
Media Statement

HPCSA ARRESTS NINE SUSPECTS IN BENONI

14 September 2021

For immediate release

Pretoria – The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) is on a continuous mission to clean the profession and eradicate any fraudulent activities that may put the profession in disrepute.

The HPCSA Inspectorate Office in collaboration with the Ekurhuleni East Crime Intelligence and the Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Police Department (EMPD) Community Liaison Unit established that 19 Checkers' employees based in Northmead Square, Benoni submitted 41 fraudulent medical certificates under the name of Dr MLA Modisane.

During the operation, it was identified that Mr Christopher Kutoka (a Zimbabwean National) was issuing the fraudulent medical certificates to the employees. Mr Kutoka was caught red-handed at a nearby café issuing the said medical certificates. He was arrested for fraud and contravening Section 39(1)(a) of the Health Professions Act, 56 of 1974, for issuing medical certificates as a medical practitioner whilst not being registered with Council. Practising whilst not registered with the HPCSA constitutes a criminal offence in terms of Section 39(2). Upon his arrest, Mr Kutoka, was found to be in possession of 38 blank medical certificates, a stamp, negative COVID-19 declaration forms and various other fraudulent medical documents under the name of Dr MLA Modisane. It was further established that Mr Kutoka was previously working at the practice of Dr Modisane in Daveyton. One of the employees was arrested for fraud after having submitted eight of the fraudulent medical certificates. Further to those arrests, seven more employees were arrested for fraud the following day, for having submitted 31 of the fraudulent medical certificates.

The suspects were all taken into custody at the Benoni SAPS under CAS no. 197/9/2021 and are scheduled to appear in the Benoni Magistrates Court.

The HPCSA would like to caution the public against obtaining fraudulent medical certificates and wish to emphasise that medical certificates must be issued and signed by a medical practitioner or any other

person who is certified to diagnose and treat patients, and who is registered with a Professional Council established by an act of Parliament.

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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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