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**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**CAUTION AGAINST LOCUMS PRACTISING ILLEGALLY**

17 August 2021

For immediate release

**Pretoria** – The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) is committed to protecting the public and guiding the professions. Through its mandate of protecting the public, the HPCSA's Inspectorate Office continues to clamp down on bogus practitioners practising illegally throughout the country.

The Inspectorate Office in collaboration with the Serious Organised Crime Investigations Unit conducted an inspection in Kwaguqa, Mpumalanga Province. During the inspection, Mr Henri K Kabenga (Congolese National) was found practising as a medical practitioner at the practice of Dr NM Phoba who is registered with Council. Mr Kabenga was arrested for contravening Section 17(1) of the Health Professions Act 56 of 1974 as he is not registered with Council. He was detained at the SAPS Vosman (Cas 276/08/2021). Mr Kabenga will appear before court today.

Dr Phoba will be reported to the relevant professional board for her unprofessional conduct

The HPCSA is once again cautioning practitioners to verify the status of the locums they employ with Council as unregistered locums practising a healthcare practitioner pose a serious risk on the lives of the public.

**END**

## **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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