

## Media Statement

### HPCSA ROUTINE INSPECTION UNCOVERS ILLEGAL DENTAL ASSISTANT

**09 September 2024**

**For immediate release**

**Pretoria** – The Health Professions Council of South Africa's (HPCSA) Inspectorate Office uncovered an unregistered practitioner who was practising whilst not registered with Council.

During a routine inspection at a medical practice in Lonehill, Johannesburg, the Inspectorate Office found t Ms Dorothy Shunmugam practising as a Dental Assistant despite her registration being erased from the HPCSA register in 2006 due to non-payment of annual fees.

Ms Shunmugam has been arrested and detained at Douglasdale SAPS for contravening Section 17(1) of the Health Professions Act as it is a criminal offence to practise whilst not registered with Council. She was employed by Dr Kow-Der Yeh, a registered Dentist since 2019. Dr Yeh will be reported to the Medical and Dental Professions Board for the illegal employment of an individual whose registration with Council was erased.

Practitioners registered with Council are encouraged to ensure that they vet the practitioners that they employ to ensure the safety of the public. It is illegal to employ unregistered persons and allow them to treat patients without being registered.

The public is also encouraged to report suspected illegal practices to the HPCSA at [InspectorateOffice@hpcsa.co.za](mailto:InspectorateOffice@hpcsa.co.za). To verify the registration status of medical practitioners, use the "Search the Register" tool on the HPCSA website or contact the Call Centre at 012 338 9300/1.

**END**

## **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 of education, training and registration, professional conduct, and ethical behaviour, ensuring Continuing Professional Development (CPD), and fostering compliance with healthcare standards.

To safeguard the public and guide 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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