The Nedbank & Old Mutual Budget Speech Competition is celebrating 47 years of Powering Africa’s Future Leaders. This prestigious competition, launched in 1972, powers future leaders by creating a platform for South Africa’s brightest young minds to share their ideas on how to solve key economic and societal challenges.

Every year, economics students from across the country are invited to submit essays on a topical aspect of economic development. Following their selection as finalists, the 10 undergraduates and 10 postgraduates face rigorous questions from a board of adjudicators that includes some of the country’s top economists and analysts.

This year undergraduate candidates had to discuss the systemic risks of crypto currencies and whether or not regulators are sufficiently aware of them. Meanwhile, postgraduate finalists were tasked with sharing their ideas on how fiscal credibility could be restored and how this would impact monetary policy and the economy.

The winners will be announced by the Minister of Finance, Tito Mboweni, at a celebratory dinner on 20 February, the same day he delivers his National Budget Speech.

Click here for more on the finalists as well as to read a summary of their essays.