



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

CORPORATE COMMUNICATION SERVICES

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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 3 NOVEMBER 2005

EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WE ARE READY, WILLING AND ABLE, SAY NEW PARAMEDICS

The shortage of ambulances and the length of time it takes to get to people who needs emergency medical help always a sore point for communities throughout the country. In response to this unhappiness, the KZN Department of Health always says it is committed to increasing the number of ambulances and the number of paramedics. On Friday, November 4 this promise will be kept. The Department is hosting a passing out parade for fifty EMRS recruits as well as 200 brand new ambulances, just in time for the busy festive season. The occasion will also mark the launch of Operation Alpha. Operation Alpha is aimed at increasing the number of ambulances on major routes and also to have 100% operation and visibility throughout the holiday period. 50 of the 200 newly acquired fleet of ambulances will be showcased at the graduation and will assist during Alpha Operations over the holiday season.

The passing out parade of these recruits could not have come at a better time as the Emergency Medical Rescue Services in the province is gearing up for the festive season. This should put at ease the minds of the communities as well as visitors to the province. As part of the transformation process the department will also unveil and introduce rank insignia for all operation supervisors and officers in Emergency and Medical Rescue Services. Details of the graduation and launch of Alpha Operation are as follows:

DATE: 4 NOVEMBER 2005

VENUE: ROYAL SHOWGROUNDS, PIETERMARITZBURG

TIME: 09H00

**TRANSPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR JOURNALISTS IT WILL LEAVE
OUTSIDE THE DURBAN PLAYHOUSE AT 08H00 SHARP**

