

Media Statement

HPCSA HEEDS CLARION CALL FOR UNITY IN COMMEMORATION OF AFRICA DAY

20 May 2024

For immediate release

Pretoria – The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) stands in solidarity with the entire African continent and the global community as we commemorate Africa Day on Saturday, 25 May 2024. This significant occasion marks the annual commemoration of the founding of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) on 25 May 1963, which laid the foundation for the formation of the African Union (AU) in 2022.

This year's theme, "**Building a Resilient Africa: Strengthening Economic Integration and Boosting Innovation**," serves as a call to action for nations across the continent to collaborate and innovate in addressing both present and future challenges. One of the AU's key goals for Africa is to ensure that its citizens are healthy and well-nourished and that adequate levels of investment are made to expand access to quality healthcare services for all people. The AU works to ensure that Africa develops and sustainably manages its health sector by putting in place the relevant sectoral institutions to support knowledge building as well as manage emergencies and disease outbreaks in the continent.

It is against this backdrop that the HPCSA, is currently holding the Presidency of the Association of Medical Councils of Africa (AMCOA), an Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities on the continent AND has embraced this significant united African Renaissance ideal. This entails supporting medical regulatory authorities in Africa to protect the public interest by promoting high standards of medical education, registration, and regulation. Additionally, it involves facilitating the ongoing exchange of information and expertise among medical regulatory authorities.

Recently, the HPCSA facilitated bilateral meetings to benchmark best practices and establish lasting relations with counterparts from the Southern African Development Community (SADC), Sub-Saharan Africa, and the diaspora, including countries such as Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Seychelles and Zambia. As a result of these efforts, agreements are being facilitated by the National Department of Health and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation to ensure that Africa's healthcare system is strengthened.

"We have deep historical ties with many countries on the continent, dating back to the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. Our continued collaboration with our counterparts across the continent is not only symbolic but

essential for fostering unity and achieving genuine liberation, particularly concerning access to quality and equitable healthcare”, says Dr Magome Masike, Registrar of the HPCSA.

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.

Issued by:

Priscilla Sekhonyana
Acting Head of Division: Corporate Affairs
Health Professions Council of South Africa
Cell: 082 801 6685
Email: PriscillaS@hpcsa.co.za