



2026 NGOMA AWARDS CALL FOR ENTRIES

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES IS FRIDAY, 2ND OCTOBER, 2026 AT 17:00 HOURS
FOR HARD COPIES AND 23:59 HOURS FOR ONLINE SUBMISSIONS



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & INQUIRIES, PLEASE VISIT THE OFFICIAL NAC PAGES



NACZEDARTS



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1.0 Introduction



The National Arts Council of Zambia, in accordance with its statutory mandate, is proud to announce the prestigious 21st Edition of the Ngoma Awards for the year 2026. The Ngoma Awards invites nominations from artists, arts groups, arts organisations, producers, fans and the general public to nominate their artists to be considered to receive the 2026 Ngoma Awards.



2.0 General Entry Guidelines



- 2.1** Only Zambian artists, artistic works, groups and organisations, shall be eligible for entry;
- 2.2** All works submitted should have been published, publicly displayed and/or performed during the Ngoma Award cycle (1st November 2025 to 2nd October 2026); No work generated wholly or substantially by artificial intelligence (AI) shall be eligible for entry into the 2026 Ngoma Awards
- 2.3** All entries can be any of the following languages English, Braille, Zambian Sign Language and/or any of the indigenous local languages of Zambia;
- 2.4** Only members or affiliates of National Arts Associations are eligible to submit;
- 2.5** All entries shall be original works. Zambian copyright, performance rights, neighbouring rights and all intellectual property laws shall be strictly observed for all Ngoma Awards Entries (Artistic works may include adaptations, rendition and collaborations);
- 2.6** Individual artists, groups or organisations intending to participate in the Awards shall complete the prescribed Ngoma Awards entry form, which shall be submitted individually or by their representatives to any of the following;
- Relevant National Arts Associations
 - National Arts Council office (Acacia House, Kwacha House Annex, Cairo Road.) National Arts Council website: www.ngomaawards.co.zm
 - Principle Arts Development Officers in provincial offices
 - Provincial and District Cultural Offices
 - Detailed guidelines are available on the National Arts Council and Ngoma Awards websites arts.gov.zm or ngomaawards.co.zm
 - For further information and inquiries, please visit the NAC page on Facebook @NACZedArts or the NAC website on arts.gov.zm or ngomaawards.co.zm

3.0
SCOPE, MODE
OF ENTRY
AND AWARDS
FOR EACH
CATEGORY



3.1 Comedy Category

3.1.1 Scope

This category will include stand-up, skit comedy and social media/online that is in the public domain.

3.1.2 Mode of Entry/Submission

- Submission format: high resolution MP3/MP4 on a clearly marked USB/Memory stick, hard drive.
- Comedy work should have been performed at the National Comedy Festival organised by the Comedian Association of Zambia (COAZ).
- Electronic submissions will be accepted through links and portals.

3.1.3 Awards

- The Brighton Sinkala Award for the most outstanding male stand-up comedian.
- The Memory Kasweshi Award for the Most outstanding female stand-up comedian.
- The Godfrey "Kapotwe" Mwape Award for the Most Outstanding Sketch Comedian.
- The Maximo Chanda Mwale award for the Most outstanding social media/online comedian.



3.2 Community Theatre Category



3.2.1 Scope

This category shall encompass such theatre forms as theatre for development, popular theatre, physical theatre and mime and acrobatic/aerial performances.

3.2.2 Mode of Entry/Submission

- a. Submission format: high resolution MP3/MP4 on a clearly marked USB/Memory stick, hard drive.
- b. On-site adjudication.
- c. Electronic submissions will be accepted through links and portals.

3.2.3 Awards

- a. The Maggie Tembo Award for the Best Community Theatre Practitioner – Female.
- b. The Mapopa Mtonga Award for the Best Community Theatre Practitioner – Male.
- c. The Robert Mphande Award for the Best Community Theatre Production (Innovative Project).
- d. The Sailota Banda Award for the Most Consistent Community Theatre Group.



3.3 Creative Writing Category

3.3.1 Scope

This category shall encompass forms of creative writing such as prose, poetry and scripts.

3.3.2 Mode of Entry/Submission

- a. All entries must be published / self-published works.
- b. All entries must have an ISBN.
- c. Self-Published must have an evaluation report from a registered writers association.
- d. The writer should submit five copies of each title of their work to be considered for adjudication

3.3.3 Categories

- a. The Julius Chongo Award for The Most Outstanding Author.
- b. The Florence Nyondo Award for The Most Outstanding Author for Children.
- c. The Luka Mwango Award for the Most Outstanding Prose.
- d. The Gwendoline Chomba Konie Award for The Most Outstanding Poetry.



3.4 Fashion Category



3.4.1 Scope

This category shall encompass fashion designers and models. It will include fashion, commercials, lifestyle and glamour models.

3.4.2 Mode of Entry/Submission

- a. All entry forms shall be submitted together with artworks and artist profile/biography.
- b. Entrants shall submit 5 images of their work in soft copy.

