

# 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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## Western Cape

The Western Cape Province has confirmed that its systems are ready to administer the 2017 NSC Examination. More than 75 high schools in Cape Town and surrounding areas were targeted to participate in the last push programme aimed at encouraging learners to work hard and obtain quality results this year.

As one of the most critical initiatives of the education sector, the Spring Camp Classes were initiated to assist the Class of the 2017 with examination tips and revision of the syllabus before the final year examinations commenced. The Province has also carefully selected tutors who specialize in Mathematics, Life Science and Mathematics Literacy to assist learners during this period.

Another significant part of the last push activity programme is to equip the Grade 12 learners with strategies to deal with challenging topics in order to perform well in their examination. The most critical subjects that were prioritised as part of this activity included Mathematics, Physical Science, Life Science and Business Studies. On behalf of the Basic Education Director-General, Dr Aron Nkosi, the Director for Curriculum and Teacher Development Research, undertook an oversight visit to Western Cape Province on 14 October 2017, to give learners support to conquer unexpected obstacles they may encounter in the examination.

Mr Rudolph Cornelissen, the Deputy Chief Education Specialist in the Metro Central Education District, indicated that learners who performed below 25 to 35 percent were targeted. "The reason for focusing on this group is so that learning gaps could be addressed, especially in the high enrolment subjects to assist learners to obtain bachelors in the 2017 NSC examinations. The progressed learners were also given special attention through this programme," said Mr Cornelissen.

Overall five centres namely, Phoenix High School in Manenburg, Inshukumo High School in Gugulethu, Modderdam High School in Bonteheuwel, Isilimela High School in Langa and Spes Bona High in Athlone were visited. Addressing learners at Inshukumo High School, Dr Nkosi highlighted: "The future is in your hands; you have to work very hard to ensure that you enjoy quality living in the future.

Dr Nkosi also encouraged the province to guide learners on career pathing. "Teachers have to play a crucial role to encourage the next cohort of learners to choose Mathematics as opposed to Mathematics Literacy," remarked the Director.

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







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