

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



Limpopo

Grade 12 learners in the Mopani District, Limpopo Province have dedicated 10 days of their school holidays to attend the Spring Camps in a bid to produce quality passes during the 2017 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examination. On 30 September 2017, the Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, visited the district to monitor the progress of the Spring Camps being conducted as part of the provincial last push intervention programme.



During the visit, the Director-General visited five centres namely Seboye Secondary School, Mafutsane Secondary School, and Mabushe High School in Thabina area. Mr Mveli further visited Bokgaga and Burgersdorp Secondary Schools in the Shiluvana area.

Although there has been huge progress in terms of improving the administration of the Spring Camps, still more needs to be done to strengthen the collaboration between teachers and parents to improve learner attendance throughout the duration of the programme. Through these camps, the Limpopo Province has also deployed teachers and tutors to various centres to empower progressed learners and repeaters so that they too, are able to achieve bachelor passes.

As part of the Spring Camps, school principals and district directors are using assessment data to identify learning gaps. The main objective of these camps is to assist struggling learners to improve learning outcomes in the critical subjects of Life Sciences, Accounting, Mathematics and Physical Science.

During the briefing meeting with centre managers, Mr Mveli was informed that the province has been conducting Saturday classes in concurrence with the Spring Camps to motivate learners to establish study groups and help each other in challenging subjects and topics.

The camp is also important as it creates a platform of engagement amongst centre managers and school principals in ensuring that the majority of learners from various schools benefit from the programme. All key education stakeholders commended the Provincial Department of Education for its dedication in strengthening learning and teaching. However, parents and community leaders will need to be involved to assist the Department in mobilising learners to attend Spring Camps during school holidays. More than 17 000 Grade 12 learners are being targeted. Therefore the province is assured that if learners attend the camps every day the throughput rate will increase.

The Director-General, accompanied by the provincial and district officials travelled around Mopani District to talk to learners about their experiences during the Spring Camp. Addressing learners at Seboye High School, Mr Mveli told learners that success comes through discipline. "During this period you are required to prioritise your studies in order to realise your academic success. You have to be disciplined and work with teachers to perform better. Government has organised these camps to help you to succeed, all you need to do is to study hard," said Mr Mveli.

Thabinsa Circuit Manager, Ms Audrey Mhlongo, acknowledged the Director-General's commitment in monitoring the work done by provincial officials, especially around Spring Camps and added: "I thank Mr Mveli for the message of support to learners. The advice he shared with these learners will keep them motivated and will assist them to prioritise their studies. We have learnt a lot from our engagement with the Director-General and we are confident that all our learners will perform better this year," said the Circuit Manager.

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



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