



MEDIA ADVISORY

To: Editors & Journalists

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Eighty-seven SA-Cuban trained doctors to graduate at Walter Sisulu University

Mthatha: Deputy Minister of Health, Dr Joe Phaahla and Eastern Cape Premier, Mr Lubabalo Oscar Mabuyane, will next week preside over the graduation ceremony of eighty-seven (87) South African medical graduands who have successfully completed their studies through the Nelson Mandela Fidel Castro Medical Collaboration (NMFC) Programme.

This is the largest group to graduate all at once since the inception of the programme in 1996 to strengthen the health care system through the primary health care approach which supports universal healthcare coverage.

This 16th graduation ceremony will also be attended by Cuban delegation, Deans of local medical schools, MECs and HODs of health, as well as hospital CEOs and families of the graduands.

The new doctors completed five years of medical studies in Cuba and one year of clinical training in the country's universities as part of their integration into the South African health system. The universities include Stellenbosch (SU), Limpopo (UL), Free State (UFS), Pretoria (UP), and KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN), Eastern Cape (WSU), Cape Town (UCT) and Gauteng (SMU) and Wits.

The programme was established to address the over-concentration of health personnel in urban areas and in the exclusionary private sector; insufficient personnel who were also not in possession of the necessary training and the under-provision of health care in rural and peri-urban areas as well as informal settlements.

The media is invited as follows:

Time: 10h00

Date: Friday, 05 July 2019

Venue: Zamukulungisa Heights, Southridge, Walter Sisulu University, Mthatha Campus

Please RSVP for attendance with Mr Tlou Tlhako at tlou.tlhako@health.gov.za / 071 382 7425 or Ms Mathabo Hendricks at mhendricks@wsu.ac.za / 071 370 6576 or Mr Siyanda Manana at Siyanda.manana@ehealth.gov.za / 083 378 1646.

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