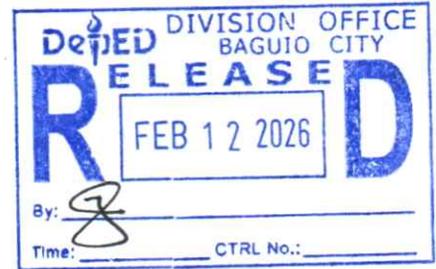




Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
Cordillera Administrative Region  
**SCHOOLS DIVISION OF BAGUIO CITY**



Advisory No. **009,2026**

February 10, 2026

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))

**INVITATION TO THE 1<sup>st</sup> MDS CANDON CITY CHORAL FESTIVAL**

The City Government of Candon, through the Honorable Mayor **Eric D. Singson**, cordially extends an invitation to participate in the **1<sup>st</sup> MDS Candon City Choral Festival**.

Participation in the said festival shall be **strictly voluntary** for interested students, teachers, and schools, in full compliance with existing DepEd policies governing student development activities and contest participation.

This activity shall be conducted in accordance with the **Voluntary Participation Guidelines** under **DepEd Order No. 9, s. 2005** and **DepEd Order No. 8, s. 2013**.

  
**SORAYA T. PACULO PhD, CESO V**  
Schools Division Superintendent



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR  
CITY OF CANDON

OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR

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Mobile No: 0919-095-7497



BAGONG PILIPINAS

ERIC D. SINGSON

*City Mayor*

December 9, 2025

SORAYA T. FACULO PhD, CESO V  
Schools Division Superintendent  
Department of Education - Baguio

Dear Dr. Faculo:

Greetings!

The Local Government Unit of Candon City, Ilocos Sur, in partnership with the MDS Candon City Choral Festival, will be hosting the **1st MDS Candon City Choral Festival on February 20–22, 2026**. This national competition aims to elevate the appreciation of choral music in the Philippines and to honor the enduring legacy of one of the Greatest Musicians of Ilocandia, the late **Mrs. Minervina Dario Singson**.

In line with this, we respectfully request the **official endorsement of the Department of Education** and invite Elementary, Junior High School, and Senior High School Choirs under your supervision to participate in this prestigious event.

The registration fee is PHP 5,000.00 for Early Bird Registration (until December 31, 2025), and Regular rate of PHP 10,000 (January 1-10, 2025) per category. Choirs may join two or more categories. Winners will receive PHP 30,000.00 for each category and PHP 150,000.00 for the Grand Prix Award.

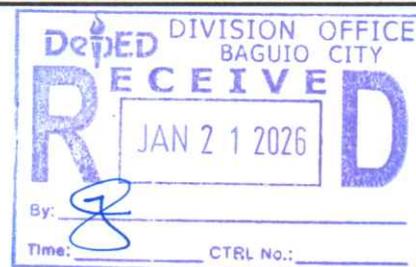
For your reference, we have attached the **Festival Primer** and competition guidelines.

Should you have any inquiries, please feel free to contact us through [mdscandoncitychoralfestival@gmail.com](mailto:mdscandoncitychoralfestival@gmail.com) or reach our Festival Director, **Mr. Harold Deane Piog**, at +63 955 608 3280.

We hope for your favorable consideration and look forward to welcoming participating school choirs to the **Heart of Ilocandia**.

Respectfully yours,

ERIC D. SINGSON  
City Mayor  
Candon City, Ilocos Sur





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ERIC D. SINGSON

*City Mayor*

## I. FESTIVAL INTRODUCTION

***“The MDSCCCF is more than a competition; it is an invitation to experience the soul of Ilocandia through choral music.”***

Located at the heart of Ilocandia, discover the path of history, beauty, and commerce – Candon City! The MDS Candon City Choral Festival (MDSCCCF) offers you a crawl of rich culture from participants coming from various places. This event will be your avenue to engage in choral exchange, community immersion, and skills development.

