Department of Education
Records Section, Regional Office No. V
RELEASED
20079
By:
Date: NOV 12 2026

ADVISORY No. 357 s. 2026
November 12, 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.

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ECONVERGENCE 2027

The UPLB Economics Society (ECONSOC), a recognized academic organization of BS Economics students at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), invites high school students and teachers to participate in ECONVERGENCE 2027 on January 16–17, 2027, at the NCAS Auditorium and CAS Rooms.

With the theme "Beyond Growth: Assessing the Gains, Costs, and Beneficiaries in Philippine Development," the activity aims to promote youth involvement in the country's economic issues and raise economic literacy. It also seeks to enhance and promote effective approaches to teaching economics at the secondary level through its capacity-building initiative and Economics Teachers' Convention.

The events include the EKONOMIKA Quiz, Intellectual Encounter Debate, Essay Writing, Poster Making, Photo Essay, Impromptu Speaking, Mini Documentary Presentation, and Economics Teachers' Convention.

Interested participants may contact Ms. Mary Christen L. Bodiao, Econvergence 2027 Event Head, at mobile number 0969 058 5845 or via email at mlbodiao@up.edu.ph or econvergence.main@gmail.com.

Participation is purely voluntary and contest preparations must not disrupt instructional time, in accordance with DepEd Order No. 009, s. 2026 (Guidelines in the Implementation of the Three-Term School Calendar in Basic Education). This order upholds the protection of instructional time devoted to teaching and learning. Relevant references include DepEd Order No. 9, s. 2005 (Instituting Measures to Increase Engaged Time-on-Task) and the policy on off-campus activities in DepEd Order No. 66, s. 2017.

For reference, please see the attached basic communication.

clmd/mll
11/12/2026

Republika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Edukasyon
REHIYON V (BIKOL)
TANGGAPANG PANSANGAY NG MGA PAARALAN NG CATANDUANES

November 18, 2026

DEPED DIVISION OF CATANDUANES
RECORDS SECTION
RELEASED
By:
Date: NOV 24 2026, 8:07

TO: Assistant Schools Division Superintendent
Chief Education Supervisor
Education Program Supervisors
Public Schools District Supervisors
Elementary and Secondary School Heads
All Others Concerned

For information.
By the Authority of the OIC – Schools Division Superintendent:

ATTY. NORLITO JR. P. AGUNDAY
Attorney III – Legal Officer
Officer-In-Charge

Department of Education
Records Section, Regional Office No. V
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By: Date: NOV 12 2026

ADVISORY No. 357 s. 2026
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For reference, please see the attached basic communication.

clmd/ mll
11/12/2026

SDO-CATANDUANES
SGOD OFFICE
RECEIVED
Date: 11-13-26
Time: 2:30 pm

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0961 332 4183

ECONVERGENCE 2027
ENRICHING ECONVERSATIONS

NOV 03 2026
By: Time: 2:35 pm

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027

MARY CHRISTEN L. BODIAO
UPLB ECONOMICS SOCIETY EDUCATION COMMITTEE HEAD
ECONVERGENCE 2027 EVENT HEAD

GRACE LOUISE L. NAVARRO
ECONVERGENCE 2027 PARTICIPATION DEPARTMENT HEAD

MARCO ANTONIO V. BENITO
ECONVERGENCE 2027 FINANCE DEPARTMENT HEAD

ETHAN JOHN C. BABOL
ECONVERGENCE 2027 LOGISTICS DEPARTMENT HEAD

YOANNA ANGELA L. GUIAB
ECONVERGENCE 2027 PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT HEAD

JUNE IZACH G. RELAMPAGOS
ECONVERGENCE 2027 MARKETING DEPARTMENT HEAD

FRANCESCA D. BUENAVENTURA
ECONVERGENCE 2027 PROGRAM COMMITTEE HEAD

03 November 2026

DR. GILBERT T. SADSAD, CESO III
Regional Director
Department of Education – Region V (Bicol)
Regional Center Site, Rawis, Legazpi City, Albay
4500

Dear Dr. Sadsad:

Greetings of peace!

The **UPLB Economics Society (ECONSOC)** is a duly recognized academic organization of BS Economics students at the **University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB)** and an active member of the **Junior Philippine Economics Society (JPES)**. Throughout the years, ECONSOC has been dedicating itself to promoting academic excellence by providing educational development services to the students at the university.

