



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
REGION VIII - EASTERN VISAYAS

December 1, 2025

**REGIONAL MEMORANDUM**

No. **1651**, s. 2025

**KANTA BINISAYA: A REGIONAL SEMINAR-WORKSHOP ON TEACHING  
EASTERN VISAYAN MUSICAL CULTURE, HERITAGE, AND IDENTITY**

To: Schools Division Superintendents  
All Others Concerned

1. The Department of Education Regional Office No. VIII acknowledges its partnership with Dr. Stephen Q. Lagarde, PhD, proponent, author, and arranger of *Kanta Binisaya*, in the conduct of **Kanta Binisaya: A Regional Seminar-Workshop on Teaching Eastern Visayas Musical Culture, Heritage and Identity** on May 28-30, 2025 at Leyte Normal University, Tacloban City.
2. The aforementioned activity is a collaborative initiative highlighting the shared commitment to promote regional musical traditions, strengthen cultural heritage, and foster identity formation among learners and educators across Eastern Visayas. By aligning with **Project INSPIRE** (*Integrating Nurturing Strategies and Pedagogies for Inclusion, Reform, and Expression*), this activity seeks to inspire teachers to champion cultural preservation, strengthen heritage appreciation, and encourage learners to develop their sense of identity.
3. This seminar-workshop also ensures that the promotion of Eastern Visayas' musical culture is not only celebrated but also embedded in sustainable and innovative teaching practices across the region.
4. The participants of this activity are both elementary and high school teachers handling Music classes. The breakdown of participants is shown on the table below:

DIVISION	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS		TOTAL
	Elementary	High School	
Baybay City	6	6	12
Biliran	6	6	12
Borongan City	6	6	12
Calbayog City	6	6	12
Catbalogan City	6	6	12
Eastern Samar	6	6	12

Leyte	6	6	12
Maasin City	6	6	12
Ormoc City	6	6	12
Northern Samar	6	6	12
Samar	6	6	12
Southern Leyte	6	6	12
Tacloban City	6	6	12
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>156</b>

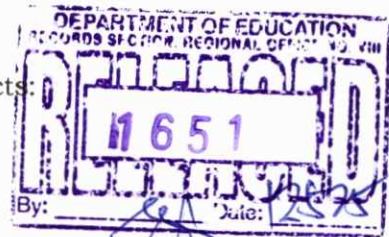
5. Travel, accommodation, and other incidental expenses of the participants shall be charged against their respective Local Funds/MOOE and/or other eligible source/s of funds subject to the existing accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

6. Immediate dissemination of and compliance with this Memorandum are desired.

**RONEL K. FIRMO CESO IV**  
 Assistant Regional Director  
 Officer-In-Charge  
 Office of the Regional Director

Enclosure: None  
 Reference: Communication from Dr. Stephen Q. Lagarde  
 To be indicated in the Perpetual Index under the following subjects:  
 KANTA BINISAYA  
 SEMINAR-WORKSHOP  
 TEACHERS

CLMD-NPJ





RONELO AL K. FIRMO, CESO IV  
Regional Director  
Department of Education, Region VIII  
Government Center  
Candahug, Palo, Leyte

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	
<b>RECEIVED</b>	
RECORDS SECTION REGIONAL OFFICE NO. VIII	
DATE: <u>11-26-25</u>	
TRACKING #: <u>11977</u>	TIME: <u>3:00 pm</u>
SIGNATURE: <u>[Signature]</u>	

Sir:

I am pleased to submit to your office a project proposal entitled **“Kanta Binisaya: A Regional Seminar-Workshop on Teaching Eastern Visayan Musical Culture, Heritage and Identity”** which is slated to be held on **May 28 to 30, 2026** at the Leyte Normal University, Tacloban City. As initially discussed at your office sometime in August, 2025, this project is being realized under the auspices of the Office of FMR, Tingog Party List and the Leyte Normal University in collaboration with the Department of Education Region 8 and the Pintados Foundation, Inc. Thus, since that initial discussion, preparations have been underway for the conduct of the said seminar-workshop.

Stated below are the specific roles that each entity will play in this collaborative endeavour:

NAME	ROLE
Office of FMR and Tingog Party List	Provide the budgetary support for the entire project
Leyte Normal University	Provide the physical resources and support personnel for the seminar-workshop
Department of Education, Region 8	Officially identify and endorse teacher participants for the seminar-workshop from each schools division
Pintados Foundation Inc.	Provide seminar-workshop materials

More specifically, we request for the official endorsement of DepEd Region 8 in identifying, informing and inviting elementary and high school teachers in the region who are handling music classes and its related field to participate in the aforementioned seminar-workshop. Their active participation is anchored on the need to promote the distinct musical culture, heritage and identity of the region.

