

# MEMORANDUM

DATE: 14 APRIL 2025

TO: CHAIRPERSON OF (PBEHP) HPCSA  
MR. JOSEPH SHIKWAMBANE

FROM: UNEMPLOYED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER'S

SUBJECT: **URGENT REQUEST FOR THOSE UNEMPLOYED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS WHO WERE SUSPENDED DUE TO INCAPABILITY TO PAY ANNUAL FEES TO BE REINSTATED**

## INTRODUCTION

We coming forward as unemployed Environmental Health Practitioners registered for Independent Practise with HPCSA and concerned stakeholders to submit this memorandum to highlight the urgent need for the reinstatement of suspended EHP's. The escalating unemployment crisis amongst qualified practitioners continues to hinder public health efforts and values, despite the growing necessity for environmental health nationwide.

## ISSUE STATEMENT

Environmental Health Practitioners are essential in safeguarding communities through disease prevention, food safety monitoring, waste management and environmental hazard control. However the suspension of several qualified EHP's further worsened the unemployment crisis because we cannot even apply to available few vacancies as we are not meeting the requirements of being registered with HPCSA.

The absence and inadequate number of EHP's employed weakens health protection strategies and exposing public and communities to preventable risks.

## KEY REQUESTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

We urgently call for the following actions:

- Immediate reinstatement of suspended EHP's and all affected practitioners for them to form part of applicants for the available posts and vacancies advertised and ensure environmental health continuity as we fail to pay required annual fees in record time due to unemployment and we still want to be active members.
- Employment Absorption Plan Municipalities and Health Departments must prioritise hiring qualified EHP's to strengthen public health programs.
- Review HPCSA Registration Process a transparent evaluation of the suspension criteria should be conducted to prevent unjust removal of qualified professionals.
- Collaboration for Public Health Protection, HPCSA must actively engage in resolving employment challenges and only qualified EHP's must be employed in environmental health sector our profession must not be exposed we are here and qualified no one must do our job.

## **CONCLUSION**

We strongly urge the HPCSA to act swiftly and decisively in addressing this matter. The unemployment and suspension of EHP's is not just a professional issue, it is a public health issue and risk. South Africa requires a fully equipped workforce to combat rising health challenges and reinstating all suspended EHP's is a necessary step towards strengthening of our Environmental Health System.

We welcome further discussions and engagements and hoping for a positive feedback to find collaborative solutions.

For any further enquiries and feedback please contact:

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Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Yours in struggle

UNEMPLOYED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER'S