



# 26<sup>th</sup> Annual National Teaching Awards

## NATIONAL TEACHING AWARDS

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR MINISTER'S SPECIAL AWARD



## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Minister of Basic Education has initiated a Special Award - #MyTeacher, which will be presented as the **Minister's Special Category** on 1 October 2026 during the National Teaching Awards (NTA) Ceremony.
- 1.2 The Award aims to celebrate the exceptional work of educators who have made a positive and lasting impact on their learners.
- 1.3 By participating in this campaign, you agree to comply with and be bound by the following terms and conditions.

## 2 Eligibility

- 2.1 The Minister's Special Award is open to all **Primary School learners** currently enrolled in public schools across South Africa.
- 2.2 Employees of the Department of Basic Education, their immediate family members, and anyone else directly connected with the organization or judging of the campaign are not eligible to participate.

## 3 How to enter

- 3.1 Participants must write a motivation explaining why their chosen teacher is the "best teacher" and the impact the teacher has had on their life. The motivation must not be less than 60 words and should not exceed 100 words.
- 3.2 The motivation must include:
  - 3.2.1 Introduction – Introduce the teacher
  - 3.2.2 Body
    - How the teacher encouraged and motivated the learner
    - The teacher's impact in enhancing academic success, personal growth, and future career paths
    - How the teacher assisted the learner to be innovative and creative
    - How the teacher guided and enabled the learner to overcome or get through a situation
    - How the teacher demonstrates empathy and patience
  - 3.2.3 Conclusion – show creativity in concluding statement
- 3.3 The closing date for the submission of the motivation is 03 July 2026.
- 3.4 Multiple entries are not allowed; Only one entry per learner and nomination per teacher.

## 4 Motivation Submission Guidelines

- 4.1 **Word Count:** 60 to 100 words. Motivations less than 60 words or exceeding 100 words will not be considered.
- 4.2 **Font:** Typed in Times New Roman, Size 12, with double spacing.
- 4.3 **Language:** English.
- 4.4 **Originality:** Motivations must be original work and not plagiarized.
- 4.5 **Motivation document format:** PDF or Word document.
- 4.6 **Submission platform:** <https://www.education.gov.za/MinistersSpecialAward.aspx>
- 4.7 **Identification:** Write your name and surname, the name of the teacher, grade, name of school and the province on motivation. This information will not form part of the Word Count.

## 5 Judging Criteria

- 5.1 The submissions will be judged based on the following criteria:
  - 5.1.1 Emotional impact
  - 5.1.2 Clarity of message
  - 5.1.3 Creativity
  - 5.1.4 Only entries with the correct number of words will be considered.
- 5.2 The decision of the judging panel is final and binding. No correspondence will be entered into regarding the outcome of the competition.

## 6 Prizes

- 6.1 The teacher and the learner will receive the Minister's Special Award at the National Teaching Awards on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2026.
- 6.2 The winning participant will receive a certificate of recognition from the Department of Basic Education.
- 6.3 The Department of Basic Education reserves the right to substitute the prize with another of similar value if the original prize is not available.

## 7 Intellectual Property

- 7.1 By submitting motivation for the award, the participant grants the Department of Basic Education a non-exclusive, royalty-free, worldwide, perpetual license to use, reproduce, distribute, and display the motivation and any photos and videos taken during the NTA ceremony, in any media platform, including but not limited to the Department's website, social media platforms, and promotional materials.

## 8 Privacy

- 8.1 The Department of Basic Education will collect and process personal information (such as the participant's name, grade, and school name) solely for the purposes of administering the Minister's Special Award.
- 8.2 Personal information will not be shared with third parties except as required by law or as necessary for the administration of the campaign.
- 8.3 By participating in the campaign, the participants consent to the collection and use of their personal information in accordance with these terms and conditions.

## 9 Disqualification

- 9.1 The Department of Basic Education reserves the right to disqualify any entry that does not comply with these terms and conditions or that violates any applicable laws or regulations.
- 9.2 The Department of Basic Education may disqualify any participant found to be tampering with the entry process, submitting false information, or engaging in any other fraudulent or inappropriate conduct.

## 10 Limitation of liability

- 10.1 The Department of Basic Education will not be liable for any loss, damage, or injury arising from participation in the campaign or from the acceptance or use of any prize.
- 10.2 The Department of Basic Education is not responsible for any technical issues, including but not limited to network failures, server failures, or other disruptions that may affect the submission of video or motivation entries.

## 11 Amendments

11.1 The Department of Basic Education reserves the right to amend these terms and conditions at any time without prior notice.

11.2 Any changes to the terms and conditions will be posted on the Department's official website.

## 12 Governing law

12.1 These terms and conditions are governed by the laws of the Republic of South Africa.

12.2 Any disputes arising out of or in connection with the Minister's Special Award campaign will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the South African courts.

## 13 Contact Information

For any inquiries or questions regarding the Minister's Special award, please contact the Department of Basic Education via its official social media pages.

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