



**health**

Department:  
Health  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

To: Editors & Health Journalists  
Issued by: Department of Health  
Date: Tuesday, 04 July 2023

### **Health Deputy Minister to preside over graduation of Nelson Mandela/Fidel Castro medical students**

**Pretoria:** The Deputy Minister of Health, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, will on Wednesday and Thursday this week lead a two-day Joint Academic Meeting (JAM) of Deans from South African and Cuban Medical Schools in Cape Town.

The meeting, to be hosted by the University of Cape Town (UCT), is part of activities ahead of the graduation ceremony for medical students who completed their studies through the Nelson Mandela/Fidel Castro Medical Collaboration Programme, followed by 18-months integration programme into local universities.

These academic meetings are held annually to prepare for the graduation ceremony, exchange scientific knowledge, discuss issues affecting the programme and ensure smooth integration of Cuban trained students into local medical schools.

This year about 450 medical students are expected to graduate before being placed in various public health facilities across the country, primarily in historically disadvantaged communities and undeserved areas.

Deputy Minister Dhlomo will be joined by representatives from the Cuban Ministry Public of Health, representatives from South Africa and Cuba Medical Schools, as well as provincial Health MECs.

The graduation ceremony will also be hosted on the UCT campus.

Members of the media are invited to attend the ceremony scheduled as follows:

**Date:** Friday, 7 July 2023  
**Time:** 09h00  
**Venue:** Sarah Baartman Hall, University of Cape Town

For RSVP, contact Howard Kgoa @ 079 876 9247, [howard.kgoa@health.gov.za](mailto:howard.kgoa@health.gov.za)

**For media enquiries, please contact:**

<p><b>Mr Foster Mohale</b> National Health Department Spokesperson Cell: 0724323792 Email: <a href="mailto:Foster.Mohale@health.gov.za">Foster.Mohale@health.gov.za</a></p>	<p><b>Elijah Moholoa</b> University of Cape Town 083 981 7770</p>
---	---