



CONSTITUTION

OF

THE ZAMBIA DEBATE

ASSOCIATION

(ZDA)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART ONE

ARTICLE 1: NAME OF THE ASSOCIATION	1
ARTICLE 2: LEGAL STATUS	1
ARTICLE 3: HEAD OFFICE	2
ARTICLE 4: VISSION	2
ARTICLE 5: MISSION	2
ARTICLE 6: CORE VALUES	3
ARTICLE 7: OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION	4
ARTICLE 8: STRUCTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION	5
ARTICLE 9: MEMBERSHIP	6

PART TWO

ARTICLE 10: NATIONAL GOVERNING STRUCTURE	8
ARTICLE 11: PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATION	9
ARTICLE 12: POWERS AND FUCTIONS OF OFFICE BEARERS	9
ARTICLE 13: THE RESEARCH AND FACT CHECKING TEAM	14

PART THREE

ARTICLE 14: MANAGEMENTS OF DEBATES	16
ARTICLE 15: MEETINGS	18
ARTICLE 16: ELECTIONS	18
ARTICLE 17: FINANCE	19
ARTICLE 18: DISCIPLINE	19

PART FOUR

ARTICLE 19: AMENDMENTS	21
ARTICLE 20: DISSOLUTON	21
ARTICLE 21: MOTTO	21
ARTICLE 22: OFFICIAL SLOGAN	22
ARTICLE 23: ADOPTION	23

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Zambia Debate Association, recognizing the importance of debate, critical thinking, public speaking, research, civic engagement, leadership, and responsible communication in national development, do hereby establish this Constitution to guide the operations, administration, governance, and activities of the Zambia Debate Association.

The Association shall promote intellectual dialogue, peaceful exchange of ideas, informed public discourse, youth empowerment, research-based argumentation, democratic values, patriotism, and national unity across the Republic of Zambia.

The Association shall work with educational institutions, government institutions, private organizations, civil society, media houses, and international partners to ensure that debate becomes a tool for education, research, innovation, leadership development, and responsible public participation.

PART ONE

ARTICLE 1: NAME OF THE ASSOCIATION

The name of the Association shall be:

“ZAMBIA DEBATE ASSOCIATION”

ARTICLE 2: LEGAL STATUS

(Hereinafter referred to as “the Association” or “ZDA”)

1. The Association shall be a non-profit, non-partisan, non-sectarian, and educational organization.
2. The Association shall operate in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Zambia.
3. The Association may register with relevant government authorities and regulatory institutions.
4. The Association shall have perpetual succession and may sue or be sued in its own name.

ARTICLE 3: HEAD OFFICE

1. The National Headquarters of the Association shall be situated in Lusaka Province, Zambia.
2. Provincial offices may be established in all the ten (10) provinces of Zambia.

3. District and institutional branches may also be established where necessary.

ARTICLE 4: VISION

To create a nationally recognized debate culture that promotes informed leadership, intellectual excellence, research-based discussions, democratic participation, and national development in Zambia.

ARTICLE 5: MISSION

To empower citizens through structured debate, research, public discourse, and educational engagement from primary school level to public and political platforms while promoting truth, critical thinking, ethical communication, and responsible leadership.

ARTICLE 6: CORE VALUES

The Association shall uphold the following values:

1. Integrity
2. Truthfulness
3. Respect
4. Patriotism

5. Professionalism
6. Accountability
7. Inclusiveness
8. Intellectual Excellence
9. Research and Accuracy
10. Peaceful Dialogue
11. National Unity
12. Democracy and Freedom of Expression

ARTICLE 7: OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION

The objectives of the Association shall include:

1. To promote debate culture in Zambia from primary school to national level.
2. To improve public speaking, communication, and critical thinking skills.
3. To organize academic, social, political, and public debates across Zambia.
4. To ensure debates are based on factual, research-backed, and verified information.
5. To establish debate clubs in primary schools, secondary schools, colleges, universities, and

communities.

6. To train debaters, moderators, adjudicators, and debate coaches.
7. To create platforms for peaceful discussion of national issues.
8. To promote civic education and democratic participation.
9. To partner with institutions in conducting research through public discussions and debates.
10. To reduce misinformation and misleading public narratives through research verification.
11. To empower young people with leadership and analytical skills.
12. To organize national debate competitions and conferences.
13. To promote gender equality and inclusive participation in debate activities.
14. To represent Zambia in regional and international debate forums.
15. To use debate as a tool for social and economic development.

