

2019 Winter classes



DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S 2019 PROVINCIAL ENGAGEMENTS

Provinces offer winter schools as part of the learner support programmes, not only as a remedial measure, but also to grow a love for learning, by using innovative and creative methodologies, especially in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). What makes Winter School Programmes even more remarkable is the fact that teachers with good track records of achieving excellent results are chosen to provide in-depth tutorials in various camps.

In the main, the focus of the winter school programme is to:

- stimulate top achievers;
- provide assistance to learners who have not completed the curriculum content;
- improve the acquisition of content knowledge and skills;
- support learners who have barriers to learning;
- provide learners an opportunity to attain a pass with entry into Bachelors studies;
- provide additional motivational input and coaching of learners; and
- maximise contact time.

The monitoring process by the Director-General of Department of Basic Education, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mweli, and team is an integral part of identifying successes and challenges of this intervention strategy, whilst offering support. Further to the rationale of the winter school monitoring is to diagnose short-comings, track progress of intervention strategies and reflect on learner preparation towards the final examinations.

Mr Mweli encouraged learners to make full use of the winter classes to improve learning outcomes and gain entry into institutions of higher learning in 2020. *“Education is the only tool of the trade to transform people’s lives for the better.* I therefore encourage you to study hard and make the nation proud of your results in the National Senior Examinations this year,” said the Director-General.



The level of quality passes and distinctions is expected to rise this year owing to the Provincial Education Departments' (PEDs) investment in the effective administration of Winter Camp Programmes in South Africa. As part of his Winter Camp Monitoring Programme, Director-General visited more than 100 centres from 15 to 29 June 2019, to assess the effective administration of the provincial intervention support programme.

Through this programme, provinces are able to maximise resources by way of sharing best practices with learners in underperforming and top performing schools in the country.

The Winter Camp Programme had been well administered across all nine provinces, with thousands of learners being incubated in various centres to revise the curriculum content covered since the beginning of this year. In each camp, provinces prioritise challenging topics in high enrolment subjects gleaned from the results of pre-tests conducted on the first day of the official opening of the Winter Camp classes.

The Winter Camp Programme, which is implemented by the PEDs, in collaboration with the Education Districts, paves a way for the underperforming schools to improve on the quality of passes and number of distinctions. Teachers with good track records of achieving excellent results are chosen to provide in-depth tutorial lessons in various camps. Through this programme, provinces continue to push hard in ensuring that learners who have been performing at level 1-2 in their respective subjects are fully supported to rise to level 5 and above.

Addressing learners in provinces, Mr Mweli told the Class of the 2019 to work very hard and use the remaining 34 days of teaching contact time fruitfully in preparation for the 2019 National Senior Certificate Examinations. The Director-General stated that the implementation of the Winter Camp Programme in the Basic Education Sector would assist the Education Districts in exploring better ways to increase the number of distinctions and quality passes amongst schools in quintile 1-3.

"The PEDs must be applauded for having lob-

bied for extra support from institutions of higher learning in sustaining winter camp classes in the country," said Mr Mweli.

Mr Mweli further acknowledged the efforts of parents, school governing bodies (SGBs), education stakeholders, universities and the private sector in ensuring that learners benefit from the Winter Camp Programme.

The Director-General emphasised that the Winter Camp Programme has been put in place to prepare learners ahead of the final-year examination annually. Mr Mweli further encouraged learners to make full use of the winter classes to improve learning outcomes and gain entry into institutions of higher learning in 2020. "Education is the only tool of the trade to transform people's lives for the better. I therefore encourage you to study hard and make the nation proud of your results in the National Senior Certificate Examinations this year," said the Director-General.

"Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again"

Nelson Mandela

"Everyone can rise above their circumstances and achieve success if they are dedicated"

Nelson Mandela

"When people are determined they can overcome anything."

Nelson Mandela



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