



PAUDC COUNCIL EXECUTIVE REPORT: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO TOURNAMENT DATES: PAUDC 2026, ABUJA.

Prepared by: Masopha Porota; Legal Officer: PAUDC Council 2026

Date: July 13th, 2026

Platform: Google Forms

To The PAUDC 2026 Council Executive

RE: REPORT ON COLLATED DATA REGARDING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO PAUDC 2026 TOURNAMENT DATES.

Background:

As per the resolution of the PAUDC Council meeting dated July 5th, 2026, in which the adjustment to tournament dates was discussed by the PAUDC Director of Oversight and the PAUDC Local Organising Committee, in consultation with PAUDC Council, the Legal Officer of the PAUDC Council executive was tasked with collecting and collating data from the broader Pan-African Universities debating community to assess their amenability to the proposed changes to the tournament dates.

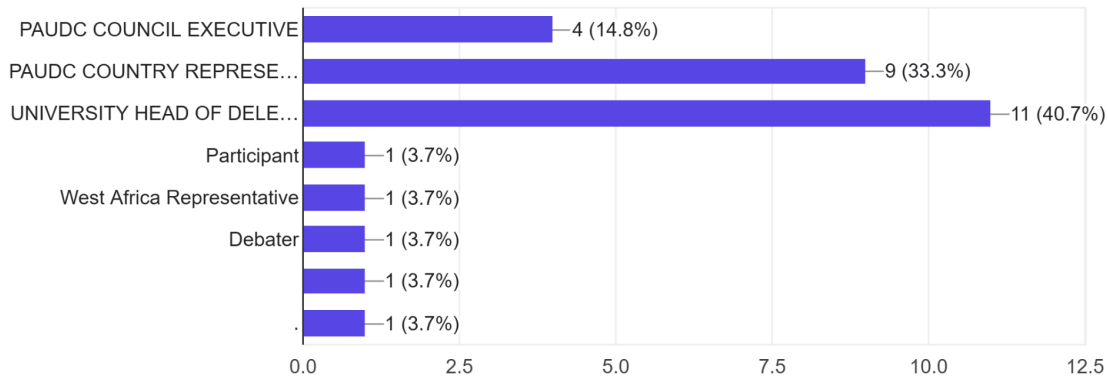
Discussion:

The dates were subject to change from 5th - 13th December 2026, to 12th - 20th December 2026. The collection of this data was done through a prescribed google form, and the form received twenty-seven (27) responses in total ranging from members of the PAUDC Council Executive, Ordinary Members of Council, PAUDC Regional Representatives, and various Heads of Delegations from countries across the African Continent.

Although the overall turn-out of responses from the community remains underwhelming, it is the assessment of the Legal Officer that the majority of the debating regions on the African Continent was represented on a balance of probabilities and with reference to the sample locations of all twenty-seven respondents, which is statistically acceptable given the allotted time frame for responses, which was from 9th - 12th of July 2026.

DESIGNATION

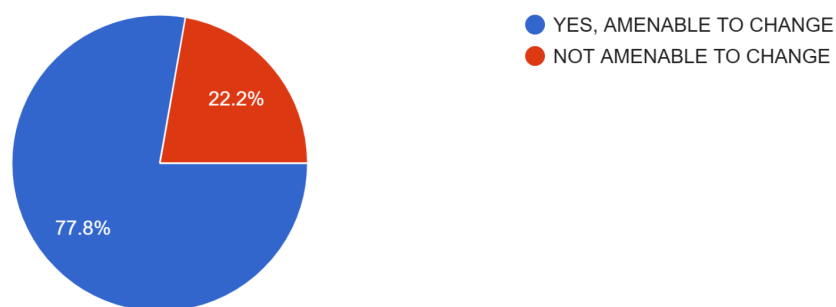
27 responses



Of the twenty-seven recorded respondents that participated in the collection of data regarding the amenability of the broader Pan-African Universities Debating community to the amendment of tournament dates for the upcoming Pan-African Universities Debating Championships in Abuja, Nigeria, 77.8% of the respondents showed amenability to the amendment, while only 22.2% did not show for amenability to the amendment.

ARE YOU COMFORTABLE WITH THE PROPOSED ADJUSTMENT OF THE TOURNAMENT DATES FROM 15 - 13 DECEMBER 2026 TO 12 - 20 DECEMBER 2026?

27 responses



Of the respondents that were not amenable to the change in tournament dates, the most common reason(s) cited was that the proposed dates fell within the range of School's Nationals for South Africa, and a likely assessment clash issue in Uganda. All other regions and countries expressed that the new dates were more suitable in terms of their University assessment periods.

Recommendations:

It is the opinion of the Legal Officer, and the recommendation to the PAUDC Council Executive Committee, and by extension to the Director of Oversight and the Local Organising Committee of the Pan-African Universities Debating Championships for the 2026 calendar year, that the broader Pan-African Universities Debating community, from the responses garnered and data collated, are amenable to the proposed amendment to the tournament dates and that they should be further scheduled as proposed.

Furthermore, it is the opinion of the Legal Officer, specifically regarding respondents who were or are not amenable to the proposed amendment to the tournament dates, and who are largely in the minority, that (i) not every interested party in the South African Debating Community is a school's debating coach, and this reason alone cannot be consideration enough for these dates not to be considered and ratified. Even in South Africa, School's Nationals coaches are in the minority of the larger debating pool. (ii) With regards to the likely assessment clash in Uganda, while this is incredibly unfortunate, a contrary respondent has indicated that most institutions will be on their semester-break, which is largely acceptable at this present moment.

The report is thus submitted to the council executive for further deliberation and recommendations.

Kind Regards,

Masopha Porota

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