

IN THE MATTER OF
GLADYS ABORUNGONG
License Number: R253349

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BEFORE THE MARYLAND
BOARD OF NURSING

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ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION OF REGISTERED NURSE LICENSE
PURSUANT TO SECTION 10-226(c)(2) OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE
PROCEDURE ACT

The Maryland Board of Nursing (the “Board”) hereby orders the **SUMMARY SUSPENSION** of the Registered Nurse license, license number **R253349**, of **GLADYS ABORUNGONG** (the “Respondent”), in the State of Maryland. The Board takes this action pursuant to the authority of Maryland Code Ann., State Government Article (“SG”) § 10-226 (c) (2) (2021 Repl. Vol.), which provides:

- A unit may order summarily the suspension of a license if the unit:
 - (i) finds that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action; and
 - (ii) promptly gives the licensee:
 - 1. Written notice of the suspension, the finding and the reasons that support the finding; and
 - 2. An opportunity to be heard.

The Board has reason, as set forth below, to find that the public health, safety, or welfare imperatively requires emergency action under SG § 10-226 (c) (2).

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**INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS AND REASONS IN SUPPORT
OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION**

Based on investigatory information obtained by, received by, made known to and available to the Board, the Board has reason to believe that the following facts are true:¹

1. On May 3, 2022, the Respondent was issued a Registered Nurse (“RN”) license in the State of Maryland. The Respondent’s RN license has a status of “Active-Compact” and is due to expire on December 28, 2023.

MARYLAND APPLICATION FOR ENDORSEMENT OF RN LICENSE (“RN APPLICATION”)

2. On or about April 11, 2021, the Respondent submitted an on-line Application for Endorsement of RN license. The Respondent indicated on the RN Application that she received her basic nursing education from Siena College of Health in Lauderhill, FL, and graduated on May 15, 2019 with an Associate Degree. The Respondent further indicated that Florida was her state of original licensure by exam.²
3. On the RN Application, the Respondent agreed with the following statement: “I affirm that the contents of this document are accurate to the best of my knowledge” and was advised that “providing false or misleading information may result in disciplinary action by the Board and may result in denial of licensure.”

¹The statements regarding the Respondent’s conduct identified herein are intended to provide the Respondent with reasonable notice of the asserted facts. They are not intended as, and do not necessarily represent, a complete description of the evidence, either documentary or testimonial, to be offered against the Respondent.

² Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 10.27.01.10 provides, in part:

- A. An Applicant licensed to practice registered nursing ... in another state, territory, or country is eligible for licensure without examination if the applicant:
 - (3) Submits the following verifications directly to the Board from the appropriate authority:
 - (a) That at the time that [the] applicant graduated from the nursing education program, it was approved as a registered nursing education program in that state, territory, or country;
 - (b) That the applicant meet[s] the educational qualifications of this State at the time of the applicant’s graduation from the nursing education program.

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NURSYS³

4. NCLEX⁴ registration data shows: the Respondent sat for the NCLEX-RN exam on December 27, 2019; education program: Siena Education Center, LLC; Applicant made eligible by: Florida.⁵
5. On December 30, 2019, the Respondent was issued a RN license by Exam in Florida, license number RN9526414. NURSYS indicates Siena College of Health, as the RN school connected to the Respondent's Florida RN license.

BACKGROUND:

U.S District Court – Southern District of Florida

Information:

6. On January 23, 2023, an Information was filed alleging that Eunide Sanon committed Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud and Wire Fraud.

Change of Plea/Factual Basis in Support of Plea

7. On March 14, 2023, Eunide Sanon entered a plea of Guilty and the Court accepted the plea of guilty to Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud and Wire Fraud.
8. The Court found there was a factual basis for the plea as provided in the Factual Basis in Support of Plea below:

Defendant Eunide Sanon, a resident of Broward County, was the Owner, Registered Agent, and Manager of Siena Education and Siena College (collectively Siena).

....

From on or about November 17, 2018, through in or around October 2021, in Broward and Palm Beach Counties, in the Southern District of Florida, and elsewhere, Eunide Sanon, ..., and others sold false and fraudulent diplomas and educational transcripts to

³ A national database provided through the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN), for verification of LPN/RN licensure, disciplinary action, and practice privilege.

⁴ Licensure examination.

⁵ The information provided via NCLEX department combines personal data, supplied by the applicant to the board on 12/27/2019 during the exam eligibility process, with exam registration data taken.

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co-conspirators which falsely represented that the co-conspirators had completed the necessary courses and/or clinical training to obtain nursing degrees from Siena when in fact the co-conspirators had never completed the necessary courses and/or clinical training.

....

Eunide Sanon ..., and others mailed and caused others to mail, by United States Postal Service, fake diplomas, transcripts, and other false and fraudulent documents to co-conspirators and to state licensing agencies, including NYSED, on behalf of the co-conspirators.

