

MEDIA RELEASE

The Progressive Health Forum has noted with great consternation the heavy-handed enforcement of lockdown regulations by the Limpopo MEC for Health, resulting in the forced detention of two medical professionals who had tested positive for Covid-19.

In remarks the MEC is reported to have made, she echoed sentiments she and her subordinates expressed before that the virus was being deliberately spread in the province by those who do not reside there. The medics reside in Mpumalanga and work at a hospital in Limpopo.

The lockdown regulations seem to have allowed callow and ignorant officials to arrogate to themselves powers they do not have under the regulations to act in such an utterly insensible and capricious manner. They have spurned science and medical ethics and have undermined the integrity of health professionals everywhere.

At a time when the President and the Minister of Health have commanded the respect of the nation and have received wide acclaim for their leadership, these actions undermine the response to the pandemic taking hold in our country.

We call on SAMA to take all steps to secure the release of these doctors, for the sake of the profession and to strengthen the resolve of all health workers everywhere to hold the authorities to account and play their proper role in the pandemic response.

On behalf of the Progressive Health Forum
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