



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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CIRCULAR NO 12 OF 2015

TO: DEPUTY DIRECTORS-GENERAL
CHIEF DIRECTORS
DISTRICT DIRECTORS
CHIEF EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
DEPUTY CHIEF / SENIOR EDUCATION SPECIALISTS
PRINCIPALS OF ALL PUBLIC AND INDEPENDENT
SCHOOLS GRADE R-12
TEACHER UNIONS / ORGANIZATIONS
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES

DATE: 11 JUNE 2015

SCHOOLS' PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL TEACHING AWARDS (NTA) PROGRAMME

BACKGROUND

The National Teaching Awards (NTA) programme, launched in 2000, and now in its 16th (sixteenth) year of National and Provincial implementation was the brainchild of the erstwhile then Minister of Education, Professor Kader Asmal. The National Department of Education, in an endeavour to nurture the personal development of educators, has since committed itself to this programme through which the mental, spiritual and psychological well being of teachers can be promoted and sustained. The programme was developed and refined as one instrument to serve this purpose through specifically recognising and rewarding the efforts of educators in South Africa. As one of *Action Plan to 2014, Towards the Realization of Schooling 2025* goals, it directly addresses goal number sixteen which aims to *improve the professionalism, teaching skills, subject knowledge and computer literacy of teachers throughout their entire careers.*

The overarching objective of this programme is to restore the confidence of the general South African populace in the Ministry of Education, and to rekindle the waning faith of the parents, in particular, in the schooling system in whose hands they annually place the future of their children. All provinces, including Eastern Cape Department of Education participate in the National Teaching Awards.

KEY OBJECTIVES

The NTA programme does not in any way seek to replace the other motivational programmes that are in existence. It is, nevertheless, an effort that complements these others by striving to realize the following objectives:

- To recognise and promote excellence in teaching performance
- To honour dedicated, creative and effective educators and schools
- To encourage best and innovative practice in schools, including good leadership and maintenance of portfolios as evidence
- To boost teacher morale
- To afford South Africans the opportunity to publicly thank outstanding educators and schools.

PHILOSOPHY UNDERLYING NTA

- It should consist of a participatory process that involves all the relevant stakeholders in education
- It should be aligned to the broad departmental agenda
- The language used should be that of "recognition" rather than "winning"
- Teamwork and collaboration are important, and therefore a balance between individual and team recognition should be upheld
- It should be as inclusive as possible
- Individuals and teams recognised at schools and district level should be publicized and celebrated.

THE TEN (10) CATEGORIES

The National Teaching Awards (NTA) are awarded to dedicated and outstanding public school teachers through the regional, provincial and national selection processes guided by both the general and specific criteria in the following categories:

1. Excellence in Primary School Teaching
2. Excellence in Primary School Leadership
3. Excellence in Secondary School Teaching
4. Excellence in Secondary School Leadership
5. Excellence in Grade R Teaching
6. Excellence in Special Needs and Inclusive Teaching
7. Excellence in Technology- Enhanced Teaching and Learning
8. Lifetime Achievement.
9. Excellence in teaching Mathematics (FET)
10. Excellence in teaching Physical Science (FET)

DISTRIBUTION OF NOMINATION FORMS

NTA brochures are sent every year by the National Department of Education to the provinces by May. These are distributed to the districts. The district in turn distributes these to schools.

TIMEFRAMES

Event	Date	Responsibility	Target Group
NTA annual Adjudication workshop with Districts	30 July 2015	Department of Basic Education	Grades R-12 teachers
Schools submit NTA nomination forms to district offices	03 -31 August 2015	NTA District Co-ordinators	Grades R-12 teachers
Districts conduct NTA Cluster Adjudications	01-30 September 2015	NTA District Co-ordinators	Grades R-12 teachers
NTA Provincial Adjudications	27 Oct – 29 Oct 2015	L Zani: NTA Provincial Co-ordinator	Grades R-12 teachers
NTA Provincial Ceremony	26 Nov. 2015	L Zani: NTA Provincial Co-ordinator	Grades R-12 teachers

THE PROCESS OF ADJUDICATION: DISTRICT, CLUSTER, PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL

- A training workshop on the adjudication processes is held annually for all stakeholders
- Panels of adjudicators are appointed at district and cluster level where a panel selects finalists in every category
- Adjudication takes place at schools followed by district, cluster, provincial and national levels
- The profiles of finalists and motivations for nominations are sent to the provincial Department of Education, where a panel of adjudicators, determines excellence
- Provincial adjudications are held at a central venue after which finalists are announced. The winners represent the province at national level at a presidential gala function.


 MR R TYWAKADI
 A/SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL