IN THE MATTER OF	* BEFORE THE MARYLAND
	*
EMELDINE NGATI	* BOARD OF NURSING
	*
License Number: LP53429	*
	*
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ORDER FOR SUMMARY SUSPENSION OF LICENSED PRACTICAL 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 Licensed Practical Nurse license, license number LP53429, of EMELDINE NGATI (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).

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:

- On July 6, 2017, the Respondent was issued a Licensed Practical Nurse ("LPN") license
 in the State of Maryland. The Respondent's LPN license is "non-renewed" and expired
 on December 28, 2019.
- 2. On or about January 24, 2018, the Respondent submitted an Application for Registered Nurse (RN) license by Exam to the Florida Board of Nursing. The Respondent indicated on the application that she graduated on November 20, 2013 from a RN School.² On August 24, 2018, the Respondent was issued a RN license in Florida and the Respondent's Florida RN license has a status of "active/single state" and is due to expire on July 31, 2022.

MARYLAND APPLICATION FOR ENDORSEMENT OF RN LICENSE ("RN APPLICATION")

On or about November 7, 2018, the Respondent submitted an on-line RN Application.
 The Respondent indicated on the RN Application that she graduated on November 20, 2013 from RN School.

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 The Florida BON received information, including a transcript, indicating that the Respondent attended RN School in another country from 2009 until 2013, completed a four-year program and graduated with a BSN on November 20, 2013.

MARYLAND APPLICATION FOR EXAM OF LPN LICENSE ("LPN APPLICATION")

- On or about June 30, 2016, the Respondent submitted an on-line LPN Application.
 The Respondent indicated on the LPN Application that she graduated from LPN School in 2013.
- 5. The Respondent affirmed and agreed to the following statement: "I affirm that the contents of this document are accurate to the best of my knowledge." The Respondent was advised that "providing false or misleading information may result in disciplinary action by the Board, and may result in denial of licensure."

LPN SCHOOL

- 6. On July 21, 2010, the Virginia Board of Nursing approved a Consent Order, ordering that [LPN School] be placed on Conditional Provisional Approval for not less than one (1) year, subject to terms and conditions. The Consent Order was signed by LPN School's Program Director ("Director").³
- 7. On May 15, 2012, the Virginia Board of Nursing approved a Consent Order, signed by Director. The May 15, 2012 Consent Order orders that:
 - i. [LPN School's] approval to operate a practical nursing education program in Virginia is WITHDRAWN. [LPN School] shall cease operations no later than June 30, 2013, when all students shall either have graduated or transferred to an approved program.
 - ii. [LPN School] shall not admit any new or transfer students.

³ On or about July 8, 2021, in the U.S. District Court of Maryland, Director was indicted on charges of Conspiracy to Commit Health Care Fraud; Conspiracy to Commit False Statements Relating to Health Care Matters and False Statements Relating to Health Care Matters. According to the Criminal Complaint, Director conspired with two other individuals and submitted false statements relating to health care matters by working together to sell fraudulent transcripts and diplomas that indicate that various individuals completed necessary courses and clinical hours to obtain nursing degrees and coached these unqualified individuals to pass the nursing board exam.

THE RESPONDENT'S LPN SCHOOL OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT

8. The <u>Official Transcript</u>, signed by Executive Program Director ("Director") and dated February 8, 2013, provides the following information:

Start Date: 09/19/2011		Completion Date: 02/08/2013		
FIRST QUARTER		[THIRD] QUARTER		
From: 09/19/2011 To: 11/18/2011		From: 04/02/2012 To 07/20/2012		
Course Description Contact Hours		Course Description Contact Hours		
Basic Computer	30	Med/Surg I	120	
Medical Terminology	60	Med/Surg II	120	
Anatomy and Physiology	180	Med/Surg Clinical	200	
Total Contact Hours Required	270	Med/Surg Lab	40	
,		Geriatrics Theory	30	
		Geriatries Clinical	40	
		Total Contact Hours Required	550	
SECOND QUARTER		FOURTH QUARTER		
From: 11/21/2011 To: 03/30/2012		From: 07/23/2012 To: 02/08/2013		
Course Description Contact Hours		Course Description Contact Hours		
Diet and Nutrition	60	Pediatric Nursing	90	
Pharmacology	120	Pediatric Nursing Clinical	40	
Nursing Fundamentals	210	Maternity Nursing 90		
Nursing Fundamentals Lab	60	Maternity Clinical 40		
Nursing Fundamentals Clinical	40	Mental Health Nursing 30		
Total Contact Hours	490	Mental Health Clinical 40		
		Professional Development &		
		NCLEX Review	60	
		Total Contact Hours Required	390	

