09 December 2018

**Media statement by the Minister of Health Dr Aaron Motsoaledi**

**The Stimulus Package for Health**

**(Special Emphasis on Human Resources for Health)**

The Minister of Health Dr Aaron Motsoaledi has announced the creation of more than 5 300 posts for health workers, both clinical and support staff – throughout the country.

This announcement is done on behalf of the National Health Council which met over two days (6th and 7th December 2018). The National Health Council is a statutory body which meets four times a year. It consists of:

* The Minister of Health: Chairperson
* The Deputy Minister of Health
* The Nine (9) Provincial MECs for Health
* The Director-General of the Department of Health
* The Nine (9) Provincial Heads of Department of Health
* The Surgeon General of the South African Military Health Services (SAMHS)
* Two (2) Representatives from SALGA (The South African Local Government Association)

The Council met to among others, finalise and operationalise the Presidential Stimulus Package as announced by the President.

This announcement, which will result in the filling of more than 5 300 posts in the health departments of the nine provinces from the beginning of January 2019, in addition to being a product of the President’s Stimulus Package is also the implementation of the recommendations of the Presidential Health Summit held a few weeks ago.

The President had announced the stimulus package to kick-start the economy. With regards to health, he had also stated that there will be a stimulus for Health in three areas:

* Human Resources for Health
* Hospital Beds
* Hospital Linen

The shortages in these three areas are very acute, especially the Human Resources part which declined over the past three years due to severe budget constraints as a result of the poor state of the economy.

Under-staffing, especially in the provinces, has been cited as one of the major contributing factors which has negatively affected the provision of health care. The appointment of the health workers, which includes a broad spectrum of health professionals, e.g registrars, pharmacists, pharmacy assistants, radiographers, specialists, psychologists, physiotherapists, and other allied health professionals, will go a long way towards improving the quality of health care in public health facilities in all the provinces.

**Provincial Breakdown:**

**Eastern Cape**

* 3 Medical Specialists
* 36 Medical Officers (post-community service doctors
* 100 Enrolled Nursing Assistants
* 74 Enrolled Nurses
* 50 Pharmacy Assistants
* 320 General staff, porters and mortuary attendants

**Free State**

* 8 Medical Specialists
* 13 Medical Officers (post-community service doctors
* 43 Professional Nurses
* 12 Enrolled Nurses
* 37 Enrolled Nursing Assistants

**Gauteng**

* 15 Medical Specialists
* 10 Registrars (Medical Specialists in training)
* 20 Medical Officers (post-community service doctors)
* 40 Specialist Professional Nurses
* 245 Professional Nurses
* 75 Enrolled Nurses
* 100 Porters
* 100 General Assistants
* 8 Occupational Therapists
* 8 Physiotherapists
* 10 Pharmacists
* 10 Pharmacy Assistants
* 10 Radiographers
* 10 Social Workers
* 8 Clinical Psychologists

**KwaZulu Natal**

* 97 Registrars (Medical Specialists in training)
* 150 Enrolled Nurses
* 150 Enrolled Nursing Assistants
* 50 Pharmacy Assistants
* 15 Artisans
* 160 Porters
* 160 General Assistants

**Limpopo**

* 16 Medical Specialists
* 227 Medical Officers (post-community service doctors
* 68 Pharmacists
* 309 Professional Nurses
* 14 Dentists
* 57 Allied Health Professionals
* 4 Clinical Psychologists
* 6 Clinical Associates

**Mpumalanga**

* 2 Medical Specialists
* 3 Registrars (Medical specialists in training)
* 44 Medical Officers (post-community service doctors)
* 40 Enrolled Nurses
* 60 General staff, cleaners and information officers

**Northern Cape**

* 1 Medical Medical Specialists
* 10 Professional Nurses

**Western Cape**

* 3 Medical Specialists
* 8 Registrars (Medical specialists in training)
* 9 Medical Officers (post-community service doctors)
* 42 Professional Nurses
* 25 Enrolled Nurses
* 2 Pharmacists
* 16 Pharmacy Assistants
* 40 Artisans
* 6 Forensic Pathologists

**North West**

The Country is aware that the North West Department of Health is amongst those put under Section 100(1)(b) of the Constitution due to Governance and other related problems in that Province.

The shortage of staff in that Province was much more acute that all other provinces.

Hence the National Health Council wishes to report the following basket of posts as from 1st January 2019 for North West:

* 20 Medical Specialists
* 28 Registrars (Medical Specialists in training)
* 28 Medical Officers (post-community service doctors
* 3 Pharmacists
* 42 Pharmacy Assistants
* 45 Professional Nurse Specialists
* 25 Professional Nurses
* 107 Enrolled Nurses
* 12 Clinical Associates
* 4 Radio Therapists
* 4 Dieticians
* 2 Social Workers
* 272 Information Officers
* 145 EMS Personnel
* 5 Engineers
* 19 Artisans
* 7 Architects
* 385 Administrative Clerks
* 73 Porters
* 248 General Assistants
* 52 Drivers
* 525 Cleaners
* 75 Laundry staff
* 6 Mortuary Assistants
* 84 Food Aides
* 6 Programme Managers

In conclusion, we are alive to the fact that the health system still needs more personnel than what we are offering here, but this is what we could afford in terms of what is there in the Stimulus Package and other available sources. We are working on improvements which must be effected in the next coming financial years, starting with the 2019/20 Financial Year.

For the other parts of the Stimulus Package, i.e beds and linen, orders have already been made at the national level and distribution will be done to provinces, the details of which will be announced in early 2019.

Professionals interested in the above posts must communicate with the various Heads (HODs) of Provincial Departments of Health.

**For media enquiries, please contact:**

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