The MDSCCF honors the legacy of the Great Musician of Ilocandia, the late Mrs. Minervina Dario Singson. Immerse yourself in the vibrant legacy of Ilocano music as the MDS Candon City Choral Festival (MDSCCCF) transforms Candon City into a stage for harmony, heritage, and hope. This festival is more than a gathering—it's a living tribute to the enduring influence of the late Mrs. MDS, lovingly known as "Nana Ambin," whose passion for music shaped generations and whose compositions echo in the hearts of Candonians and beyond.

Nana Ambin, hailed as the Patron of the Arts of the North, devoted her life to nurturing musical talent and preserving Ilocano culture. From her early days as a prodigious pianist and singer, mentored by her musically gifted parents and esteemed professors at the UP Conservatory of Music, she blossomed into a beloved teacher, composer, and community leader. Her legacy includes 56 original compositions, over 100 liturgical arrangements, and the founding of music schools and choirs that continue to inspire the youth of Ilocandia. The festival continues the work of the MDS Heritage Foundation— established to give young Candonians access to quality music education and mentorship.



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**ERIC D. SINGSON**  
*City Mayor*

**I. FESTIVAL SCHEDULER**

TIME	EVENT	VENUE
<b>FEBRUARY 13, 2025 (Friday)</b>		
8AM – 2PM	Arrival and Kit Distribution	Candon City Center for Culture & the Arts
2PM – 5PM	Stage Rehearsals & Soundcheck	Candon City Center for Culture & the Arts
6PM onwards	Opening Ceremony & Parade	Candon City Arena
<b>FEBRUARY 14, 2025 (Saturday)</b>		
8AM – 10AM	Category Competition: Children's Choir	Candon City Center for Culture & the Arts
10AM – 10:30AM	Deliberation	Candon City Center for Culture & the Arts
10:30AM – 12NN	Category Competition: Equal Voices	Candon City Center for Culture & the Arts
12NN – 1PM	Deliberation & Lunch Break	Candon City Center for Culture & the Arts
1PM – 3PM	Category Competition: Folk <i>yo-ya</i>	Candon City Center for Culture & the Arts
3PM – 3:30PM	Deliberation	Candon City Center for Culture & the Arts
3:30PM – 6PM	Category Competition: Mixed	Candon City Center for Culture & the Arts
6PM – 7PM	Deliberation	Candon City Center for Culture & the Arts
7PM – 8:30PM	Friendship Concert	Candon City Civic Center
9PM	Announcement of Grand Prix Qualifier	Candon City Civic Center
<b>FEBRUARY 15, 2025 (Sunday)</b>		
8AM – 10AM	Meet the Jury and Workshop	Candon City Convention Center
10AM – 3PM	Preparation of for the Grand Prix Round	
3PM – 5PM	Announcement of Category Winners	Candon City Convention Center
5PM – 7PM	Grand Prix Competition	Candon City Convention Center
7PM – 8PM	Guest Choir Concert	Candon City Convention Center
8PM	Awarding Ceremonies	Candon City Convention Center



**ERIC D. SINGSON**  
*City Mayor*

## II. REGISTRATION

a. The Application must be submitted through a Google Form Link until **January 10, 2026** only.

b. The participating choir must include the following:

1. Choir's Profile and Recent Choir Photo
2. Conductor's Profile and Photo
3. Audition Video
  - The video format must be in mp4
  - The video must not be earlier than August 1, 2025
  - The audition piece must not be more than 6 minutes
  - The video must not have any cuts or sound enhancements.

c. All registering choir must pay for the following upon acceptance:

Registration Fee for Category Preference

AMOUNT	NO. OF CATEGORY	DURATION
<b>REGULAR REGISTRATION</b>		
Php 5,000.00	1	October 21 – January 10, 2026
Php 10,000.00	2	October 21 – January 10, 2026

## III. GENERAL GUIDELINES

- a. The competition is open to choirs from around the Philippines.
- b. Each choir may register for more than one category.
- c. The number of participants singing on stage must be equivalent to the registered members.
- d. The choir must submit the soft copies of the pieces and must submit 5 hard copies during the opening ceremony.
- e. Each choir is responsible for the copyright of the songs used in the competition. The committee shall not be held liable for any copyright infringement incurred by the participating choirs.
- f. Only live accompaniment will be allowed. Pre-recorded accompaniment is strictly prohibited.

