CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

https://dsacevents.dsac.gov.za/mbf/#p-awards

NATIONAL LITERARY AWARDS

Issued by: The Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSAC)

1. Invitation to Submit

The National Literary Awards (NLA) invites publishers, authors, literary agents, cultural organisations and the rest of the literary community to submit nominations for the inaugural awards cycle. The NLA is South Africa's premier literary prize celebrating excellence in **all official languages**, with a dedicated commitment to honouring and elevating **previously disadvantaged languages**

We seek works that demonstrate literary merit, cultural significance, and a profound contribution to the South African story.

2. Award Categories Open for Nomination

A. The Core Official Language Awards

One winner per language. Works must be **originally written** in the language.

#	Award Name & Language
1	isiNdebele NLA
2	isiXhosa NLA
3	isiZulu NLA
4	Sesotho NLA
5	Sepedi NLA
6	Setswana NLA



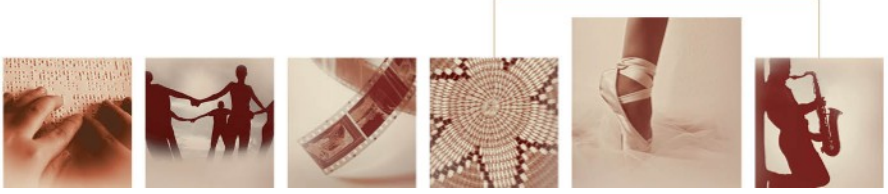
#	Award Name & Language
7	Siswati NLA
8	Tshivenda NLA
9	Xitsonga NLA
10	Afrikaans NLA
11	English NLA

Genres accepted per language: Fiction (novel, drama text, short story collection), non-fiction (creative, memoir, biography), Poetry, and Children's Literature.

B. Cross-Cutting National Awards

Award Name	Description
Lifetime Achievement Award	Presented to an individual who has made a monumental and sustained contribution to South African literature over the course of their career. This award may also be conferred posthumously to honour the enduring legacy of a deceased literary giant.
Children's Book Award	Honours outstanding works for young readers, from picture books to captive stories. The award recognises age-appropriate themes, literary quality, and the ability to inspire a love of reading in the next generation.
South African International Author Award	Honouring South African authors whose books have been recognised on international platforms and sold outside the boarders of South Africa. To encourage the business of selling books and accessing all markets nationally and internationally

C. Special Recognition Awards



Award Name	Description
Liberation Struggle Literary Award	Recognises a work that documents, chronicles, or reflects upon the South African anti-apartheid struggle, liberation movements, or the fight against racial oppression. This award honours the role of literature in bearing witness to history and preserving the memory of the struggle for future generations.

D. Special Recognition: Book Publishing Value Chain

Award Name	Description
Publishing House of the Year	Acknowledges excellence and innovation in multi-language publishing. This award celebrates a publishing house that has demonstrated a commitment to quality, diversity, and the promotion of South African voices.
Outstanding Literary Organisation of the Year	Awarded to an organisation (NGO, non-profit, trust, or foundation) that has demonstrated a sustained commitment to literary promotion, reading campaigns, and the development of the literary sector.

3. How to Nominate

Step 1: Register

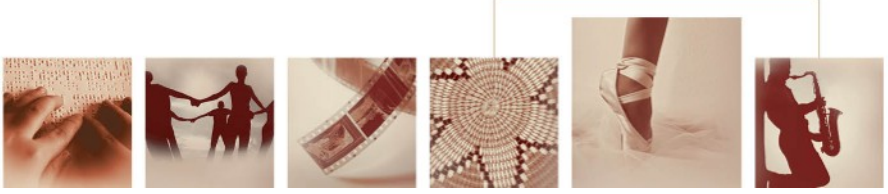
Register on the website to create a nominator profile.

Step 2: Prepare Your Submission Pack

- Completed online nomination form.
- PDF or scanned copy of the book's cover and title page.
- A brief synopsis (max 300 words) in the language of the work and in English.
- Author biography (max 200 words).
- Publisher details and proof of publication date.
- **Six (6) physical copies** of the book delivered to the NLA Secretariat address below.

Step 3: Submit

- Complete the online form and upload digital documents.



- Courier physical copies to:

The National Literary Awards
Department of Sport, Arts and Culture

Books and Publishing Directorate

Sechaba House

202 Madiba Street

Pretoria

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Step 4: Confirmation

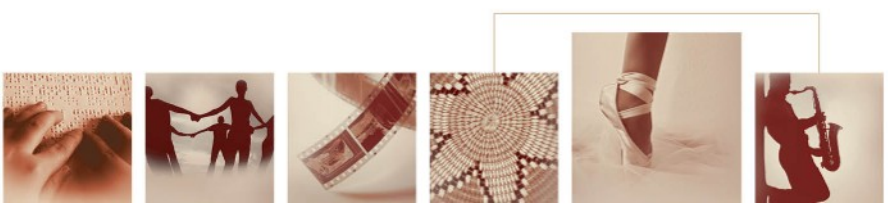
- Once you have successfully completed your online submission a confirmation email will be sent to you
- Once the six physical copies of the book have been successfully delivered you will receive an email acknowledging receipt within 5 working days.

4. Key Dates

Milestone	**Date**
Call for Nominations Opens	16 November 2026
Nominations Close	12 December 2026
Submission of physical copies	18 December 2026

5. Judging & Announcements

- All submissions will be assessed by independent juries of experts fluent in the relevant language.
- The judging process is confidential. Jury decisions are final.



- Winners will be notified prior to the public announcement and must be available for the awards ceremony and related media activities.

