

# NEWS LETTER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF LEBONE COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY CARE

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By: Lebone College of Emergency ICT

The Principal of Lebone College of Emergency Care, Mr Sipho Sithole has commended staff and students for their diligence and dedication throughout the year.

He said 2020 was one of the most challenging years for the education institution as they had to move from face-to-face classes to online lectures, which had a huge impact on the institution's curriculum.

"The Emergency Medical Service (EMS) system is coupled with systematic challenges which have the potential to limit effectiveness and quality of service provision. All credit is due to the staff, and learners as well as the extended Gauteng Department of Health family. The dedication can be attributed to the endless activities conducted on a yearly basis to ensure training," said Mr Siphon Sithole.

He added that the national lockdown challenged all universities and training institutions to operate differently and rethink the standard operating procedures. "In Lebone we acted fast under limited resources in order to accommodate certain work initiatives, so that we can ensure that the academic year is complete whilst promoting student success and healthcare

development," said Mr Siphon Sithole.

"Although the manner of learning and conducting our lectures as well as community based practicals has changed and COVID-19 led to some of our students testing positive for COVID-19, we still soldiered on. This required the college to transform from the traditional practical curriculum and fit in an online environment and this necessitated for the academic year set to conclude at the end of March 2021."

He added that this had an impact on students and as a result there were 27 students who were not able to attend school physically for over four months as contact lecturers were halted.

"As such, Lebone College had to make a dramatic transition from traditional face-to-face learning to digital learning in a very short time period. We employed resources such as Blackboard for teaching. But, even with that, students and instructors faced challenges such as lecture engagement and keeping up with the academic year as they were forced to cover close to a year's work in just a few weeks," added Mr Siphon Sithole.



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As we entered the final stretch of 2020, late in November from the 25th until the 27th, all students remained focused as they geared up for their year-end training at Ezemvelo Nature Reserve in Bronkhorstspuit. The physically strenuous three-day fitness which includes search and rescue training contributed significantly towards the approach that our students viewed and theoretically understood the emergency care environment.

“With that said, there is no doubt that Lebone is making a significant contribution to healthcare and promoting development in Gauteng and making strides as a national asset in emergency training and care provision,” said the principal of Lebone College. The students of Lebone College embarked on this training based on the understanding that rescue training and education is important judging by the number of flood victims, drownings, people being injured and trapped in buildings during fire.

Training and rescue education provide students with the ability to withstand long periods of time in the process of working towards rescuing and assisting victims.

The training in nature is subject to harshness in the quest to achieve laudable results for promoting positive healthcare outcomes, as the students embark on 30km early morning hiking, jogging as well as other outdoor in their quest to become “Green Angels” that are fully equipped with the mechanisms to save the lives of people.

