

# Young minds do battle

## PRETORIA SCHOOL WINS CONTEST

**Victor Mecoamere**

VOORTREKKERHOOGTE High School became the 2011 champions of the second annual Bodibeng Ba Tsebo Schools Debating Championships in Pretoria at the weekend.

Voortrekkerhoogte took first spot in both the junior and senior sections of this commendable public speaking-nurturing venture of the Bodibeng Ba Tsebo Youth Development project, which is led by emerging community activist Themba Langa.

Junior section winners Iviwe Bakumeni, Brenda Nkabinde and Dorfling Matlhabela were in their element throughout the tournament, according to Pastor Edith Ndlovu of the Mawinzo Fraternal, an inter-denominational churches organisation.

The organisation has been mentoring, coaching and motivating both organisers and contestants since the competition's launch, which coincided with the 2010 Fifa World Cup.

"The standard this year was high and the kids' enthusiasm was amazing all along," Ndlovu said.

She was also impressed by senior winners: Kagiso Masemola, Rodney Maele, Vincent Magagula and Stephen Buabeng-Baidoo.

Coincidentally, Buabeng-Baidoo is the Gauteng representative in the 2011 Anglo-American ad Sowetan Young Communicators Awards, which are due to be held in Johannesburg on August 19.

The Lelhabile, Botsebotse and Kgadime high schools were runners-up in the seniors' section, while the juniors section's runners-up were the Echibini, Letlhabile and Ntsako high schools.

The competition is worth emulating throughout the country as it keeps the youth off the streets and sharpens learners' research, analytical and articulation skills. But is in dire need of financial backing.

It is supported by BTH Transport, Mabopane Pie City, Juta Books, the City of Tshwane, and local businesspeople, including Berea Bachivha and Elijah Skhosana.