



## THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL VISITS WINTER SCHOOLS IN NORTH WEST, NORTHERN CAPE AND GAUTENG PROVINCES

The Winter School Monitoring Programme is an annual initiative carried out in provinces to afford learners and teachers an opportunity to deal with curriculum deficits diagnosed through a track record of learner performance. Winter School Camps are currently underway in various districts across all nine provinces with majority of learners offering several subjects aligned to the National Curriculum Statement and the Curriculum and Policy Statement (CAPS). The conduct of the Winter School Monitoring Programme by the Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) is a process intended to enrich learner content knowledge in preparation for the final National Senior Certification (NSC) Examinations.

This week, the Basic Education Director-General (DG), Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, visited the North West, Northern Cape and Gauteng Provinces as part of the Winter School Monitoring Programme. The visits were aimed at monitoring the effective implementation and coordination of winter camps to ensure that they serve a purpose of closing learning.

As part of his visits, the DG covered 20 centres, classified as “walk-in” and “residential camps”. Classes in all these camps were conducted from 07:00 to 16:00, morning and evening study sessions were also included in the camp programme.

Addressing learners at assembly, Mr Mveli indicated: “We have embarked on these visits to see to it that you are fully supported. The teachers you see here have sacrificed their holidays so that they could assist you in improving performance in the learning areas you encounter challenges. While in preparing for the final year Examinations, there are three things that I need you to take into consideration. Firstly, you must always listen to your teachers. Secondly, you need to obey teachers’ instruction; for they will always guide you in the right direction. Lastly, you have to work very hard in order to succeed in life because there is no gain without pain”.

DG also thanked teachers for their selfless service in transforming the nation. “My role model is a teacher because without teachers our future is doomed. Teachers deserve to be respected for their role in shaping our lives”.

Various curriculum experts in the three provinces also shared best practice:

The **North West** Deputy Director-General for Resource Planning and Curriculum Delivery, Mr Prince Mashilo, indicated: “The winter camps have been conducted as part of a catch-up

programme to improve the performance of progressed and borderline learners. “ We also continued with the Talent Development initiative this year to reach out to 480 gifted learners who are accommodated at the University of North West. The main objective of this camp is to sustain and increase the number of bachelor passes for learners to qualify for bachelor studies at institutions of higher learning. Our Department also decided to appoint best teachers who specialise in critical learning areas including Mathematics, Physical Science and Accounting to assist during the winter school vacation. This type of practice is critical because it will improve the level of learner performance in the underperforming schools. Through this programme, we intended to reach out to 28 751 progressed learners coming from underperforming schools. We are very grateful that the majority of learners have attended the winter classes, hopefully, our province will rise to the top this year”.

The **Northern Cape** Director for Curriculum Delivery, Mr Ricky Willems, said: “The winter school camps were effectively operated in all districts. For this year, we have established 15 winter school camps with the three of them focusing on the gifted learners. We are also working with members of the school governing body and parents to ensure that learners attend winter camps as expected. He further indicated that the Department has opted to use subject advisors in cases where there are shortages of teachers in a specific learning areas particularly gateway subjects such as Physical Science, Mathematics, and Accounting. “Our Department also employs an online platform called “google form” through which centre managers are able to update us on every activity occurring across all camps,” he added.

As part of the Winter Camp classes, the **Gauteng** Province has prioritized progressed and borderline learners coming from underperforming schools to improve quality passes this year. The province has also grouped the gifted learners to provide more challenging work in order to sustain bachelor passes. District Directors in the province are always hands-on as they visit winter camps regularly to support Centre Managers where they need support. In most camps, Centre Managers have reported no incidences of ill-discipline or shortage of teachers. The province has managed to mobilise more learners to attend the winter school programme as of one of the critical learner catch up programmes in the education sector. The school principals are to be commended for their contribution to ensuring that learners attend winter schools as required.

“Without education, children can never really meet the challenges they will face. So it’s very important to give children education and explain that they should play a role for their country”- Nelson Mandela



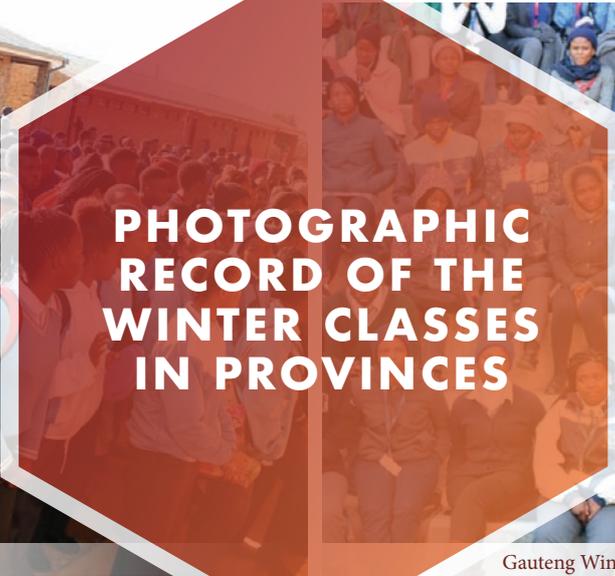
Northern Cape Winter Classes



Gauteng Winter Classes



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