. All School Heads are encouraged to lead and oversee the conduct of activities in their respective schools but it should be emphasized that the conduct of the celebration must not disrupt the contact time between the teachers and learners as stipulated in DepEd Order No. 9, s. 2005 entitled *Instituting Measures to Increase Time-On-Task and Ensuring Compliance Therewith*.
4. Likewise, school administrators, district supervisors, division chiefs, and other DepEd Officials are encouraged to join the nationwide story reading before a group of learners in their own schools. Local government officials and other stakeholders may be invited to participate in this activity.
5. Suggested activities in the Enclosure to Division Memorandum No. 402, s. 2018 is hereby attached to provide guidance in the proper observance of the event. However, schools may conduct other activities related to the celebration that would provide the learners more meaningful experiences.
6. Schools are advised to **conduct the culminating programs/activities** for the Reading Month any day **from November 26 to 29, 2018**.



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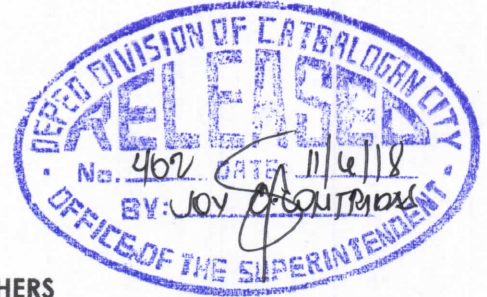


7. **Pictorials and narrative reports** of the activities done during the month-long celebration are **to be submitted on or before December 7, 2018** to the Division Focal person through the email address: [paulina.gabon001@deped.gov.ph](mailto:paulina.gabon001@deped.gov.ph).
8. Expenses incurred by the schools relative to the conduct of the activities for the National Reading Month are chargeable against local/school MOOE funds subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.
9. Immediate dissemination of and compliance to this Memorandum are highly desired.

Enclosures: Enclosures Nos. 1 & 2 to Div. Memo. No. ~~402~~-s. 2018  
References: DepEd Memo No. 181, s. 2017; 2018 CID AIP  
Allotment: 1-2-3 (DO 50-97)

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

**CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS    LEARNERS    SCHOOLS    TEACHERS**



### SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR THE READING MONTH

**Mystery Reader.** A Kick-off activity where all school administrators, District and Division Supervisors, & Schools Division Superintendent are directed to be mystery readers of a children's Filipino story book during the school's flag raising ceremony.

**Getting to know the Legends.** All Schools and Learning Centers are also enjoined to introduce anyone of the 7 Most Legendary Filipino Authors to all learners through pictures and a small talk about him/her.

**100 Pictures to Tell.** Each class shall create a story to celebrate Philippine culture and arts through pictures.

**Hardin ng mga Bayani.** Schools shall spearhead in planting 100 trees in the community. Each tree shall be named after a Filipino hero.

**Reading Challenge.** All learners from elementary and secondary schools are encouraged to read one English and one Filipino book and will prepare a book or other form of outputs.

Meanwhile, teaching and non-teaching personnel of the Division may conduct the Drop Everything and Read at 10:00 am every day for the month of November. A book sharing activity shall also be organized once a week to share the book read for the week.

**#Shareabook.** All learners, school administrators are encouraged to bring and share their own storybooks for children.

**Reading Camp.** A week-long activity that shall highlight the following:

- Sang Daang Taon.** A writing contest for all learners in writing a one sentence one paragraph short story to describe the country Sang Daang Taon from now.
- Filipino as a Manager.** An on-the-spot painting contest to describe Filipino as a manager.
- Questions on Heroes.** A quiz bee on the Filipino heroes.
- Kaya ko.** An on-the-spot reading contest of a one sentence one paragraph story.
- Kuwentuhan Tayo.** An on-the-spot storytelling content on any story for children.
- News Report.** A newswriting contest on the events of the Reading Camp.

**Help a reader. Be a Volunteer.** Schools and learning centers shall invite parents and other community volunteers to help the non-readers and other learners with reading difficulties by adopting a child and help him succeed in reading.

