

## Media Statement

### HPCSA SWEEPING THE STREETS CLEAN

**26 September 2019**

**For immediate release**

**Pretoria** – The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) is inundated with complaints relating to unregistered persons practising illegally and registered practitioners employing unregistered persons as locums.

In upholding its mandate of protecting the public and guiding the professions, the Inspectorate Office and other employees of Council conducted inspections in the various areas within Gauteng:

- Pretoria Central
- Tembisa
- Kempton Park
- Sunnyside
- Arcadia

In Pretoria Central, Dr Cornelia Polly Bam at the Women's Choice Clinic, situated at Shop 9 Prinsman Building, 327 Francis Baard Street was found to be practising whilst being erased from the register since 2008 for non-payment of annual fees. Dr Bam was performing termination of pregnancies of up to 20 weeks and she was found to be in possession of and administering scheduled medication whilst not being in possession of the required license from the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (previously Medicines Control Council).

Dr Bam was arrested and taken into custody at the Pretoria Central SAPS under CAS no. 1830/9/2019 for contravening:

1. The Health Professions Act, (Act 56 of 1974);
2. The Medicines and Related Substances Act, (Act 101 of 1965); and

3. The Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act, (Act 92 of 1996).

In another inspection conducted in Tembisa together with the SAPS, Mr Mukedi Tshakatumba and Mr David Sangwa (both Congolese nationals) were found practising whilst not registered with the HPCSA. They were practising at a surgery owned by Dr Thindisa situated at Maokeng section. Mr Tshakatumba and Mr Sangwa were arrested for fraud and contravention of section 17(1) of the Health Professions Act 56 of 1974. They were detained at the Tembisa SAPS. Dr Thindisa was not at the practice at the time of the arrests.

In another inspection conducted in Kempton Park, Dr Tamba Godard Matafari was found practising as a locum doctor at the practice of Dr Sikhalo Godfrey Masilela while not registered. Dr Matafari confirmed that he has been working for Dr Sikhalo Masilela since March 2019. He was arrested and detained for practising as a medical practitioner whilst not registered with Council.

The HPCSA is stern on ensuring that illegal practitioners do not practise and put the lives of the public at risk. The HPCSA is also warning practitioners registered with Council to refrain from employing and allowing unregistered practitioners to utilise their practice rooms whilst unregistered with Council.

There were no arrests in the Sunnyside and Arcadia inspections.

**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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