



PROGRESSIVE PROFESSIONALS FORUM

FRIDAY 5

ISSUE 27. JANUARY 22 2021

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PPF FRIDAY 5 IS PROUDLY SPONSORED BY THE FOLLOWING AFFILIATE GROUP OF COMPANIES



TOP #5 TRENDING ARTICLES

Mediclinic defends Dr Death's right to practise (BBC)

A private hospital group in South Africa has defended itself amid an uproar that the man dubbed "Dr Death" practises from two of its clinics. Mediclinic said it could not stop Wouter Basson from practising as he was a registered doctor. (BBC, 2021)

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SA black doctors vindicated after probe confirms racial discrimination (News24)

The interrogation and intimidation faced by black healthcare practitioners in the country were worse than what was done during apartheid. Dr Prudence Buthelezi, a health practitioner and co-founder of the National Health Care Professionals Association (NHCPA), said this on Thursday as she recounted the experiences she and her colleagues faced over a seven-year period. (Mkize, 2021)

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Tourism Minister has published a draft norms & standards proposal document to allow for the safe operation of the tourism sector during the pandemic and beyond. (Business Tech)

Tourism minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane has published a draft 'norms and standards' proposal document which aims to allow for the safe operation of the tourism sector during the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond. (BusinessTech, 2021)

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Jackson Mthembu was a father figure (Times Live)

Jackson Mthembu died with his boots on, working for the people of SA. This was the moving tribute ANC deputy secretary-general Jessie Duarte paid to the late minister in the presidency on Thursday after the shocking news of his death from Covid-19 related complications. (Khoza & Madisa, 2021)

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US Africa policy could be reset under Biden (Mail & Guardian)

Since American agricultural commodities' demand for slave labour brought the United States and Africa together four centuries ago, the US-Africa relationship has been mainly defined by economics and the shifting strategic value of the continent to America. (Kajuju & Keita, 2021)

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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENCY

KASHIF WICOMB

Minister Mthembu's death is a great loss to our country on so many levels. His unwavering fights against corruption, affable nature; sincerity; humble; hard-working and unwavering spirit will be dearly missed. His was a life well lived-in service of all of humanity, we can keep his legacy alive by continuing to fight for non-racialism, non-sexism; justice; equality and fairness.

Hamba Kahle cadre!

We dip our revolutionary banner ...& Marcus Jooste of Steinhoff still running free & living a private life of luxury.

The COVID-19 pandemic has claimed many victims and all of us have experienced the death and sadness of a close family member, friend or work associate who is no more. On Thursday our country lost one of its most senior politicians, Minister Jackson Mthembu to COVID. Minister Mthembu dedicated his life for the freedoms we enjoy today and in post-apartheid South Africa continued to serve in various senior positions in the State and the Ruling Party.

This week also saw the public release of the S 59 Independent Panel Interim Report which highlighted and proved that black medical professionals were discriminated against by Medscheme, Discovery and the State's GEMS medical scheme. The immorality of race discrimination 27 years into post-apartheid South Africa leaves one completely flabbergasted.

What is even more disturbing is the economic consequences of this race profiling on highly qualified black medical practitioners. Medical aids with all the resources at their disposal have been strong arming one-person medical practices into claw back agreements, acknowledgement of debts and indirect payments for decades. In fact, the medical aids were both the complainant and adjudicator during these 'hearings' if and when they were held.

It is time that we vigorously agitate and advocate for changes to the Medical Aid Scheme Act to prevent the exploitation of small black business by established business.

See our press statement further in the newsletter.

MEDIA STATEMENT

PPF FLABBERGASTED BY RACE DISCRIMINATION BY MEDICAL AID SCHEMES AND ITS INTENDED ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES AND CALLS ON CMS TO INTERVENE *From The Office of the Secretary General*

TO: ALL MEDIA HOUSES

DATE: 21 JANUARY 2021

The Progressive Professionals Forum (PPF) is flabbergasted but not surprised by the findings of the S 59 Independent Panel Interim Report crafted by Adv Tembeka Ngcukaitobi and team. The Report finds that 'Black providers are unfairly discriminated against on the grounds of race'. It cannot be that 27 years into post-apartheid South Africa an entire race is still being discriminated against and this by large corporates such as Discovery, Medscheme and the South African Government's own GEMS. This type of discrimination is immoral and wrong. "The profiling of medical practitioners by Medical Aid Schemes which led to racial discrimination must be condemned in the strongest terms. Medical Aid Schemes must publicly apologise and pay a penalty for their discriminatory acts" says Kashif Wicomb, President of the PPF.

