South African Pharmacy Council
www.sapc.za.org

MEDIA RELEASE

2026 National Pioneer Pharmacy Awards: Ms Precious Matsoso honoured with the National Health Impact Recognition Award for her contribution to health systems transformation

The regulator of the pharmacy profession in South Africa, the South African Pharmacy Council (SAPC), has honoured Ms Precious Matsoso with the National Health Impact Recognition Award, its inaugural and highest honour, acknowledging her distinguished contribution to public health leadership, health policy development, medicines access and the strengthening of health systems in South Africa and internationally.

The Deputy Minister of Health, Dr Joe Phaahla, and the President of the SAPC, Mr Mogologolo Phasha, presented the honour during the National Pioneer Pharmacy Awards ceremony held on the last day of the 4th National Pharmacy Conference, on Tuesday, 13 October 2026. The National Pioneer Pharmacy Awards recognises pharmacy professionals and facilities from all sectors of pharmacy that leaders in the provision of quality pharmaceutical services.

Ms Matsoso has built an influential career spanning national health administration, medicines regulation and global health diplomacy. She served as Director-General of South Africa's National Department of Health from 2010 to 2019, where she helped develop and implement policies to strengthen the country's health system. She previously led the Medicines Control Council for six years and served as Director of Public Health Innovation and Intellectual Property at the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Supported by:
Anchor Sponsor
Premium Sponsors
Emerald Sponsors
Ruby Sponsors
Skills Partner
Sapphire Sponsors

Her contributions to global health also include leadership in international efforts to improve pandemic preparedness and response. As Co-Chair of the WHO Intergovernmental Negotiating Body, she played a central role in negotiations towards the first global pandemic agreement, adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2025. Her work has helped advance equitable access to pandemic-related health products and stronger global cooperation in responding to future health emergencies.

Recognising leadership that advances health

As the pharmacy profession looks towards 2050, strong health systems, effective medicines regulation, responsible stewardship and meaningful collaboration between healthcare professionals and institutions will remain essential to improving health outcomes.

Through this award, the SAPC acknowledges the importance of visionary leadership, evidence-informed policy and collaboration across the health sector in advancing equitable access to quality healthcare. Matsoso's recognition reflects the importance of leadership that extends beyond individual institutions and helps address complex national and global health challenges.

The SAPC congratulates Ms Matsoso on this recognition and acknowledges her continued contribution to advancing health systems and pursuing equitable healthcare.

For more information, visit www.sapcconference.co.za or follow @OfficialSAPC on social media using #4thNPC.

Issued by the South African Pharmacy Council

ENDS

MEDIA SPOKESPERSON FOR THE SAPC:

Mr Mogologolo Phasha (President of Council)
Mr Vincent Tlala (Registrar/CEO)

For media enquiries or to request an interview with SAPC spokespeople, contact Glen Bvuma (Communication and Media Manager) on 064 501 3767/012 319 8551 OR Neo Ramokoka (Communication and Media Practitioner) on 083 777 8073/012 319 8528 OR send an email to CommMedia@sapc.za.org