



HEALTH
KwaZulu-Natal

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

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TO: ALL MEDIA
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EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE KZN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONGRATULATES THE CLASS OF 2005/6

The KZN Department of Health, will on Friday, 15 September hold its very first inaugural graduation ceremony under the newly amalgamated KwaZulu -Natal College of Nursing. National Health Minister Dr.Manto Tshabalala-Msimang will deliver the keynote address at the graduation.

A total of 2900 nurses will be graduating from various nurse-training programmes which were offered by the Provincial Department of Health under the KwaZulu-Natal College of Nursing. The college was formed last year after the amalgamation of a number of state nursing colleges that were offering nurse education. The unified College was officially implemented on 1st July 2005 and the first student intake of the 4-year programme commenced on the same date.

The formation of the college as well as this graduation is a clear indication of how committed the Provincial Department of Health is in prioritizing nurse training in order to deal with staff shortages that plague public health care facilities. "As the Provincial Department of Health we have increased the number of student nurse intakes since January 2002 to address shortages in the category of health professionals. In addition, the province has rationalized nurse training, culminating in one KwaZulu-Natal College of Nursing, hence the large number of students graduating in 2006. We congratulate all the graduands and wish them all the best in their quest to improve the health status of the people of our province," says the MEC for Health, Mrs. Peggy Nkonyeni. The KwaZulu-Natal College of Nursing comprises 11 campuses; 4 campuses in the northern half of the province and 7 in the southern half of the province. The college has 14 sub-campuses; 11 in the northern half of the province and 3 in the southern half of the province.

Three nursing colleges existed prior to the amalgamation and rationalization of nursing education in KwaZulu-Natal. They all offered three different curricula for the 4-year nurse-training programme. The establishment of a single College of Nursing meant a change in the curriculum and as a result a unified curriculum was approved by the statutory body or by the professional council for nurses in October 2004.

uMnyango Wezempilo . Departement van Gesondheid

Fighting Disease, Fighting Poverty, Giving Hope

The media is invited to attend and report on this historic inaugural graduation ceremony. Details are as follows:

DATE: 15 SEPTEMBER 2006

VENUE: BHEKUZULU HALL, UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND

TIME: 09H30 for 10H00

ENDS

Transport for the media is available and will leave outside the Durban Playhouse at 7H30: Please contact Mbali Thusi on 076 168 2080 to book space.

For more information please contact Mr. Leon Mbangwa on 083 549 8695