ARTICLE 8: STRUCTURE OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Association shall operate at the following levels:

1. National Level
2. Provincial Level
4. Institutional Level

Institutional Categories

The Association shall comprise:

1. Primary School Debate Units

2. Secondary School Debate Units
3. College Debate Units
4. University Debate Units
5. Community Debate Units
6. Professional Debate Forums
7. Public and Political Debate Forums

ARTICLE 9: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall include:

1. Ordinary Members
2. Student Members
3. Institutional Members
4. Honorary Members
5. Associate Members
6. Professional Members
7. Universities, Colleges and Schools

SECTION 2: ELIGIBILITY

A person or institution shall qualify for membership if they:

1. Support the objectives of the Association.
2. Agree to abide by this Constitution.

3. Are willing to promote ethical debate practices.
4. Have paid prescribed membership or affiliation fees.

SECTION 3: RIGHTS OF MEMBERS

Members shall have the right to:

1. Participate in debates and meetings.
2. Vote and be voted for.
3. Access Association programs and training.
4. Propose motions and recommendations.
5. Receive fair treatment under the Constitution.

SECTION 4: RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

Members shall:

1. Uphold the Constitution.
2. Promote respectful debate conduct.
3. Avoid spreading false information.
4. Support Association activities.
5. Pay membership/Affiliation subscriptions.

PART TWO

ARTICLE 10: NATIONAL GOVERNING STRUCTURE

The National Executive Committee shall consist of:

1. President
2. Vice President
3. Secretary General
4. Deputy Secretary General
5. Treasurer
6. Deputy Treasurer
7. Projects Coordinator
8. Research Director
9. Media and Publicity Director
10. Legal Advisor

11. Provincial Representatives from all 10 Provinces

ARTICLE 11: PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATION

1. Each province shall elect or appoint representatives to the National Committee.

2. The ten provinces shall each have:

- Provincial Chairperson
- Provincial Secretary
- Provincial Treasurer
- Provincial Coordinator

3. Provincial committees shall oversee debate activities within their provinces.

4. Provincial committees shall submit reports to the National Executive.

ARTICLE 12: POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF OFFICE BEARERS

SECTION 1: THE PRESIDENT

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association.

Powers and Functions

The President shall:

1. Provide national leadership to the Association.
2. Preside over meetings and national conferences.
3. Represent the Association nationally and internationally.
4. Supervise implementation of policies and programs.
5. Ensure discipline and constitutional compliance.
6. Appoint committees where necessary.
7. Authorize strategic partnerships and collaborations.
8. Oversee national debate programs.
9. Act as chief spokesperson of the Association.
10. Ensure peaceful and productive conduct of debates.
11. Sign official documents on behalf of the Association.
12. Exercise casting vote in case of a tie.
13. Suspend members subject to disciplinary procedures.
14. Promote national unity and professionalism.

SECTION 2: THE VICE PRESIDENT

The Vice President shall assist the President.

Powers and Functions

The Vice President shall:

1. Act on behalf of the President in their absence.
2. Coordinate provincial activities.

3. Monitor implementation of programs.
4. Supervise committees assigned by the President.
5. Assist in policy development.
6. Ensure communication between provinces and national leadership.
7. Support institutional expansion across Zambia.

SECTION 3: THE SECRETARY GENERAL

The Secretary General shall be the chief administrator of the Association.

Powers and Functions

The Secretary General shall:

1. Handle daily administration.
2. Prepare meeting agendas and minutes.
3. Keep official records and documents.
4. Coordinate correspondence.
5. Maintain membership database.
6. Communicate official decisions.
7. Prepare annual reports.
8. Organize meetings and conferences.
9. Ensure constitutional compliance.
10. Keep custody of Association records.

SECTION 4: THE TREASURER

The Treasurer shall manage financial affairs.

Powers and Functions

The Treasurer shall:

1. Keep financial records.
2. Prepare financial statements.
3. Manage bank accounts.
4. Ensure accountability and transparency.
5. Present financial reports.
6. Coordinate budgeting processes.
7. Monitor expenditure.
8. Ensure proper use of funds.
9. Advise on financial sustainability.
10. Work with auditors.

