

TO: ALL MEDIA
DATE: 22 SEPTEMBER 2011
EMBARGO: NONE

Media Statement: Goats and sheep to be slaughtered to commemorate heritage day by South Africans in Cuba

As South Africa prepares itself to commemorate the Heritage Day on the 24th September, South African youths studying towards becoming doctors in Cuba are also preparing to slaughter goats and a sheep to commemorate Heritage Day in that country.

MEC for Health Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, speaking from Cuba where he is awaiting the arrival of a group of twelve students from KwaZulu-Natal, said: "I have never seen young adults so excited at the sight of maize meal! Last year, they requested us to bring maize meal so that they can cook 'uphuthu'. We took along five bags of 12,5kg Maize Meal which we distributed to the five Medical Universities as we visited the students.

"One young girl from Ladysmith volunteered to go out to borrow a big pot, other students collected monies for two goats and a sheep which will be slaughtered on the 23rd September to commemorate the Heritage Day."

MEC Dhlomo left the country for Cuba on the 16th September as part of the advance team to prepare for the arrival of the latest group of students to study medicine in Cuba and to meet the 58 students already in Cuba. The meeting with the students already studying is to ensure that they have all their needs taken care of and supported during their six year stay in the foreign country. He will be returning this Saturday to the country.

ENDS

For voice interviews with the MEC; kindly note that there is a 6 hour (-6hrs) time difference between South Africa and Cuba. When it is 12h00pm in SA, it is 06h00 am in Cuba.

**ISSUED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: KWAZULU-NATAL
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS**