

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



Northern Cape

The Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mweli conducted oversight visits to the Northern Cape Spring Camp centres in Upington on 29 September 2017 as well as Kimberly and Kuruman on 01 October 2017 to motivate learners as they were making their final preparations for the 2017 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations. Due to the demands of the New Criteria of Inclusive Basket, provinces were urged to strive to achieve a high number of bachelor passes as well as sustaining the trend of the throughput rate in all Grades. This initiative has encouraged provinces to deal decisively with the dropout rate so that underperforming schools are capable of delivering quality education.



The province had put several measures in place to prepare learners for the 2017 NSC Examination. Several districts have embarked on the Spring Camps aimed at improving learning outcomes amongst progressed and borderline learners in public schools. The Spring Camps, which are conducted in all five districts namely, Frances Baard, John Taolo Gaetsewe, Pixley ka Seme, Manakwa and ZF Mgcawu Districts are organised to empower learners with content knowledge, particularly in high enrolment subjects such as Physical Science, Mathematics Literacy, Accounting, Life Sciences, Geography, Mathematics and Business Studies.

The Director-General has undertaken to visit the province to monitor the effective operation of these camps and further motivate learners to achieve excellent results during examinations. Through this visit, Mr Mweli was afforded an opportunity to share best practices with key provincial education stakeholders in ensuring that all the last push activities yield positive results. More than 4500 learners were expected to attend the camps for thorough revision before writing their examinations. In 2017, the province arranged the camps in various categories including a bigger Spring Camp targeted at all progressed and borderline learners. Learners who perform at levels 1 and 2 were identified through the analysis of the June examination results.

The Chief Director for Curriculum, Ms Doris Sibiya indicated that these camps have started on a high note as the majority of learners showed up for classes. "These camps will play a crucial role in enabling the province to assist struggling learners in the consolidation of the content whilst sustaining the performance of gifted learners," remarked Ms Sibiya.

The Northern Cape HOD For Education, Mr Tshepo Pharasi also visited some of the centres, where he hailed the school principals and teachers for their selfless service in ensuring that all the camps are effectively run. "I would like to extend my gratitude to the Director-General, for having visited our province. We can achieve quality education in this country if we work together as a team," said the HOD.

The Director-General also thanked teachers and the District Directors for their commitment and dedication in sustaining Spring Camps every year. Mr Mweli wrapped up his visit in Kimberly where he addressed the Mathematics and Physical Science top achievers who were selected from various schools in the province.

Romario Mojokwe from Kuilsville Hoerskool in Upington, said the camp will assist him to manage his studying time effectively and to do well during examinations. "What I like about this camp is that if we experience challenges in a particular subject there is sufficient time to ask teachers for clarity. Primrose Moemedi from Ratang Thuto High School, stated that her main objective is to master content knowledge in Business Studies because she would like to become an entrepreneur in the near future. Whereas Reitumetse Mohlolo from Ratang Thuto High School, said that her interest in the camp is to improve the level of performance in Mathematics and Science. "I want to pass these subjects well so that I can give back to my community," said Mohlolo.

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



DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION

222 Struben Street, Pretoria, 0001

Private Bag X895, Pretoria, 0001, South Africa

Tel: (012) 357 3000 • Fax: (012) 323 0601

Private Bag X9035, Cape Town, 8000, South Africa

Tel: (021) 486 7000 • Fax: (021) 461 8110

Call Centre: 0800 202 933

website

www.education.gov.za

facebook

www.facebook.com/BasicEd

twitter

www.twitter.com/dbe_sa