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8 වන මහල සෙත්තිරිපාය බත්තරමුල්ල 8ஆம் மாடி, செத்திரிபாய், பத்தரமுல்ல. 8th floor, Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla
සොළොස් දේශයක පෙරමුණින් කරනු ලබන මාර්ගගත රේගු ක්‍රීඩා ක්‍රීඩා. Trailblazer of a Beautiful Nation

මගේ අංකය
எனது இல.
My No.

DCA/05/04/2025

ඔබේ අංකය
உமது இல.
Your No.

දිනය
திகதி
Date

25.042025



නිවුණු හැදෑරුම් පිරිසුම් සොළොස් මිනිසුන් සපිරි පින්බර දේශයක් එක්ව ගොඩනගමු
அமைதியான, ஒழுக்கமான, முழுமையான சிறந்த மனிதர்களைக் கொண்ட தேசத்தை ஒன்று சேர்த்து கட்டியெழுப்புவோம்
Towards building a blessed nation of compassionate, complete and culturally rich human beings



Departmental Circular No: 04 / 2025

All District Secretaries/ Divisional Secretaries

Divisional, District and National Literary Festival- 2025

The National Literary Festival, organized annually by the Department of Cultural Affairs will be held in this year at Divisional, District and National levels under 03 stages.

Objectives

- ❖ Promote literary arts as a medium of arts.
- ❖ Provide an opportunity for the literati to showcase their literary creativity.
- ❖ Develop the interest among the young generation to read and refer books.
- ❖ Guide the children and the youth for novel creations through novel themes.
- ❖ Develop the attitudes on literary art in the society.
- ❖ To produce a future generation rich in aesthetic sensibility by socializing the art of literary appreciation.

Proposed plan for the Competition

Competitions of Divisional and District levels will be conducted by Divisional and District Secretariats and the national level competitions of the final stage will be conducted by the Department of Cultural Affairs.

Divisional literary Competitions

- ❖ The preliminary level competitions (Divisional level) should be held by Divisional Secretariats. The Art Associations, Arts Schools, Daham schools, Universities and Piriven schools and Cultural Boards including other educational institutes should be made aware on this competitions, in writing, by the Divisional Secretariats. And steps should be taken to publish notices at public places to make aware the general public on the competitions.
- ❖ As the literary works in these preliminary levels are evaluated at district and national levels steps should be taken to select quality literary works and to have a qualified Panel of Judges.
- ❖ It is the responsibility of the officers to take necessary steps to get most number of individuals participated in the competitions. Similarly, steps should be taken to make a wide publicity on the competition via public notices, social media etc.
- ❖ Receiving of literary works and holding practical competitions should be concluded by 30th July 2025

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பணிப்பாளர்
Director

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அலுவலகம்
Office

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இணையத்தளம்
Web Site

www.culturaldept.gov.lk

- ❖ A Panel of Judges comprising of at least 03 members, with a wide knowledge on each competition should be appointed on the recommendation of the Divisional Secretary.
- ❖ The literary creations of only the first place winners and the results sheets of First, Second and Third places should reach the relevant District Secretary with the approval of the relevant Divisional Secretary **on or before 15th August 2025**. (The literary creations which secured the 2nd and 3rd places should be kept safely to be inspected as and when necessary)
- ❖ Steps should be taken to hold the divisional literary competition before the end of **September 2025**.

District Literary competitions

- Steps should be taken to get down the results of all divisional level competitions of each district **before 15th August 2025** to the District Secretariats.
- All the winning literary creations of divisional level should be submitted for evaluation to a proficient Panel of Judges comprising 03 members at least, selected on the recommendation of the District Secretary.
- The literary creations of the First Place winners and the results sheets of the First, Second and Third places at district level should be sent to the Director of Cultural Affairs **before 01st October 2025** with the District Secretary's approval.
- Steps should be taken to hold the District Literary Competitions before the end of **November 2025**.

National Literary Competition

- The literary creations which secured the First Place in each competition at district level will be presented for evaluation to a qualified Panels of Judges.
- The practical competitions which are meant for the First Place winners of practical competitions at district level will be conducted at a venue selected by the Department of Cultural Affairs after a prior notice thereof.
- The results of First, Second and Third Place winners of each competition at national level will be notified in writing to all the District Secretaries.
- The National Literary Festival will be held at a venue and a date selected by the Department of Cultural Affairs.

