

Media Statement

TWO UNREGISTERED PERSONS NABBED FOR PRACTISING WHILST NOT REGISTERED WITH COUNCIL

15 February 2021

For immediate release

Pretoria –The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) is cautioning registered healthcare practitioners to refrain from employing unregistered persons who are ultimately endangering the lives of the public. Council has observed an increasing number of unregistered persons being employed and practising at the premises of registered healthcare professionals.

On Friday, 12 February 2021, the HPCSA Inspectorate Office conducted two operations with the aim of eradicating unregistered practitioners from harming the public. The first operation took place in Khayelitsha, Cape Town where Mr Gaston Kalala Mutamba from the Democratic Republic of Congo was found practising as a medical practitioner while he is not registered with Council. Mr Mutamba indicated that he was employed by Dr Nkosinathi Emmanuel Duma as a locum doctor since 2018.

Dr Duma also confirmed that Mr Mutamba is not registered with Council, however, he is training him in order to prepare him for the board examinations. Mr Mutamba was arrested for fraud and being in contravention of Section 17(1) of the Health Professions Act 56 of 1974. He was detained at Lingelethu-West SAPS as per CAS 216/2/2021 and he will appear in Court today. Dr Nkosinathi Emmanuel Duma is actively registered with the HPCSA and his unethical conduct of employing an unregistered locum doctor will be reported to the Medical and Dental Professions Board.

The second operation conducted by the Inspectorate Office (Gauteng) in conjunction with members of the Gauteng Department of Community Safety and the Johannesburg Metro Police Department took place at the Highpoint Pharmacy. It was established that Mr Olayele Philip Awujola (Nigerian national) was practising as a medical practitioner inside a room at the pharmacy whilst not registered with Council. Mr Awujola has been treating patients and issuing fraudulent medical certificates under the title of Dr AO Philip from the pharmacy since March 2020, with a non-existent practice number and a fake address in Kensington.

Mr Awujola was arrested and taken into custody at the Hillbrow SAPS where he was charged for contravening Section 17(1)(a) of the Health Professions Act 56 of 1974, for practising as a medical practitioner whilst not being registered with the HPCSA. He is scheduled to appear in the Johannesburg Magistrates Court today.

The HPCSA is encouraging unregistered practitioners to follow the correct procedures of practising as medical professionals as per the Health Professions Act 56 of 1974. Practising any of the registrable health professions whilst not registered is a criminal offence. The public is urged to check if a healthcare practitioner is registered by using the iRegister on the HPCSA website or calling the HPCSA line on 012 338 9300/1 to ensure that they are treated by registered 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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