



## **Call for Applications: 2020**

*06 January 2020*

### **Overview**

The South African Parliamentary Schools Debates is an educational debate programme by Paradigm Shift, in association with Parliament of the Republic of South Africa. It is aimed at all South African high school learners from grade 9 – 11, where each school is represented by four learners to debate in committee session.

The committees vary from portfolio, to select committees, learners are given debate topics prior to participating in committee. Topic announcements take place at workshop sessions, where intensive training on procedural and substantive preparation is emphasized, and thorough insight is given by Parliament of the South African Parliamentary Schools personnel. The purpose of the South African Parliamentary Schools Debates is to groom the next generation of future leaders, while teaching important life skills that will prove valuable throughout their studying and chosen careers.

Educational objectives guiding this programme are;

- Communication skills (written, oral, and active listening);
- Negotiation skills;
- Leadership skills, and advocacy;
- Team Work;
- Problem solving; and
- Constitutional literacy

Topics of debate are mostly issues before the parliamentary committees, and the National Council of Provinces. At committees, learners have to demonstrate their understanding of the topics at hand, while following the Rules of Parliamentary Procedure towards reaching a solution. The program also seeks to teach the spirit of tolerance, and the importance of compromise towards reaching a resolution.

Educational benefits to be extracted from this programme cannot be over-emphasized, because the learners will get to learn and experience first hand the intricacies, and complexities of diplomacy. Whilst highlighting their constitutional literacy.

Debating is a fun and dynamic way of imparting knowledge, as it requires high levels of engagement, and contribution on the topic of discussion. This is an ideal platform to get the learners inputs on current affairs issues, and excited about leadership roles. Through this nation-building simulation, the skills acquired would be helpful in their leadership roles in schools and beyond, the programme is more resolution based than argumentative.

This is a call for applications for the year 2020, as Paradigm Shift, we are proud to present this life changing platform to the learners! Our partnership with Parliament of the Republic of South Africa is set to ensure a truly rewarding experience for all learners and teachers, provincial eliminations will be held at provincial legislatures across all the in provinces, then all winning provincial teams will be flown to Cape Town(all expenses paid) to debate in the National Assembly chambers for the national leg of the competition, the prize-giving luncheon will also be held in Cape Town, South Africa.

We encourage you to take full advantage of this opportunity presented to the learners. Please find the application process, and forms in the documents accompanying this invitation. For any enquiries, please feel free to get in touch with the project manager and co-ordinators on the contacts list accompanying this invitation.

Paradigm Shift wishes all the best in your South African Parliamentary Schools Debates journey, and further encourages you to give this opportunity all you've got, and importantly, to enjoy this journey of learning, networking, making lifetime friends. I hope to see you soon at our venues!

Yours Truthfully

**Mr TL Hlalele**

**Project Manager**