

Media Statement

LOCUM PRACTISING ILLEGALLY ARRESTED IN THE EASTERN CAPE

7 May 2021

For immediate release

Pretoria –The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) is continuing with efforts to try and clamp down on the increasing number of unregistered practitioners from practising and endangering the lives of the public.

The Inspectorate Office in the Eastern Cape conducted an inspection in Idutywa where they found an unregistered locum practising as a medical practitioner. Mr Alex Lukusa Muyembe (Congolese National) was found practising at Dr B Matolengwe's practice whilst not registered with Council. Upon questioning Mr Muyembe indicated that he has been employed at the practice since August 2020, however, when the inspectors perused through the patients' medical records it revealed that he had been consulting with patients dating as far back as 2017. Dr Matolengwe (who is registered with Council) will be reported to HPCSA for employing an unregistered locum.

Mr Muyembe was arrested and detained at Idutywa SAPS for contravention of Sec 17(1), Sec 33, Sec 34 and Sec 39 of the Health Professions Act 56 of 1974.

The HPCSA is committed to adhering to its mandate of protecting the public and guiding the professions and encourages healthcare practitioners to ensure that they employ registered locums. Members of the public are urged to check if a healthcare practitioner is registered before seeking medical treatment. This can be done via the HPCSA's website on the iRegister or calling the Call Centre 012 338 9100/1 to verify the registration status of their local healthcare practitioners.

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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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