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**Media Statement**

**LOCUM ARRESTED FOR PRACTISING ILLEGALLY**

**13 May 2022**

**For immediate release**

**Pretoria** – The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) continues to execute its mandate of eradicating unregistered practitioners in the healthcare sector.

The Inspectorate Office conducted an inspection following a tip-off at the practice of Dr Mokotjo in Rustenburg. During the inspection, Mr Nkhaketla Mandela (a Lesotho citizen) was found practising as a locum (Dental Therapist) whilst not registered with Council. Mr Mandela was employed by Dr Mokotjo, (a registered Dentist) since February 2022. He was arrested and detained at the Rustenburg South African Police Service for being in contravention of sections 17(1), 33,34, and 39 of the Health Professions Act, 56 of 1974. Dr Mokotjo will be reported to the respective Professional Board for misconduct.

The HPCSA's mandate is to protect the public and guide the professions through ensuring enforcement and compliance from the practitioners in line with the provisions of the Health Professions Act. The HPCSA cautions practitioners on the dangers of employing locum doctors who are not registered with Council as this poses a risk on the lives of the community.

**END**

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## **About the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA)**

The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) also known as Council is a statutory body established under the Health Professions Act 56 of 1974. The HPCSA is committed to protecting the public and guiding the professions. The mission of the HPCSA is quality and equitable healthcare for all.

The HPCSA is mandated to regulate the health professions in the country in aspects pertaining to education, training and registration, professional conduct and ethical behaviour, ensuring Continuing Professional Development (CPD), and fostering compliance with healthcare standards.

In order to safeguard the public and guiding the professions, registration in terms of the Act is a prerequisite for practising any of the health professions registrable with Council.

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