
Media Statement

PROFESSIONAL BOARD FOR OPTOMETRY AND DISPENSING OPTICIANS SADDENED BY THE VIOLENCE IN GAUTENG AND KZN

06 AUGUST 2021
For immediate release

Pretoria – Recent days have seen unprecedented violence, rioting and looting in parts of South Africa, more specifically in Kwa-Zulu Natal and Gauteng Provinces. Many healthcare practitioners have been severely affected by this and have suffered devastating losses to/of their practices and affected their livelihood.

The Professional Board for Optometry and Dispensing Opticians (PBODO) would like express our heart-felt sympathy to all practitioners who have been affected, in particular those registered under the Board of Optometry and Dispensing opticianry.

This crisis is a challenge to social cohesion and has further threatened to deepen racial divides within communities. It is important that as individuals we both resist and fight the ground swell of racist undertones that has begun to emerge in our communities. We are encouraged by the efforts of those within the healthcare community and in particular the eyecare community who have rallied together to support and assist colleagues and friends to rebuild, restore and recover from these devastating losses.

Affected practitioners have lost both stock & equipment. While it is unlikely that much of the stolen merchandise will be recovered, some practitioners may be approached to purchase stolen goods. We appeal to practitioners not to purchase these but to bring this to the attention of law enforcement authorities. Furthermore, according to Section 36 and Section 37 of the General Law Amendment Act 62, 1955 if you are found in possession of stolen goods you may be guilty of an offence.

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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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