

MEDIA STATEMENT

DATE: Thursday, 17 October 2019

TO: All media

ATTENTION: News Editors/ Reports

For Immediate use:

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT BY THE MINISTERS OF HEALTH AND THE MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON PUBLIC NURSING COLLEGES OFFERING QUALIFICATIONS REGISTERED ON THE HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS SUB-FRAMEWORK

The Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dr Blade Nzimande, yesterday, 16 October 2019, published a Government Gazette that permits public nursing colleges to offer qualifications registered on the Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework from January 2020.

This announcement has been made by both Ministers of Health and Higher Education, Science and Technology, Ministers Dr Zweli Mkhize and Dr Blade Nzimande.

“Nursing colleges are the primary platform for nursing education and training in our country. They are pivotal for producing nurses to support our public health sector. This is even more imperative in the wake of the planned introduction of the National Health Insurance”.

The Ministers said both departments have the responsibility to ensure that the public nursing colleges offer quality education and training programmes to develop the new nurses required for our country’s health system.

“The Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework (HEQSF) will be fully implemented across all higher education institutions in our country from January 2020, and we collectively must guarantee that the public nursing colleges are able to offer their aligned qualifications next year. We also have a responsibility to ensure that the colleges are effectively integrated into the higher education and training landscape”, emphasised the Ministers.

The Ministers said both the Departments are collaborating to ensure that they address shared educational responsibilities when it comes to producing well qualified nurses and are working towards ensuring that public nursing colleges are integrated fully into the higher education sector under the Higher Education Act, 1997 (Act No.101 of 1997) as soon as possible.

“As a transitional arrangement, the ten (10) recognised public nursing colleges, listed in the Gazette are permitted to offer Certificates, Diplomas and Bachelor Degrees in nursing, which are accredited and registered on the Higher Education Qualifications Sub- Framework (HEQSF) from January 2020 onwards as long as they meet the accreditation requirements of the Council on Higher Education (CHE) and the South

African Nursing Council (SANC), and are registered on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA),” said the Ministers.

The Ministers said that they are confident that all our public nursing colleges will be in a better position to continue their important work and admit a new cohort of students in 2020 into their new accredited HEQSF registered qualifications.

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Issued by:

Ministries of Health, Higher Education, Science and Technology:

Higher Education, Science and Technology

Ishmael Mnisi 066 037 8859

Email: Ishmael.Mnisi@dst.gov.za

Ministry of Health

National Department of Health,

Popo Maja: Spokesperson: 072 585 3219/082 373 1169

Email: popo.maja@health.gov.za