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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Date: 02 February 2026

**TO: CHIEF DIRECTORS
HEAD OFFICE DIRECTORS
DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CES: INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT
CES: CIRCUIT COORDINATION
CES: CURRICULUM
CIRCUIT MANAGERS
DISTRICT OFFICIALS
PRINCIPALS
DEPUTY PRINCIPALS
DEPARTMENTAL HEADS
SENIOR AND MASTER TEACHERS
TEACHERS
TEACHER UNIONS
SGB ASSOCIATIONS**

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2026 NATIONAL TEACHING AWARDS (NTA)

The National Teaching Awards (NTA) is the flagship teacher appreciation and support programme in the Education Sector under the auspices of the National Minister and the MEC at Provincial Level. The NTA programme is one of the ways in which the Department of Basic Education acknowledges, the extraordinary efforts made by excellent teachers, often under very difficult conditions. The NTA programme was conceptualised and launched in 2000 and now enters its twenty-sixth (26th) year of implementation

Through extensive consultations, the NTAs have been refined, sharpened, broadened in terms of its frame and categories.

The approved and revised 2026 nomination guide has been included for your information. This nomination guide includes, among others:

- Categories.
- Eligibility.
- Nomination and submission.
- Adjudication process.
- Disqualification, and
- Vetting process.

Important to note the two Special School Categories have now been replaced with:

- **Excellence in Inclusive Education Teaching;**
- **Excellence in Inclusive Education Leadership.**

Excellence in Inclusive Education Teaching –

PURPOSE OF THE CATEGORY:

“To recognise outstanding teachers who effectively create inclusive learning environments that enable the full participation and achievement of all learners, regardless of disability, learning difficulties, or other barriers to learning. The category is for teachers in special schools, schools of skills, and full-service schools. Teachers in full-service schools must be teaching learners with learning barriers” (2026 DBE NTA Guidelines, p. 23).

TRANSITION TO ONLINE NOMINATIONS

The NCDOE confirms that the Nomination Guidelines have been revised and nominations for the 26th NTA and Provincial Categories will be conducted **online** in 2026. All school, district, and provincial officials should utilise the digital platform for submission of entries and supporting documentation. This digital process ensures efficiency, transparency, and accessibility across all districts in the Northern Cape Province.

NOMINEES SHOULD NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- All nomination forms must be duly completed and signed by the relevant signatories.
- The prescribed nomination form must be used.
- A checklist is included to guide the submission of nomination forms.
- All nomination forms and nominators' motivations, including supporting documents (certified copies of qualifications, ID, and SACE certificate), **MUST** be submitted using the relevant link.
- **The closing date for district nominations is 31 March 2026.**

- DBE NTA and Provincial online nomination forms: <https://tinyurl.com/ncntaforms-26>
- To submit the completed NTA nomination form: <https://tinyurl.com/ncntasubmit-nat>
- To submit the completed provincial nomination form: <https://tinyurl.com/ncntasubmit-prov>

DISTRICT ADJUDICATION PROCESSES;

All candidates that enter the NTAs and PTAs will be expected to make a presentation in the following manner:

- Candidates will be allocated five (5) minutes before the start to set up their presentations. The five minutes will include the introduction of the panel.
- The nominees are allowed to do code switching to a language they are more comfortable with during the presentation. **Code switching is limited to a few words and/or phrases.**
- Candidates are encouraged to present the specific criteria before the general criteria to save time and focus on the category's core issues. Candidates will not be penalised for choosing either general or specific criteria to begin their presentation.
- Districts must notify the Provincial coordinator about candidates with Special Needs requirements prior to the provincial adjudication to make special arrangements to accommodate them.
- Candidates will be requested to leave their presentations after the adjudication process.

DISTRICT ADJUDICATION PANEL

The adjudication panel could include but not restricted to the following officials/constituencies:

- Curriculum Officials;
- Circuit Managers;
- LSSS;
- Teacher Unions;
- SAPA/SANASE;
- TVET Colleges Lecturers;
- Retired education managers etc.

SACE VETTING/SCREENING

To ensure the efficiency of the process, districts are required to confirm that all candidates have been fully vetted and screened before progressing to the provincial level.

SACE vetting and screening will be initiated at the district level, with the District HR Section responsible for screening all nomination forms.

This Memo must be read in conjunction with Department of Basic Education NTA and Provincial Guidelines.

For any further enquiries on the subject, please contact the relevant NTA district coordinator:

District	NTA District Coordinator	E-mail address	Contact
FB	Ms A. McAnda	alana.mc@vodamail.co.za	082 408 1225
JTG	Mr K. Kameel	KagisoKam@gmail.com	082 062 9445
NAM	Ms E. Magerman	ericamagerman40@gmail.com	060 505 3546
PKS	Mr R. Dolophi	rdolophi@gmail.com	067 417 2076
ZFM	Mr W. Assegaai	w.assegaai09@gmail.com	082 752 7176
	Mr S. Rowana	sivurorwana@gmail.com	066 519 0636

Kind regards



DR MI ISHMAIL
ACTING HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

DATE: 06-02-2026