Details of the Competition

Serial No:	Age Group	Grade
01.	Primary Section	Grades 1 and 2
02.	Post Primary Section	Grades 3,4 and 5
03.	Junior Section	Grade 6,7, 8 and 9
04.	Senior Section	Grades 10 and 11
05.	Senior Secondary Section	Grades 12 and 13
06.	Open Section	Above 19 years

1. Primary Section – (Grades 1 and 2)

1.1 Reciting a story Competition

Students are expected to present a story with performances between 2-3 minutes time period. As this is the beginning of their schooling, the students will be able to present themselves in this competition more creatively based on the experience they have gained in the pre-school. They should present the story clad in a suitable dress.

Attention will be drawn to correct usage of language, sound control, creative building up and its presentation as well as the message given by it to the society, when giving marks.

2. Post Primary Section –(Grades 3,4 and 5)

2.1 Children's Stories Competition

It is expected a children's story of their own topic to develop their creative thinking. The story should be written on A4 size papers of more than 02 pages (single side only) along with the drawings.

Correct usage of punctuation marks and legibility is expected in the story. Creativity of the overall story and the message given to the society by the story are considered as the scoring criteria.

2.2 Reciting a folk poem Competition

It is expected to recite a folk poem of their own choice (Playing of musical instruments will not be considered in giving marks)

3. Junior Section –(Grade 6,7, 8 and 9)

3.1 Folktales Competition

There are number of folktales that have been created by the people since ancient times and then passed down to the present day generations. The aim of this competition is to encourage the students to read folklore and create their interest in it. It is expected an important advice or a social message to the children's generation by listening to a folktale and enjoying its taste, and presenting in a manner that highlights the literary quality.

The number of words in the folktale should be 750-1000. Attention will be drawn to legible handwriting, language ability, spellings, and presentation in a manner that highlights the literary quality and the message in it when giving marks.

3.2 Poetry Competition –Metrical/Free verse

A metrical or a free verse of your own topic is expected.

Attention should be drawn to usage of language, content and the novelty of experience in composing the poems and the marks will be given taking into account the instructions given.

3.3. Recitation of Poems Competition

Competitors are expected to recite any two poems of the following at the Divisional and District level competitions.

“A Martian Sends a Postcard Home” by Craig Raine

“The Road Not Taken” by Robert Frost

“The Rose That Grew From Concrete” by Tupac Shakur

“The Sea” by James Reeves

(Please note that no music should be incorporated into the recitation)

4. Senior Section – (Grades 10 and 11)

4.1 Appreciation of Literary Texts

Discuss and evaluate on one of the following using 750-1000 words.

i. “The Book Thief” by Markus Zusak.

ii. “Matilda” by Roald Dahl.

iii. “Robinson Crusoe” by Daniel Defoe.

4.2 Poetry Competition –Metrical/Free verse

A metrical or a free verse of your own topic is expected.

Attention should be drawn to usage of language, content and the novelty of experience in composing the poems and the marks will be given taking into account the instructions given.

4.3 Recitation of Poems Competition

Competitors are expected to recite any two poems of the following at the Divisional and District level competitions.

- i. “From the life of the Folk poet, Ysinno” by Lakdasa Wickramasinghe.
- ii. “The Charge of the Light Brigade” by Alfred Lord Tennyson.
- iii. “If” by Rudyard Kipling.

(Please note that no music should be incorporated into the recitation)

5. Senior Secondary Section (Grades 12 and 13)

5.1 Appreciation of Literary texts

Discuss and evaluate on one of the following using 1000-1500 words.

- i. “To Kill a Mockingbird” by Harper Lee.
- ii. “The Kite Runner” by Khaled Hosseini.
- iii. “Bringing Tony Home” by Tissa Abesekera

5.2 Poetry Competition- Metrical/Free verse

A metrical or a free verse of your own topic is expected.

Attention should be drawn to usage of language, content and the novelty of experience in composing the poems and the marks will be given taking into account the instructions given.

5.3 Appreciation of Songs Competition

It is expected a literary appreciation of 750-1500 words on one of the following songs.

- i. “Imagine” by John Lennon.
- ii. “Heal the World” by Michael Jackson.
- iii. “Your Song” by Elton John.

5.4 Short Stories Competition

It is expected a short story to depict the creative ability of the children of the relevant age. The Short Story should be written as per the rules of composing short stories.