SECTION 5: THE PROJECTS COORDINATOR

The Projects Coordinator shall oversee programs and development initiatives.

Powers and Functions

The Projects Coordinator shall:

1. Develop and coordinate projects.

2. Organize debate competitions and conferences.
3. Coordinate national educational programs.
4. Mobilize partnerships and sponsorships.
5. Supervise implementation of development programs.
6. Coordinate debate outreach activities.
7. Monitor project performance.
8. Prepare project proposals and reports.
9. Promote innovation and expansion.
10. Coordinate institutional collaborations.

ARTICLE 13: THE RESEARCH AND FACT-CHECKING TEAM

ESTABLISHMENT

The Association shall establish a National Research and Verification Team.

Functions of the Research Team

The Research Team shall:

1. Verify information used in debates.
2. Prevent misinformation and misleading arguments.

3. Conduct background research on debate topics.
4. Produce research reports and publications.
5. Work with institutions in conducting research.
6. Collect data through debate forums and public discussions.
7. Ensure factual accuracy in public and political debates.
8. Develop educational materials and policy briefs.
9. Assist debaters with credible sources.
10. Promote evidence-based discussions.

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Association may partner with:

1. Universities
2. Research Institutions
3. Government Ministries
4. NGOs
5. Media Houses
6. Corporate Institutions
7. International Organizations

for purposes of:

1. Research
2. Civic education
3. Policy discussions
4. Youth empowerment
5. Leadership development
6. National awareness campaigns

PART THREE

ARTICLE 14: MANAGEMENT OF DEBATES

SECTION 1: DEBATE STANDARDS

All debates shall:

1. Be peaceful and respectful.
2. Be research-based.
3. Avoid hate speech and discrimination.
4. Promote educational value.
5. Follow approved debate procedures.

SECTION 2: DEBATE CATEGORIES

The Association shall organize:

1. Academic Debates
2. Public Policy Debates
3. Political Debates
4. Community Debates
5. Parliamentary Style Debates
6. Schools Competitions
7. Corporate Debates
8. Inter-University Debates
9. National Championship Debates

SECTION 3: PUBLIC AND POLITICAL DEBATES

Public and political debates shall:

1. Promote issue-based discussions.
2. Be moderated professionally.
3. Ensure equal speaking opportunities.
4. Prevent incitement and misinformation.
5. Encourage civic participation.
6. Promote democratic values.

ARTICLE 15: MEETINGS

The Association shall hold:

1. Annual General Meetings (AGM)
2. National Executive Meetings
3. Provincial Meetings
4. Emergency Meetings
5. Committee Meetings

ARTICLE 16: ELECTIONS

1. Elections shall be conducted democratically.
2. Office bearers shall serve for a term of five (5) years.
3. Elections shall be supervised by an independent electoral committee.
4. Members may seek re-election.

ARTICLE 17: FINANCE

Sources of funds shall include:

1. Membership fees
2. Donations
3. Sponsorships
4. Grants
5. Fundraising activities
6. Partnerships
7. Debate events and conferences
8. Affiliation fees

ARTICLE 18: DISCIPLINE

A member may face disciplinary action for:

1. Misconduct
2. Corruption
3. Misuse of funds
4. Spreading false information
5. Violence or hate speech

6. Bringing the Association into disrepute

PART FOUR

ARTICLE 19: AMENDMENTS

1. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote.
2. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing.
3. Amendments shall be discussed during the AGM or special meetings.

ARTICLE 20: DISSOLUTION

1. The Association may only be dissolved by a three-quarters majority vote.
2. Upon dissolution, assets shall be transferred to educational or charitable institutions in Zambia.

ARTICLE 21: MOTTO

“Promoting Knowledge Through Debate”

ARTICLE 22: OFFICIAL SLOGAN

“Speak with Facts, Debate with Purpose”

ARTICLE 23: ADOPTION

This Constitution was adopted by members of the Zambia Debate Association on this day
of , 2026.

Signed:

PRESIDENT: _____

SECRETARY GENERAL: _____

TREASURER: _____

WITNESSED BY: _____