



NAST: CHAIRPERSON
Mr Phillip Teffo
071 510 2079

NAST: ACTING NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY
Mr Paul Liddle
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Reference: NAST National Conference 2026 – Final Information Letter 2/2026

Date: 3 July 2026

TO:

- Conference Delegates
- Principals of all participating schools
- Department Heads of all participating schools
- Specialisation and support subjects educators of all participating schools

CC:

- NAST Provincial Representatives
- NAST Executive
- DBE Officials

Dear Colleagues, Delegates, and Representatives,

Final Communication: NAST National Conference 2026

This letter serves as the final communication for all delegates attending the upcoming NAST National Conference 2026. This event is proudly supported and sponsored by School Governing Bodies (SGBs), Provincial Departments of Basic Education (PDE & DBE), Africa Skills, and various corporate exhibitors.

Thank you for acknowledging receipt of information letter 1. We are working hard to finalise the arrangements for the conference, which will take place from **14 to 17 July 2026** in eMalahleni (Witbank), Mpumalanga.

We sincerely appreciate your prompt feedback and registration details during our planning phases. This event promises to be an enriching and impactful experience centered around our 2026 national theme: **“Preparing Tomorrow Through Skills.”**

Please review the critical logistical details below to assist with your final planning and coordination.

 Day 1 Logistics (Tuesday, 14 July 2026)

- **Registration & accreditation:** 12:00 – 17:00
 - **Note:** upon arrival, you will receive a control form to verify and update your personal details.
- **Conference Venue:** HTS / THS Witbank
 - **Address:** Beyers Street, Die Heuwel, eMalahleni (Witbank)
 - **GPS Coordinates:** -25.8808, 29.23186



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- **Welcome Social & Networking Function:**

- **Venue:** HTS Witbank THS - School Cafeteria
- **Time:** 19:00
- **Dress Code:** Casual
- **Note:** *Join us for refreshments and networking with provincial colleagues, exhibitors, and special guests. Per school policy, a cash bar will be available and you will not be allowed to bring your own refreshments.*

Conference programme

Please refer to the attached **Annexure A** for the final conference programme. Various exhibitors will be showcasing their products, programmes, and educational materials throughout the 4-day event, with a specific focus on the technical education stream.

(Changes may occur and this will be communicated to all stakeholders & invited guests)

Accommodation arrangements

(Applicable only to delegates who booked the full NAST package)

Upon completing your registration and accreditation at HTS Witbank THS, you will be assigned to your specific hotel. Delegates will receive QR codes (maps and directions to accommodation venues) during accreditation to assist with checking into their designated venues.

Delegates will be accommodated at one of the following **ANEW Hotel Group** locations:

1. **ANEW Hotel Witbank**

- Physical Address: 167 Jellicoe Street, eMalahleni, 1035
- GPS Coordinates: 25° 52' 44.4" S, 29° 14' 07.0" E (-25.88026, 29.21908)

2. **ANEW Hotel Highveld**

- Physical Address: Financial Square, Mandela Street, eMalahleni, 1035
- GPS Coordinates: 25° 52' 44.4" S, 29° 14' 07.0" E (-25.87903, 29.23528)



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Important Hotel notes

- **Check-out:** Friday morning, 17 July 2026, **before 08:00**.
- **Personal bills:** Please ensure you settle any personal bills before checking out. **NAST will not be held responsible for any individual delegate hotel bill.**

Meals & Catering

- **Breakfast:** Served at your respective accommodation venues (05:30 – 08:00).
- **Tea breaks & lunches:** served daily at the main conference venue (HTS Witbank THS).
- **Dinners:** served at your respective accommodation venues (18:30 – 21:30).
- **Departure/ Lunch:** the programme concludes at approximately 14:15 on Friday, 17 July 2026. A travel lunch pack will be provided to all delegates for their journey home.

