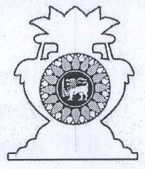




# සංස්කෘතික කටයුතු දෙපාර්තමේන්තුව

## கலாசார அலுவல்கள் திணைக்களம்

### Department of Cultural Affairs



8 වන මහල සෙත්සිරිපාය බත්තරමුල්ල 8ஆம் மாடி, செத்சிறிபாய், பத்தரமுல்ல. 8th floor, Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla  
 සොළොස් දේශයක පෙරලමින්කර වளமான தேசத்தை நோக்கி முன் செல்பவர். Trailblazer of a Beautiful Nation

මගේ අංකය  
எனது இல.  
My No.

DCA/05/04/2024

ඔබේ අංකය  
உமது இல.  
Your No.

දිනය  
திகதி  
Date

2024. 01. 22



නිවැණු හැදුණු පිරුණු සොළොස් මිනිසුන් සපිරි පින්බර දේශයක් චිත්ව ගොඩනගමු  
 அமைதியான, ஒழுக்கமான, முழுமையான சிறந்த மனிதர்களைக் கொண்ட தேசத்தை ஒன்று சேர்ந்து கட்டியெழுப்புவோம்.  
 Towards building a blessed nation of compassionate, complete and culturally rich human beings



#### Departmental Circular No: 01 / 2024

District Secretaries/ Divisional Secretaries  
 Cultural Officers /Cultural Development Assistants /  
 Development Officers

#### Divisional, District and National Literary Festival- 2024

The Divisional and District Literary Festivals, 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.
- ❖ Develop the attitudes on literary arts in the society.
- ❖ Giving an opportunity for the regional 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.
- ❖ To produce a future generation rich in aesthetic sensibility by socializing the art of literary appreciation.

#### Proposed plan for the Competition

Competitions of the Divisional, District and National Literary Festival 2024 will be held at Divisional and District Levels. The National Literary Festival 2024 will be conducted by the Department of Cultural Affairs.

#### Divisional literary Competitions

- ❖ The preliminary level competitions (Divisional level) should be held by Divisional Secretariats. Wide publicity should be given on Divisional and District literary competition by Divisional Secretariats, Art Associations, Arts Schools, Daham schools, Universities and Piriven schools and Cultural Boards. Steps should be taken by the Divisional level officers to select quality literary works and a Panel of Judges with a wide knowledge on relevant subjects. (The creations submitted for the national level competitions should be of high quality.)
- ❖ 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 Schools, Dhamma Schools and WhatsApp Groups.
- ❖ All the literary compositions should be received **before 01<sup>st</sup> June 2024**.
- ❖ A Panel of Judges with a wide knowledge on the relevant subjects for evaluation should be selected on the recommendation of the Divisional Secretary.

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பணிப்பாளர்  
Director } 2872035

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වෙබ් ලිපිනය  
இணையத்தளம்  
Web Site } www.culturaldept.gov.lk

- ❖ The literary compositions of only the first place winners and the results sheets of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places should reach the relevant District Secretary with the approval of the Divisional Secretary **on or before 01<sup>st</sup> August 2024**. ( The creations which secured the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places should be kept safely to be inspected as and when necessary)
- ❖ Divisional literary competition should be concluded in the month of September.

### District Literary competitions

- Steps should be taken to get down the results of each divisional competitions of each district **before 01<sup>st</sup> August 2024**.
- All the winning literary compositions of divisional level should be submitted for evaluation to a proficient Panel of Judges, selected on the recommendation of the District Secretary. The literary creations of the First Place winners and the results sheets of the district level winners should be sent to the Director of Cultural Affairs **before 01<sup>st</sup> September 2024** with the District Secretary's approval.
- Steps should be taken to hold the District Literary Competition in October 2024.
- The National Literary Festival is scheduled to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

### **For Special Attention of the Cultural Officers**

- ❖ Any of the competitions held which are not falling under this circular will not be awarded Certificates from the Department of Cultural Affairs. Also it is emphasized that Merit Certificates will not be issued in this year and the results should be sent according to the specimen results sheet attached with the circular.
- ❖ Divisional results should not be sent to the Department of Cultural Affairs for any reason. (Even a copy of results should not be sent to the Department).It is emphasized that Divisional results should be sent only to the District Secretariats.
- ❖ If the officer who is in charge of the subject of culture works in the Divisional Secretary's Division of his/her residence, the family members of such officers are not allowed to participate in this competition.
- ❖ District Cultural Officers should send the results sent by the Divisional Secretariats to the Department of Cultural Affairs as per the format of issuing of certificates.
- ❖ It is emphasized to send only the first place winning creations in the district competition to the Department of Cultural Affairs. These winning creations will not be returned to the winner. The Department will not hold responsibility for any other winning creation sent other than the first place.
- ❖ Certificates are issued only once to the Divisional Secretariats or District Secretariats. These are not issued again under any circumstances. The responsibility of presenting clear, well defined results sheets lies with the Officers in charge of the subject of culture.
- ❖ The certificates 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. An acknowledgement of the receipt from the Divisional Secretariat should be obtained and copy should be forwarded to the Department of Cultural Affairs.

