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File no.: 12/2/11/6/4  
Enquiries: SMM Rampou

Curriculum GET Minute: DCG 0011/2019

To: Deputy Directors-General, Chief Directors, Directors, Heads: Curriculum Support, Circuit Managers, Deputy Chief Education Specialists, FET and GET Coordinators, Subject Advisers and Principals of all ordinary schools with Grades 9 to 11 classes

**Subject: Call for schools with Grades 9 to 11 learners to enter the 2019 SAASTA National Schools Debates Competition**

1. The National Schools Debates Competition is a project sponsored by the South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement (SAASTA). The core objectives of the debates competition are to:
  - encourage Grades 9 to 11 learners to examine and talk about scientific issues experienced in their communities, provincially and nationally and how science and technology may or may not resolve these issues;
  - disseminate scientific information to high school learners in a manner that is both fun and interactive in order to stimulate interest; and
  - promote science, engineering and technology-related careers to learners in South Africa so that they are encouraged to pursue careers in these fields.
2. The competition is open to all learners doing science-related subjects in Grades 9 to 11 from all quintile 1, 2, 3 and 4 secondary/high schools who are:
  - interested in developing their scientific research and information literacy skills;
  - critical thinkers; and
  - willing to work as a team to present logical and clear arguments.
3. The SAASTA National Schools Debates Competition's structure is not based on proposition/opposition presentations, but allows debaters to engage with one another and move toward a common resolution. One of the most interesting features of this debate is the mini-imbizos where learners get to interact with one another and share ideas through breakaway discussions and by making use of social media.

4. To enter the competition, schools must:
  - identify five learners from Grades 9 to 11 to form a team to represent the school in the debates competition;
  - identify a mentor (teacher) to train/coach the learners; and
  - send the completed entry form via email to [debates@saasta.ac.za](mailto:debates@saasta.ac.za) (entry form is attached as Annexure A).
5. Schools that have entered the competition will be invited to participate in the skills transfer workshop conducted by SAASTA on Saturday, 03 August 2019 to:
  - equip learners with communication skills;
  - give them confidence to present their ideas; and
  - stimulate interest amongst learners to study towards careers in the fields of science, engineering and technology (SET) by researching and debating high level topics.
6. Entered teams are expected to deliver a two-minute opening and two-minute closing statement based on the topic that will be given at the provincial workshop on Saturday, 03 August 2019. Training and debate manuals will be provided at this workshop.
7. The top ten schools identified during this training session will then participate in the provincial debates competition on Saturday, 31 August 2019, where the teams will compete against each other. This competition is judged by a panel of provincial adjudicators.
8. For any further information, schools are advised to visit the SAASTA website at [\*\*www.saasta.ac.za\*\*](http://www.saasta.ac.za).
9. **Deadline for entries is Thursday, 30 May 2019** at midnight.
10. The school that wins the provincial top ten debates competition will represent the province at the national finals on Wednesday, 25 September 2019.
11. The imperative is to recognise, harness and encourage talent for science in our schools.
12. The Western Cape Education Department urges schools to enter ardent Science learners from Grades 9 to 11 for the 2019 National Schools Debates Competition.

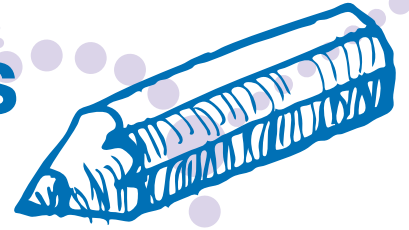
13. Principals are kindly requested to bring the contents of this minute to the attention of all relevant staff members.

**SIGNED:** PAD BEETS

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT**

**DATE:** 2019-05-16

# SAASTA National Schools Debates: Entry 2019



PROVINCE	
School name	
School physical address	
School postal address	
District	Quintile
Telephone number	Fax number
Email address	
TEACHER (This will be the competition's contact for the duration of the year.)	PERSPECTIVE (choose one for workshop)
Name	Application and benefit
Cellphone number	Economic
Email address	Socio-cultural
Preferred method of communication	Political
More information about perspectives can be found at <a href="http://www.saasta.ac.za/competitions/national-schools-debates/">www.saasta.ac.za/competitions/national-schools-debates/</a>	

## DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby confirm that I am the educator responsible for the team that will represent our school in the **2019** SAASTA National Schools Debates Competition, and that all the information provided is correct. I also agree to abide by the rules and conditions of the SAASTA National Schools Debates Competition.

Signed:

Date:

## SCHOOL STAMP