Required Conference materials & equipment (training sessions)

Delegates must bring the following subject-specific items with them:

- **EGD Educators:** laptops with AutoCAD software pre-loaded.
- **Technical Mathematics & Technical Sciences Educators:** scientific calculators.
- **Mechanical, Electrical, and Civil Technology Educators:** full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required for practical training sessions.
- **General Items:** Extra writing pads and pens. *(Note: A standard conference bag, writing pad and pen will also be provided to you upon registration).*

Transport

Transport between your allocated accommodation and the conference venue is the **sole responsibility of each individual delegate or their respective provinces**. Any other enquiries regarding transport may be addressed to the conference organiser.



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Training day (Thursday, 16 July 2026)

- **Venue:** HTS Witbank Workshops and Classrooms
- **Dress Code (very important): Full PPE** matching your specific technical specialisation (Mechanical, Electrical, or Civil Technology). General educators (EGD, Tech Math, Tech Science) may dress in casual clothing.

Additional Critical Information

- **Weather Notice (warm clothing):** Please be aware that eMalahleni (Witbank) can get **cold** during July, especially in the early mornings and evenings. We highly recommend bringing warm jackets, scarves, and layered clothing. The conference sessions are hosted in a large school hall which can be difficult to heat, so please dress warmly for indoor sessions.
- **Daily attendance scanning:** You are reminded to report to the main foyer (where registration took place) **every morning between 08:00 and 08:45** to have your accreditation scanned for daily attendance registers.

Contact Person

For any urgent inquiries, updates, or clarifications, please contact our Conference coordinator:

- **mr Wimpie Lodewyk**
- **Cell:** 082 339 7063

Any final logistics or updates will be communicated and shared regarding accommodation, changes or fine details no later than **10 July 2026**.



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Kindly ensure that all delegates in your circuits or schools receive this letter. Thank you once again for your cooperation, commitment, and valued support. We look forward to welcoming you to a highly successful national conference!

Should you have any questions or require assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Warm regards,

P Liddle

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Annexure A

PROGRAMME (Changes may occur and this will be communicated to all stakeholders & invited guests)

Tuesday, 14 July 2026 (Day 1) (12:00 – 22:00) – Arrival Day

12:00 – 17:00: Arrival and registration/ accreditation (THS Witbank)
19:00 – Welcome Social/ networking function (THS Witbank)

Notes:

Check-in at the registration desk upon arrival.
Attendees will enjoy refreshments on arrival with registration/ accreditation.
Welcome function includes refreshments and informal networking.
A cash bar will be available.

Wednesday, 15 July 2026 (Day 2) (09:00 – 19:00) – Opening day

Programme Director: Mr GP van Rheede van Oudtshoorn (Coppertop Consulting)

All delegates must be seated no later than 08:30 in the conference venue (school main hall)

Morning Sessions (09:00 – 13:45 – Session 1 & 2)

Session 1

09:00 – 10:30: Opening: NAST: Chairperson- Mr Phillip Teffo
Word of welcome: Mr DM Maja (District Director Nkangala District)
Message of support: TBA
Keynote speech: TBA
10:30 – 10:45: Exhibitor presentation (15 min)
10:45 – 11:15: Tea break

Session 2

11:15 – 11:30: **The Blueprint moment**
11:30 – 12:15: Presentation & answering questions: Dr Aaron Nkosi (DBE Director: Curriculum Research)
Topic: Expansion of Focus Schools' - Audit and way forward
12:15 – 12:45: Presentation & answering questions: Dr Komanen Mphahlele (Retired academic University of Limpopo)
Topic: Bridging the Skills gap: Aligning Technical Education with industrial needs.
12:45 – 13:00: **The Recharge Moment**
13:00 – 13:45: Lunch (THS Witbank cafeteria / designated area)



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Afternoon Sessions (13:45 – 19:00 – Sessions 3 & 4)

Programme Director: Mr GP van Rheede van Oudtshoorn (Coppertop Consulting)

All delegates must be seated no later than 13:45 in the conference venue (school main hall)

Session 3

13:45 – 14:00: The Opportunity moment

14:00 – 14:45: Presentation & answering questions: Dr Moses Semilane (DBE Chief Director for Curriculum implementation and monitoring)

Topic: Empowering youth through Technical skills for economic growth.

