Rules and Regulations

1. All contestants must speak in English.

2. Any quotation or copyrighted material used in the speech must be identified verbally during the presentation and in the written copy of the speech with the original author’s name.

3. The time allotted will not be less than 4 minutes 30 seconds or more than 7 minutes 30 seconds.

4. Contestants going over or under the allotted time will not be cautioned and will be penalized one point for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under allotted time.

5. The penalty will be determined by the official timekeeper.
   - A green light will be displayed at five minutes to the allotted time and will remain displayed for one minute.
   - A yellow light will be displayed at six minutes to the allotted time and will remain displayed for one minute.
   - A red light will be displayed at seven minutes to the allotted time and will remain displayed until the conclusion of the speech.

6. Timing will begin after the official topic is expressed. Timing will stop when the contestant finishes.

7. Any protest in the conduct at any level of this contest must be made immediately after the condition is noted. Protest made after the contestant had been introduced or in the case the last contestant, after the judges leave to total the scores, will not be accepted under any condition.

8. Contestants will be assessed on the following criteria:

8.1 Content
   - Speech development (20 marks)
   - Effectiveness (15 marks)
   - Speech value (15 marks)

8.2 Delivery
   - Physical (10 marks)
   - Voice (10 marks)
   - Manner (10 marks)

8.3 Language
   - Appropriateness (10 marks)
   - Correctness (10 marks)

9. A contestant who fails to appear on time as per the scheduled date and time according to the fixtures will be deemed to have withdrawn from the competition.

10. The decision of the adjudicating panel will be final and binding.