# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO. 2843**

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**Ms H Ismail (DA) to ask the Minister of Health:**

1. What (a) is the total number of nursing colleges in each province in the Republic and (b)(i) number of nursing colleges have been shut down in the past two financial years and (ii) were the reasons for closing the colleges;
2. whether he has found the nursing colleges to be effective and running smoothly; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
3. what is the total number of graduates who have (a) graduated from the colleges and (b) been absorbed into the departments in each province over the past five years?

**NW3363E**

# REPLY:

1. (a) There are 10 nursing colleges in the Republic. One located in each of the nine provinces and the 10th being the South African Military Health Service (SAMHS). These colleges have 45 campuses and 40 sub-campuses located in district and subdistrict level in each of the provinces to ensure access to nursing education by local communities

(b) (i) None of these colleges were shut down in the past two financial years.

(ii) Not applicable

1. The colleges are running effectively and smoothly, phasing in new programmes whilst phasing out the legacy (old) programmes in compliance with relevant legislation guiding nursing education. While the accreditation process by the Council for Higher Education (CHE) for some programmes has been slower than expected, department is communicating with the CHE to expedite the accreditation of these programmes.
2. (a) Table 1 overleaf reflects the number of graduates who were produced by South African Nursing Colleges in the past five-years in question:

**Table 1. Number of graduates produced by South African Nursing Colleges in the past five years**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Province** | **Name of the College of Nursing** | **Graduates produced per year:** |
|  |  | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **Total** |
| **Eastern Cape** | Lilitha College of Nursing | 358 | 331 | 426 | 336 | 322 | **1773** |
| **Free State** | Free State School of Nursing | 165 | 155 | 144 | 152 | 145 | **761** |
| **Gauteng** | Gauteng College of Nursing | 620 | 614 | 507 | 593 | 847 | **3181** |
| **KwaZulu Natal** | KwaZulu Natal College of Nursing | 316 | 533 | 393 | 512 | 164 | **1918** |
| **Limpopo** | Limpopo College of Nursing | 218 | 188 | 200 | 235 | 169 | **1010** |
| **Mpumalanga** | Mpumalanga College of Nursing | 322 | 76 | 304 | 243 | 146 | **1091** |
| **Northern Cape** | Henrietta Stockdale Nursing College | 25 | 44 | 18 | 46 | 13 | **146** |
| **North West** | North West College of Nursing | 275 | 130 | 118 | 200 | 269 | **992** |
| **Western Cape** | Western Cape College of Nursing | 243 | 250 | 77 | 34 | 6 | **610** |
| **SAMHS** | SAMHS Nursing College | 61 | 40 | 56 | 14 | 41 | **212** |
| **Total** | **11 694** |

(b) The following table reflects the number of eligible graduates who were absorbed into statutory posts for Professional Nursing Community Service in the past five years (The numbers below are inclusive graduates from Nursing Colleges and Universities)

**Table 2.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Province** | **Graduates absorbed as Community Service Nurses in each year:** |
|  | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **Total** |
| Eastern Cape | 582 | 514 | 621 | 551 | 587 | 2855 |
| Free State | 217 | 195 | 211 | 173 | 164 | 960 |
| Gauteng | 683 | 781 | 677 | 655 | 970 | 3766 |
| KwaZulu Natal | 648 | 700 | 684 | 687 | 439 | 3158 |
| Limpopo | 171 | 212 | 276 | 323 | 279 | 1261 |
| Mpumalanga | 265 | 208 | 217 | 295 | 251 | 1236 |
| Northern Cape | 74 | 53 | 102 | 74 | 92 | 395 |
| North West | 390 | 304 | 394 | 471 | 268 | 1827 |
| Western Cape | 384 | 381 | 364 | 323 | 364 | 1816 |
| SAMHS | 61 | 40 | 56 | 14 | 41 | 212 |
| **Total** | **17 486** |

NB. After completing Community Service, Professional Nurses are not automatically absorbed into permanent posts. They need to apply and compete for advertised positions either Public Service or Private Sector. Based on the individuals performance during the selection process the favourable candidate is appointed into a post.

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