

Media Statement

HPCSA WELCOMES THE NEW PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

10 December 2020
For immediate release

Pretoria – The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA), at its Council inauguration elected its new President and Vice-President to serve for the period 2020 – 2025, effective from 09 December 2020. The President of Council is Professor Mbulaheni Simon Nmutandani and the Vice - President is Dr Simpiwe Sobuwa.

When welcoming the President and Vice President, Professor Nmutandani and Dr Sobuwa, the Minister of Health, Dr Zweli Mkhize, said: “We are delighted with the appointment of both the President and Vice-President and I am confident of their leadership capabilities to steer the HPCSA and deliver on its mandate as encapsulated by the Health Professions Act, 54 of 1974”.

Professor Nmutandani qualified as a dentist from the University of Western Cape approximately 30 years ago. He holds three Master’s degrees in Public Health from the University of Venda, Masters of science in Medicine and Specialist in community dentistry from the University of Witwatersrand and a PhD in Public Health from the University of Pretoria. His research interests are on health systems, policy and traditional medicine and HIV.

Professor Mbulaheni Simon Nmutandani is the Head and CEO of the School of Oral Health Sciences at the University of Witwatersrand. He is also the Chairperson of the Association of Deans of Dental Schools in Southern Africa. He explored a de-colonisation model for collaboration between indigenous and western trained health providers in post-colonial South Africa. In his role as a policy and public oral health specialist, he has been instrumental in developing the South African Oral Health Policy, providing advises on oral health matters to National and Provincial governments in South Africa.

Dr Sobuwa graduated with a National Diploma in Emergency Medical Care, a Bachelor of Technology in Emergency Medical Care and Higher Diploma in Higher Education and Training from the Cape

Peninsula University of Technology. Dr Sobuwa holds a Master of Science and a PhD degree in Emergency Medicine from the University of Cape Town.

Dr Simpiwe Sobuwa is the Head of Department for the Emergency Medical Care and Rescue at the Durban University of Technology. He is the immediate outgoing director of the Emergency Care Society of South Africa where he served on the Executive Committee. He served as a Board member in the previous term of office as the Vice-Chairperson of the Professional Board for Emergency Care of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) and the Chairperson of the ICT Steering Committee of the HPCSA (2015 – 2021).

“I feel privileged and humbled by the confidence that Council has in my ability to lead and steer the HPCSA ship. I have the commitment, passion, and humility to serve the registered healthcare practitioners and the public at large. The new Council is determined to achieve the goals and objectives to ensure that the public is served by competent healthcare practitioners with an efficient healthcare system”, said Professor Nematandani.

The Acting Registrar/CEO, Dr Munyadziwa Kwindu, when congratulating the new President elect, Professor Nematandani and Dr Sobuwa said: “We as Secretariat will provide the necessary support and guidance for them to ensure that they execute their duties”.

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

In order to safeguard the public and guiding 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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