In line with this mission, we are pleased to present **ECONVERGENCE 2027**, a national inter-high school scholastic convention that brings together young minds to explore the country's most pressing economic and social issues. Now in its **22nd year**, the convention carries the theme **"Beyond Growth: Assessing the Gains, Costs, and Beneficiaries in Philippine Development."** Through the lenses of development and environmental economics, this year's convention seeks to deepen participants' understanding of how the management of natural resources, economic policies, and environmental considerations shape the country's pursuit of economic progress.

The event will take place on **January 16–17, 2027**, at the **University of the Philippines Los Baños**, bringing together students and educators from high schools across the nation. **ECONVERGENCE 2027** aims to encourage youth involvement in the economic issues of the country, raise economic literacy, and promote effective ways to teach economics at the secondary level through its capacity-building initiative, the Economics Teachers' Convention.

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In this regard, we respectfully request that your esteemed office **issue a DepEd Advisory** covering the following **ECONVERGENCE 2027** events and disseminate it to high schools nationwide:

1. EKONOMIKA Quiz Contest
2. Intellectual Encounter Debate Competition
3. Essay-Writing Competition
4. Economic Teachers' Convention (ETC)
5. Impromptu Speaking Competition
6. Mini Documentary Presentation Contest
7. Poster Making Contest (Traditional)
8. Photo Essay

This advisory would help broaden our reach and encourage the participation of more schools in our activities, which will greatly support the objectives of this event. For your reference, we have attached additional information about our organization and the event.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our Event Head, **Ms. Mary Christen L. Bodiao**, through her phone number, **0969 058 5845**, or email at **mlbodiao@up.edu.ph**. Alternatively, you may send us an email at **econvergence.main@gmail.com**.

We look forward to hearing from you. Your timely feedback is crucial and highly appreciated. Thank you very much!

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PROGRAM, PROJECT, ACTIVITY (PPA) PROFILE

I. Background

ECONVERGENCE, a national inter-high school economics competition, began in 2005. It is a multi-event activity that aims to promote excellence in economic education among high school students. Approximately 200 high school students and teachers nationwide from 20 schools are expected to attend the two-day conference and allied events, which include eight (8) sub-events, namely: EKONOMIKA Quiz Contest, Intellectual Encounter Debate Competition, Essay-writing Competition, Poster-making Competition, Photo Essay Competition, Impromptu Speaking Competition, Mini Documentary Presentation Contest, and Economics Teachers' Convention (ETC). The overarching goal is to bridge the gap between the level of economic awareness among students and teachers and the increasing demand for their active involvement in economic matters.

The UPLB Economic Society, dedicated to promoting academic excellence and contributing to the country's educational services, annually organizes the ECONVERGENCE. This initiative deals with the challenges of enhancing economic literacy and addressing current economic issues. The overarching goal is to bridge the gap between the level of economic awareness among students and teachers and the increasing demand for their active involvement in economic matters.

Last ECONVERGENCE 2025, the event centered on the theme **"Energizing Tomorrow: Unveiling the Energy Crisis and Its Implications for Philippine Economic Development and Sustainability,"** encouraging participants to explore solutions that balance **energy security, economic development, and environmental sustainability**. By examining the country's energy policies, challenges, and their effectiveness, ECONVERGENCE provided students, educators, and industry leaders with a platform to discuss the state of the Philippine energy sector and possible pathways toward a more sustainable future. Through these discussions, participants gained a deeper understanding of the economic and environmental challenges surrounding energy and were encouraged to think critically about the policies and decisions that shape the country's energy future.

And during the recent installment of **ECONVERGENCE 2026**, the theme **"The Cost of Calamities: Unpacking the Economics of Disaster Readiness and Risk Reduction in the Philippines"** focused on examining how disasters affect the country's economy and how preparedness and risk reduction can lessen their impacts. It highlighted the economic costs of recurring disasters, the importance of disaster-risk financing and data-driven preparedness, and the role of policies in strengthening long-term resilience. Through the event, participants developed a deeper understanding of disasters not only as an environmental crisis, but also as economic and policy challenges. By engaging the youth in these discussions, ECONVERGENCE 2026 encouraged students to become more informed and proactive in understanding and contributing to disaster preparedness, recovery, and resilience in the Philippines.

II. Objectives

- To establish youth involvement in the economic issues of the country as well as raise economic literacy.
- To enhance and promote effective ways to teach economics at the secondary level through its capacity-building initiative, Economics Teachers' Convention.

