



Media Advisory

To: Editors & Health Journalists
Issued by: Department of Health
Date: 11 July, 2017

Department of Health, University of KZN to host 8th Cuban Trained Medical Doctors Graduation Ceremony

The Department of Health will host the 8th graduation ceremony for Cuban trained doctors aimed at addressing the shortage of medical practitioners especially in South Africa's rural areas. The 2017 ceremony is co-hosted by the University of KwaZulu-Natal and will take place on 14 July 2017 at the Rick Turner Students' Union Hall on the Howard College campus, commencing at 11:00.

The Nelson Mandela/Fidel Castro Medical Student Training Programme also aims to improve Human Resource workforce capacity and strengthen the health care system in South Africa as well as contribute towards the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on health.

Since its inception in 1996, the programme has produced over 500 medical doctors who are eventually placed in health institutions in rural areas of the country. Seventy students will graduate at the July ceremony providing a much needed boost for health care in South Africa.

Minister of Health Dr Aaron Motsoaledi; Deputy Minister Joe Phaahla; Cuban Minister of Health Dr Morales Ojeda, Provincial MECs for Health and other dignitaries will attend the event.

The Ministry of Health is hopeful that the graduands will make a positive difference in the lives of the South African people they will serve at the start their careers in the health profession.

Cuban Ambassador in South Africa has congratulated the students for the disciplined conduct that translated in their excellent achievement. He stated that this would not have been possible had it not been the support the students received from the government of South Africa and the students' respective families.

Members of the media are invited to attend the event as follows:

Venue: Rick Turner Students' Union Building, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Howard College Campus, Gate 1 (Mazisi Kunene Road, Glenwood)

Date: 14 July 2017

Time: 11h00- 14h00

Media Enquiries:

Popo Maja: Head of Communication

Mobile: 012 395 9591/ 072 585 3219/ Popo.Maja@health.gov.za/

OR

Sam Mkhwanazi: Chief Director Corporate Communication

KZN Department of Health

033 395 2276/0810382193

For more information & RSVP, please contact Howard Kgoa at 076 374 0314(Health Department) or Xoliswa 071 608 3212 (University of Kwa Zulu-Natal)