



## President's Message

**Tshifhiwa Rabali**

PSSA President

### SAAPI Conference

On 5 June 2024, I attended the SAAPI conference at CSIR in Pretoria. The work that is being done by the industry together with SAHPRA as the stakeholder is huge and it is impressive that pharmacists are at the forefront in all this and are actively partaking in the industry advancements. As PSSA, we are immensely proud of our SAAPI members and the professionalism they continue projecting. Kudos to them for hosting a successful conference.

### Winter season

The winter season is upon us and with all that it brings, I know that my colleagues out there are serving the citizens of this country with care and professionalism and ensuring that citizens are vaccinated against influenza. There is also the monkeypox (Mpox) that is currently affecting parts of our country. Mpox is preventable and manageable and treatment for both mild and severe cases is available. Pharmacists need to arm themselves with all the necessary knowledge so that the affected patients are being taken care and can fully recover. I salute all the colleagues in the frontline and will always cherish the good work being done out there.

### Stakeholder engagements

Following the watershed elections in our country, PSSA was one of the organisation that has congratulated our new Ministers of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, and the Deputy Minister of Health, Dr Joe Phaahla, and we are hoping to engage with one of them soon

as we will be moving towards hosting the International Federation of Pharmacists and Pharmaceutical Scientists' Congress that will be held in Cape Town in September. We will advocate and remain in the forefront in as far as issues that affect pharmacists in this country including our clearly defined role in the universal health coverage. We are also pleased that the Department of Health (DoH) has sent out a statement that suggests that most of the interns and community service health professionals have been placed up to now including pharmacists. We will follow up on that statement from DoH, to see if indeed all of our pharmacists have been placed.

### Revitalisation of the PSSA branches

The national office under the leadership of our executive director is busy with the project of reviving branches that for a while have been struggling to deliver on its mandates and functions set out by the constitution of the Society. I am hoping that in the coming few months, PSSA will be having all its branches that are formally constituted and representing our members fully functional. Overall, this process will be beneficial to us all as there will be growth in the membership of the PSSA.

Lastly, I would like to thank all our members for their support and confidence in me as I was re-elected as the President of the PSSA for a second term. This is a very humbling experience, and I will always serve the pharmacy profession with passion and dedication.

I thank you all.