



HEALTH
KwaZulu-Natal

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

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PRESS STATEMENT

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THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RECEIVES A FURTHER 535 NEWLY QUALIFIED NURSES INTO THE SERVICE

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health is elated indeed by the performance of the class 2007 of the nurses that have been trained in different categories by the newly formed KwaZulu-Natal College of Nursing comprising of 11 Campuses and 14 Sub-campuses

The last batch of nurses (535) to graduate from this campus are receiving their certificates at a graduation held at the Durban City Hall making the total number of nurses to graduate from this campus to be **1769** to date. These nurses will be deployed in the rural hospitals of the province where their services are needed the most. The Department would like to thank the hard work and dedication of both students and Lecturers. From those who are graduating today, 87 distinctions were received.

The first graduation ceremony of the 4 year programme and Post Graduate Programme took place on **September 20** when we honored **392 students in the 4 year programme as well as 201 in the Post Registration programme**. In both these categories we obtained a total number of 245 distinctions.

On **September 28**; a further **641 Nurses** graduated from the Northern Campuses where we also obtained a total number of 72 distinctions.

Congratulating the graduates during the graduation, the MEC for Health; Ms Neliswa Nkonyeni said; *"I must say that in the rate we are producing these nurses, we are bound to make an impact on the ever increasing burden of both the communicable and non-communicable diseases that continue to ravage this beautiful province. For us nurses are the backbone of our service delivery mandate since out of 53 000 employees that the Department has, more than 23 000 are nurses. With the vast improvements in the nurses' salaries as announced by Minister Manto Tshabalala- Msimang last month, we hope the majority of our school leavers will start considering nursing as a career of choice. On behalf of the Department and the citizens of KwaZulu Natal I wish to extend our deep felt loss as we mourn the loss of 10 Nursing students who passed on before completing their chosen and noble careers. Our hearts remain with their families."*

ENDS

ISSUED BY:
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uMnyango Wezempilo . Departement van Gesondheid

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