What is even more disturbing is the economic consequences of this race profiling. The Report found that Medical Aid Schemes can unilaterally decide to claw back an amount without giving the medical practitioner an opportunity to defend the allegation. Where such an opportunity is granted "The power imbalance between practitioners and medical aid schemes is the poster child definition for a typical established business vs small business in settlement negotiations. Medical Aids are well resourced and powerful vs individual practitioners when they do negotiate Acknowledgement of Debts. In addition, Medical Schemes and administrators are then also the arbiter in the implementation of their own FWA system" says Wicomb. The Report found that black General Practitioners are 1.5 times more likely and more than 50 % of black counsellors are more likely to be classified as Fraud Waste & Abuse cases than their white counterparts. "This in effect means that sanctions of claw backs, AOD, placing providers on indirect payment are mostly applied to black practitioners" says Wicomb.

The PPF supports the recommendation of the Panel that the HPCSA and CMS (as a regulatory body mandated by the Council of Medical Schemes Act) must ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the Panel:

1. Must address FWA by agitating for the amendment of procedures to be followed by schemes in implementing their powers in terms of Medical Schemes Act;
2. Craft & agitate amendments to the Act for remedies available to parties who feel aggrieved by the conduct of scheme;
3. Craft amendments to the Act for penalties against schemes who breach the Act;
4. Craft amendments to the Act for an independent mediator to be appointed at meetings between schemes & practitioners where FWA is discussed & amount implicated is determined.

The PPF further calls for:

1. Compensation to be paid by Medical schemes where discrimination is proven.
2. A public apology by Medical Schemes for their racial profiling.
3. Medical Schemes to formally reimburse illegally obtained fees & withheld fees which were due to medical practitioners since 2012.
4. Complete suspension by Medical Schemes of publishing an annual list of Medical practitioners placed on 'Indirect Payment' as this an obvious implication that these practitioners were involved in Fraud Wastage & Abuse. In most cases the listed practitioners were not given the opportunity to present their case thus flouting the legal maxim of audi alteram partem / hear the other side.

ENDS

For media enquiries please make contact with Sithembiso Kubheka (PPF Secretary General) on 083 353 5124 or Kashif Wicomb on 082 415 6634.

The International Institute of Business & Tax Excellence is an integrated GLOBAL solution for entrepreneurs, students, businessmen and women, as well as those who are thirsty for knowledge on current economic trends, global conditions, opportunities, and case studies. We are an educational provider and knowledge hub for global business information – a think tank and development tool for the budding entrepreneur, investor, student, or businessperson.

We form part of a group of companies that specialise in international business, investing, accounting, tax and educational solutions and have used this strong history and experience to help our students realise their full potential and navigate the world of entrepreneurship, business and the business of starting up new ventures through our educational offering.

We at the Institute of Business & Tax Excellence harness the power of GLOBALISATION an individual at a time.

Today, it has become a norm for individuals to feel isolated, sad, depressed, anxious, stressed, confused and angry. Our health has been drastically threatened by the outbreak of Coronavirus. The entire world is going through a massive shift. Yet, we as leaders are expected to still be ahead of the game.

The most common critical questions most leaders are facing is how do we manage our business and employees during this time?

How do we navigate through this pathway with so many challenges colliding together at once?

How do we move forward in such an uncertain period?

How deep will this impact on the business function and future?

How long will this uncertainty last?

These questions can cripple us and in turn have negative impact on our business. We often feel very unstable whilst sailing our ship during this rough sea. How is it even possible to allow others like employees to board our ship when our ship is rocky? The truth is, we as the business leaders, were expected to lead and more so during this time of Covid-19. We are the vehicles who provides structural support and reduce the friction. So, how do we strengthen ourselves, so we are able to support others?

Deal with human tragedy as a priority. People are human and first look at their survival and basic needs before anything else.

Provide clear and concise direction. A leader cannot empower a team if there is any uncertainty in direction or priority.

Maintain structure and stability by having daily calls and meetings at a fixed time every day. By bringing structure to your employees, you have things in your control. It also helps with the mental health and stability of your employees as well as yours.

Transparency is imperative. Leaders must have faith in their employees. This will move them from a space of crisis to an environment of opportunity where people are developed and use their initiative. They will take more responsibility where they nurture a greater sense of empowerment and growth. Indeed, they will be more responsive and more responsible.

Allow for conversations. Remove the tense environment and create a platform where people can openly discuss their ideas, questions, and concerns with any fear of being judged. Teams must feel free to have robust debates if these debates contribute to the growth of the company.

Lastly, leaders must maintain their sense of well-being. What is needed is clarity of purpose, sound judgement, creativity, and inspiration. In a competitive and fast changing world, it will be a dynamic leader who will thrive and who will tackle challenges with aplomb and confidence.

The International Institute of Business & Tax Excellence aims to empower, educate, and motivate individuals to reach their full potential and harness their strengths to address the negative impacts of Covid19 in business, personally and in society. Contact us today for a tailored solution to your organisation, presented online or in person.

