

## Media Statement

### HPCSA NABS UNREGISTERED DENTIST

**07 June 2023**

**For immediate release**

**Pretoria** – A joint operation conducted by the Health Professions Council of South Africa’s (HPCSA) Inspectorate Office and the South African Police Service’s (SAPS) Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation resulted in the arrest of a bogus practitioner for practicing illegally whilst not registered with Council. This latest breakthrough is a result of continuous efforts to eradicate bogus and unregistered practitioners in the country.

Mr Taurai Chihoho, a Zimbabwean national, was found practicing as a Dentist at a medical facility owned by Dr RD Matlhatse, a registered medical practitioner. Investigations revealed that he was employed by Dr Matlhatse since September 2022.

Mr. Chihoho was arrested for Contravening Section 17(1) of the Health Professions Act 56 of 1974 and he was detained by the Polokwane SAPS and is due to appear at the Polokwane Magistrate Court on Wednesday, 07 June 2023. Dr Mathlatse will be reported to the Complaints Handling Unit for unethical conduct for employing an unregistered person to practice as a locum.

“Working with law enforcement agencies, we will endeavor by care and diligence to do everything in our power to root out any form of practice by unregistered persons”, said the HPCSA Registrar, Dr Magome Masike.

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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 practicing any of the health professions registrable with Council.

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