



SAMA MEDIA STATEMENT

SAMA MEDIA STATEMENT – SAMA WOMEN’S WING COMMITTEE CONDEMNS SEXUAL ASSAULT INCIDENT WITHIN THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY

Pretoria, 11 June 2024

The Women’s Wing Committee of the South African Medical Association (SAMA) is deeply disturbed by the allegations of sexual assault that occurred after the Arthroplasty Congress held in Cape Town in March 2024 and, which recently came to SAMA’s attention. We unequivocally condemn this alleged act of violence and emphasise that such behaviour is inappropriate for our medical profession and society.

According to reports, a case has been opened, and a court date has been set. SAMA respects the legal process and awaits the outcomes of the judicial proceedings. However, this does not absolve us from our responsibility to address the broader implications of this incident within our medical community and society at large.

We understand that a culture of fear and impunity may be perpetuated by inaction and silence. As a professional body we must ensure that all our members feel safe and supported in their work environments. This includes acknowledging and addressing instances of gender-based violence (GBV) and fostering a culture of respect, accountability, and transparency.

Our immediate actions are to offer support to the survivor and ensure that justice is served. We shall also communicate with relevant stakeholders in this case and update our members as it unfolds.

We urge all medical professionals and society at large to join us in fostering a culture of zero tolerance towards GBV. By speaking out and taking concrete actions, we can ensure that our workplaces are environments of respect and safety for everyone.

(ENDS)

Notes to Editors

About SAMA: The South African Medical Association (“SAMA”) was established in 1927 and became known as it is today through the unification of a variety of doctors’ groups on 21 May 1998 that had represented a diversity of interests. SAMA is a non-statutory, professional association for public and private sector medical practitioners. SAMA is registered a non-profit company in terms of the Companies Act. SAMA is a voluntary membership association, existing to serve the best interests and needs of its members in all healthcare-related matters.

Contact:

Dr Mzulungile Theo Nodikida
CEO: SAMA
Mobile: 082 927 9106
Email: communications@samedical.org

Spokesperson 1

Chairperson: SAMA
Dr Mvuyisi Mzukwa

Spokesperson 2

Vice-Chairperson: SAMA
Prof A Dhai