



REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

## MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCE

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In the context of the National Day Celebrations 2026, the Office of the President, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Human Resource, is organising the second edition of the National Essay Competition for Primary and Secondary Schools of Mauritius, Rodrigues and Agalega.

The Competition is open to the following categories:

**Category A** - Primary Grades 5 and 6 pupils

**Category B** - Lower Secondary Grade 7 to Grade 9 students

**Category C** - Upper Secondary Grade 10 to Grade 13 students

**Themes for Each Category:**

- 1. Category A: Mauritius, My Home: What Makes Our Island Special**
- 2. Category B: Being Mauritian Today: Rights, Responsibilities and Shared Values**
- 3. Category C: Preserving Our Mauritian Identity in a Globalised World**

### **General Rules and Instructions**

#### **1. Eligibility:**

Mauritian students enrolled in primary and secondary schools in Mauritius, Rodrigues and Agalega are eligible to participate in their respective categories.

#### **2. Word Limit:**

**Category A:** 300-500 words

**Category B:** 500-800 words

**Category C:** 800-1200 words

**3.** Essays are to be submitted in English Language

#### **4. Submission Format:**

##### **Category A - Primary (Grades 5 and 6):**

- Essays must be handwritten submissions in hard copies
- Each school will have to **select** and submit a maximum of **five (5) best entries** together with a **Covering Letter**.
- Schools must submit entries in sealed envelopes with the mention **National Day Celebrations 2026: Category A**. Same must be submitted to their **respective Zone Directorate**.

*NOTE: Registration for participation for Category A must be made on the link provided hereunder:*

<https://forms.office.com/r/qM5aQ7m23a>

### **Category B and C – Secondary (Grades 7 to 9):**

- Essays must be typed in Font Times New Roman, Font Size 12 with a line spacing of 1.5.
- Each Secondary School will have to **select** a maximum of **five (5) best entries** per category  
**(5 from Category B and 5 from Category C).**
- Schools must submit selected entries in sealed envelopes with the mention **National Day Celebrations 2026: Category B or Category C.** Same must be submitted to their **respective Zone Directorate.**

*NOTE: Registration for participation for Categories B & C must be made on the link provided hereunder:*

<https://forms.office.com/r/G8ySR3Wp0E>

### **5. Deadline for Submission:**

- The deadline for registration for participation is Wednesday 18.03.2026
- Candidates must submit entries to their respective schools by Monday 20.04.2026
- Primary Schools (Government/RCA/Fee paying) will submit entries to their respective Zone Directorate on Monday 27.04.2026
- Secondary Schools (State/Private/Private Fee paying) will submit entries to their respective Zone Directorate on Monday 27.04.2026
- Zone Directorates will submit collected entries (separately for Primary and Secondary) to the Secondary Education Directorate, Level 3, Room 3.30A, Ministry of Education and Human Resource, MITD House, Pont Fer, Phoenix on Wednesday 29.04.2026

### **6. Special Features:**

- Award Ceremony Highlights:  
Excerpts from winning entries will be presented during the award ceremony.
- Use of Generative AI:  
**Use of Generative AI is strictly prohibited and will lead to rejection of the submission.**

### **7. Evaluation Criteria:**

**Category A:** Creativity, Clarity, Relevance and Presentation.

A special prize will be awarded to the submission with the best handwriting.

**Categories B and C:** Creativity, Language and style, Impact, Relevance and Element of research work.

For shortlisted entries, candidates will be expected to make an oral presentation of their work for 3 to 5 minutes followed by an interaction of around 2 minutes with the Jury Members.

A special prize will be awarded to the best speaker for each Category.

## **8. Prizes and Certificates**

- Prizes and Certificates will be awarded to winners.
- The five best entries from each school will also be awarded Certificates of Participation.
- Participating schools will receive Certificates of Recognition.
- Outstanding essays could potentially be uploaded on the website of the Office of the President.

**All entries will be the joint property of the Office of the President and the Ministry of Education and Human Resource. Same may be used for educational purposes.**