

Limpopo schools to compete in moot competition

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FOUR Limpopo schools will participate in the third national and final oral rounds of the South African National Moot Court competition, which will be held at the University of Pretoria and Constitutional Court in Johannesburg on Saturday and Sunday.

Learners from Thengwe High School in Mutale, Mahonisi Learning Centre in Elim, Khanyisa Education Centre in Giyani and Phagameng High School in Modimolle will participate in the semi-finals on Saturday and hopefully go through to the finals on Sunday.

A moot is a role-play exercise in which participants play the role of lawyers in a fictional court case. All secondary schools in South Africa were invited to enter a team of two learners, preferably one male and one female. A fictional problem

involving a constitutional issue was set. Learners were expected to write two short essays setting out the opposing sides of the case. The essays were evaluated by a panel of experts.

The competition is aimed at creating greater awareness of the Constitution of South Africa and the values that it embodies. The competition is open to all gr. 11 and 12 learners and focusses on schools and communities. The competition will also provide a unique opportunity for learners to consider a career in the field of law.

Prof Cristof Heyns, UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions is of the opinion that the schools moot has proven itself to be enjoyable as well as an educational way of promoting the values of the Constitution among learners and their communities.

“We hope that it will expand to reach all schools in the country. This is how we can make our society work for all of us,” he says.

The best nine submissions in each of the nine provinces were identified and the selected learners were invited to participate in the provincial oral rounds in May and June.

The deputy minister of justice and constitutional development, Andries Nel confirmed the importance of an event of this nature and said: “We hope that through initiatives such as this moot court competition, we have begun a process to build unity and harmony between the different and diverse sections of South African society by promoting, protecting and appreciating the Constitutional values. That indeed we have laid the ground work for the ongoing realisation of all South Africans”.