

# Pupils to put the constitution on trial

## Mock court deals with very real rights issues

### STAFF REPORTER

**T**WO HUNDRED pupils from across the country will converge on Gauteng this weekend for the National Schools Moot Court Competition.

Tomorrow and later on Saturday they will be competing in the oral rounds being hosted by the University of Pretoria's law faculty.

"It is a tough competition, (one) where you can clearly realise how these students relate to the constitution and human rights.

"They take their daily challenges in life, what they see happening around them and relate that to the human rights," said a spokesman for the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.

Come Sunday the two teams with the highest scores will compete against each in the Constitutional Court where they will argue a fictitious case before Judge Bess Nkabinde and Judge Edwin Cameron with the support of Yasmin Sooka, the director of the Foundation for Human Rights and former Truth and Reconciliation commissioner; Dr Zonke Majodina, the chairperson of the UN Human Rights Committee, and Professor Ann Skelton, the director at the Centre for Child Law at the University of Pretoria.

The moot court is aimed at creating greater awareness in schools and communities about the constitution and its values. Educating young people about the constitution and its principles, say the organisers, will go a long way to deepening the country's

democracy and cultivating a society that respects the rule of law.

The competition is also intended to encourage talented young schoolchildren to consider pursuing their careers in law.

One of the winners of the 2011 National Moot Court Competition, Lebidike Phatudi, from King Edward VII High School in Joburg, began his studies at Wits University this year.

Last year's best essay student, Busisiwe Kani, from Ikhwe Lonso Comprehensive School in the Eastern Cape, is also pursuing her studies in law.

Schools in all provinces were invited to participate, particularly those schools in the rural communities.

The successful competitor/s will be awarded a first-year bursary in their studies towards a legal qualification.