

Media Statement

STERN WARNING AGAINST UNQUALIFIED AND UNREGISTERED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS

12 July 2023

For immediate release

Pretoria – The Professional Board for Environmental Health Practitioners, under the ambit of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA), is concerned with the bogus persons masquerading as qualified and registered Environmental Health Professionals. This is not only illegal, but also places the health and safety of members of the public at serious risk.

This warning comes amid reported cases of unscrupulous individuals who have been uncovered. In keeping up with its primary mandate of protecting the public and guiding the healthcare professions, Council, through the Inspectorate Office, is making great strides by effecting regular arrests of unregistered and illegal practitioners.

Environmental Health Practitioners are dedicated to safeguarding public health by monitoring and providing solutions and overseeing safety elements, environmental suitability, waste management, water services, pest control, food and transport safety and pollution control, amongst others. Any individual who threatens the health and safety of the public by participating in illegal activities will be prosecuted.

Section 34. Registration a prerequisite for practising a profession in respect of which a professional board has been established

*(1) Subject to the provisions of **sections 33(2)(c) and 39**, no person shall practise within the Republic any health profession the scope of which has been defined by the Minister in terms of **section 33 (1)**, unless he or she is registered in terms of this Act in respect of such profession.*

(2) Any person who contravenes the provisions of subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction liable to the penalties mentioned in **section 39**.

*All health professionals (Environmental Health Practitioners (EHPs) and Environmental Health Assistants (EHAs) included) or Managing / supervising / controlling Environmental Health Services or part thereof, Municipal Health Services or part thereof as defined in the **National Health Act No. 61,2003 as amended** are required / mandated in terms of the **Health Professions Act 56 of 1974 as amended**, (to be registered with the HPCSA before they could practice their professions and are to ensure that their registration is renewed annually before 01 April of each year in practice.*

The HPCSA is mandated to protect the public and guide the professions through enforcement and compliance by practitioners in line with the provisions of the Health Professions Act. Members of the community are encouraged to report all suspected illegal practices by unqualified and unregistered persons. Registered practitioners will identify themselves by means of a practicing card which has the practitioner's registration number (HI number). The public can verify a practitioner's status by calling the HPCSA Call Centre on 012 338 9300/1, or by requesting and contacting the practitioner's employer. To lodge a complaint, this can be done by completing an online complaints form via the HPCSA online platform or by sending an email.

Details are as follows:

HPCSA online platform - [Support Home Page \(custhelp.com\)](http://SupportHomePage(custhelp.com))

Email address - InspectorateOffice@hpcsa.co.za

END

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 of education, training and registration, professional conduct and ethical behaviour, ensuring Continuing Professional Development (CPD), and fostering compliance with healthcare standards.

To safeguard the public and guide the professions, registration in terms of the Act is a prerequisite for practising any of the health professions registrable with Council.

Protecting the public and guiding the professions

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

Issued by:

Christopher Tsatsawane

Head of Division: Corporate Affairs

Health Professions Council of South Africa

Cell: 082 803 1600

Email: ChristopherT@hpcsa.co.za