



MEDIA RELEASE

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South African Pharmacy Council pledges solidarity with pharmacy professionals in the COVID-19 frontline, announces a 0% annual fee adjustment for 2021

In recognition of the selfless efforts by pharmacy professionals throughout the country in the fight against COVID-19 and in solidarity with the medicines experts in the multidisciplinary healthcare team, the regulator of the pharmacy profession, the South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC) today announced that it has placed a moratorium on 2021 annual fee increases for all pharmacy professionals and facilities.

The 25-member Council collective resolved to halt all annual fee increases and to absorb any inflationary and service cost increases in fulfilling its legislative mandate as a regulator of the pharmacy profession and guarantor of patient-centred pharmaceutical care.

The President of the SAPC, Mr Mogologolo Phasha, said the Council does not expect its ability to fulfil its mandate to be weakened by this decision. “We are confident that the services offered by the SAPC to both pharmacy professionals and the public will not be affected by this decision and that their quality will remain of an acceptable standard,” says Mr Phasha.

Mr Phasha added: “While fee adjustment moratoriums are not sustainable in the long term, particularly due to inflationary pressures on operational expenditure, we recognise that 2020 has been a tough year for the economy and most of our colleagues on the frontline in the war against COVID-19 may have to do with reduced incomes or below-inflation salary increases”.

The Registrar & CEO of the SAPC, Mr Amos Masango, urged pharmacy professionals to continue to play their part in providing expert advice on the effective use of medicines to their colleagues in the healthcare team and to patients. “We are still in the midst of a pandemic, and, as such, urge all our colleagues on the COVID-19 war frontline, be they in manufacturing pharmacies, research/academia, community pharmacies or hospitals, to continue to make a meaningful input towards the health of patients,” says Mr Masango.

The SAPC is responsible for recording pharmacies (manufacturing, wholesalers, hospital, and community pharmacies), registering pharmacy professionals, regulating their conduct, and promoting ethical conduct in the pharmacy profession, amongst others. It is also the custodian of pharmacy education and training in the country, responsible for accrediting education and training institutions and setting standards for the quality of pharmacy education in South Africa.

Issued by the South African Pharmacy Council

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MEDIA SPOKESPEOPLE FOR THE SAPC:

Mr Mogologolo Phasha (President of Council)
Mr Amos Masango (Registrar/CEO)

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