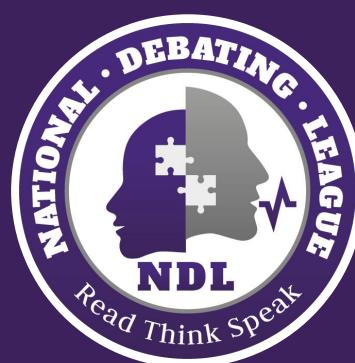


History repeats itself,
first as tragedy, second
as farce.
Karl Marx



The Lusaka Debating League
7-8 February 2026 @ Martin House School
Tishin@ndl.org.za / +27 81 343 9036 / ndl.org.za



Introduction

"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear." - Nelson Mandela

Welcome to the National Debating League. We work with over two hundred schools across South Africa, Zambia, Angola, Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Botswana 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.

Your school is invited to join to join the NDL's 2026 League Championship at Martin House School, Chisamba. This will be held on 7-8 February 2026 from 9am to 6pm each day.

Who is eligible to compete?

This tournament is open to schools from across Zambia. Participants can be in Grades 4 to A-Levels. We will offer training and assistance to schools with new debating clubs, making this the perfect time to start a debating program at your school! Students will compete in teams of between 3 and 5 members.

Our Founding Members in Zambia are: Ashford Academy, Childhood Joy Academy, International School of Lusaka, Lusaka Oaktree School, Martin House College, Pinewood Preparatory School, Saint Mary's Secondary School - Lusaka, Simba International School, and St Ignatius College.

Conquer your fears.



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.



Join a community
of over 200 schools.

Teams and Age Divisions

Schools may enter multiple teams, each consisting of between 3 and 5 members. For each team entered, the school will need to bring a teacher who is willing to join our adjudication panels.

These are the possible age divisions for teams to compete in:

Group A: Grade 10+ (Max 8 mins per speech)

Group B: Grade 8-9 (Max 6 mins per speech)

Group C: Grade 6-7 (Max 4 mins per speech)

Group D: Grade 4-5 (Max 4 mins per speech)

Each time a team debates, they will field 3 speakers. One of their members will either serve as the chairperson or timekeeper of the debate.

Further Competition

The top performing teams in the league will receive an invitation to compete at the National Championships. The primary school National Championship will be held in Gqeberha at Collegiate in October. The high school National Championship will be held at St Benedict's College, Bedfordview in October.



Represent Zambia
Internationally.

2026 Pan-African Debating Championship

The fourth edition of the 2026 Pan-African Debating Championship will be held at Reddam House Bedfordview in Johannesburg on 1-3 May 2026.

For the first time, we will merge both our Junior and Senior Pan-African Debating Championships, making it possible for schools to bring teams from all divisions.

This is an invitation-only championship and only the top 4 teams per division will be eligible to enter.

More information about this event is available at <https://ndl.org.za/tours/pac26>.

Schools from Zambia should register through Imeni, who will arrange a comprehensive package including flights, transfers, sightseeing, hotels, and so on.

2026 Cape Town Open

The 2026 Cape Town "Open" will be held on 14-16 August 2026. This event is open to all participants from our Lusaka Debating League. It is designed to give teams of all experience levels the opportunity to build international friendships and raise their standard of competition.

Schools from Zambia should register through Imeni, who will arrange a comprehensive package including flights, transfers, sightseeing, hotels, and so on.



Rhodes Park School

Debaters from Rhodes Park School were runners up at the 2025 Pan-African Debating Championship in Cape Town. The final was against Durban Girls' College from South Africa.

St Ignatius College proudly and successfully represented Zambia at both the 2025 Pan-African Debating Championship in Cape Town and the 2025 Johannesburg Open in December.



Lusaka Oaktree School

Lusaka Oaktree represented Zambia at the Junior Pan-African Debating Championship in Cape Town and won the finals against Siyabulela Primary School from Cape Town.

**Flying the flag high
for Zambia!**

International School of Lusaka

The ISL Junior team were runners up in the Junior Division of the 2025 NDL Johannesburg Open.



Thank you to our partners at Imeni for organizing comprehensive travel packages for our Zambian competitors.



Explore the world
around us.

Preparation

Most debate topics will only be available at the competition. This means students will need to have a good general knowledge, think on their feet, and carefully interpret the topics.

To aide your preparations, we have pre-released two topics per division. The complete version is available online at <https://ndl.org.za/leagues/lusaka/#topics>. The online version *also* contains a list of research links for students to consult.

We expect students to have fully written speeches for these prepared debates. They will only receive preparation time at the event for the unprepared topics.

Group A: Grade 10+

Topic #1: Zambia should recognize Somaliland as an independent state

Topic #2: Zambia should prohibit foreign online retail platforms that do not have a physical presence in Zambia (eg: Amazon, Shein, Temu, Takealot)

Group B: Grade 8-9

Topic #1: Developments blocking animal migration patterns should be demolished (eg: The Radisson Blu Mosi-Oa-Tunya Hotel)

Topic #2: Sports teams should not be allowed to advertise gambling platforms on their playing kit

In Group B, each speaker has up to 6 minutes to speak. In Group A this is 8 minutes per speech. Please remember that the third speaker of each team *should not* have a prepared speech. The third speaker's role is to rebut their opponents, defend their team, and summarize.



