



HEALTH
KwaZulu-Natal

CORPORATE COMMUNICATION

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TO: ALL MEDIA

DATE: 27 DECEMBER 2006

EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GIRLS TO THE RESCUE

The aero-medical service in the province under the Provincial Department of Health and Red Cross Air Mercy Services will for the first time in history have an "All Female" crew day tomorrow which will be providing Emergency Aero medical Services. Two KZN EMRS aero-medical helicopters are operational in KZN, the Durban based helicopter will be crewed by females only. This helicopter is based at the Durban International Airport.

The helicopter pilot, Ms. Kate Esterhuyse will have on board Dr. Rachel Jooste from the Emergency Medical Rescue Services (EMRS), Advanced Life Support paramedic Ms. Melissa Finlayson from EMRS and Dr. Thembisa Sitsila who is the Head of aero-medical services in KZN. "This is a landmark occasion for us and we would like this become a regular occurrence in aero-medical Services for the Province," says the MEC for Health, Mrs. Peggy Nkonyeni.

Dr. Lindiwe Simelane the Acting Chief Operations Officer in the department will also be part of the crew. Mrs. Roshni Bisetty (KZN EMRS: Aero medical Logistics Support) and Ms. Moshni Naidoo (KZN EMRS Lecturer & Advanced Life Support Paramedic) will be part of the team and they will be all ready to deal with any eventuality.

SA Red Cross Air Mercy Service (AMS) is also proud to announce the recruitment of Ms. Karen Kok as Chief Engineer in the Technical Department. The team will gather at the Durban International Airport tomorrow morning as follows:

DATE: 28 DECEMBER 2006

VENUE: DURBAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (RED CROSS AMS BASE)

TIME: 10H00

For more information please contact Leon Mbangwa on 083 459 8695