## IV. CATEGORY COMPETITION GUIDELINES

### a. VOCAL ENSEMBLE (MIXED OR EQUAL VOICES) CATEGORY

- I. The choir must have a minimum of 16 singers and a maximum of 40 singers
- II. The choir may consist of mixed, all-male, or all-female
- iii. The choir must sing two contrasting pieces; one must be sung a capella
- iv. The total singing time for both songs must not exceed 12 minutes starting from the first note until the last note.
- v. There is no age limit.



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*City Mayor*

**b. YOUTH CHOIR CATEGORY**

- I. The choir must have a minimum of 16 singers and a maximum of 40 singers
- II. The choir must be composed of members from 14 years old to 24 years only.
- III. The choir must sing two contrasting pieces; one must be sung a capella
- IV. The total singing time for both songs must not exceed 12 minutes starting from the first note until the last note.

**c. CHILDREN'S CHOIR CATEGORY**

- I. The choir must have a minimum of 16 singers and a maximum of 40 singers
- II. The choir must sing two contrasting pieces; one must be sung a capella
- III. The total singing time for both songs must not exceed 12 minutes starting from the first note until the last note.
- IV. The age limit will must be at least 7 years old to 16 years old.
- V. Only 10% of the total singers are allowed to exceed more than the set age limit.

**d. FOLKSONG CATEGORY**

- I. The choir must have a minimum of 16 singers and a maximum of 40 singers
- II. The choir must sing two folk pieces with at least one piece coming from the participant's region
- III. The use of ethnic instruments is allowed
- IV. The total singing time for both songs must not exceed 12 minutes
- V. The score to be submitted must have an English translation attached.
- VI. There is no age limit.
- VII. Performance with choreography is allowed, but shall not be included in the criteria of judging.

**e. GRAND PRIX ROUND**

- I. The Category Winner shall sing one song coming from their repertoire and any song that has not been performed in any stage of the competition.
- II. The total singing time for both songs must not exceed 12 minutes starting from the first note until the last note.

**V. SOUNDCHECK**

- a. Each choir will be given 6 minutes for sound check.
- b. Any participating choir unable to attend their scheduled time slot for sound check shall not be given another schedule.



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*City Mayor*

- c. The participating choir shall be assigned with a holding area and shall only enter the competition area during the set schedule.
- d. The participating choirs advancing to the Grand Prix Round shall be provided with an 8-minute sound check schedule.

## VI. CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION: Category Competition & Grand Prix

- a. Musicality and Voice Production (40%)
- b. Interpretation of the Piece (20%)
- c. Intonation and Harmony (30%)
- d. Overall Artistic Impression (10%)

## VII. AWARDS AND PRIZES

- a. The diploma will be awarded according to the scores:
  1. **Gold** – 90% to 100%
  2. **Silver** – 83% to 89.99%
  3. **Bronze** – 78% to 82.99%
- b. The choir who will achieve the highest score in each category will be declared as the Category Winner and will receive a certificate **and Php 30,000.00**.
- c. The choir hailed as category winner will automatically advance to the Grand Prix Round of the competition.
- d. The winners for the Grand Prix Round will receive the following:  
**Grand Prix Champion: Php 150,000.00, Grand Prix Trophy, Certificate**

## VIII. HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

- Option A.** The choir will have to arrange their transportation and accommodation.  
**Option B.** There will be packages that will be offered should you choose to avail the foundation's offer.

## IX. VENUE

- a. **Category Competition:** Candon City Center for Culture and the Arts
- b. **Holding Area:** Candon City Civic Center
- c. **Grand Prix Round:** Candon City Convention Center