

# 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.



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Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## Mpumalanga



The September school holidays presented teachers in Bohlabela District, in the Mpumalanga Province with quality time to teach as learners were preparing for the final year examinations. On 05 October 2017, Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mweli, visited the province, to urge learners to study hard and to ensure that Spring Camp classes assist them with revision ahead of their final year examination. Having obtained position four in the 2016 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination results, Mpumalanga Province established last push activities such as Saturday classes, afternoon studies and Spring Camp Programme to support its Class of 2017 in achieving more bachelors passes this year.

Mr Mweli's visit to the province coincided with World Teachers' Day Celebration aimed at acknowledging the effort of teachers in educating the society whilst honouring them for their selfless service in the South Africa's education system and beyond. As part of the Spring Camp Monitoring Programme, the Director-General has been travelling from province to province trying to establish reasons for improvement and/or decline in the provinces' NSC examination results. Intervention programmes such as these are very important as they empower those at the forefront to work towards delivering quality education.

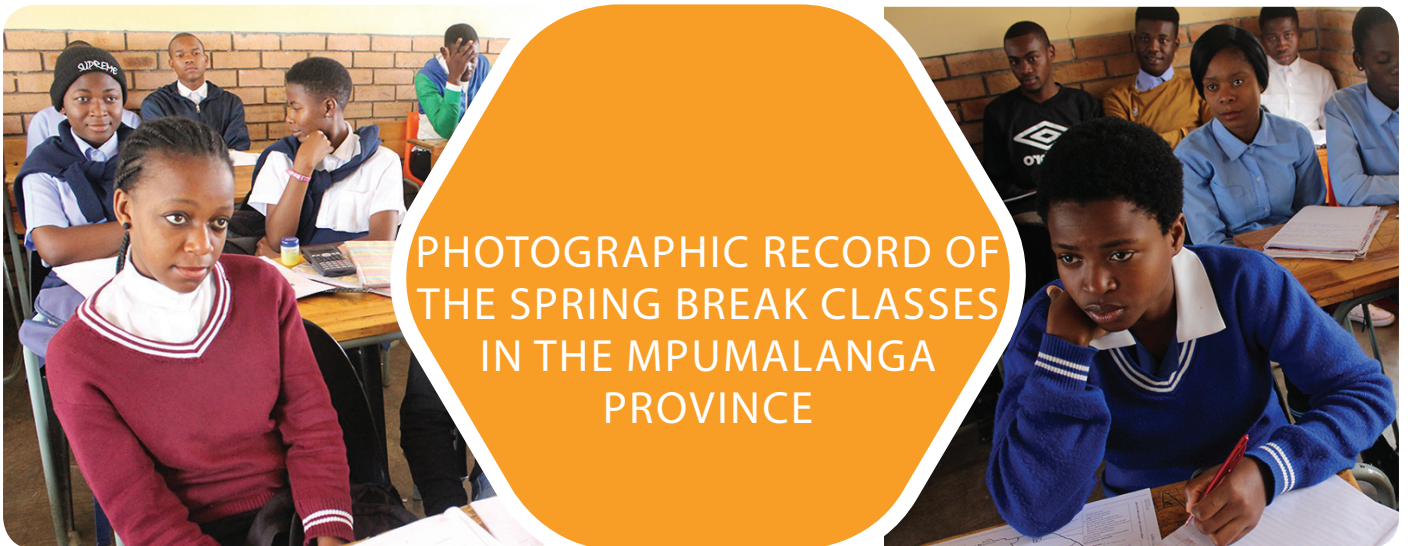
The Bohlabela District Director, Ms Loraine Goba, said: "I am so delighted that learners turned out in large numbers for the Spring Camp classes during the September school holidays. Teachers need to be saluted for having sacrificed their holidays over the Spring Camp Programme. The main objective of these camps was to assist learners to improve performance in high enrolment subjects such as Geography, Accounting, History, Physical Science and Mathematics. The selection criteria of candidates who participated in these camps was based on the June examination results, which guided the whole process of identifying learners who deserved urgent intervention. The scope of work that was covered during school holidays is satisfactory and we are assured that learners will represent us well during the NSC Examination," said Ms Goba.

Themba Mashishi from Skadandoda Secondary School said: "For me this camp has been very fruitful. Through quality time I spent with teachers during this period I am assured that my performance in Mathematics and Physical Science will improve greatly. I have decided to pursue studying Medicine at Tertiary level, therefore achieving distinctions in these critical subjects will make me very happy.

Bongiwe Mhaule from Mathibela High School, indicated that "it was very interesting to spend September holidays in the camp because I managed to make huge progress in my revision. Teachers in this camp were the best, they really assisted us to close learning gaps in the syllabus. Even though I had to leave my home for the camp, I knew it was for the better, I am now confident that I will do well in the final year examinations."

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







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