The National Debating League
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Invitation to the NDL's 2027 Lusaka Debating Championship

Dear Coaches and Coordinators,

Greetings from the National Debating League (NDL). We are a South African-based organization that organizes debate competitions for over 240 schools across South Africa, Angola, Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, Namibia, Botswana, and Mozambique.

We are writing to invite your school to our next championship in Zambia. This will be held on 20-21 February 2027 in Lusaka. The exact venue will be determined as soon as possible and announced on our website at ndl.org.za/leagues/zambia. The event schedule, topics, divisions, and registration information is also available using the link.

Entry is open to schools from across Zambia. To be eligible, students should work in teams consisting of three to five members and be in Grades 4 to A-Levels. Schools may enter multiple teams per division.

There are four possible divisions to enter:

Group A: Grades 10+ | Group B: Grade 8-9 | Group C: Grade 6-7 | Group D: Grade 4-5

Top performing teams will earn an invitation to the NDL's 2027 Pan-African Debating Championship in Namibia and the NDL's Open Tournaments in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

The program is designed to help students develop their reading, writing and verbal communication skills. In addition, the debate topics encourage students to learn more about a diverse range of ideas outside of the standard school curriculum. We will work to ensure all debaters become more confident and knowledgeable.

Each team will need to bring a teacher who is willing to adjudicate debates. We will guide them through the process of adjudication with our online training sessions. 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 improve their communication and analytical skills. These skills are especially useful for educators pursuing management positions in their schools.

The registration fee *per student* will remain unchanged from 2025—ZMW 1,400 per debater, and no fees for adjudicators. More information about the program such as the pre-prepared topics, registration fees, and schedule can be found here: https://ndl.org.za/leagues/zambia. 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 our partners at Imeni for partnering with us to host this event. With their support, and yours, we hope to create a diverse community of debaters and critical thinkers.

Yours sincerely,



Thishin Moodley
The National Debating League