III. Activities

a. EKONOMIKA QUIZ CONTEST

Ekonomika is an economics quiz contest that covers high school economics topics such as the History of Economic Doctrines, Basic Microeconomics (e.g., the law of supply and demand), Basic Macroeconomics (e.g., national income accounting), and Current Events. This activity aims to enhance students' critical thinking skills and competitiveness and promote social awareness of current events.

b. INTELLECTUAL ENCOUNTER DEBATE COMPETITION

This activity is participated by a team from each school who will give their opinions and points of information regarding the motion set by the adjudicators. This activity aims to enhance the student's economic awareness of current issues, assess their point of view regarding the issue, and improve the students' perspective in dealing with such economic issues.

c. ESSAY-WRITING COMPETITION

Students are given an hour to write an on-the-spot essay after the theme is given on the same day of the event. The essay-writing contest intends to assess the students' comprehensive skills on a particular economic issue and improve one's perspective on it along the process. Students' compositions are judged according to relevance to the theme, content, and organization.

d. POSTER-MAKING COMPETITION

Students will be given 2 hours to finish their work. They are expected to produce a visualization art regarding the theme that will be announced on the spot. This activity aims to enhance the student's intellectual perspective on economic issues while improving one's creativity at the same time.

e. PHOTO-ESSAY COMPETITION

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Students will be given 2 hours to capture an object or scenery that reflects the theme provided by the organizing body. After taking the photo they must then provide a short description or a caption that encapsulates the relation of the photo to the given theme.

f. IMPROMPTU SPEAKING COMPETITION

Students will be given 2-3 minutes to deliver their speech regarding a particular picture related to the theme of the event. This aims to improve students' confidence, creativity, and comprehension skills, and also to evaluate students' standpoint on a particular economic issue shown in the picture.

g. MINI DOCUMENTARY PRESENTATION CONTEST

Students are expected to create an original short documentary film focused on the Econvergence theme. This activity seeks to assess the student's perception of a particular economic issue and promote socio-economic awareness.

h. ECONOMICS TEACHERS' CONVENTION (ETC)

Economics Teachers' Convention (ETC) is a forum open to high school economics teachers where they can learn comprehensive methods on how to teach high school economics. This forum aims to further improve the teachers' capacity to educate students on the basic concepts of economics. ETC is facilitated by the Department of Economics, UPLB.

IV. Schedule of Activities

Program: January 16, 2027 (DAY 1)	
7:30 am - 8:00 am	**Registration and Assembly**
8:00 am - 8:05 am	**Invocation**
8:05 am - 8:10 am	**Singing of the National Anthem**
8:10 am - 8:25 am	**Opening Spiels and Roll Call**
8:25 am - 8:30 am	**Welcome Address**
8:30 am - 8:35 am	**Opening Remarks** by Ms. Casey Nichola Amber Cruz
8:35 am - 8:45 am	**Presentation of General Mechanics and Guidelines**

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8:45 am - 9:20 am	**Presentation of Mini Documentaries**						
9:20 am - 9:25 am	**Introduction of Guest Speakers**						
9:25 am – 9:50 am	**First Guest Speaker**						
9:50 am – 10:15 am	**Second Guest Speaker**						LUNCH for Debate Participants
10:15 am – 10:30 am	**QnA**						
10:30 am – 10:35 am	**Presentation of Token and Certificates of Appreciation**						
10:35 am -10:40 am	**Emcee Spiels**						
10:40 am - 11:00 am	**Presentation of Mini Documentaries**						
11:00 am - 11:30 am	**Sponsor Acknowledgments and BS Economics Program Promotion**						
11:30 am - 11:35 am	**Announcements**						
11:35 am - 1:20 pm	**Lunch Break**						Intellectual Encounter Debate
1:20 pm -1:30 pm	**Participant Assembly**						
1:30 pm -1:45 pm	**Energizer Activity and Roll Call**						
1:45 pm - 1:55 pm	**Emcee Spiels**						
1:55 pm - 2:05 pm	**Movement to Designated Rooms**						
2:05 pm - 2:20 pm	**Attendance Check and Final Participant Briefing**						
2:20 pm - 3:50 pm	**ETC**	**Poster Making**	**Essay Writing**	**Photo Essay**	**Impromptu Speaking Competition**	**Ekunomika Quiz Contest**	
3:50 pm - 4:20 pm							
4:20 pm - 5:20 pm							
5:20 pm - 5:30 pm	**Final Reminders for Socialization Night**						
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	**Dinner Break**						
7:00 pm - 7:30 pm	**Assembly for Socialization Night**						
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm	**Socialization Night**						
END							