5.5 Recitation of Poems Competition

Competitors are expected to recite any two poems of the following at the Divisional and District level competitions.

- i. “Still I Rise” by Maya Angelou.
- ii. “If You Forget Me” by Pablo Neruda.
- iii. “An Introduction” by Kamala Das

(Please note that no music should be incorporated into the recitation)

6. Open Section (above 19 years as at 31.01.2025)

6.1 Appreciation of cinema works

Discuss and evaluate on one of the following selected cinema works using 2500-3000 words.

- i. To kill a mocking bird (1962) Director - Robert Mulligan
- ii. The Book Thief (2013) Director- Brian Percival
- iii. The Forest Gump (1994) Director- Robert Zemeckis

6.2 Short Stories Competition

A short story on a topic of your choice written as per the rules of composing a short story.

6.3 Poetry Competition – Metrical

A metrical composition of 07-10 quatrains on a topic on your choice.

Attention should be drawn to consistent rhyme scheme, usage of language, content and the novelty of experience in composing the poems and the marks will be given taking into account the instructions given.

6.4 Poetry Competition - Free verse

A composition of 05-30 lines on a topic on your choice.

6.5 Composing Children’s Stories Competition

It is expected a creative children’s story book on a theme suitable for the children in the age group of 05 -10 years. It should be computerized on A4 size papers with not more than 16 pages (single side only) Font size 20.

For Special Attention of the District/Divisional Cultural Officers

- ❖ All the competitions should be held as per the provisions of this circular.
- ❖ The Results Sheets should be submitted to the relevant District Secretariat or to the Department of Cultural Affairs after conducting the competitions during the prescribed time period as per the specimen results sheet attached with the circular.
- ❖ Only the results sheet of the winners of the divisional level and the creations of the first place winners should be submitted to the relevant District Secretariat. The results sheet of the winners and the creations of the first place winners of the district level should be submitted to the Department of Cultural Affairs.
- ❖ It is compulsory to send a passport size photograph of the winners along with the district level results to the Department of Cultural Affairs.
- ❖ It is emphasized that steps will not be taken to return the literary creation sent from the District Secretariat to the Department of Cultural Affairs. The competitors are advised to keep copy of their literary creation with them.
- ❖ The certificates issued by the Department of Cultural Affairs with relevant to the winners of each competition at divisional/district level will be delivered to the relevant District Secretariat. The District Secretariat should take necessary steps to inform the respective Divisional Secretariats and deliver the certificates to the relevant Divisional Secretariats without delay. An acknowledgement of the receipt from the Divisional Secretariat should be obtained and copy should be forwarded to the Department of Cultural Affairs.
- ❖ Any of the competitions held which are not falling under this circular will not be awarded Certificates from the Department of Cultural Affairs. Please take necessary steps to handover the certificates issued by the Department of Cultural Affairs only to the winners of the divisional/district level competitions. Merit Certificates will not be issued for any competition.
- ❖ Certificates are issued only once and not issued again under any circumstances.
- ❖ It is emphasized that any officer who serves in the Department of Cultural Affairs or a family member of such officer and the any officer in charge of the subject of culture who serves in the District/Divisional Secretariat or a family member of such officer is not allowed to participate in this competition.

General Conditions for the Divisional, District and National literary Festivals

- ◆ All the literary compositions should be originals and those shouldn't be submitted for any competition before. Applicants could submit their creations on any medium. (Sinhala, Tamil, English)
- ◆ Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology should not be used for any creation. A creation published in any media or social media or a creation copied from another person should not be submitted for this competition. The Department of Cultural affairs will not hold responsibility for any legal action taken by the owner of such creation.
- ◆ Applicants could take part/submit entries for more than one competition under the given rules and regulations of the competition but could take part/submit only one entry under a single competition.
- ◆ All the written literary compositions could be submitted on A4 single side papers or in foolscap papers either in legible hand writing or type-writing. All the applicants should refrain from making any mark, mention either their names or any details on the creations.
- ◆ Applicants should certify their creations as their own creations by the Chief Incumbent of the Temple, Chief Priest, Divisional Secretary, Principal or the Head of Kalayathana with Official Frank and the Signature. Applicants of the Open Section should certify their place of residence by the Grama Niladhari of their region.
- ◆ Any creation submitted contradictory to the given rules and regulations will be rejected by the Divisional Secretary, the District Secretary and the Director of Cultural Affairs at the Divisional, District and National levels respectively.
- ◆ Investigations will be carried out if there are any complaints with regard to the winning literary compositions and if found guilty the awards and certificates would not be awarded. Further, if the complaints get proved after the awards presentation, all rights pertinent to the relevant competition will be forfeited.
- ◆ All the applicants should submit the dully filled application issued by the Department of Cultural Affairs along with the entries to the Divisional Secretary.
- ◆ All the applicants are subject to the decisions made by Panel of Judges at any of the stages in the competition and the decisions taken by the Director of Cultural Affairs based on the recommendation of the Panel of Judges will be the final.



