

Press Statement 20 February 2019

The Rural Doctors Association of Southern Africa (RuDASA) welcomes the new cohort of medical doctors who have taken posts in rural hospitals, health centres, and clinics across South Africa in 2019. RuDASA's vision is for all people of Southern Africa to have access to quality health care, and as a lobby group that advocates for needs of rural doctors, we are excited to work with our new colleagues.

Tough economic times and austerity measures have resulted in an increase in vacant posts of medical staff, with rural health facilities suffering the most. So the placement of new medical doctors in rural areas in 2019 should be seen against the background of a severe shortage of rural doctors. RuDASA is pleased by the R2bn pledge from the Presidency to fill vacant health posts. It is our hope that rural facilities will get equitable share of distribution of these posts.

We are concerned that in recent years we have seen a new phenomenon of unemployed doctors, particularly those in their post community service year. RuDASA calls on all the unemployed doctors to consider applying for vacant posts in Rural Hospitals across the country.

We wish our new colleagues a good time in rural life and hope they appreciate their important role in ensuring that *all* South Africans have access to Quality Health Care.

Rudasa contact details:

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