



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region III
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF PAMPANGA

February 18, 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM
No. 124, s. 2026

2026 SDO PAMPANGA NATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATION

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendents
Chief Education Supervisors
Education Program Supervisors
Public Schools District Supervisors
Public and Private Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

1. The Women's Month Celebration served as a venue to highlight women's achievements and discuss continuing and emerging women's empowerment and gender equality issues and concerns, challenges, and commitments. The celebration focuses on concrete activities that are aligned with national and international instruments and treaties such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Philippine Plan for Gender-Responsive Development (1995-2025), the Framework Plan for Women, and the Sustainable Development Goals.
2. With the goal of fostering a society where all women have equal rights, power, and opportunities, the 2026 National Women's Month Celebration (NWMC) carries the sub-theme: **Lead like the Babaylans, Filipinas!**. The PCW reaffirms that women's leadership is a fundamental part of Filipino identity—just as in the time of the revered Babaylans, when women held influence and authority equal to men. It highlights the distinctive leadership qualities of Babaylans—women leaders in pre-colonial Philippines whose authority was grounded in wisdom, empathy, mediation, and moral guidance rather than force or hierarchy.
3. This year's focus will continue to support the administration's brand of governance and leadership, aligning with its rallying cry for an all-inclusive plan for economic and social transformation. We reaffirm our commitment to building a **"Bagong Pilipinas"**—a nation where women have equitable opportunities, free from gender biases and discriminatory stereotypes. The phrase **"Babae sa Lahat ng Sektor, Aangat ang Bukas"** embodies a sense of optimism and hope, symbolizing a future where women's lives are truly uplifted. It reflects the commitment to translating gender equality efforts from policy into tangible, meaningful changes in the lives of women.
4. The passage of the following laws serves as the legal bases for the celebration of National Women's Month:



Address: High School Blvd., Brgy. Lourdes, City of San Fernando (P)
Telephone No.: (045) 435-2728; (045) 435-7404
Email Address: pampanga@deped.gov.ph
Website: www.depedpampanga.ph



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- 4.1 Proclamation No. 224 s. 1988, "Declaring the First Week of March of Every Year as Women's Week and March 8, 1988, and Every Year Thereafter as Women's Rights and International Peace Day." Signed by former President Corazon C. Aquino on March 1, 1988, it affirmed our solidarity with the United Nations and recognized Filipino women's contribution to the struggle for national independence, civil liberties, equality, and human rights.
- 4.2 Proclamation No, 227 s. 1988, "Providing for the observance of the Month of March as 'Women's Role in History Month'" Signed by President Aquino on March 17, 1988, reinforced the earlier proclamation by emphasizing the role of Filipino women in the social, cultural, economic and political development throughout our history. It provided for a month-long nationwide observance with appropriate ceremonies and activities to be spearheaded by the Commission.
- 4.3 R.A. 6949 s. 1990, "An Act to Declare March Eight of Every Year as a Working Special Holiday to be Known as National Women's Day" was signed by President Aquino on April 10, 1990. The law further strengthened the impetus for the celebration by declaring every March 8 as a special working holiday and enjoining employees from the government and private sector to participate in activities conducted by their offices.
5. As one with the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), this Office urges all schools, both public and private, to conduct various initiatives/activities and post to different social media platforms during the aforesaid month-long celebration using the hashtag #WEcanbeEquALL.
6. For more information, all concerned may contact the SGOD-HRDS or Mr. Jayson M. Santos, SEPS-HRD/Division GAD Focal Person, at email address: jayson.santos001@deped.gov.ph, DepEd Schools Division of Pampanga, High School Boulevard, Barangay Lourdes, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.
7. For wide and immediate dissemination.

ROMEO M. ALIP, PhD, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent

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Encl.: As stated
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