



PHARM COUNCIL NEWS

ISSUE 3

December 2014

Special points of interest:

- Pharmacists Council of Zimbabwe National Conference
- Education and Training
- Council Elections and nominations

Inside this issue:

Message from the Council Chairman 1

From the Registrar's Desk 1,2

PCZ National Conference 2015 2

Education and Training 3

Highlights 3

PCZ Schedule of 2015 meetings 4

Message from the Council Chairman



Council Chairman: Mr Erick Chiro

As we come to the end of yet another eventful year, I hope I find you all well. 2014 continued from where the previous year had left, as the socio-economic environment continued to be stable. There was however the liquidity crunch which had an impact on most practices. In response to the current economic environment which is anticipated to prevail in 2015, Council has maintained all fees at the 2014 levels. Council hopes that this gesture will help practitioners in a way.

During the year

under review, Council held consultative meetings with registered practitioners in Harare, Bulawayo, Mutare and Masvingo. This was aimed at increasing Council's interaction with registered practitioners. The meetings were very fruitful. The consultative meetings set the tone for Council's plan to hold a national conference in 2015. It is Council's hope that all registered practitioners would attend this conference where pertinent issues affecting the professions would be discussed.

During the consultative meetings, registered practitioners were advised that the term of office of the current Council was scheduled to end on 31 March 2015. The Minister of Health and Child Care has however used section 61 [2] of the Act to extend the Council's term of office to 30 June 2015 so as to synchronise the terms of offices of all Councils under the Health Professions Act [Chapter 27: 19]. The decision was made to ensure

that the Health Professions Authority would be properly constituted when new Councils come into office as chairpersons of Councils are also members of the Authority.

Council continues to encourage registered practitioners to set up health institutions in marginalised and rural areas throughout the country to ensure equitable distribution of health services within Zimbabwe.

Practitioners are applauded for their continued support of students and vocational trainees. Council encourages more health institutions to apply for accreditation for designated health institutions status and for pre-registration training status.

On a sad note, 2014 witnessed the passing on of some registered practitioners. May their souls rest in eternal peace.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy prosperous 2015

From the Registrar's Desk



Mr A Karonga: Registrar

Standard of Practice

I am pleased to give you highlights of Council's activities as at 30 November 2014. Council had the following number of practitioners on its registers;

Pharmacists 929
 Pharmacy Technicians 434
 Optometrists 50

Dispensing Opticians 10
 Audiologists/Hearing Aid Specialists 4
 The distribution of registered practitioners remain skewed towards major cities and towns with Harare and Bulawayo with the biggest chunk. There has been some improvement as some practitioners opened health

“Personal brand promotes you as a VIP—It markets your Values, Image and Professionalism”

— LM Coletta

“Leadership is never an avenue to be self-serving but, a platform to render great service to people.”

— Ifeanyi

Enoch Onuoha



Part of the practitioners who attended the PCZ Harare Stakeholders meeting on 12 July 2014 at the Cresta Lodge

From The Registrar’s Desk

From page 1

institutions at growth points and newly established towns around the country.

In 2015, the Disciplinary Committee presided over fourteen [14] cases which is a 51.7% decrease on the number of cases the Committee presided over in 2013. Council commends practitioners on their efforts to uphold the rules and regulations governing their professions.

During the year under review, sixty five

[65] organisations [companies] were approved for compliance with the provisions of either section 124 or 125 of the Health Profession Act (Chapter 27:19). Council also approved the registration of one hundred and nine [109] new health institutions .

Council is still worried about some practitioners who proceed to open health institutions before they are appropriately registered despite having been advised to desist from such practices.

During the period under review, Council ac-

credited four [4] health institutions to act as pre-registration training institutions while sixteen [16] practitioners were approved to act as pre-registration pharmacists supervisors. One [1] practitioner was approved to act as a pharmacy technicians student supervisor. Practitioners from all the professions under Council’s jurisdiction are encouraged to apply for authority to act as pre-registration training supervisors.

2014 saw only one [1] health institution accorded the Designated

Health Institutions (DHI) status under Council’s expanded list. Health institutions and practitioners are encouraged to apply for designated health institution status to absorb newly qualified practitioners who are not being absorbed by the public sector owing to the freezing of posts.

Sixty nine [69] pharmacists satisfactorily completed pre-registration training during the period under review and were restricted to practising in designated health

institutions for the mandatory twelve months.

Council approved registration of thirty one [31] foreign trained applicants for pharmacists pre-registration training.

Twenty one [21] practitioners were approved for re-registration subject to them meeting set conditions.

Fourteen [14] practitioners, the majority of them being optometrists, were approved for registration on appropriate provisional registers sub-

ject to them satisfying conditions set by Council.

