

## Media Statement

### MORE BOGUS PRACTITIONERS ARRESTED IN SILVERTON, PRETORIA

**18 October 2021**

**For immediate release**

**Pretoria** –The Inspectorate Office under the ambit of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) in collaboration with the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) conducted a joint operation at the Waltloo Licensing Centre, Silverton in an effort to alleviate the increasing number of bogus practitioners who are surfacing the streets of Gauteng.

During the operation, it was established that Dr Hambakahle Ntukwana (a medical practitioner registered with the HPCSA) and Miss Tshegofatso Lepelle (an optometrist also registered with the HPCSA) were sharing a mobile unit and in their absence:

1. Ms Zizipho Wanana (a registered nurse) was found to be completing, signing, stamping and issuing medical certificates to applicants for Professional Driving Permits (PDPs) under the name, details, and HPCSA registration number of Dr Hambakahle Ntukwana since the beginning of October 2021 in exchange for R150 per medical certificate. It was further established that the mobile unit previously belonged to Dr Stanley Mphela and Ms Wanana performed the same activities prior to the mobile unit being sold to Dr Ntukwana at the beginning of October 2021.
2. Ms Rosette Malatji (who is not registered with the HPCSA) was found to be conducting eye screening tests and completing, signing, stamping and issuing eye screening certificates to applicants for Professional Driving Permits (PDPs) under the name, details, and HPCSA registration number of Miss Tshegofatso Lepelle (an optometrist registered with HPCSA) since the beginning of October 2021 in exchange for R100 to R150 per eye screening certificate on behalf of Miss Lepelle.

As a result, Dr Hambakahle Ntukwana, Dr Stanley Mphela, Ms Zizipho Wanana and Ms Rosette Malatji were arrested and taken into custody at the Silverton SAPS CAS numbers 204/10/2021 and 205/10/2021 where they were charged with fraud, and Ms Zizipho Wanana and Ms Rosette Malatji were

further charged with contravening Section 39(1)(a) of the Health Professions Act, 56 of 1974, which is a criminal offence in terms of Section 39(2), as well as Section 40, by performing acts as a medical practitioner and an optometrist by completing medical certificates and eye screening certificates for PDPs, and using the details of a medical practitioner and optometrist whilst not being registered as such with Council.

The Inspectorate Office is advising practitioners registered with Council to adhere to the regulations and ensure that they employ practitioners who are registered with Council. The HPCSA welcomes the tip-offs that members of the community have provided thus far. Members of the community are encouraged to continue to report all suspicious illegal practices by unregistered persons (bogus practitioners).

The Inspectorate Office is based at the HPCSA's Head Office in Pretoria, with regional offices in Cape Town, Durban and East London.

**END**

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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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