14:45 -15:00: Exhibitor presentation (15 min)

14:45 – 15:00: The work bench moment

15:00 – 15:30: Tea break

15:30 – 16:45: Breakaway Sessions

(All specialisations + EGD + Technical Mathematics & Technical Sciences & Special School)

Session 4

All delegates must be seated no later than 16:45 in the conference venue (school main hall)

17:00 – 18:30: Feedback on sessions

18:30 – 19:00: The Shift Handover moment

19:00 – Depart

Notes:

Breakaway sessions will be held in assigned classrooms or halls.

Session chairpersons and scribes will be announced.

Materials for each session will be available on tables.

Groups will determine the repartee from each group.

Feedback is strictly limited to 5 minutes, an official presentation template will be available.

Thursday, 16 July 2026 (Day 3) (08:30 – 19:00) – Panel discussions, Training & members meeting

Programme Director: Mr GP van Rheede van Oudtshoorn (Coppertop Consulting)

All delegates must be seated no later than 08:15 in the conference venue (school main hall)



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Morning Sessions (09:00 – 12:30 – Session 5 & 6)

Session 5

08:30 – 09:00: Opening: (NAST)
Organisational announcements (NAST/LdeK)
09:00 – 9:30: Presentation & answering questions: Africa Skills
09:30 – 10:30: Plenary panel discussion
10:30 – 10:40: Exhibitor presentation (10 min)

Session 6

10:45 - 11:15: Tea break
11:15 – 11:30: The Gear Up moment
11:30 – 12:45: Training session (All specialisations + EGD + Technical Mathematics & Technical Sciences)
13:00 – 13:45: Lunch (THS Witbank cafeteria / designated area)

Afternoon Sessions (13:45 – 16:00 – Session 7)

All delegates must be seated no later than 13:45 in the workshops/ classrooms or halls for the training sessions.

Session 7

13:45 – 16:00: Training session continues (All specialisations + EGD + Technical Mathematics & Technical Sciences)
16:30 - 16:40: Exhibitor presentation (10 min)
16:45 – 17:15: Tea break
17:15 – 18:30: **NAST Members meeting (school hall)**
18:30 – 19:00: **The Pre-Start Check**
19:00 – Depart

Notes:

Programme director will chair the panel discussions.
Training sessions will be held in assigned workshops/ classrooms and halls



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Friday, 17 July 2026 (Day 4) (08:30 – 13:30) Closing day

Programme Director: Mr GP van Rheede van Oudtshoorn (Coppertop Consulting)

All delegates must be seated no later than 08:15 in the conference venue (school main mall)

Sessions (08:30 – 14:00 – Session 8)

08:30 – 08:45: Opening: (NAST)

08:45 – 09:00: Organisational announcements (NAST/LdeK)

09:00 – 09:10: Exhibitor presentation (10 min)

09:10 – 09:30: **The Ignition moment**

09:30 – 10:30: Motivational Speaker: Mr Anthony Noble “A picture with a message”

10:30 – 10:45: Tea Break

10:45 – 11:00: **The Future-Proofing moment**

11:00 – 11:45: Presentation & answering questions: Dr Ntebo Ngcobo (Lecturer, University of Johannesburg)

Topic: Preparing Future - Ready graduates: adapting Technical Education for a changing world.

11:45 – 12:00: **The Tools down moment**

12:00 - 12:15: Word of thanks (NAST: Deputy Chairperson - Mr Wouter Enslin)

12:15 - 12:45: Closing & way forward (NAST: Chairperson - Mr Phillip Teffo)

12:45 – 13:30: Lunch (Travel pack)

13:30 – Depart