



The 2026 Pan-African Debating Championship

01 to 03 May 2026

By the National Debating League

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Build teamwork and critical thinking.



01 to 03 May 2026

Hosted @ Reddam House Bedfordview

Included Hotel Accommodation
@ Holiday Inn Sunnyside Park, Johannesburg



Multiple team entries possible

Each team should consist of 3-5 members and be accompanied by an educator/adjudicator.

Recognition

Trophies and medals for top performers.
Certificates for everyone.





Conquer your fears.

Introduction

Greetings from the National Debating League. We work with over 200 schools across South Africa, Zambia, Angola, and Mozambique 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.

2026 Pan-African Debating Championship

Debating is more than just competition — it is a powerful tool for building confidence, teamwork, and lifelong connections. Our annual Pan-African Debating Championship brings together teams from across Africa, celebrating their diversity and building friendships across borders.

The championship will be held from 1 to 3 May 2026 at Reddam House Bedfordview in Johannesburg. Schools traveling in should arrive on (or before) 30 April and depart on (or after) 4 May.

Entry is open to all schools. To be eligible, students should work in teams consisting of three to five members and be in Grades 8 to 12. There are two age divisions: Group A (Grade 10+) & Group B (Grade 8-9).

For experienced teams this presents a chance to stretch their abilities and test themselves against exceptional debaters from across Africa. For new teams, this will be a supportive environment where guidance and mentorship nurture growth and confidence.

Teams of 3–5 members may register in the appropriate division. In addition, experienced debaters are invited to serve as mentors for junior teams — passing on their skills and supporting the next generation of debaters.



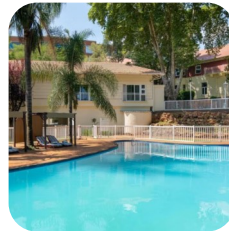
Explore South Africa.



REDDAM
HOUSE



Holiday Inn



Venue: Holy Family College

We are proud to partner with Reddam House Bedfordview to host this event. All debates will be held on their campus.

Accommodation

All participants traveling to Johannesburg will stay at the Holiday Inn Sunnyside Park. This is a 4 star hotel and a recognized as a Heritage site, with national monument status. This was also our official hotel for the 2024 Pan-African Debating Championship.

Check-in is after 14:00 on 30 April 2026
check-out is by 10:00 on 04 May 2026.

All bookings will include breakfast and WiFi. The hotel has several amenities you may wish to make use of, such as the outdoor pool and café.

Room Sharing

Schools choose if they want to allocate individuals to sharing (two beds to a room) or single (one bed to a room). This changes the registration fee.

If your school has an odd number of boys or girls, we can arrange for one student to share with someone from another school. This will allow you to make use of the cheaper registration fee despite the odd number of males and females.

Transport

We will transport everyone between the Holiday Inn and Reddam House Bedfordview each day. Schools do not need to make transportation plans within Johannesburg.



Teams and Age Divisions

Each team should consist 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)

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. All teams will compete in at least 5 rounds of debate.

Preparation

Students will have 40-60 minutes to prepare their speeches before each round of debate. During this time they will not be allowed to use electronic devices, but they may use any printed material they have. We will provide teams with stopwatches.

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

Our teacher training at the start of the event will cover the adjudication process. All judges will work in with a co-judge from another school, helping them shoulder the responsibility.

The session will also discuss the debate format in great detail, ensuring our teachers are well-equipped to give our debaters insightful feedback.

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 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.

Registration Fees

- Fees depend on the type of hotel room required.
 - For people in sharing (twin) rooms, the registration fee is ZAR 9,950 per person.
 - For people in single (not sharing) rooms, the registration fee is 12,950.
- Teams should register online by 1 April 2026. Please contact us if your school requires an extension on this deadline.

The registration fee includes:

- Participation
- Hotel accommodation (30 April to 4 May)
- All meals from dinner on 30 April to Breakfast on 4 May.
- Airport pick-ups
- Shuttles between the official hotel and school each day
- Tournament merchandise
- Training Resources
- Access to event socials

The fee does NOT include:

- Transportation to Cape Town (flights, busses, etc)
- We *can*, however, assist your school with booking flights.

How to Register

- Info about the NDL in general: <https://ndl.org.za/>
- Info about the event: <https://ndl.org.za/tours/pac26>
- Registration forms: <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.

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We look forward to making memories with you



We look forward to making memories with you



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