

Media Statement

STELLENBOSCH LOCUM ARRESTED

17 February 2022

For immediate release

Pretoria – The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) amongst its various responsibilities is to enforce compliance amongst healthcare practitioners in line with the provisions of the Health Professions Act, 56 of 1974.

The Inspectorate Office under the ambit of the HPCSA has been entrusted to ensure that this responsibility is fully executed through conducting inspections and partnering with various law enforcement agencies and other regulatory institutions in the health sector and members of public to expose these illegal practitioners.

The Inspectorate Office conducted an inspection at Dr Mensah's practice in Stellenbosch. Mr Felix Kapesa Yuma (a Congolese citizen) was found practising as a locum whilst not registered with Council as a medical practitioner. Mr Yuma has been employed by Dr Mensah since November 2021. Mr Yuma was arrested and detained at the Stellenbosch South African Police Service for contravention of Sec 17(1), 33,34 and 39 of the Health Professions Act and he will appear at Stellenbosch Court today, 16 February 2022. Dr Mensah will be reported to the Medical and Dental Professions Board for misconduct.

Members of the public are advised to consult with reputable healthcare professionals whose credibility is known in their areas. In cases of new practitioners, the public is advised to check their status with the HPCSA before embarking on consultations to ascertain the healthcare professional's authenticity. All healthcare practitioners registered with the HPCSA are issued with practicing cards. The practicing cards contain personal information of the healthcare professional concerned and patients have a right to request to see the practicing cards before any consultation could commence.

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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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