Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VIII
SCHOOLS DIVISION OF NORTHERN SAMAR

November 23, 2026

DIVISION MEMORANDUM
No. 490, s. 2026

2026 OBSERVANCE OF THE 18-DAY CAMPAIGN TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAW)

To: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Functional Division Chiefs
Public Schools District Supervisors/Principals In-Charge
District GAD Focal Persons
Public Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

1. Pursuant to Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) Memorandum Circular No. 2026-05 dated October 9, 2026, the Schools Division of Northern Samar shall join the nationwide observance of the **18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women (VAW)** from **November 25 to December 12, 2026**. The campaign is anchored on the overarching theme "UNiTEd for a VAW-free Philippines" and highlights community engagement through arts, participatory advocacy, and dialogues that challenge harmful gender norms, including the engagement of men and youth in VAW prevention.

2. The observance aims to strengthen awareness, prevention, protection, referral, and collective action against all forms of VAW; promote safe, respectful, gender-fair, and inclusive learning and working environments; and mobilize Division Office personnel, schools, learners, families, and communities in building a VAW-free Northern Samar.

3. All public elementary and secondary schools are strongly encouraged to undertake school-appropriate campaign activities that are included in, or are directly responsive to the identified GAD issues and outcomes in, their approved FY 2026 GAD Plan and Budget (GPB). Activities shall be age-appropriate, inclusive, non-stereotyping, and implemented without disrupting regular classes and essential school services.

4. **Suggested activities for schools include:**

Campaign visibility	Hang or display the official 18-Day Campaign streamer/banner in a conspicuous area and, when feasible, reuse existing campaign materials. Schools may also set up an

	Orange Corner, GAD Corner feature, or learner-created advocacy wall.
Advocacy and awareness	Conduct symposiums, orientations, classroom or homeroom discussions, child-appropriate film viewing with guided reflection, forums, or related activities on VAW prevention, respectful relationships, safe spaces, referral pathways, and applicable laws.
Integration in instruction	Integrate VAW prevention, gender equality, dignity, respect, consent, online safety, positive masculinity, and non-violent conflict resolution in relevant learning areas, homeroom guidance, values formation, school clubs, and co-curricular activities.
Flag ceremony and assemblies	Recite the Prayer to End VAW and provide brief anti-VAW messages during flag ceremonies, general assemblies, or school-based activities during the campaign period.
Digital and community advocacy	Share approved PCW or DepEd information, education, and communication materials through official school pages and platforms; use the official hashtag #VAWfreePH; and, where feasible, collaborate with parents, barangays, youth groups, and local VAW mechanisms.
Documentation	Document activities and feature appropriate outputs in the school's physical or digital GAD Corner, observing child protection, privacy, consent, and responsible social media practices.

5. The following Division Office-wide activities shall be observed:

   a. **Orange Wednesdays/Thursdays**. All SDO personnel are encouraged to wear orange on November 25, 2026 (Wednesday), during the kickoff ceremony, and on December 3 and December 10, 2026 (Thursdays), with December 10 serving as the SDO culminating day.

   b. **Reuse of campaign shirts**. Consistent with the PCW guidance on austerity and sustainability, personnel shall use the previously issued campaign shirt. The purchase or production of new shirts is not encouraged. Existing banners and reusable materials should likewise be utilized whenever feasible.

   c. **Dance Against VAW**. The SDO shall conduct Dance Against VAW (Zumba) at the SDO Grounds at 4:00 p.m. on November 25, December 3, and December 10, 2026. All SDO personnel are encouraged to participate, subject to continuity of frontline and essential services.

6. School Heads shall ensure that school activities are properly coordinated, safe, learner-sensitive, and supported by appropriate referral information. Disclosures or reports of abuse shall be handled confidentially and referred immediately through the school's Child Protection Committee and the appropriate authorities or service providers, consistent with existing policies and laws.

7. Schools shall maintain brief documentation of the activities conducted, including the activity title, date, participants, photographs where appropriate, key messages, and outputs.

8. For campaign resources, templates, and official IEC materials, concerned offices and schools may access the PCW campaign page at **https://pcw.gov.ph/2026-18-day-campaign/.**

9. Expenses necessary for the conduct of approved campaign activities may be charged against the Division Office or school FY 2026 GAD Budget, provided that the activity is directly linked to identified GAD issues and outcomes in the approved GPB. All expenditures shall comply with existing government accounting, auditing, procurement, and GAD planning and budgeting rules. The production of single-use materials and unnecessary giveaways is highly discouraged.

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

GAUDENCIO C. ALJIBE JR., PhD, CESO V
Schools Division Superintendent

Enclosure: As stated
References: As stated
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index under the following subjects:

GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT VAWC

SGOD-HRDS-PRB

DepEd Northern Samar
RE[illegible]D
By:
Date: 24 NOV 2026