K.S. Dilhani

Director
Department of Cultural Affairs

Annex - – I

Divisional, District and National literary competition - 2025

Specimen Application for participation in literary competitions

1. Name in full :
2. Name with initials :
3. Name with initials (in English):
4. Private Address :
5. Date of Birth :

Y	Y	Y	Y	M	M	D	D
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6. Private Telephone Number :

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7. Telephone No: with WhatsApp:

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8. Age as at 31st January 2025 : Years

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 Months

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 Dates

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9. Age group :

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 Primary

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 Post Primary

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 Junior

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 Senior

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 Senior Sec.
10. National ID Number:
11. Particulars of the institution represented by the applicant Pirivena /School/ Daham School/Arts Institution
- Name of the Institution :
- Address :
- Telephone No :
12. Divisional Secretary's Division :
13. District :
14. Name of the competition :
15. Language medium : Sinhala

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 Tamil

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 English

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16. Name of your composition:

Statement of the Applicant

I do hereby declare that the particulars above are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. The literary composition mentioned under No. 16 in this application has been composed by me and it is not a winning creation in a competition earlier. I agree to comply with the conditions of the competition laid down by the Director of the Department of Cultural Affairs. I do not participate in this competition from any other Divisional Secretary's Division.

.....
Date

.....
Signature of Applicant

Certification as an original creation by the applicant

I certify that the literary composition mentioned in above No.16 is composed by Ven. / Mr./ Miss / Mrs.
.....
resides at His/her age mentioned in above
No. 8 is accurate and placed his/her signature before me on.....

.....
Date

.....
Signature and the Official Frank of the attester

I recommend that the above particulars are inspected and accurate.

Date.....

.....
Cultural Officer/Cultural Development Officer/Development Officer

I approved that the above composition is suitable for the competition.

Date.....

.....
Signature and the Official Frank of the Divisional Secretary

Annex - – II

Divisional, District and National literary competition - 2025 **Specimen Application for participation in literary competitions (Open Section)**

1. Name in full :
2. Name with initials :
3. Name with initials (in English):
4. Address :
5. Date of Birth :
6. Private Telephone Number :
7. Telephone No: with WhatsApp:
8. Age as at 31st January 2025 : Years Months Dates
9. National ID Number:
10. Divisional Secretary's Division :
11. District :
12. Name of the competition:
13. Language medium : Sinhala Tamil English
14. Name of your composition:

Statement of the Applicant

I do hereby declare that the particulars above are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. The literary composition mentioned under No. 14 in this application has been composed by me and it is not a winning creation in a competition earlier. I agree to comply with the conditions of the competition laid down by the Director of the Department of Cultural Affairs. I do not participate in this competition from any other Divisional Secretary's Division.

.....

Date

.....

Signature of Applicant

Certification of the place of residence

I certify that Ven/Mr./ Miss/ Mrs

.....

resides atand placed his/her
signature before me on.....

.....

Date

.....

Signature and the Official Frank of the Grama Niladhari

I recommend that the above particulars are inspected and accurate.

Date.....

.....

Cultural Officer/Cultural Development Officer /Development Officer

I approved that the above composition is suitable for the competition.

Date.....

.....

Signature and the Official Frank of the Divisional Secretary

Annex – III

Divisional, District and National Literary Competitions- Result Sheet – 2025
Format for issuing Certificates

District secretariat: -

Medium: - English

	Divisional Secretariat	Number of Certificates Required		
		Sinhala	Tamil	English
1				
2				
3				
4				
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7				
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14				
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30				

I certify that the above information is true.

Prepared By: - Signature:-

.....

.....

Date

Signature of the District Secretary and Official Frank