



COLLEGE OF PAEDIATRICIANS OF SOUTH AFRICA

C M S A

The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa NPC

Nonprofit Company (Reg No. 1955/000003/08)
Nonprofit Organisation (Reg. No. 009-874 NPO)
Vat No. 4210273191

17 Milner Road, RONDEBOSCH 7700

Tel: +27 21 689-9533/4/5; +27 21 689-3161 Fax: +27 21 685-3766

Website:

www.cmsa.co.za

General:

general@cmsa.co.za

Accounts

accounts@cmsa.co.za

Membership:

members@cmsa.co.za

11 August 2020

PASSING OF PROF LUNGILE PEPETA

The council of the College of Paediatricians of South Africa is sad to record the passing of Professor Lungile Pepeta. Professor Pepeta passed away last Friday from complications of SARS-CoV2 infection. He was a gentle-hearted giant of South African paediatrics, an inspirational leader and a formidable mentor.

He was raised in Bizana in the Eastern Cape, the second born of Nondyabo Pepeta, and matriculated from Bizana Village High School in 1991. He joined the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Transkei (now Walter Sisulu University) in 1992 and graduated with an MBChB in 1997, obtaining his Diploma in Child Health in 1999. He then went on to specialize in paediatrics at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban and obtained his Fellowship of the College of Paediatricians in 2003. After working for a time in Queenstown, he joined Chris Hani-Baragwanath Academic Hospital and University of The Witwatersrand to pursue his training in paediatric cardiology, which he completed in 2008.

He returned to Port Elizabeth to start a paediatric cardiology unit at Dora Nginza Regional Hospital where he trained multiple paediatricians and four paediatric cardiologists. His commitment to public health and his ability to inspire and lead was leant on heavily in the years that followed. He went on to become head of the department of paediatrics in 2010, and then served as acting Clinical Governance manager of Dora Nginza several years later. In 2016 he was appointed as an Associate Professor of Paediatrics by Walter

Sisulu University and he was finally appointed as the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Nelson Mandela University in 2017.

In all these roles he made a massive contribution to building paediatric education and paediatric services in the province, all the while touching individual hearts. He has served as chair and president of the Paediatric Cardiac Society of South Africa, and was admitted as an International Fellow of the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions in 2014. He has served in the HPCSA Medical and Dental Board and was recently appointed by the Minister of Health to serve as the chairperson of the Council of Medical Schemes. He was also a member of the Eastern Cape Premier's advisory committee on Covid-19.

We will remember him as an educator who served the college with distinction as an examiner and moderator, and also as the mentor of countless young paediatricians in training. And he took that commitment and experience to NMU. So, to lose him just as NMU was establishing a transformative MBChB degree is a further blow. Even in his passing he continues to unite us. Our community celebrates him as a larger than life figure who despite his achievements remained absolutely approachable. We marvelled at the effortless way in which he brought people together, supported colleagues who needed his help and mentored junior doctors. We will be the poorer without his gentle heart and wonderful sense of humour.

Lungile leaves behind his wife Noluvuyo, who is a general practitioner in Port Elizabeth, and his children, Kungawo and Lungaka. The college extends its deepest sympathy to the family at this time.

He will be sorely missed and long remembered.

His spirit lives on in his legacy.

Prof Alan Davidson and Prof Refiloe Masekela
For the Council of the College of Paediatricians of South Africa