



The National Debating League

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Invitation to the 2026 Pan-African Debating Championship

Dear Coaches and Coordinators,

Greetings from the National Debating League (NDL). We work with nearly 200 schools across Africa to run structured and competitive debating programs.

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.

We are writing to invite your school to our 2026 Pan-African Debating Championship.

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.

Each team will need to bring a teacher who is willing to adjudicate debates. We will guide them through the process of adjudication with a training session at the start of the event. This training will make the process of adjudication enriching and enjoyable. Many of our adjudicators in South Africa are teachers or school principals. They have commented on how adjudication experience has helped them become more critical thinkers who are able to engage in important managerial roles.

The registration package for teams traveling in includes participation, accommodation at the 4-star Holiday Inn Sunnyside Park, all meals from arrival to departure, a sightseeing tour, airport shuttles and daily transportation between the hotel and school. This package is ZAR 9,950 (approx. 580 USD) per person when sharing rooms or ZAR 12,950 per person with single rooms. The only additional arrangements your school will need to make is flights to Johannesburg.

More information about the program such as the pre-prepared topics, registration fees, and schedule can be found here: <https://ndl.org.za/tours/pac26>. In addition, you are welcome to email us using Thishin@ndl.org.za or WhatsApp using +27 81 343 9036.

We are deeply grateful to Reddam House Bedfordview for partnering with us to host this event. With their support, and yours, we hope to add to our diverse community of debaters and critical thinkers.

Yours sincerely,

Thishin Moodley
The National Debating League