

PRESS RELEASE**CALABARZON, NCR bag 2019 Nat'l Schools Press Conference, Festival of Talents championship**

PANGASINAN, February 6, 2019– For the seventh consecutive year, CALABARZON was declared the overall champion of the National Schools Press Conference (NSPC) held in Lingayen, Pangasinan from January 28 to February 1.

Region III (Central Luzon) was the first runner-up, followed by the National Capital Region (NCR), Region V (Bicol Region), and Region I (Ilocos Region).

The overall winning regions were determined based on their scores in individual and group contests including news, features, editorial, sports; copyreading and headline writing; Science & Technology writing; photojournalism; editorial cartooning; radio and TV scriptwriting and broadcasting; collaborative desktop publishing; and online publishing.

The outstanding campus journalists and school paper advisers in the national and regional levels were also given recognition in a separate awarding ceremony held on January 31.

Meanwhile, NCR seized the championship in the National Festival of Talents (NFOT) held on the same dates in Dagupan City.

Region XII (SOCCSKSARGEN) won first runner-up, followed by Region I, Region XI (Davao Region), and Region V.

The winners were likewise determined from the total points garnered from various exhibition areas including Technolympics for Technical-Vocational-Livelihood Education, with contests on Industrial Arts (IA), Home Economics (HE), Agri-Fishery Arts (AFA), Information and Communications Technology (ICT), and Entrepreneurship; *Sining Tanghalan* for Music and Arts; National Population Development for Social Studies (*Araling Panlipunan*); *Pambansang Tagisan ng Talento sa Filipino*; and language skills competitions (Special Program in Foreign Language) which includes Spanish, Mandarin, Japanese, French, Arabic, Braille, and sign languages.

The Rotary Club of Manila (RCM) also co-sponsored the Nationwide Song Writing and Choral Competition held on January 29 wherein five regions were chosen to compete in the grand finals during the RCM's centennial anniversary in June.

In the closing ceremonies, Undersecretary Lorna Dig Dino and Assistant Secretary Alma Ruby Torio expressed their gratitude to Region I, led by Director Malcolm Garma, and to the host divisions, Pangasinan I and Dagupan City, led by Schools Division Superintendents Maria Celia Fernandez and Lorna Bugayong, respectively. They also thanked the local government for supporting the Department of Education's programs, projects, and activities.

The banners of the two national events were officially turned over to Region II (Cagayan Valley Region) which will host the 2020 NSPC and NFOT.

The Bureau of Curriculum Development (BCD) spearheaded the NSPC, while the Bureau of Learning Delivery-Student Inclusion Division (BLD-SID) led the NFOT.

END

PRESS RELEASE