

Spring Break Classes



THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL SUPPORTS THE “LAST PUSH” ACTIVITIES IN PROVINCES

The closure of schools for the Spring Break offered provinces an ideal opportunity to support learners with revision and consolidation activities (last push) through the “Spring Classes,” before the commencement of the 2017 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination. The Director-General of Basic Education, Mr HM Mveli, who is well known for “leading from the front” began his visit to the classes across the nine provinces. The purpose of the visit is to motivate learners to take advantage of the classes and buckle down to some serious studying so as to improve the quality of passes in the 2017 examination.

In responding to questions relating to the role and impact of these “Spring Classes, the Director-General said that “the Spring Classes are being institutionalised in provinces as one of two major consolidation of learning activities on the school calendar. While the organisation of the classes in each province may differ in the packaging of programmes, duration, number of subjects targeted etc they are essentially similar in outcomes. All the provinces are preparing learners towards improved examination results.

In encouraging learners to stay focused on their studies, Mr Mveli said that thorough preparation for the examination will decrease anxiety and raise confidence levels. It is important that learners remain calm, collected and this will only be possible if they leave no stone unturned in their quest for understanding concepts and content and knowing how to apply them in all subjects.

Some learners took the opportunity to confirm the value of the classes, citing that the classes provided them with space that is conducive to studying and that this augurs well for improved performance in the examinations.

In this week’s Thuto, visits to all nine (9) provinces are featured.

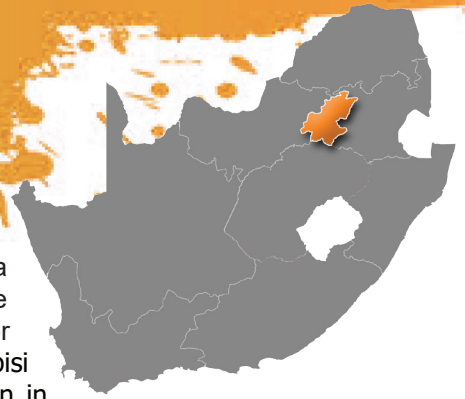


basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Gauteng



On 11 October 2017, Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, visited seven Spring Camp Centres, in the Gauteng Province where he met with education stalwarts who were at work to prepare the Class of 2017 for the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination. The centres included Leribisi Lodge in Pretoria East, Zonderwater in Cullinan, Lewende Waters Kempsterien in Hammanskraal, Westridge in Roodepoort, Princess High in Roodepoort, Veritus Centre and Stable Inn in Springs.

Mr Mveli visited the province to monitor its Spring Camp classes and to assess the effectiveness. These camps are part of the last push programme designed to address identifiable learning gaps before learners sit for the final examination. The province decided to conduct Spring Camp classes to give support to the struggling learners whilst sustaining the performance of the gifted learners.

The outcome of the assessments written by learners in terms 1 and 2 during the current year is what Provincial Departments of Education use to organise residential and walk-in camps aimed at assisting learners to consolidate learning. Since April this year, the Gauteng Department of Education has been conducting Saturday classes, walk-in camps and residential camps to afford the Class of 2017 an opportunity to revise several topics, focusing on the critical subjects such as Mathematics, Physical Science, Accounting, Life Sciences, Economics, Business Studies, Mathematics Literacy, Geography and History.

As part of the Spring Camp Programme, the province prioritised funding to ensure quality learning and teaching takes place in all districts. It is envisaged that the programme will keep teachers and learners focused on their drive to achieve the desired 95% target.

Speaking at the Leribisi Lodge, the Curriculum Education Specialist, Mr Rejoice Matlhola, explained that the district identified three groups to attend the Spring Camp, namely high achievers, moderate learners and learners at risk. "All these learners are receiving special attention in the districts. The reason we have brought learners at risk to this camp is that although they underperformed in terms 1 and 2, they could still improve their results if adequate support is granted. We further made extra efforts to organise walk in camps for the progressed learners and they were all operating very well. Through the implementation of this programme we will be able to maximise the attainment of bachelor passes, especially in the historically disadvantaged schools.

Leribi Lodge Centre Manager, Mr Khazamula Chauke said: "These learners are well disciplined. So far there has been no challenges experienced in terms of learner behaviour and attendance. In this camp, learners were also provided with examination tips to assist them on how to approach examination questions hence the revision was based on previous question papers. We have to thank the Department for having made this project a success. Without the necessary resources, learning and teaching could not have been as effective as experienced."

Bongani Moroka from Himalaya Secondary School, stated that, "this camp means a lot to me because it prepared us to approach final examinations with confidence. Initially I experienced a few challenges with Subjects such as Mathematics, Accounting and Physical Science. However, since I came here I have gained more knowledge in these subjects. Stuart Makusha from Flavius Mareka High School, indicated that, "at this camp I needed to improve my knowledge in Geography and Mathematics Literacy because I did not perform up to my expectation in the previous terms. Thanks to our teachers, they are really doing a good job here."

Mr Mveli concluded his visit at Stable Inn in Springs where he met with and motivated top achievers in the Gauteng East District.

**"Education is the passport
to the future, for tomorrow
belongs to those who prepare
for it today." Malcom X**



PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD
OF THE SPRING BREAK
CLASSES IN THE GAUTENG
PROVINCE



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