

Media Statement

BOGUS PRACTITIONER ARRESTED IN MAFIKENG

28 September 2021

For immediate release

Pretoria – The Health Professions Council of South Africa’s (HPCSA) Inspectorate Office has again arrested a bogus practitioner who has been practising whilst not registered with Council.

In an effort to uphold the mandate of protecting the public and ensuring that all practitioners operating in the area are registered with Council as per the regulations of the Health Professions Act, 56 of 1974, the HPCSA’s Inspectorate Office conducted a joint operation with Hawks in Mafikeng.

During the operation, it was found that, Mr Valerie Sibanda Tshibanda, a Congolese national, was practising as a doctor whilst not registered with Council at the practice of Dr Gutta, who is registered with Council.

Mr Tshibanda was arrested for fraud and contravening Section 17(1) of the Health Professions Act, 56 of 1974 as it is a criminal offence to practise whilst not registered with Council. He was arrested and detained at the Mmabatho Police Station with case no 302/9/2021.

Practitioners registered with Council are encouraged to ensure that they vet the practitioners that they employ to ensure the safety of the public. It is illegal to employ unregistered persons and allow them to treat patients without being registered. Members of the public are urged to be vigilant and report suspected bogus practitioners in their communities.

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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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