

## DARE TO SPELL COMPETITION

### 1.0 COMPETITION RULES

- 1.1 This competition is open to all primary and secondary school pupils from government and government-aided schools only. The competition is divided into two categories:

#### Secondary School : Form 1 – Form 5 pupils

- 1.2 Each school sends in only **one (1)** participant.

### 2.0 GUIDELINES

#### 2.1 Word List

2.1.1 The words used in the competition from the state to national level will start from A2 level for primary and B2 level for secondary. The organizer will be responsible for the word list.

2.1.2 The word list will comprise of words that have simple words and then progress into more difficult ones.

2.1.3 All the words spelled by spellers during the competition, either in the written or oral spelling must follow the **British Standard of English**.

2.2 Participants must wear school uniform to the competition. The school identity should not be visible throughout the performance.

2.3 Each participant will be given a number to represent their turn to spell during the competition.

2.4 When a participant's number is called out by the Master Speller, the participant must confirm his/her number. The Master Speller will say the word and the participant must spell the word.

2.5 Each participant is given **30 seconds** to spell out the word correctly.

2.6 A bell will be rung as soon as the Master Speller says out the word. The second bell will be rung at the 30<sup>th</sup> second.

2.7 If the participant does not catch the word the first time, he/she may ask the Master Speller to repeat the word, **“Can you please repeat the word?”** or **“Please repeat.”**

2.8 If the participant still does not know the word, he/she may ask the Master Speller the meaning of the word, **“Can I have the meaning of the word, please?”** or just **“Meaning,**

**please.”**

2.9 If the participant still does not know the word, he/she may ask the Master Speller the word in a sentence, **“Can I have the word in a sentence, please?”** or **“Sentence, please.”**

2.10 If a participant is given a homonym, it is the responsibility of the participant to determine the proper spelling of the word by asking for a definition, use in a sentence, or other help as allowed in the rules. (Refer to Rules 2.7 to 2.9)

2.11 Having started to spell a word, a participant may stop and start over. Participants are allowed to restart their words provided they do not change any of the letters or the sequence of the letters from those first pronounced.

2.11 **All of the above must be within the stipulated time, i.e., 30 seconds.**

2.12 If the spelling is correct, the Master Speller will announce, “That is correct”. If it is incorrect, the Master Speller will announce “I am sorry, that is incorrect.”

### **3.0 JUDGING RUBRIC**

3.1 The competition will be separated into four stages, i.e., non-elimination rounds, elimination rounds, semi-finals and finals.

3.2 The first stage of the competition consists of 3 non-elimination rounds. This round serves as a warm-up for the participants. All participants will advance to the second stage of the competition, regardless of whether they misspell or spell the word correctly.

3.3 The second stage of the competition will be the elimination rounds. A participant will be eliminated from the competition and will not advance to the next round at the first instance of providing an incorrect answer. The elimination rounds will continue until there are five spellers.

3.4 The semi-final stage will involve the five remaining spellers. Spellers will be eliminated at this stage when they misspell the words in two consecutive rounds.

**Table 1: Example of elimination method for the remaining five spellers**

Rounds	Speller 1	Speller 2	Speller 3	Speller 4	Speller 5
1	√	√	X	√	√
2	X	√	X (eliminated)	X	√
3	X (eliminated)	√		√	X
4		√		√	X (eliminated)

\*√ - indicates correct spelling

\*X – indicates wrong spelling

3.5 This stage will continue until there are two spellers left.

3.6 The final round will take place when there are two remaining spellers. The following rules apply in the final stage of the competition. When one speller misspells a word and the second speller spells the word correctly, but misspells the next word on the list, the misspelled word will be given to the first speller. If the first speller spells the word correctly, and also spells the next word on the list correctly, then he/she will become the champion.

