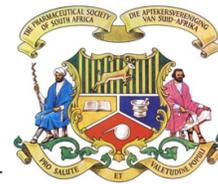




**SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS
(SAACP)**



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(Representing the Community Pharmacy Sector of the PSSA)

**PRESS STATEMENT: LOOTING OF COMMUNITY PHARMACIES IN GAUTENG AND KZN
16 July 2021**

Dear Members and All Community Pharmacists

As an association that represents both independent community pharmacists and community pharmacists working within corporate sector, we condemn in the strongest terms possible the looting and violent protests that are currently happening in Gauteng and KwaZulu Natal.

We also understand the socio-economic factors including unemployment, poverty and inequality in our nation and therefore we call upon our government to address the current situation and factors with urgent attention.

Pharmacy forms an essential component in the healthcare services management value chain and is critical to the well-being of humanity of our communities. The devastating damages caused by the violent protests, riots and lootings have already impacted on the healthcare service delivery in areas affected. The protests also disrupted the Covid-19 roll-out programme our pharmacies both practicing independently and in corporate are part of.

Colleagues we feel your pain and losses and we encourage you all to keep STRONG and hopefully God will reignite your passion for the pharmacy profession and compassion for our nation. We would appeal to all our members to, for the sake of the majority of innocence, to strive under these hard conditions, to remain rendering the valuable service in seeking to prevent disease, heal sickness and sustain lives. We encourage all our community pharmacists to keep pressing forward, especially in light of the Covid-19 crisis. Your communities need you!

As an association our doors and communication lines are open and we will assist, advise and encourage where we can, so be assured we are with you all the way including in our thoughts and prayers.

May God provide, protect and promote you again while you gain the momentum to soldier-on as you clean up, re-build (where possible) and re-start your practices and it will not be easy but we are here to support and walk with you all.

“Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevails”-Proverbs 19:21

Mr Johannes T. Ravele
President: SAACP

Mr Simbongile Pambuka
Honorary Secretary: SAACP