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<table>
<tr><th colspan="4">Program: January 17, 2027 (DAY 2)</th></tr>
<tr><td>7:30 am - 8:00 am</td><td colspan="3">Ingress and Assembly</td></tr>
<tr><td>8:00 am - 8:05 am</td><td colspan="2">Opening Spiels</td><td rowspan="11">Intellectual Encounter Debate Semi-Finals</td></tr>
<tr><td>8:05 am - 8:10 am</td><td colspan="2">Announcement of Top 8 in Ekonomika Quiz Contest and Debate Semi-Finals</td></tr>
<tr><td>8:10 am - 8:15 am</td><td>Opening Remarks by Ms. Casey Nichola Amber Cruz</td><td rowspan="9">Knockout Rounds of Ekonomika Quiz Contest</td></tr>
<tr><td>8:15 am - 8:40 am</td><td>Energizer Activity and Roll Call</td></tr>
<tr><td>8:40 am - 8:45 am</td><td>Introduction of the First Guest Speaker</td></tr>
<tr><td>8:45 am - 9:15 am</td><td>Keynote Address by Guest Speaker</td></tr>
<tr><td>9:15 am - 9:35 am</td><td>QnA</td></tr>
<tr><td>9:35 am - 9:40 am</td><td>Presentation of Token and Certificate of Appreciation</td></tr>
<tr><td>9:40 am - 9:50 am</td><td>Intermission</td></tr>
<tr><td>9:50 am - 10:30 am</td><td>Presentation of Mini Documentaries</td></tr>
<tr><td>10:30 am - 11:05 am</td><td>Knockout Rounds of Ekonomika Quiz Contest</td><td rowspan="2" colspan="2">Final Round of Intellectual Encounter Debate</td></tr>
<tr><td>11:05 am to 12:45 pm</td><td>Final Round of Ekonomika Quiz Contest</td></tr>
<tr><td>12:45 pm - 12:50 pm</td><td colspan="3">Announcements for Afternoon Events</td></tr>
<tr><td>12:50 pm - 2:10 pm</td><td colspan="3">Lunch Break</td></tr>
<tr><td>2:10 pm - 2:30 pm</td><td colspan="3">Participant Assembly and Final Roll Call</td></tr>
<tr><td>2:30 pm - 3:50 pm</td><td colspan="3">Awarding Ceremony</td></tr>
<tr><td>3:50 pm - 3:55 pm</td><td colspan="3">Closing Remarks by Ms. Mary Christen L. Bodiao</td></tr>
<tr><td>3:55 pm - 4:30 pm</td><td colspan="3">Photo Opportunity</td></tr>
<tr><td>4:30 pm - 5:00 pm</td><td colspan="3">Egress</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="4">END</td></tr>
</table>

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V. Three-Year Development Plan

First-Year

Goal: The ECONVERGENCE aims to bring together as many high school students and instructors as possible in light of the event's primary objective of establishing involvement in the country's economic challenges and raising economic literacy beginning with the youth.

Target Involvement: In order to expand into an ongoing, accessible national high school competition, we are looking to bring in additional schools and students, especially from Visayas and Mindanao. At least 25 schools from various regions of the Philippines are anticipated to attend and participate in the two-day convention.

Second-Year

Goal: The series of activities will keep students up to date on varied, relevant, and current social issues in the Philippines. By adopting an economic perspective, we hope to assist students become stronger critical thinkers and to release their potential for coming up with innovative solutions to the nation's challenges. As part of the conference's attempts to enrich the event, eminent economists from our country have been asked to participate as speakers and panelists. Furthermore, the event intends to produce interesting yet socially meaningful themes and subjects that will be beneficial to both teachers and students.

Target involvement: We aim to boost school visits to 30 schools countrywide, drawing further participation in Visayas and Mindanao.

Third-Year

Goal: The purpose remains the same as in previous years: to highlight how ECONVERGENCE transforms young minds into analytical thinkers and addresses societal concerns through economic principles. The convention will continue to teach high school students and teachers new and more effective approaches to teaching economics. Our goal is to invite prominent economists, policymakers, and youth leaders to speak at the conference and participate in the panel discussion. We plan to keep coming up with exciting new sub-events and competitions in order to attract more students and have them participate in this national event.

Target Involvement: Our goal is to expand the extent of school visits such that they reach at least 35 schools around the Philippines.

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0961 582 4183

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ACTIVITY

Name of Activity: ECONVERGENCE 2027

Organizer: UPLB Economics Society

Date: January 16-17, 2027

Venue: NCAS Auditorium and CAS Rooms

Activity Theme: "Beyond Growth: Assessing the Gains, Costs, and Beneficiaries in Philippine Development"

Activity Description: ECONVERGENCE is a national inter-high school economics competition. It is a multi-event activity that aims to promote economic excellence in economic education among high schools. Furthermore, it is a two-day conference with allied events, which include eight (8) sub-events, namely: EKONOMIKA Quiz Contest, Intellectual Encounter Debate Competition, Essay-writing Competition, Poster-making Competition, Photo Essay Competition, Impromptu Speaking Competition, Mini Documentary Presentation Contest, and Economics Teachers' Convention (ETC).

