

Medical students start their internships and community service

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KWAZULU-Natal Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo has congratulated the scores of medical students who this week began their internships and those starting their community service at health facilities across the province.

A total of 290 doctors have begun their internships, while 131 others have begun their community service.

“Indeed, we congratulate them. If there are any doctors who need to start their internship but do not have an allocation, we urge them to contact the National Department of Health. We also appeal to those doctors who are due to start with their community service but who do not have an allocation to check with the Human Resources Department in their respective districts,” he said.

MEC Dhlomo’s comments come after concerns were expressed in some quarters late last year (2016) that final year medical students may not be allocated space to perform their internship training so that they can qualify as doctors.

Setting the record straight on this matter, MEC Dhlomo said: “It is important for us to clarify that all interns will be allocated space to do their internship. What the Department could not guarantee is students’ first, second or last choice as placement for their training. Internship training is part of career development for medical doctors and it is not in government’s plans to halt students’ development,” he said.

He also urged the students and newly qualified doctors to be prepared to serve the people of this province, regardless of their geographical location.

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