

Media Invitation: Orientation of community service officers

Dear Member of the Media,

You are cordially invited to two very important media engagements which take place in Durban on Friday 26 January 2018 – the orientation and induction of 300 (out of 1000) Community Service Officers at **Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital at 09h00**; as well as a **walkabout** of the soon-to-be opened **Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Hospital, at 13h30**.

Within this cohort are students in the following fields:

- Physiotherapy;
- Occupational Therapy;
- Speech Therapy & Audiology;
- Dentists;
- Clinical Psychologists; and
- Medical Doctors

This on-the-job training of Community Service Officers will ultimately boost the provision of healthcare services for the people of KwaZulu-Natal. An important aspect of the community service programme is that besides the benefits accrued by the public in a skilled health worker; it also provides young professionals with an opportunity to develop skills, acquire knowledge and critical thinking skills, and get a better understanding of behaviour patterns – all of which helps them in their professional development.

The KZN Department of Health prides itself in that it is the only province that has a policy for Community Service Officer spending 60% of their time rendering community out-reach service at Primary Health Care level.

During the orientation, MEC Dhlomo will deliver his speech outlining the significance of the students are embarking on; as well as interact with them. He will be available to field questions from the media, and there will be opportunities to interview the students as well.

The details are as follows:

Date: 26/01/2018

Venue: Inkosi Albery Luthuli Central Hospital (Nurses Hall)

Time: 09h00

For clarity, please call Desmond Motha @ 083 295 3901 or Sibongiseni Mkhize @ 081 035 0672