



The 2026 Komani Debating Championship

From the National Debating League

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Build teamwork and critical thinking.



Confidence

Your debaters will overcome their fears of public speaking and become more comfortable in their own skin.

Camaraderie and Teamwork

Debates are won through the collective effort of the team, and everyone has a unique role to play.



Friendships and Social Skills

Debating is an inherently social sport. Your debaters will meet dozens of new likeminded people from their city and across the country.

Resilience

Your debaters will learn how to handle victory and loss in a supportive (but competitive) environment.





Conquer your fears.

Introduction

Greetings from the National Debating League. We work with over 220 schools across South Africa to run structured and competitive debating programs. With the help of over 300 educators, our tournaments give primary and secondary school students an opportunity to find their voice, learn more about the world around them, and embark on a journey of growth and camaraderie with their teammates.

Our largest league is in Cape Town, where our top performing schools include Bishops, Elkanah House, Parklands College, Rondebosch Boys High and Wynberg Girls Junior School.

The 2026 Komani Debating Championship

The NDL will run its 2026 edition of the Komani Debating Championship on 25-26 July 2026. We are deeply grateful to Hoërskool Hangklip High School for making this possible.

Participation is open to teams of all skill levels. Experienced teams will be challenged and prepared for entry into our international competitions. Less experienced teams will find a supportive environment, where we all understand that great speakers are nurtured, not born.

There will be four age divisions:

Group A (Grade 10+) | Group B (Grade 8-9)

Group C (Grade 6-7) | Group D (Grade 4-5)

Schools can field multiple teams per division, and each team may consist of between 3 and 5 members.



Competition Outline

In advance of the competition, schools will receive training booklets and two pre-released debating motions. This will assist educators in training their students.

Three topics will only be announced at the competition. In these cases, students will need to independently formulate cases and speeches using their general knowledge and any paper-based resources they have. These debates emphasize independent and creative thinking.

Each competition day will run from 8am to 6pm. Teams will only compete with teams in their own age division. The first day will start with a training session for all educators and debaters, followed by 3 preliminary debates. The second day will consist of 2 more preliminary debates, a semi-final, and final. The day will end with an awards ceremony.

Find your voice.



Professional Development

Many of our adjudicators are teachers. Some are even school principals!

Becoming an adjudicator gives you a unique opportunity to sharpen your own professional skillset.

You will work with a co-judge in every debate. Through doing this multiple times a year, our adjudicators have become skilled at building consensus with their peer and understanding different perspectives.

Over time, our adjudicators also become exceptionally good at expressing their perspectives, giving constructive critique, and understanding where the crux of an issue can be found.

Finally, adjudication also gives you practice in listening to and comparing large volumes of information quickly.

Core Skills for an Adjudicator

Our most successful adjudicators have mastered the ability to separate their personal opinions from the arguments they are listening to.

They have also become great at listening and taking notes—we can't expect the human mind to remember *everything*!

Join a community
of passionate
educators.



Further Competition

The top 4 teams per division will receive invitations to the NDL's National Debating Championships.

The primary school edition will be held at Collegiate Junior School for Girls in Gqeberha on 28-30 September 2026.

The high school edition will be held at St Benedict's College in Johannesburg on 24 to 26 October 2026.

These championships are school based—teams represent their own schools. The registration package manages all aspects except getting to the respective city.

Understand new
perspectives.



**Build ambition
and resilience.**

Awards

At the end of the championship we will recognize our top performing speakers and teams with medals, certificates and (sometimes) trophies. All recorded speakers will receive a participation certificate. All educators and coaches will receive certificates of recognition for their contributions to the community.

Registering & Participating

Schools can handle registrations at: admin.ndl.org.za/register. Alternatively, schools may ask parents to manage payments directly with the NDL. Parents can register and pay for their children at: admin.ndl.org.za/komani-reg

Schools are be able to field multiple teams per division, and each team may consist of between 3 and 5 members. Each team will compete in a minimum of 5 debates throughout the competition weekend. For each team entered, the school will need to supply an educator who will join our adjudication pool. They will receive training at the event. Alternatively, the NDL can arrange external adjudicators at ZAR 2,500 per judge.

There are no registration fees for educators who judge debates. The registration fee per speaker is ZAR 600.

The registration fee includes participation, meals and snacks on both days, tournament merchandize, and any prizes won (medals, trophies, etc).

