



President's Message

Focussing on the future

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PSSA President

Being around for more than 75 years is a huge achievement for the Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa. The Society is 78 years old this year and so much has been achieved, however there is still much to be done.

The Society will have to refocus its energies and engage with stakeholders who did not have a working relationship previously with the Society. Our participation with other forums on the African continent will have to be revived. The PSSA is already a member of the African Pharmaceutical Forum and regular meetings with them will be sought so that we can understand their challenges and they can also understand ours. The PSSA is also a member of the Commonwealth Pharmacists Association and our engagement with them will have to be revived.

National Health Insurance Bill

The PSSA has observed the signing of the National Health Insurance Bill into law and will keep monitoring its implementation so that pharmacists are not left behind in this endeavour of the government to address health inequalities. Our engagement with the Department of Health will be prioritised so that we are part of the implementation of NHI's phases.

Unemployed pharmacists, community service pharmacists (CSPs) and interns

These issues were addressed with the Deputy Director General of Health (Dr Percy Mahlati), the Chief Director at the department (Dr Luvuyo Bayeni) and their team in April 2024. It was a very cordial meeting where I re-introduced the PSSA to the Department of Health as the Society that represents more than 13 000 pharmacists

and pharmacy personnel and it is on a transformative drive. They mentioned that the issue of unemployed pharmacists/interns is receiving attention as they have requested funding from Treasury. They have also approached the provinces to see if there are any vacancies and funding available.

With regards to the community service pharmacists' programme, the reply received was that currently the programme will continue as it is, but that discussions will take place in the 2025/2026 financial year as to whether the CSP programme is still viable in its current format.

PSSA branches

Our branches are being encouraged to hold more CPDs, webinars, symposiums and workshops so that they can attract more pharmacists to become members of the PSSA. The process of reviving inactive branches is ongoing. Branches play a crucial role in the recruitment of new members and the National Office will continue to support them in doing that.

Legacy projects

Our involvement with the hosting of the FIP 2024 Congress has encouraged us to look into the legacy projects that the PSSA can be proud of in future. This will be a milestone achievement that the PSSA would have undertaken during its existence.

Lastly, I would like to thank you all for the good work that you continue doing in providing pharmaceutical services to the citizens of this country.

I thank you.