....

Using the false and fraudulent continuing education certifications, diplomas, transcripts, and other fraudulent documents, Eunide Sanon, ..., and others assisted co-conspirators to obtain fraudulent nursing licenses from state licensing agencies, and ultimately employment in the healthcare field.

Co-conspirators used the false and fraudulent diplomas, transcripts and other documents created and distributed by Eunide Sanon and others, to fraudulently obtain employment and benefits at various unwitting health care providers throughout the country.

Affidavit of Eunide Sanon

9. In a notarized affidavit, signed on December 15, 2022, Eunide Sanon declared under penalties of perjury the following information was true and correct:

I owned and operated Siena Education Center, LLC, doing business as Siena College of Health (“Siena”) from its incorporation on or about October 20, 2003 to its dissolution on or about September 23, 2022. Siena was located at 7491 Oakland Park Boulevard, Suite 100, Lauderhill, Florida 33319.

Siena was licensed by the Florida Commission for Independent Education and the Florida Board of Nursing and was authorized to offer medical programs to include a practical nursing program and an Associate in Science degree. The objective of the programs was “to provide quality education to students seeking careers in medically related fields.”

....

Siena was authorized to offer an Associate in Science nursing program. This was a 90-week program consisting of 74 semester hours including at least 50% clinical training. The objective of this program was “to prepare students for employment as Registered Nurses.”

....

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From in or around November 2017 to in or around October 2021, Siena College of Health may have issued transcripts and diplomas to 2,016 individuals listed in Attachment B, who did not complete the required program hours and clinical training necessary to obtain either a practical nursing diploma and transcript or a nursing associate in science degree and transcript.

10. The Respondent's name is listed in Attachment B of the Affidavit, along with the Respondent's DOB and SSN.

DISCUSSION

11. In 2021, the Respondent submitted an application for licensure by endorsement and identified Siena College of Health as her basic education program.
12. The Respondent sat for and passed the NCLEX-RN in December 2019 and identified her education program as Siena Education Center. The Respondent received a RN license by exam in the State of Florida based on, among other things, the information she provided to the Florida Board of Nursing regarding her education program.
13. In a signed affidavit, Eunide Sanon, owner and operator of Siena Education Center, LLC, provided a list of individuals who did not complete the required program hours and clinical training at Siena College of Health, necessary to receive a transcript or a nursing associate in science degree. The Respondent was identified on the list by name, DOB and SSN.
14. The Respondent does not meet the Board's statutory and regulatory requirements for RN licensure in Maryland.
15. The Respondent holds an active, compact RN license and the Respondent's ability and opportunity to practice as an RN in the State of Maryland and/or any compact state on a fraudulently obtained RN license, poses a serious risk and danger to the public health, safety, and welfare.

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CONCLUSION OF LAW

Based on the foregoing investigative findings and reasons, the Board finds that the public health, safety or welfare imperatively requires emergency action in this case pursuant to Md. Code Ann., State Govt. § 10-226 (c)(2) (2021 Repl. Vol.).

ORDER

It is hereby:

ORDERED that pursuant to the authority vested in the Board of Nursing by Maryland Code Ann., State Govt. § 10-226 (c)(2) (2021 Repl. Vol.), the Registered Nurse license, license number **R253349**, of **GLADYS ABORUNGONG**, in the State of Maryland is hereby **SUMMARILY SUSPENDED**; and be it further

ORDERED that there will be a Show Cause Hearing on **APRIL 25, 2023, at 1:30 PM** before the Board at the Maryland Board of Nursing offices, 4140 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21215: and be it further

ORDERED that if, the suspension of the Respondent's license is continued following a Show Cause Hearing, the Respondent has the right to a full evidentiary hearing before the Board and a hearing will be scheduled before the Board if the Respondent submits a written request for an evidentiary hearing to the Board **no later than thirty (30) days from the date of the Board's written decision issued after the Show Cause Hearing**; and be it further

ORDERED that if the Respondent does not submit a timely written request to the Board for an evidentiary hearing within 30 days from the date of the Board's written decision issued after the Show Cause Hearing, the Respondent shall have waived all rights now and in the future to any hearing on the merits of the summary suspension of the Respondent's license and the factual allegations contained in this Order for Summary Suspension; and it is further

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ORDERED that this Order for Summary Suspension shall remain in effect and the summary suspension of the Respondent’s license shall continue until further Order of the Board; and it is further

ORDERED that this, “Order for Summary Suspension of Registered Nurse License” is a **PUBLIC RECORD** pursuant to Md. Code Ann., General Provisions § 4-101 *et seq.* & § 4-333 (2019 Repl. Vol.).

March 29, 2023
Date

Karen E.B. Evans, MSN, RN-BC
The Executive Director's Signature
Appears on the Original Document
Maryland Board of Nursing