3.4.3 Categories

- a. The Paul Mwansa Award for the Most Outstanding Male Fashion Designer.
- b. The Angela Mulenga Award for The Most Outstanding Female Fashion Designer.
- c. The Knox Silavwe Award for the Most Outstanding Male Model – Popular Vote.
- d. The Mable Chipasha Award for The Most Outstanding Female Model – Popular Vote.



3.5 Media Arts Category

3.5.1 Scope

The category shall encompass all audio-visual works that are shot for television, film, on-line and radio.

3.5.2 Mode of Entry/Submission

- Submission format: high resolution MP3/MP4 on a clearly marked USB/Memory stick, hard drive.
- Submission guidelines: Kindly digitally encrypt / mark all entries 'for adjudication purposes only.
- Electronic submissions will be accepted through links and portals.

3.5.3 Awards

- The Agness Mulimbika Award for the Most Outstanding Television Series – Popular Vote.
- The Laiza Phiri Award for the Most Outstanding Television Series Actress – Popular Vote.
- The Emmanuel Musonda Award for the Most Outstanding Television Series Actor – Popular Vote.

- The Greg Lungu Award for the Most Outstanding Feature Film.
- The Augustine Lungu Award for the Most Outstanding Feature Film Actor.
- The Mutale Macholowe Award for the Most Outstanding Feature Film Actress.



3.6 Music Category



3.6.1 Scope

This category may encompass: – Zed-beats; kalindula; pop; hip-hop; choral; acapella; orchestra; rhythm and blues; rap; ragga; reggae; rock; praise and worship/religious music; jazz; classical; brass, and other indigenous music genres.

3.6.2 Mode of Entry/Submission

- Submission format: high resolution MP3/MP4 on a clearly marked USB/Memory stick, hard drive.
- Submission guidelines: Kindly digitally encrypt / mark all entries 'for adjudication purposes only'.
- Electronic submissions will be accepted through links and portals.

3.6.3 Awards

- The Joe Chibangu Award for the Album of the Year – Popular Vote.
- The John Mwesa Award for the Most Outstanding Choir.
- The Lily Tembo Award for the Song of the Year – Popular Vote.
- The Paul Ngozi Nyirongo Award for the Most Outstanding Band.

- The Peter Kalumba Chishala Award for the Most Outstanding Male Musician.
- The Violet Kafula Award for the Most Outstanding female Musician.



3.7 Stage Theatre Category

3.7.1 Scope

This category shall encompass such theatre forms as those mainly performed in a proscenium arch theatre and/or amphitheatre.

3.7.2 Mode of Entry/Submission

All entries shall be performed at the Senior NATAAZ National Festival.

3.7.3 Awards

- a. The Kwaleyela Ikafa Award for the Most Outstanding Stage Lead Theatre Actor.
- b. The Jubilee Mulenga Award for the Most Outstanding Stage Theatre Lead Actress.
- c. The Manda Mwila Award for the Most Outstanding Stage Theatre Production.
- d. The Joemwa Msinje Mwale Award for the Most Outstanding Stage Theatre Director.



3.8 Traditional Folk Dance & Music Category

3.8.1 Scope

This category will encompass all Zambian indigenous traditional dances, all contemporary dances and folk music that has been choreographed and or presented in its original form

3.8.2 Mode of Entry/Submission

- a. Submission format: high resolution MP3/MP4 on a clearly marked USB/Memory stick, hard drive.
- b. Groups shall submit or present three (3) different types of dances with a duration of five (5) minutes per dance.
- c. On-site adjudication or through national dance festivals organised by ZAFODAMUS.
- d. Electronic submissions will be accepted through links and portals.

3.8.3 Categories

- a. The Bernard Hamaundu Award for the Most Outstanding Dance Troupe
- b. The Eunice Kumwenda Award for the Most Outstanding costume.

- c. The Harrison Phiri Award for the Most Outstanding Male Dancer.
- d. The Mercy Lungu Award for the Most Outstanding Female Dancer.



3.9 Visual Arts Category

3.9.1 Scope

This category shall encompass Visual Arts and Crafts.

These shall include;

- Two-dimension (2D) art which constitute mainly drawings, photographs, paintings and prints.
- Three-dimension (3D) art which constitutes mainly of sculpture, installation, and crafts.

3.9.2 Mode of Entry/Submission

- a. All entry forms and artworks should have the artist(s) profile/biography and their CV(s).
- b. No label should be attached to the face of the artwork
- c. Only original source material should be used i.e.; work should not be copied from pre-existing photographs or other paintings or pictures.

3.9.3 Awards

- a. The Julia Malunga Award for Most Outstanding Female Visual Artist
- b. The Henry Tayali Award – For Most Outstanding 2D Visual Artist

c. The Akwila Simpasa Award for the Most Promising Visual artist

d. The Martin Phiri Award – For Most Outstanding (-3D) Sculpture Artist





NGOMA AWARDS

 Thursday 10th
December 2026

 Ciela Resort & Spa,
Bonanza Estate, Lusaka