During the period under review Council also engaged other sister Councils with regards to the practice and registration of ophthalmologists and audiologists. Consultations are still in progress. The Health Professions Authority was also engaged with regards to the registration of pharmaceutical wholesalers. I wish you a fruitful 2015

The Pharmacists Council of Zimbabwe National Conference 26– 29 March 2015

After the stakeholders meetings which were held throughout the country in 2014, the Council is delighted to advise registered practitioners that a national conference is scheduled to be held from 26 to 29 March 2015 at the Elephant Hill Hotel in Victoria Falls. The conference which will be the inaugural Council conference will be held once every five years. High profile local, regional and international speakers will

make presentations in the following five commissions;

- **Education and Training**
- **Practice and Ethical issues**
- **Human Resources for Health**
- **Regulatory, Leadership and corporate governance**
- **Role of Health Professionals in Improving Health Outcomes.**

Council hopes that discussions in the various commissions will culminate into

recommendations that will provide direction for Council policy for the next five years.

Council is therefore requesting for abstracts from practitioners who may make meaningful presentations to stimulate discussions in any of the commissions.

All registered practitioners are encouraged to attend the conference.

Education and Training

The Pharmacists Council of Zimbabwe continues to liaise with training institutions with regards to the training of practitioners for the professions it registers. The University of Zimbabwe and the Harare Institute of Technology are the two institutions offering the Bachelor of Pharmacy degree programme. Harare Polytechnic [HEXCO] and the Ministry of Health and Child Care are offering the pharmacy technicians diplo-

ma courses. There is work in progress with regards to the introduction of a Bachelor's degree in Optometry at local universities. It is against the background of an increase in the number of training schools and the registration of foreign trained practitioners that Council has introduced qualifying examinations for all the professions it registers. Registered practitioners are encouraged to continue to support the exami-

nation processes by providing usable questions. As a way of encouraging hard work among the students at the training institutions, Council has over the past two years awarded the best graduating students. In 2014, the best pharmacy diploma students were Pamela James [Ministry of health and Child Care] and Doris L Mbona [Harare Polytechnic – HEXCO]



A qualifying examination in session

Council Resolved that..

All fees payable to Council must be directly deposited into Council's bank account number 01121312450019 held at CBZ Kwame Nkrumah branch, Harare, Zimbabwe. Practitioners depositing fees must ensure that their names are clearly written on deposit slips and a copy of the slip must be forwarded to Council.

Health Committee

After realizing that practitioners could have health related challenges which could impact on their practice, the Council saw it prudent, using the provisions of section 130 of the Act, to constitute a Health Committee. The Committee's mandate is to protect both the public and the practitioners from dangers that might arise as a result of a practitioner practicing whilst he/she unfit to practice. Practitioners and members of the public are encouraged to advise Council about practitioners who might require assistance from the Committee.

Specialist Registers

Council approved the creation of specialist registers for all professions. A framework for the registers is currently being developed.

Late Renewal of Practicing Certificates

Practitioners should note that their practicing certificates expire on 31 December 2014 and renewals should be done on or before 15 January 2015. Late renewal of practicing certificates shall attract a late payment penalty. CPD points submitted after 15 January 2015 shall attract a late submission fine.

Council Elections and Nominations

As the current Council's term of office is coming to an end on 30 June 2015, practitioners are encouraged to nominate or elect competent persons who will oversee the operations of Council for the period July 2015 to June 2020.

Amendments to the Health Professions Act [Chapter 27:19]

The proposed amendments to the Health Professions Act [Chapter 27:19] which were submitted by practitioners to Council were considered at the Health Professions Authority All Stakeholders Conference which was held on 28 November 2014. The proposals are now receiving the attention of the Authority and Councils before being submitted to the Minister

Pharmacists Council Of Zimbabwe Council Meetings Schedule for 2015

COMMITTEE	Month and Date of Meeting											
	Ja	Fe	Ma	Ap	Ma	Ju	Jul	Aug	Se	Oct	Nov	Dec
Council		26			28			27			26	
Executive Committee	29			30			30			29		
Practice Control Committee	15	12	12	16	14	18	16	13	17	15	12	
Education and Liaison Committee		5			7			6			5	
Business and Finance Committee	8			9			9			8		
Preliminary Inquiry Committee	22			23			23			22		
Disciplinary Committee			17			23			29		17	
Examination Board	27						28					
Exam Board Sub Com				21						27		
Qualifying Examination	30			24			31			30		
Pharmacy Technicians Examination Committee									3	13		
Pharmacy Technicians Final Examinations & Supplementary Exams									21-25		2, 3 & 4	
Pharmacists Council of Zimbabwe National Conference			26-29									

Council Contact Details.....

17 Divine Road Milton Park, Harare, Zimbabwe;

P O Box CY 2138 Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe

Telephone: +263 4 740074, +263 4 740158

Fax: +263 4 740157

Email: admin@pcz.co.zw

Website: www.pharmcouncil.co.zw