

Media Statement

PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR EMERGENCY CARE CONDEMNS ATTACKS ON PARAMEDICS

25 July 2023

For immediate release

Pretoria – The Professional Board for Emergency Care, under the ambit of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA), strongly condemns acts of violence and criminality against paramedics who were assaulted over the past weekend in Tshwane.

In each of these shocking attacks, emergency care professionals were targeted and hijacked when responding to hoax distress calls that lured them to secluded areas where they were ambushed, kidnapped and robbed of their valuables.

There has been a sharp increase in attacks on emergency care workers in Gauteng and various other parts of the country. Emergency Care requires immediate response to save lives, currently the situation is getting more dire with some areas classified as hotspots where responses to emergency calls require armed escort by either the police or private security firms. As a result, this interferes with the services that are being provided by the Emergency Care Services and it puts the lives and well-being of the public at risk.

“We are outraged by these latest brutal acts and call on law enforcement authorities to move swiftly in apprehending the perpetrators of these crimes. Should the public have any information regarding these acts of violence, the Board is requesting assistance in reporting the perpetrators to law enforcement”, said Dr Simpiwe Sobuwa, Chairperson of the Professional Board for Emergency Care.

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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 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.

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