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MADELEINE HICKLIN, MP
SHADOW DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH

7 December 2023

Honourable Dr Joe Phaahla
Minister of Health

Per e-mail: minister@health.gov.za / DG@health.gov.za / sethom@health.gov.za /
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Dear Dr Phaahla,

**REQUEST FOR URGENT INTERVENTION IN WALTER SISULU UNIVERSITY MASTER OF MEDICINE DEGREE
DEBACLE**

There is a major crisis in the Eastern Cape regarding the lack of registration of various Master of Medicine degree specialisations at the Walter Sisulu University by the Council for Higher Education (CHE).

This has the potential to severely impact the fields of internal medicine; ophthalmology; anaesthesiology; and ear, nose and throat medicine in the Eastern Cape which has already seen posts not being filled, and those people currently having been trained during 2022 and 2023 not being accredited by the Health Professional Council of South Africa (HPSCA). This means that their years of study have been wasted. This cannot be allowed to happen.

I request that you urgently engage with the Minister of Higher Education, Dr Blade Nzimande, to address this preventable crisis before the end of the year.

I look forward to receiving your positive response in this regard.

Best regards,

Madeleine Hicklin MP

Shadow Deputy Minister of Health

Democratic Alliance

(sent electronically without signature)