Join our community of over 220 schools



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Benoni, South Africa



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Cape Town, South Africa



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Cape Town, South Africa



Brackenfell High School
Cape Town, South Africa



Bridge House School
Somerset West, South Africa



Bridge House School
Franschhoek, South Africa



Bryanston Primary School
Johannesburg, South Africa



Busy Bees Junior Primary School
Gcuwa (Butterworth), South Africa



Camps Bay High School
Cape Town, South Africa



Cannons Creek Independent School
Cape Town, South Africa



Cedar House
Cape Town, South Africa



Centre of Excellence
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Centro de Formação Know-How
Lubango, Angola



Charter College International High School
Johannesburg, South Africa



Childhood Joy Academy
Lusaka, Zambia



Christ Church Preparatory School and College
Johannesburg, South Africa



Christian Brothers' College Boksburg
Johannesburg, South Africa



Claremont High School
Cape Town, South Africa



Colegio Angolano de Talatona
Luanda, Angola



Colégio Kalabo Internacional
Luanda, Angola



Collegiate Junior School for Girls
Gqeberha, South Africa



Crawford International Lonehill
Johannesburg, South Africa



Crawford International Pretoria
Pretoria, South Africa



Crawford International School Tatu City
Nairobi, Kenya



Curro Century City Primary School
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Curro Delft High School
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Curro Edenvale High School
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Durban, South Africa



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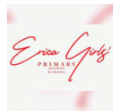
El Shaddai Christian School
Cape Town, South Africa



Elkanah House
Cape Town, South Africa



English Friendship Youth Club Of Angola
Luanda, Angola



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Kempton Park, South Africa



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Pretoria, South Africa



Hoërskool Hangklip
Komani, South Africa



Hoërskool Jan van Riebeeck
Cape Town, South Africa



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Kempton Park, South Africa



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Kigali, Rwanda



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Nova Pioneer Boys High School - Tatu City Campus
Tatu City, Kenya



Nova Pioneer Girls High School - Eldoret Campus
Eldoret, Kenya



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Midrand, South
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Lusaka, Zambia



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Girls High School**
Nairobi, Kenya



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Africa



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Africa



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Build a culture of discourse



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South African College School
Cape Town, South Africa



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Bloemfontein, South Africa



St Andrew's School for Girls
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Johannesburg, South Africa



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Stepping Stone Junior School
Komani, South Africa



Steyn City School
Johannesburg, South Africa



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Cape Town, South Africa



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The Grove Primary School
Cape Town, South Africa



The Pinelands Primary
Cape Town, South Africa



The Ridge School
Johannesburg, South Africa



Them bani Primary School
Cape Town, South Africa



Trichardt School for Christian Education
Maputo, Mozambique



Tygerberg High School
Cape Town, South Africa



Uplands
White River, South Africa



UWC East Africa
Arusha, Tanzania



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Western Province Preparatory School
Cape Town, South Africa



Woodford Primary School
Bergville, South Africa



Woodhill College
Pretoria, South Africa



Wynberg Boys' High School
Cape Town, South Africa



Wynberg Girls' Junior School
Cape Town, South Africa

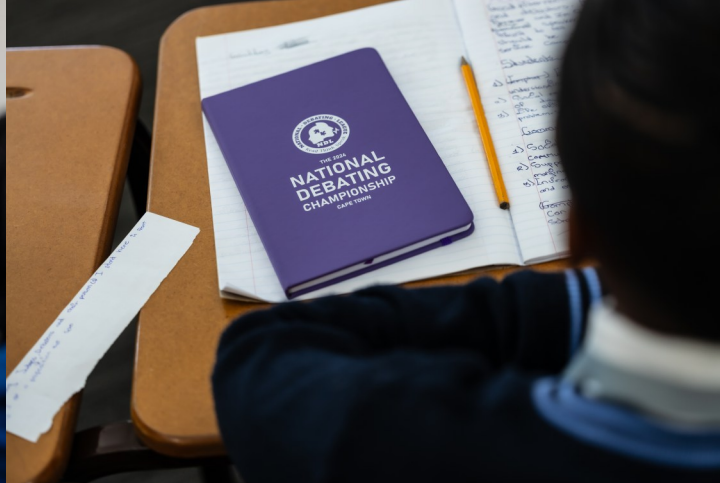


Yellow Wood Environmental Prep School
Johannesburg, South Africa



Zwaanswyk Academy
Cape Town, South Africa

We look forward to making memories with you



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