
Media Statement

TWO SUSPECTS ARRESTED FOR USING FRAUDULENT MEDICAL CERTIFICATES

14 July 2022

For immediate release

Pretoria – The Health Professions Council of South Africa’s (HPCSA) Inspectorate Office in collaboration with the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and the Orange Farm South African Police Service (SAPS) conducted a joint operation where two South African female suspects were arrested.

During the operation, the team found Ms Lethiwe Buyisile Mbatha and Ms Hlushwayini Mbatha at the SASSA offices in Orange Farm applying for disability grants using fraudulent medical documents. In support of their applications, they submitted completed SASSA Medical Assessment Referral Forms by an alleged Dr Ndlovu with what appeared to be the same handwriting, but with different HPCSA registration numbers, containing a stamp of the Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital.

Both HPCSA registration numbers of the alleged Dr Ndlovu were found to be non-existent on the HPCSA register. The Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital also confirmed that neither Ms Lethiwe Buyisile Mbatha nor Ms Hlushwayini Mbatha attended as patients at their facility.

The two suspects were arrested and taken into custody at the Orange Farm SAPS whereby they were both charged with fraud.

The HPCSA believes that working in collaboration with law enforcement agencies, other regulatory bodies, the media and the general public, is a collective responsibility to ensure that illegal practitioners are exposed and most importantly reported, so that they may be prosecuted.

The Inspectorate Office is based at the Council’s Head Office in Pretoria, with regional offices in Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth.

Protecting the public and guiding the professions

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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.

Issued by:

Christopher Tsatsawane

Head of Division: Corporate Affairs

Health Professions Council of South Africa

Cell: 082 803 1600

Email: ChristopherT@hpcsa.co.za

Protecting the public and guiding the professions

President: Prof. MS Nmutandani, Vice President: Dr S Sobuwa, Acting Registrar/CEO: Ms M De Graaff, Executive Company Secretariat: Adv. N Sipeka