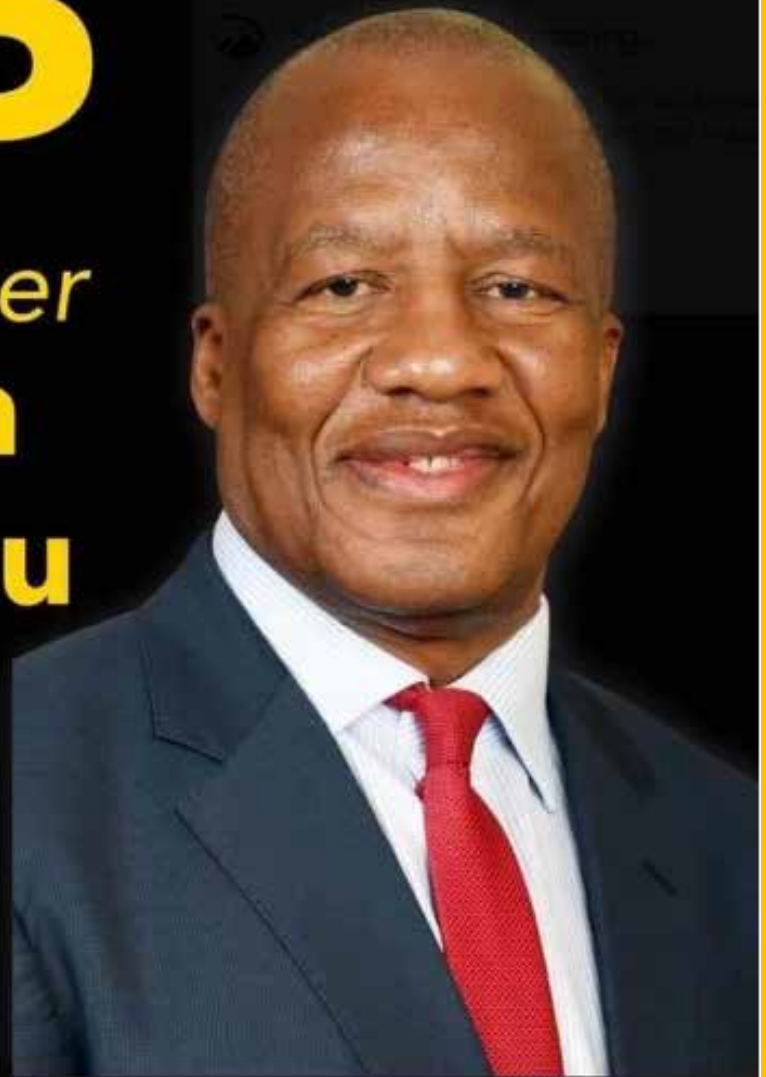
WE DIP OUR BANNER IN MOURNING

MINISTER JACKSON MTHEMBU

RIP

#RestInPower

**Jackson
Mthembu**



May your gentle Soul Rest, In Perfect Peace

BECOME A MEMBER

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Our objectives and Character:

Provide a platform for all professionals to stimulate intellectual debate on the progressive agenda.

- > Enable continuous interactions between various progressive formations and professionals.
- > Leverage and harness the capacity of professionals to engender an inclusive economic growth and combat the triple challenge of: Poverty, Inequality & Unemployment.
- > Seek mechanisms to ensure that the public discourse in the country is balanced and progressive and promote the patriotism of its citizens.

We will do this by availing our skills and expertise and engaging at a strategic level with government and the private sector.

Character of the PPF:

- > The PPF is non-racial, non-sexist, non-xenophobic and non-afrophobic
- > The PPF is a South African based organisation and has a national, continental and international focus.
- > The PPF seeks to attract professionals, academia, intelligentsia and entrepreneurs who align themselves with progressive movements and who aspire to progressive ideals such as those enshrined in the Freedom Charter and the Preamble of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

Building Africa's productive capacity through partnership

The PPF believes that the political, social and economic history and destiny of South Africa is intertwined with that of the African continent. Since 1994 the Government has steered South Africa into a progressive, respectful and collaborative contributor to the deepening of democracy, self-determination and prosperity throughout Africa. In addition, the performance of Africa's economy has begun to defy Afro-pessimism, with more than half of the 10 fastest growing global economies now being African.

- >The PPF will therefore enhance all efforts to foster alliances with progressive African professionals, businessmen and entrepreneurs, in order to maximize the continent's productive capacity.
- > The PPF will assist in fully integrating African professionals and businessmen in the diaspora into South African society as valuable and active participants.
- > The PPF will not tolerate xenophobia/afrophobia and will actively work to eliminating it.

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