



HEALTH
KwaZulu-Natal

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STATEMENT: HEALTH WORKERS CARING FOR THE RURAL POOR!

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Health, Ms Neliswa Nkonyeni, last night (22 August 2007) launched a health care worker volunteer programme that was started by health workers from uThungulu District. The project is called **Khanya Africa** and has succeeded to recruit more than 100 health professionals into volunteer service.

The categories of professionals involved include; Medical Officers, Specialists (Obstetrics & Gynecologists, Pediatricians), Therapists, Nurses, Radiographers, Academic Researchers and other faculties of medical care. They are all willing to sacrifice their spare time to attend to those in poor health.

During the launch the MEC said; "I truly respect and appreciate this unselfish gesture and deliberate effort on your part to unreservedly give your time, expertise, intellectual capital and positive energy for the benefit of others, and this time, without expecting anything in return. You have re-defined for ordinary people in this province the ethics of giving and volition. This, I respect with my honesty and sincerity."

The project was started following the recent floods that affected the eSikhawini Area and they grouped together to help the people who needed medical care. Following this they have volunteered and assisted their colleagues who are facing staff shortages in hospitals like eShowe, eKhombe, Ntumeni and they are going to be reaching out to all those who are in need of health care. The specialists will educate and train clinic personnel to deal with complications that they face.

This programme received a donation of a vehicle from Richards Bay Minerals during this launch and it is hoped that other business organisations will follow suite.

Ends

NOTE: Photos available from Themba Mngomezulu at 082 642 2923

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