Group C: Grade 6-7

Topic #1: Hostile architecture should be banned

Topic #2: Governments should focus on making the internet free instead of funding libraries

Group D: Grade 4-5

Topic #1: We should ban fireworks

Topic #2: Schools should ban rugby

In Group C and D, each speaker has up to 4 minutes to speak. Please remember that the third speaker of each team *should not* have a prepared speech.

Debate Format Guides

The NDL has an online guide to our debate format. It can be found at
<https://guide.ndl.org.za/>

Our 2025 training booklet can also be downloaded at this link:
<https://ndl.org.za/downloads/lusaka/NDL-Workshop-Booklet-2026.pdf>



Alternatively, scan this QR code.

Please feel free to make copies of our training booklet.

Find your voice.



**Join a community
of passionate educators.**

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.

Training Workshop

We will run an online training session for teachers and adjudicators at the end of January. This will help ensure our judges and coaches share a common understanding of debating and how to judge.

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*!



Build ambition
and resilience.

Awards

At the end of the event 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.

Registration Fees

The registration fee per debater is ZMW 1,400. There are no fees for registered adjudicators. The registration deadline is 2 February 2026.

The fee covers participation, any awards won, along with lunch, snacks, and dinner each day.

Fees should be paid by a school using a SWIFT bank transfer to the NDL's South African account. Alternative, we are able to receive payments using online Visa/Mastercard transactions or Airtel/MTN money transfers.

Schedule

The event schedule is available at <https://ndl.org.za/leagues/lusaka/schedule>.

Invite Letter

An invitation letter can be downloaded here: <https://ndl.org.za/downloads/lusaka/NDL-Lusaka-Invite-2026.pdf>

How to Register

Registration forms are available online, at: <https://admin.ndl.org.za/register/>

Please free to contact Thishin using thishin@ndl.org.za or 081 343 9036.

We are ready to answer any questions you may have about how to join or prepare.

Join an growing community



Ahmed Timol
Secondary
School
Krugersdorp,
South Africa



Al Nur School
Gaborone,
Botswana



Althorpe College
East London,
South Africa



Amazing Grace
Private School
Johannesburg,
South Africa



Amberfield
College
Centurion, South
Africa



Ashford
Academy
Lusaka, Zambia
Benoni, South
Africa



Ashton
International
Benoni
Benoni, South
Africa



Aurora Colégio
Internacional
Luanda, Angola



Beaulieu College
Johannesburg,
South Africa



Bergvliet
Primary School
Cape Town, South
Africa



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Academy
Johannesburg,
South Africa

Bishops
Diocesan College
Cape Town, South
Africa

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School
Somerset West,
South Africa

Bridge House
School
Franschhoek,
South Africa

Bryanston
Primary School
Johannesburg,
South Africa

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Primary School
Butterworth, South
Africa

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School
Cape Town, South
Africa

Cannons Creek
Independent
School
Cape Town, South
Africa

Centre of
Excellence
East London,
South Africa

Centro de
Formação Know-
How
Lubango, Angola



Childhood Joy
Academy
Lusaka, Zambia

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Preparatory
School and
College
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South Africa

Christian
Brothers' College
Boksburg
Johannesburg,
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
Cape Town, South
Africa

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Curro Delft High School
Cape Town, South Africa



Curro Edenvale High School
Johannesburg, South Africa



Curro Klerksdorp
Klerksdorp, South Africa



Curro Serengeti High School
Johannesburg, South Africa



Danville Park Girls' High School
Durban, South Africa



Durban Girls' College
Durban, South Africa



Edgemead High School
Cape Town, South Africa



Egerton Primary School
Ladysmith, South Africa



Elkanah House
Cape Town, South Africa



English Friendship Youth Club Of Angola
Luanda, Angola



Erica Girls' Primary School
Gqeberha, South Africa



Fairmont High School
Cape Town, South Africa



Fish Hoek High School
Cape Town, South Africa



Florida Islamic School
Roodepoort, South Africa



Fred Norman Secondary School
Johannesburg, South Africa



Get Ahead College
Komani, South Africa



Grace Trinity School for Girls
Johannesburg, South Africa



Greensteds International School
Nakuru, Kenya



Halfway House Primary School
Johannesburg, South Africa



Hartbeespoort High School
Hartbeespoort, South Africa



Herschel Girls' Preparatory School
Cape Town, South Africa



Herzlia High School
Cape Town, South Africa



Herzlia Primary School
Cape Town, South Africa



Hoërskool DF Malan
Cape Town, South Africa



Hoërskool Hangklip
Komani, South Africa



Hoërskool Jan van Riebeeck
Cape Town, South Africa



Hoërskool Jeugland
Kempton Park, South Africa



Hoërskool President High School
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Cape Town, South
Africa

International
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Africa

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Senior
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School
Cape Town, South
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Jeppe High
Preparatory
School
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South Africa

