

24 October 2016

## **KZN welcomes new crop of Emergency Medical Students**

KZN Health MEC, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has warmly welcomed 19 Emergency Medical Services who completed their first leg of training with the South African Military Health Service (SAMHS) of the country's Defence Force.

This is an initiative termed Project Sukuma involving the Office of the Premier in conjunction with the KZN Department of Health; the South African Military Health Service (SAMHS) as well as the KZN Department of Education. MEC Dhlomo explained its objectives as follows:

- Creation of job opportunities thereby reducing poverty and unemployment.
- Skilled, patriotic and disciplined workforce in KZN EMS.
- Enhanced emergency medical service for the KZN community.
- Enhanced military health support for border security and peacekeeping initiatives when required, as well as,
- Integrated approach to dealing with youth social and economic ills.



The 19 cadets issued with certificates have successfully completed the first phase of their training that started when they were to Lephalale Military Training Academy in Limpopo in January 2016 to undergo Basic Military training for 6 months. This was followed by a three [3] months course in the Driving and Maintenance course which they did in Pretoria. Lastly, they underwent Water Orientation course in the Durban Naval Base. This training was also supplemented with Levels 1, 2 and 3 of the First Aid Courses.

From January 2017, these cadets will commence with a Diploma in Emergency Medical Care also known as Emergency Care Technician which they will do at the School for Military Health Training.

In welcoming the students, MEC Dhlomo appreciated the involvement of the South African

Defence Force as it brings in the expertise of discipline in the training given, saying:

‘The all-round intensive training and skills given are bound to produce a well-disciplined and qualified emergency medical care worker for our Province. We pin our hopes on this youth for a cadre of a special type in emergency medical services.’



In the interim, MEC Dhlomo announced that these cadets would be deployed to different Community Health Centres around the Province for experience and exposure before they commence with their formal education.

‘The Military during this period will take care of the Cadets’ food and overnight accommodation with the Department of Health providing them with transport from their Military Base to the respective CHCs and back.

Here they will observe what is happening at Casualty Wards; undertake dressings and vital signs under supervision; be drilled in bed making and provide general assistance to nurses.’

Ends