It is compulsory to send a passport size photograph of the first place winners of the district competition with the application when submitting their winning creations to the national level.

## Details of the Competition

Category of the competition	Age Group	Section of the competition
01.	05-07 years	Primary Section
02.	08-10 years	Post Primary Section
03.	11-14 years	Junior Section
04.	15-16 years	Senior Section
05.	17-19 years	Senior Secondary Section
06.	Above 19 years	Open Section

**Eg:-The age group 05-07 years include the applicants who completed 05 years of age and whose age is up to 07 years 11 months and 29 days.**

### **1. Primary section – (Between 05 – 07 years)**

#### **1.1 Reciting a story Competition**

Participants are expected to present a story with performances for a 2-3 minutes time period. As this marks the beginning of their schooling, the children will have the opportunity to showcase themselves in this competition more creatively drawing from the experience they have gained in pre-school. They should present the story while dressed appropriately in either a suitable outfit or their school uniform.

While assigning marks, the correct usage of language, sound control, creative development, presentation and the message conveyed to society will be taken into consideration.

### **2. Post Primary Section –(Between 08-10 years of age)**

#### **2.1 Children's Stories Competition**

Participants are expected to compose a children's story on a topic of their choice to develop their creative thinking. The story should be on A-4 sized papers, comprising more than 02 pages (single-side only) accompanied by drawings.

Punctuation, legibility, creativity of the overall story and the societal message conveyed by the story are considered as scoring criteria.

#### **2.2 Reciting of Poems Competition**

Participants are expected to recite a poem of their own choice. (Please note that playing of musical instruments will not be considered in scoring process).

#### **2.3 Hand Writing Competition**

Participants should use one side of foolscap paper, paying attention to correct spellings, punctuation, letter formation and legibility. Winners of the Divisional Competition will be provided with a set paragraph for transcription within a specified time limit at the District Competition.

### **3. Junior Section –(Between 11-14 years)**

#### **3.1 Folktales Competition**

Throughout history, numerous folktales have been created by people and passed down through generations. The aim of this competition is to encourage students to engage with folklore, fostering their interest in it. Participants are expected to listen to a folktale, deriving important advice or a social message for the younger generation, and present it in a manner that emphasizes its literary quality.

Folktales should be between 500-750 words. Marks will be given to legible handwriting, language proficiency, spelling accuracy, and presentation that highlights both the literary quality and the embedded message when assigning marks.

#### **3.2 Poetry Competition – Quatrains (4 lines)**

Participants are expected to create a metrical composition consisting of 4-6 quatrains on a topic of their choice under social, economic, cultural themes.

Consistent rhyme scheme and metrical pattern are expected.

#### **3.3. Poetry Competition – Free Verse**

Participants are expected to create a composition on a topic of their choice under social, economic, or cultural themes.

#### **3.4 Recitation of Poems Competition**

Participants are expected to recite any one poem from the following

01. The Camel's Hump - by Rudyard Kipling
02. The Sea - by James Reeves

(Please note that playing of musical instruments will not be considered in scoring process).

### **4.0 Senior Section – (Between 15-16 years)**

#### **4.1 Literary Criticism Competition**

Participants are expected to discuss and evaluate on one of the following using 750-1000 words.

1. "The Village by the Sea" by Anita Desai.
2. "The Prince and the Pauper" by Mark Twain.

#### **4.2 Poetry Competition - Quatrains (4 lines)**

Participants are expected to create a metrical composition consisting of 4-6 quatrains on a topic of their choice under social, economic, cultural themes. Consistent rhyme scheme and metrical pattern are expected.

### 4.3 Poetry Competition -Free verse

Participants are expected to create a composition on a topic of their choice under social, economic, or cultural themes.

### 4.4 Composing lyrics Competition

Participants are expected to create a lyric composition on a topic of their choice. Lyrics should be suitable for a song and composed to fit a simple art song format.

### 4.5 Short Stories Competition

Participants are expected to write a short story that showcases the creative ability of children in the relevant age group. The short story should adhere to the rules of composing short stories.

### 4.6 Recitation of Poems Competition

Participants are expected to recite the following poems

1. "From the life of the folk poet Ysinno" by Lakdasa Wikkramasinha.
2. Any poem of your choice.

(Playing of musical instruments will not be considered in the scoring process)

## 5. Senior Secondary Section (Between 17-19 years)

### 5.1 Literary Criticism Competition

Participants are expected to discuss and evaluate on one of the following using 1000-1500 words.

1. "Things Fall Apart" by Chinua Achebe.
2. "The Giniralla Conspiracy" by Nihal de Silva.

### 5.2 Poetry Competition - Quatrains (4 lines)

Participants are expected to create a metrical composition consisting of 4-6 quatrains on a topic of their choice under social, economic, cultural themes. Consistent rhyme scheme and metrical pattern are expected.

### 5.3 Poetry Competition -Free verse

Participants are expected to create a composition on a topic of their choice under social, economic, or cultural themes.

### 5.4 Appreciation of Songs Competition

Participants are expected to provide a literary appreciation of 750-1500 words on the following song by Allan Walker

*Different World*

All we know  
Left untold  
Beaten by a broken dream  
Nothing like what it used to be (used to be)  
.....

### **5.5 Short Stories Competition**

Participants are expected to write a short story that showcases the creative ability of children in the relevant age group. The short story should adhere to the rules of composing short stories.

### **5.6 Recitation of Poems Competition**

Participants are expected to recite the following

1. "The second coming" by William Butler Yeats
2. Any poem of your choice.

(Playing of musical instruments will not be considered in the scoring process)

## **6. Open Section (above 19 years)**

### **6.1 Composing lyrics Competition**

Participants are expected to create a lyric composition on a topic of their choice. Lyrics should be suitable for a song and composed to fit a simple art song format.

### **6.2 Short Stories Competition**

Participants are expected to write a short story on a topic of your choice written as per the rules of composing a short story.

### **6.3 Poetry Competition – Quatrains (4 lines)**

Participants are expected to create a metrical composition consisting of 7-10 quatrains on a topic of their choice under social, economic, or cultural themes. A consistent rhyme scheme and metrical pattern are expected.

### **6.4 Poetry Competition -Free verse**

Participants are expected to create a composition of 05- 30 lines on a topic of their choice under social, economic, or cultural themes.

### **6.5 Composing Children's Stories Competition**


Participants are expected to compose a creative children's story on a theme suitable for children in the age group of 5-10 years. The story should be typed out on a computer, on A4 size paper with no more than 16 pages (single-sided) and a font size of 20.

### **6.6 Folklore Study Competition**

Participants are expected to submit a research paper consisting of 10,000-15,000 words, typed out on a computer, on A4 size paper (single-sided), with a font size of 12. The topic is "Folklore associated with beliefs and practices".

## General Conditions for the Divisional, District and National literary Festivals

- ◆ All the literary compositions should be original and should have not been submitted to any competition before. Applicants could submit their creations on any medium. (Sinhala, Tamil, English)
- ◆ All the applicants should submit the dully filled application issued by the Department of Cultural Affairs along with the entries to the Divisional Secretary.
- ◆ Applicants should certify their creations as their own creations by the Chief Incumbent of the Temple, Chief Priest, Divisional Secretary, Grama Niladari, Principal or the Head of Kalayathana with Official Frank and the Signature. Applicants should not mention either their names or any details on their creations.
- ◆ Applicants could take part/submit entries for more than one competition under the given rules and regulations of the competition. School applicants could take part/submit the entries only from any single institution in their Divisional Secretary's Division.
- ◆ 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 written literary compositions could be submitted on A4 single side papers or in foolscap papers either in legible hand writing or type-writing.
- ◆ Please refrain from making any mark or special note on the papers containing the literary composition.
- ◆ The age limit should be calculated as at 01<sup>st</sup> January 2024.
- ◆ The decision of the panel of judges would be the final.

  
Yasintha Gunawardena  
Director of Cultural Affairs

**Yasintha Gunawardena**  
Director  
Department of Cultural Affairs  
Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla.

**Divisional, District and National literary Festival - 2024**  
**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 01<sup>st</sup> January 2024 : Years 

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 Mon 

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 Dates 

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9. Age group (Section) : 

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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. 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 as an original creation by the applicant**

I certify that the literary composition mentioned in above No. 14 is composed by Ven. / Mr./ Miss / Mrs.  
.....  
who 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

**Divisional, District and National literary Festival - 2024**

**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 Whats App : .....
8. Age as at 01st January 2024 : 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. 12 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 Divisional Secretary's Division other than the Divisional Secretary's Division mentioned in this application.

.....

Date

.....

Signature of Applicant

**Certification as an original creation by the applicant**

I certify that the literary composition mentioned in above No. 12 is composed by Ven. / Mr./ Miss / Mrs.  
.....  
who resides at .....and 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**

**Schedule – I**

**Divisional, District and National Literary Competitions- Result Sheet – 2024  
Format for issuing Certificates**

District secretariat: - .....

Medium: - English

	Divisional Secretariat	Number of Certificates Required		
		Sinhala	Tamil	English
1				
2				
3				
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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