Kensington
Secondary
School
Johannesburg,
South Africa

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Islamic School
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Africa

Kimberley
Private Academy
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Africa

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Preparatory
School
Johannesburg,
South Africa

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International
School
Kitengela, Kenya



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Secondary
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Limit Hill
Combined
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Ladysmith, South
Africa

Loreto Convent
School
Pretoria, South
Africa

Lusaka Oaktree
School
Lusaka, Zambia

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Alioune Blondin
Beye à Luanda
Luanda, Angola

Lycée Français
International
Gustave-Eiffel
Maputo,
Mozambique

Machabeng
College,
International
School of
Lesotho
Maputo,
Mozambique

Maputo
International
College
Maputo,
Mozambique

Maputo
International
School
Maputo,
Mozambique

Marist Brothers
Linmeyer
Johannesburg,
South Africa



Martin House
College
Chisamba, Zambia

Masibambane
College
Johannesburg,
South Africa

Merrifield
Preparatory
School
East London,

Michaelhouse
Natal Midlands,
South Africa

Michiefield
Primary School
East London,
South Africa

Micklefield
School
Cape Town, South
Africa

Milnerton High
School
Cape Town, South
Africa

Mokopane
English
Combined
School
Ladysmith, South
Africa

Monument
Primary School
Ladysmith, South
Africa

Muir College
Kariega, South
Africa

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School
Polokwane, South
Africa



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High School
Maseru, Lesotho



Newton House
College
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South Africa



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Midrand
Johannesburg,
South Africa



Noorder-Paarl
Secondary
School
Paarl, South Africa



Norman
Henshilwood
High School
Cape Town, South
Africa



Northlands Girls
High School
Durban, South
Africa



Northwood
School
Durban, South
Africa



Nova Pioneer
Boys High
School - Eldoret
Campus
Eldoret, Kenya



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



Nova Pioneer
Girls High School
- Eldoret
Campus
Eldoret, Kenya

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Johannesburg,
South Africa

Nova Pioneer
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Primary
School
Johannesburg,
South Africa

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and Academy
Meyerton, South
Africa

Oude Molen
Technical High
School
Cape Town, South
Africa

Our Lady Of
Lebanon
Maronite
Catholic School
Johannesburg,
South Africa

Paras & Sia
International
School
Biera,
Mozambique

Parklands
College
Cape Town, South
Africa

Parkview Senior
School
Johannesburg,
South Africa

Parrow High
School
Cape Town, South
Africa



Parsons Hill
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Gqeberha, South
Africa

Pharos School
Jeffreys Bay, South
Africa

Pinelands High
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Cape Town, South
Africa

Pinewood
Preparatory
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Lusaka, Zambia

Pinnacle College
Copperleaf
Pretoria, South
Africa

Pretoria Boys
High School
Pretoria, South
Africa

Pretoria
Technical High
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Pretoria, South
Africa

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Komani, South
Africa

Qumano Great
Place Primary
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South Africa

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High School**
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Africa

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International
School**
Ndola, Zambia



**Simon's Town
School**
Cape Town, South
Africa

**Siyabulela
Primary School**
Cape Town, South
Africa

**South Peninsula
High School**
Cape Town, South
Africa

**Southbourne
Primary School**
Komani, South
Africa

**Springfield
Convent Junior
School**
Cape Town, South
Africa

**Springfield
Convent Senior
School**
Cape Town, South
Africa

**Springs Boys'
High School**
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Bloemfontein**
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South Africa

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St George's
Diocesan School
Windhoek,
Namibia

St George's
Preparatory
School
Gqeberha, South
Africa

St Ignatius
College
Lusaka, Zambia

St John's
Preparatory
College
Johannesburg,
South Africa

St Joseph's
Marist College
Cape Town, South
Africa

St. Declan's
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Johannesburg,
South Africa

St. Enda's
Secondary
School
Johannesburg,
South Africa



Star College
Pretoria
Pretoria, South
Africa

Stepping Stone
Junior School
Komani, South
Africa

Steyn City
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Johannesburg,
South Africa

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& College
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South Africa

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Midrand
Johannesburg,
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Makhanda, South
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The Grove
Primary School
Cape Town, South
Africa

The Pinelands
Primary
Cape Town, South
Africa

The Ridge
School
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South Africa

Thembani
Primary School
Cape Town, South
Africa



Trichardt School
for Christian
Education
Maputo,
Mozambique

Uplands
White River, South
Africa

UWC East Africa
Arusha, Tanzania

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South Africa

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Gqeberha, South
Africa

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South Africa

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Cape Town, South
Africa

Western
Province
Preparatory
School
Cape Town, South
Africa

Willowridge
High School
Pretoria, South
Africa

From 8 countries



Woodford
Primary School
Bergville, South
Africa



Wynberg Boys'
High School
Cape Town, South
Africa



Wynberg Girls'
High School
Cape Town, South
Africa



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Africa



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Prep School
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South Africa



Zwaanswyk
Academy
Cape Town, South
Africa

We look forward to making memories with you



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<https://ndl.org.za>

