

Media Statement

HPCSA INVESTIGATIONS LEAD TO THE ARREST OF ILLEGAL PRACTITIONERS IN DURBAN

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For immediate release

Pretoria – The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) is intensifying its efforts to combat bogus and unregistered practitioners. This is evident in a significant increase in the number of arrests by the Inspectorate Office. This surge in arrests underscores Council's commitment of eliminating bogus practitioners who pose a serious risk to public health and safety.

During the 2023/24 financial year, 24 illegal medical practitioners were arrested nationwide. Since the current financial year began in April to date, 10 more arrests have already been made. The HPCSA hopes the arrests and possible prosecutions will serve as a strong deterrent to the potential offenders.

In the latest operation, members of the Inspectorate Office of the HPCSA, in collaboration with law enforcement officials arrested one more individual for practising while not registered with Council. Officials, investigating a complaint of an unregistered person practising in the Durban Central area, discovered that a 39-year-old Ms Zinhle Precious Buthelezi was practising illegally. Ms Buthelezi violated section 17(1) of the Health Professions Act, 56 of 1974 by providing healthcare services without being registered with the HPCSA.

The investigation also revealed that Ms Buthelezi had been advertising services as a legitimate medical practitioner on various popular social media sites. Upon arrest, she was detained at Durban Central SAPS, denied bail by the magistrate court, and is expected to make another court appearance soon.

In a separate incident in Sydenham, Durban, authorities discovered Dr Poto Dambo Parfait practising while not registered with Council as a medical practitioner. The culprit was arrested for illegal medical practice and detained at the Sydenham SAPS. During his initial court appearance, he was denied bail and is scheduled to appear in court again at a later stage.

The public is urged to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities to the HPCSA via email at InspectorateOffice@hpcsa.co.za. Additionally, individuals can verify the registration status of medical practitioners by using the "Search the Register" tool on the HPCSA website or by contacting the Call Centre at 012 338 9300/1.

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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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