

STUDENT TAKES PART IN Hofmeyr Memorial Speech Contest



Benjamin Khumalo, a form V student.

EACH YEAR A SPEECH contest is held in Memory of Jan Hofmeyr. I am happy to report that our school took part in the preliminary round of the Jan Hofmeyr Memorial Speech Contest which was held on the 15th May, 1970, at the Bechet High School in Mayville, Durban.

JAN HOFMEYR was South Africa's most distinguished Orator. He matriculated at 14 and thereafter became South Africa's leading Scholar, humanitarian, and a guiding light to succeeding generations. An interschool speech contest for non-white schools is held each year in Memory of this great hero.

The following schools took part in the section of the Contest held at Bechet High: Umzinto Indian High School; Wentworth Indian High School; Chatsworth Indian High School; Bechet Coloured High School; Intshanga High School and Amanzimtoti Zulu Training School.

BECHET HIGH SCHOOL:

BENJAMIN KHUMALO, one of our 1969 Afrikaans Orators, represented our school in the preliminary round of the contest held at Bechet High. The finals of this speech contest will be held at Pietermaritzburg on the 15th of June, 1970.

DIFFICULT TOPIC:

BENJAMIN KHUMALO spoke on the topic: "Growing threats to our Environment". Benjamin sees three main threats to our environment: (a) Overpopulation (b) Air pollution and (c) Communism. In his speech he emphasised that there are many "YURI LUGINOV'S" concealed in our midst. Five of the six candidates spoke on "Growing Threats to our Environment" and only one spoke on "Give me Neither Riches nor Poverty".

IMPROMPTU SPEECHES:

AFTER the Contestants had delivered their prepared Speeches, they each had to return to the stage to deliver impromptu speeches, the topics for which they had to choose only five minutes before rising to address the Audience for the second time. For the impromptu speech Benjamin chose the topic "Why I dislike a Mirror" and showed such quick wit and depth of intellect blended with humour that the Adjudicators could not but give him 2nd position. The winner the Bechet High School candidate.

every reason to feel pleased:

I THINK we have every reason to feel proud of Benjamin Khumalo's prowess as a speaker which has done so much for the name of our school. If we take into consideration the fact that Benjamin's oratory was adjudged to be superior to four English-speaking Indians who do English A in their Matric and who use English as a home language, while we do English B and do not have as much practice as Indian and Coloured Schools have, we realise that Benjamin's second place is indeed a noteworthy achievement. Congratulations Ben! We congratulate Bechet and wish your candidate good luck for the Finals in Pietermaritzburg.

Reported by: Benjamin Ndaba

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