



## The plight of unemployed pharmacists and pharmacist's assistants

**Tshifhiwa Rabali**  
PSSA President

Looking back on 2024, it's clear that it was one of the busiest and most impactful years for the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa (PSSA). From active branches across the country to hosting the 82nd FIP Congress—the first ever held in sub-Saharan Africa—it was truly a remarkable year for the PSSA. Not only did we grow our membership, but we welcomed the South African Pharmacy Student Federation (SAPSF) to our NEC meetings. I look forward to working with them for the benefit of our members and the pharmacy profession as a whole. A special thank you to everyone who contributed to these successes.

### ***Strategic planning vision of the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa***

Our strategic planning discussions began at our NEC meeting on 11 November 2024. The debate was rich with thought-provoking perspectives, and after extensive discussion on whether we needed a new strategic planning document, we were able to align on the next steps. It was a valuable experience to hear so many diverse views from our colleagues.

The final document will be available for all PSSA members to view.

This strategic plan is an important document, as it will guide the national office on priorities and timelines moving forward in shaping the future of our Society and the profession. As the strategic plan is being collaboratively developed, the Executive Committee under my leadership will have the final responsibility for its success. The sectors

and branches will be assigned, where required, specific action items within the strategic plan to ensure ownership and accountability. A shared sense of ownership will ensure that everyone is committed to its successful execution and is working towards the same strategic objectives.

As we enter the new year, my commitment to engaging with all stakeholders remains a top priority as we work towards our vision of advancing the pharmacy profession in South Africa. The PSSA will continue to strive to become the undisputed leader and guardian of the pharmacy profession. I call on all of you to support this vision so we can represent our colleagues with integrity and passion.

There is much work to be done this year, and with the support of the Executive Director, the national office staff, NEC members, sector leaders, branch chairs, the Young Pharmacists' Group (YPG), and all members, I am confident we can achieve our goals. I call on each of you to actively engage with this vision. Your participation in local branches, contribution to committees, and sharing of expertise are vital to our success. Together, we can elevate our profession, improve healthcare outcomes, and solidify the PSSA's position as the undisputed leader and guardian of pharmacy in South Africa.

Wishing you all a prosperous and productive new year ahead.

I thank you.