Inasmuch as Eastern Visayas consist of thirteen (13) schools division, we suggest that each division be represented by twelve (12) elementary and high school teachers. This means that six (6) of them will come from the elementary level and another six (6) will come from the high school



level. As shown on the seminar-workshop's program of activities, participants will be requested to prepare, present and submit lesson exemplars which they will later on use in their respective classroom settings. Music education experts from Manila will guide them in doing so.

Considering that the Office of FMR and Tingog Party List will provide the budgetary support for the entire project, the said seminar-workshop will be offered FREE (including meals and materials) to all participants. Their only responsibility is to provide for their own transportation and accommodation expenses.

Thank you for supporting this important cultural project and thank you for endorsing it during the 2025 Husay Sining Training for Teachers last October 29, 2025. Your enthusiastic endorsement is much appreciated.

Attached to this letter is a copy of the said project proposal. Thank you, once again.

Truly yours,



STEPHEN Q. LAGARDE, PhD

Kanta Binisaya Proponent, Author and Arranger  
Member, NCCA National Music Committee

Copy furnished:

Office of FMR  
Tingog Party List  
Leyte Normal University  
Pintados Foundation Inc.

## PROJECT PROPOSAL

### I. TITLE:

***Kanta Binisaya:*** A Regional Seminar-Workshop on Teaching Eastern Visayan Musical Culture, Heritage and Identity

### II. PROPONENTS:

Stephen Q. Lagarde, PhD  
Kanta Binisayá Author and Arranger  
Member, NCCA National Music Committee

Alvin A. Alvarez  
Kanta Binisayá Project Assistant

### III. BACKGROUND:

Since its inception, project Kanta Binisaya, a cultural advocacy project, has accomplished significantly in terms of promoting and disseminating the rich musical heritage and identity of Eastern Visayas. Its accomplishments include the production and dissemination of books and other printed materials that showcase the heritage music of the region in choral form. Under the auspices of the Philippine Madrigal Singers, it has produced and disseminated a recording album which has been accessible on Spotify for free since 2022. Participated in by various choirs, both within and outside the region, it has, moreover, undertaken its first choral competition as well as conducted a wide range of choral workshops that are designed to upgrade and enrich the choral arts in the region alongside the promotion and dissemination of its rich musical heritage and culture.

Indeed, Kanta Binisaya's reach is not only confined to Eastern Visayas but extends to such countries as Taiwan, Canada, Singapore and the US. It has allowed Eastern Visayan heritage music to be heard way beyond the region's shores.

### IV. RATIONALE:

Although project Kanta Binisaya has accomplished so much in terms of promoting and disseminating Eastern Visayan culture, heritage and identity, a lot of things still need to be done to assert, deepen and sustain this noble advocacy. It is common knowledge that today, there exists a dire need to enhance, upgrade and enrich how music is taught—particularly on matters that represent the culture, heritage and identity of a particular region or community. There is an urgent need to pass on this rich musical heritage to the younger generation so that they may understand and appreciate their own roots. In view of the lack of teaching resources, there is an urgent need to equip teachers of music, art and culture with the necessary resources so that they may be able to pass on Eastern Visayan culture and identity to future generations effectively. Most importantly, there is an urgent need to

help enrich the implementation of the mother tongue-based multilingualism thrust of the MATATAG curriculum as espoused by the Department of Education.

V. OBJECTIVES:

1. To enrich the teaching of music in both the primary and secondary level of education in the region by providing music teachers with Kanta Binisaya materials and resources.
2. To promote the utilization of Eastern Visayan heritage music in both the primary and secondary level of education in the region.
3. To produce appropriate modules or lesson exemplars that utilize Kanta Binisaya materials and resources.

VI. MECHANICS:

- A. This regional seminar-workshop will be held through the generous and enthusiastic support of the Office of FMR and Tingog Party List in collaboration with the Leyte Normal University through its BMME Program as well as the Department of Education, Region 8 and the Pintados Foundation, Inc.
- B. A committee will be organized to realize and implement this project. This committee will consist of the following:

NAME	POSITION	RESPONSIBILITY
Stephen Q. Lagarde	Project Leader	Serve as overall project implementer
Alvin Alvarez	Project Assistant	Serve as project assistant and production director
Jay Mabini	Project Coordinator	Serve as project liaison officer for the LNU
Nick Macapaz	Project Coordinator	Serve as BMME project liaison officer
LNU IT Unit	Graphics Artist	Design and produce various materials (poster, LED wall content, program, etc.)

