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MEDIA STATEMENT

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Senior Health Official receives prestigious award for outstanding contribution in the sector

Pretoria: The Department of Health would like to congratulate one of its senior officials, Prof Nicholas Crisp for being recognised and awarded PHILA Lifetime Achievement award by Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) for his commitment to public health.

Prof Crisp, the Deputy Director General responsible for National Health Insurance and also head of National COVID-19 Vaccination Programme, has this week received a prestigious award for individuals who made an exceptional and significant contribution to public health research, education, and/or service in their lifetime. Individuals should have fundamentally advanced public health in South Africa and be acknowledged by their peers.

Some of the selection criteria for this award include but not limited to at least 20 years' experience in South Africa in public health; exceptional and demonstrable accomplishments; outstanding leader in public health whose quality of work continues to raise public health standards, and to whom colleagues in the field look up to as a role model.

Prof Crisp, a thought leader in public health, is a medical doctor and public health medicine specialist who has for many years focused on health management consulting across the African continent. He was the first Superintendent General or Head of Department at the Department of Health and Welfare, Northern Province (Limpopo) after the first democratic elections, and served until 1999.

He later became self-employed as a consultant and worked on projects in several African countries including South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Lesotho, Botswana, Namibia and Tanzania. In 2009 he served as Special Adviser to Minister Barbara Hogan. He was intimately involved in the establishment of the National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS), the transfer of the medicolegal mortuaries from police to health and the creation of the Forensic Pathology Services.

He also played a key role in the establishment of the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA).

The University of Pretoria has also recently conferred him with a Honorary Professorship in Public Health Medicine for his contribution and outstanding work in the sector.

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