

Media Statement

UNREGISTERED LOCUM FOUND PRACTISING ILLEGALLY IN KURUMAN

22 March 2024

For immediate release

Pretoria – The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) is keeping to its mandate of protecting the public and regulating the professions by conducting thorough inspections at medical practices to ensure ethical and professional compliance and eliminate illegal activities carried out by unregistered practitioners.

The Inspectorate Office of the HPCSA conducted an intelligence-driven inspection at Albam Medical Centre, located at Maruping village, Kuruman, in the Northern Cape. During the inspection, it was discovered that Mr Jacques Muanawuta Katombo, identified as a Congolese national, was practising as a locum for Dr ND Lengo without being registered as a medical practitioner with Council since June 2023.

Mr Katombo was arrested and detained at Batlharos SAPS for contravening the Health Professions Act (Act no.56 of 1974) by practising without proper registration with Council. Additionally, Dr Lengo, a registered medical practitioner, will be reported to the Medical and Dental Professions Board for unethical conduct of employing an unregistered individual to practise as a locum in his medical practice.

This latest arrest underscores Council's commitment to upholding regulatory standards and protecting the public from illegal medical practices.

Members of the public can confirm a practitioner's status on the HPCSA website by clicking the Search the Register link or by calling the HPCSA Call Centre on 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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