
Media Statement

HPCSA Inspectorate arrests a receptionist masquerading as an optometrist

**27 August 2019
For immediate release**

Pretoria - The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) has a responsibility to ensure that it protects the public and guides the professions. Council takes this responsibility seriously in ensuring optimal health for all people through the provision of safe healthcare and practitioners that have been educated to the highest professional standards.

To uphold its mandate of protecting the public, the HPCSA Inspectorate Office in collaboration with the Road Traffic Management Corporation conducted an operation at the optometry practice of Mr Percy Rathogwa in Thulamahashe Mpumalanga. During the raid, Ms T Maluleka who works as a receptionist was arrested and taken into custody for treating patients as an optometrist whilst not being registered as such. She was also conducting herself fraudulently in the completion of Eye Screening Certificates for applicants in obtaining their learner's/drivers Licenses, and Professional Driving Permits at the Traffic Department. Ms Maluleka was arrested at the Mhala SAPS under CAS no. 128/8/2019, she will be appearing in court today (27 August 2019).

The HPCSA is working with law enforcement and other regulatory institutions in the health sector and members of public to expose these illegal and fraudulent practitioners. It is a collective responsibility to ensure that illegal practitioners are exposed and stopped, but most importantly reported so that they may be prosecuted.

The Inspectorate Office of the HPCSA is fully operational and based at the Council's Head Office in Pretoria, with a regional office in Cape Town, East London and Durban.

Ends

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.

Issued by:

Daphney Chuma
Head of Division: Corporate Affairs
Health Professions Council of South Africa
Tel: 012 338 9481
Cell: 071 680 8111
Email: daphneyc@hpcsa.co.za

For more information:

Eric Mphaphuli
Senior Manager: Inspectorate
Health Professions Council of South Africa
Tel: 012 338 3974