- C. The following timeline of activities will be observed:

ACTIVITY	TARGET DATE
Initial Planning and Coordination	September 2025

Submission of Project Proposal to LNU and DepEd	November 2025
MOA Signing with LNU, DepEd and Pintados Foundation Inc.	January 2026
Preparation of publicity materials and invitations	February 2026
Dissemination of publicity materials and invitations	March 2026
Final Preparation	April 2026
<b>Conduct of the Kanta Binisaya Regional Seminar-Workshop</b>	<b>May 28 to 30, 2026</b>
Post Evaluation	June 2026

- D. The seminar-workshop will be conducted at the Leyte Normal University (LNU), Tacloban City.
- E. The following entities will fulfill the herein indicated role:

NAME	ROLE
Office of FMR and Tingog Party List	Provide budgetary support for the entire project
Leyte Normal University	Provide physical resources and support staff
Department of Education, Region 8	Officially identify and endorse teacher participants for the seminar-workshop
Pintados Foundation Inc.	Provide seminar-workshop materials

- F. The seminar-workshop will be offered free of charge to primary and secondary music teachers who are based in the various schools divisions of Eastern Visayas. Their participation in the seminar-workshop will include free lunch and snacks as well as free learning materials. A certificate of participation will also be given to them.
- G. Participating teachers will, however, be requested to shoulder their own transportation expenses to and from the seminar-workshop venue as well as their hotel accommodations for the duration of the seminar-workshop.
- H. In order to facilitate learning, each teacher participant will be requested to bring their personal laptop or tablet.
- I. Music education experts from Manila will be invited to serve as resource persons.



J. Inasmuch as the region consist of 13 schools divisions, 12 music teachers from both primary and secondary schools from each division will be identified upon the recommendation of the office of the DepEd Regional Director. Thus, the seminar-workshop will consist of 156 teacher participants.

K. The seminar-workshop will consist of the following activities:

DAY/TIME	ACTIVITY	RESOURCE PERSON	NEEDS
<b>Day 1: May 28, 2026 (Thursday)</b>			
8:00 to 9:00 am	PRELIMINARIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• Opening Program</li> <li>• Orientation and House Rules</li> </ul>	Secretariat	LCD projector and screen
9:00 to 10:00 am	A Brief Orientation on Project Kanta Binisaya	Dr. Stephen Q. Lagarde, KB Author and Arranger	Copies of KB materials Stage Piano and amplifier
10:00 to 12:00 noon	Utilizing Kanta Binisaya Resources for Teaching Purposes	Dr. Stephen Q. Lagarde, KB Author and Arranger	
12:00 to 1:00 pm	Lunch Break		
1:00 to 5:00 pm	Teaching Eastern Visayan Folk Music as Cultural Practice	Dr. Ma. Theresa Roldan, UST Conservatory of Music	LCD Projector and screen
<b>Day 2: May 29, 2026 (Friday)</b>			
9:00 – 12:00 noon	KB Folk Songs in the Context of the MATATAG Curriculum	Dr. Joan Hope Elgincolin, UP College of Music	LCD Projector and screen
12:00 to 1:00 pm	Lunch Break		




1:00 to 4:00 pm	Movement, Drama and Storytelling in Eastern Visayan Folk Songs	Dr. Dolores Andres, UST Conservatory of Music	LCD Projector and screen
<b>Day 3: May 30, 2026 (Saturday)</b>			
8:00 to 12:00 noon	Developing Lesson Exemplars Utilizing KB Materials	Prof. Phoebe Almazan, UP College of Education	LCD Projector and Screen
12:00 to 1:00 pm	Lunch Break		
1:00 to 4:00 pm	Presentation and Critiquing of Lesson Exemplars Per School Division	Panel of Resource Persons	
4:00 to 5:00 pm	<b>CLOSING PROGRAM</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing Remarks</li> <li>• Distribution of Certificates</li> <li>• Performance of Select EV Folk Songs</li> </ul>	Secretariat	Certificate of Completion

## VII. BUDGET:

ITEM	SPECIFICS	SUB-TOTAL
A. Resource Person's round trip airfare	P10,000 x 4 pax	P 40,000.00
A. Hotel Accommodations	P 1,500 per pax per day x 4 days	P 24,000.00
B. Resource Person's Honorarium	P 3,000 per pax per 8 hours x 5 resource speakers	P 120,000.00
C. Food	P 600 x 150 pax x 3 days	P 270,000.00
D. Seminar Materials/Kits	P 600 per kit x 160 pax	P 96,000.00
E. Printing of Certificates	P 150 for all participants P 500 for each resource person x 5	P 2,650.00
F. Tarps and standees		P 15,000.00
G. KB Polo Shirts	P 800 x 100 pax	P 80,000.00
H. KB Jackets	P 2,000 x 30 pax	P 60,000.00
I. Project Leader's Honorarium		P 30,000.00
H. Project Assistant's Honorarium		P 25,000.00
I. Project Coordinator's Honorarium	P 20,000 per pax x 2	P 40,000.00
J. Contingency		P 80,265.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>P 882,915.00</b>

Prepared by:

  
 STEPHEN Q. LAGARDE, PhD  
 Kanta Binisayá Author and Arranger  
 Member, NCCA National Music Committee