**National Reading Month Culminating Activity.** Schools are to conduct the National Reading Month Culminating Activity any day from November 26 to November 29, 2018 with corresponding activities for the celebration that are meaningful for the learners

(Enclosure no. 2 to Division Memorandum no. 402, s. 2018)

## THE 7 MOST LEGENDARY FILIPINO AUTHORS

### **Jessica Hagedorn**

Best known for her 1990 novel *Dogeaters*, Jessica Hagedorn was born and raised in the Philippines and relocated to San Francisco in her teens. Hagedorn's ethnic heritage is a mix of Spanish, Filipino, French, Irish, and Chinese. *Dogeaters*, which won the American Book Award and was a finalist for the National Book Award, shines a light on the many layers of Filipino society, especially the American influence prevalent in the entertainment industry. Hagedorn is also a poet and playwright. Her first play, *Mango Tango*, was produced by Joseph Papp in 1978, the same year she moved to New York, where she currently lives with her daughters.

### **Sionil Jose**

A writer deeply concerned with social justice, F. Sionil Jose's novels have been translated into 22 languages, and he's one of the most widely read Filipino authors. Sionil Jose's *Rosales Saga* is a five-volume work that follows the Samson family and their changing fortunes over a 100-year timeframe. Sionil Jose's books are especially illuminating for anyone interested in provincial life in the Philippines, the revolution against Spain, and the framework of the Filipino family. His anti-elitist views have made him a somewhat unpopular author within the Philippines, but Sionil Jose's works are among the most highly acclaimed internationally of any Filipino writer. He won the Ramon Magsaysay Award for Literature in 1980.

### **Nick Joaquin**

Winning the National Artist award for Literature, Nick Joaquín is probably the most esteemed writer the Philippines has produced. Joaquin came from a well-educated family and was published at the early age of 17. After winning a scholarship in a nationwide essay contest, he left the Philippines to study in Hong Kong. On his return to Manila he worked for many years as a journalist, and his highly intellectual writing raised the standards of journalism in the country. Joaquin's book, *The Woman With Two Navels* is essential reading in Philippine literature. However many of his short stories, such as "May Day Eve," are extremely accessible and enjoyable for those new to the Philippines.

### **Merlinda Bobis**

Award-winning writer Merlinda Bobis started off as a painter, but grew into a writer as "painting with words was cheaper." Bobis' books, short stories, and poems tell of lesser-known aspects of Filipino life, often from a strong feminist stance. One of her most well-known novels, *Fish-Hair Woman*, describes a romance between a young village woman and an Australian soldier in the middle of a harrowing conflict that threatens the entire province. The Australian called it a "superb novel" that "maintains its tragic intensity throughout." Bobis has also won the international Prix Italia award for her play *Rita's Lullaby* and the Steele Rudd Award for her short story "White Turtle."

### **Jose Dalisay Jr.**

Jose Dalisay Jr. writes a popular online column where he's more commonly known by his pen name, Butch Dalisay. Dalisay was imprisoned during Martial Law, and his experiences from this portion of Philippine history are brought to life in his first novel, *Killing Time in a Warm Place*. His second novel, *Soledad's Sister* tackles the plight of overseas Filipino workers, and was shortlisted for the Man Asian Literary Prize in 2007. Within the Philippines, Dalisay has won 16 Palanca Awards, the country's highest prize for literature.

### **Luis Francia**

Award-winning author Luis Francia has lived in New York for decades, but his experiences of growing up in the Philippines continue to shape the stories he tells the world. The poet, author, and teacher emigrated to the U.S. after finishing college, where he wrote and co-edited the *Village Voice* newspaper for more than 20 years. His memoir *Eye of the Fish: A Personal Archipelago* won a PEN Open Book Award and an Asian American Literary Award. Amitav Ghosh, author of *The Glass Palace*, described Francia's memoir as "a hugely readable travelogue and an indispensable guide to a fascinating and richly varied archipelago."

### **Jose Rizal**

The Philippines' national hero was also a prolific writer, poet, and essayist. Jose Rizal's two novels, *Noli me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo* were social commentaries that sharply revealed the injustices of Spanish colonization while praising the Filipino in his most natural state. The novels, which are surprisingly wry and romantic, crystallized the growing anti-Spanish sentiment and were banned within the Philippines. The execution of Jose Rizal at 35 years old set off the Philippine Revolution and paved the way for the country's independence. Even without these dramatic events, Rizal's books and his final poem, "Mi Ultimo Adios," stand on their own literary merit, and have influenced scores of Filipino writers since.