Summary of Clinical Agencies/Facilities and dates for each experience

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Clinical Courses	Clinical Agency	Clinical Start	Clinical End	Total Hours		
		Date	Date			
Nsg. Fundamentals	[Site A]	3/26/12	3/30/12	40		
Medical-Surgical	[Sites B, C, D]	6/4/12	7/6/12	200		
Nsg.						
Geriatrics Nsg.	[Site A]	7/16/12	7/20/12	40		
Maternity Nsg.	[Site E]	8/20/12	8/24/12	40		
Pediatrics Nsg.	[Site E]	9/24/12	9/28/12	40		
Mental Health Nsg.	[Site F]	10/15/12	10/19/12	40		

THE BOARD'S INVESTIGATION:

9. On August 5, 2021, a Board Investigator contacted the General Counsel for Clinical Sites A, C and D, requesting information on any agreements with LPN School. On August 5, 2021, the General Counsel responded by email, stating "I searched our contracts database and do not find any contracts with [LPN School]. Additionally, as a skilled nursing facility, I do not believe we would have hosted clinicals for surgical nursing."

- 10. On August 6, 2021, a Board Investigator contacted Clinical Site E'S Executive Director by phone. Executive Director stated that Clinical Site E does not offer OB/GYN or pediatric care and that the program offers services to troubled teens, there are no nurses on staff and the program does not offer any medical services.
- 11. On August 25, 2021, the Board's staff was notified by email that Clinical Site F "does not have any affiliation or contracts with any nursing institute for any clinical hours."
- 12. In a letter dated September 8, 2021, the Board's staff was notified by Clinical Site B, "we regret to inform you that after searching our records, we were unable to locate any school agreement for clinical rotations with [LPN School]."

FAILURE TO COOPERATE WITH A LAWFUL INVESTIGATION

- 13. By letter with attached subpoena, sent by regular and certified mail, dated August 25, 2021, the Respondent was informed that the Board was conducting an investigation and was "summoned and commanded" to appear at the Board's offices on September 8, 2021 for an interview and to produce several documents.
- 14. The Respondent did not appear for the September 8, 2021 interview.

DISCUSSION

- 15. The Respondent submitted a Maryland LPN application with fraudulent information about her LPN School and a fraudulent transcript was submitted in support of the application.

 The Respondent did not meet the Board's statutory and regulatory requirements, including didactic and clinical training, for LPN licensure by exam.
- 16. The Florida BON received information which indicates that the Respondent attended a RN program in another country during the same time period that the LPN School transcript purported the Respondent attended LPN School. The Respondent was uncooperative

with the Board's investigation into the fraudulent information submitted to the Board for licensure.

17. The Respondent's ability and opportunity to practice as an LPN in the State of Maryland on a fraudulently obtained LPN license, poses a serious risk and danger to the public health, safety, and welfare.

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 Licensed Practical Nurse license, license number LP53429, of EMELDINE NGATI, in the State of Maryland is hereby SUMMARILY SUSPENDED; and be it further

ORDERED that there will be a Show Cause Hearing on May 25, 2022, at 11:00 AM 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

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 Licensed Practical Nurse License" is a PUBLIC RECORD pursuant to Md. Code Ann., General Provisions § 4-101 et seq.& § 4-333 (2019 Repl. Vol.).

May 5, 2022 Date Karen E.B. Evans, MSN, RN-BC The Executive Director's Signature Appears on the Original Document

Maryland Board of Nursing