

16 February 2018

The South African Human Rights Commission  
Braampark Forum 3,  
33 Hoofd Street,  
Braamfontein

The Chief Executive Officer,

**SAHRC ACTS ON 'RACIST' LIMPOPO DOCTOR – MEDIA REPORT**

The Psychological Society of South Africa (PsySSA) has noted media reports regarding the SAHRC response to the Limpopo doctor who was found to be discriminating against patients and staff on basis of race. As the national body representing psychologists we in full support of the SAHRC actions and sanctions against the doctor. PsySSA holds the SAHRC in high esteem given its many judgements over the years and its commitment to ensuring the dignity of our people.

While fully behind the SAHRC we are concerned about the media report (if the report is correct) that the doctor will be required to cover the cost of one counselling session for each member of his staff adversely affected by his prejudicial behaviour. Our concern here is that this could convey the impression that one counselling session is all it takes to undo the effects of racial prejudice and discriminatory practices, whereas there is much evidence to show that such behaviours have very deep impact on the psyche of affected individuals. As the profession most qualified and responsible for the provision of psychological therapy and counselling, we would recommend a more substantive allowance for the counselling of the affected staff.

As the Psychological Society of South Africa we are committed to the upliftment of our people and to enhancing the human condition, especially given our history. In this respect we pledge our support to the SAHRC and its important work.

Sincerely,



Professor Tholene Sodi  
President: Psychological Society of South Africa (PsySSA)