Objectives of the Activity:

- To establish youth involvement in the economic issues of the country as well as raise economic literacy.
- To enhance and promote effective ways to teach economics at the secondary level through its capacity-building initiative, Economics Teachers' Convention.

Intended Participants: High School Students and Teachers Nationwide

Contact Details: Grace Louise L. Navarro
0961 582 4183
econvergence.main@gmail.com
Participation Department Head

UPLB ECONOMICS SOCIETY
University of the Philippines - Los Baños
Econvergence
econvergence.main@gmail.com
0961 582 4183

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Having abundant natural resources, the Philippines holds vast potential for economic development. However, resource wealth and economic growth alone do not guarantee lasting improvements in the lives of Filipinos. Despite sustained economic expansion, the country continues to face challenges in developing higher-value industries, improving productivity, and creating more productive employment opportunities. According to the World Bank's Philippines Country Growth and Jobs Report 2025, more than 90% of the country's economic growth since 2010 came from capital accumulation, while productivity contributed less than 10%. (World Bank Group, 2025) Moreover, three out of four jobs created during this period were in non-tradable sectors, highlighting the challenge of generating more productive and higher-value employment. While the country has made progress in reducing poverty and expanding economic opportunities, these gaps raise a broader question: *how can the Philippines translate its economic growth and resources into long-term development that benefits more Filipinos?*

As the Philippines seeks to address these challenges, government initiatives such as the Tatak Pinoy Strategy, Luzon Economic Corridor, Pax Silica, and the policies on mining and industrialization reflect the efforts to strengthen domestic industries, attract investments, and expand the country's participation in global supply chains. Pax Silica, for instance, could help expand the country's role in higher-value semiconductor and technology supply chains by attracting capital, research partnerships, infrastructure, and skilled employment. However, this development also raises questions about energy and water demands, environmental and land impacts, technological dependence, and whether its economic gains will translate into lasting and widely shared public value. In a recent study conducted by the UPLB School of Environmental Science and Management, it highlights the importance of ensuring that such investments build domestic capabilities while managing their social and environmental costs. Thus, there is a need to examine not only the growth that development initiatives promise, but also how their benefits and trade-offs are experienced by different sectors of society.

As ECONVERGENCE marks another installment, this year's theme, "*Beyond Growth: Assessing the Gains, Costs, and Beneficiaries in Philippine Development*", focuses on exploring the choices and consequences behind the country's policies in pursuit of economic progress. Through the lens of development economics and environmental economics, the event invites students to assess how government policies, industrial strategies, and resource management decisions shape the country's development. From the use of natural resources and the expansion of industries to investments in infrastructure and participation in global supply chains, students are encouraged to consider what the country gains, what trade-offs these decisions involve, and who is affected by their outcomes.

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Econvergence
econvergence.main@gmail.com
0991 582 4183

Through the Four Ps – the Project, the People, the Planet, and the Pesos. *What are we building or developing (Project), who is affected by it (People), what happens to the environment and resources involved (Planet), and where does the economic value go (Pesos)? More importantly, who benefits from development, and who bears its costs?* ECONVERGENCE 2027 will provide students with a framework for understanding the different dimensions of development. The event will examine the initiatives, policies, and investments intended to create economic opportunities through debates, competitions, and meaningful discussions.

ECONVERGENCE 2027 aims to empower the youth, wherein participants will be encouraged to critically examine development initiatives and question how their intended benefits translate into real outcomes while taking into account the issues of inequality and environmental costs. As future voters, professionals, and citizens, they are challenged to reflect on what it takes for the Philippines to develop, who gets to benefit from that development, who bears the costs, and how the country's resources and opportunities can contribute to a more inclusive and sustainable future.

What do we gain, what do we give up, who gets the value, and what kind of development are we creating for the Philippines?

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University of the Philippines - Los Baños
Econvergence
econvergence.main@gmail.com
0961 562 4183

Yours in Service,

GRACE LOUISE L. NAVARRO
Participation Department Head,
ECONVERGENCE 2027

MARY CHRISTEN L. BODIAO
Event Head,
ECONVERGENCE 2027

CASEY NICHOLA AMBER D. CRUZ
President,
UPLB Economics Society

Noted by:

MS. MA. JANDA IRA FELINA M. BENEDICTOS
Adviser, UPLB Economics Society

ASST. PROF. PAUL JOSEPH B. RAMIREZ
Adviser, UPLB Economics Society