

The objective of the National Health Insurance (NHI) is to achieve universal access to quality healthcare services in the Republic, in accordance with Section 27 of the Constitution, through the establishment of the NHI Fund. It is based on the principle of social solidarity where we will look after each other in times of medical need. The comprehensive healthcare services the NHI will provide are bound by the philosophy of holistic approach to healthcare spanning from preventative strategies all the way to convalescent and palliative care.

- We thereby support the NHI because it is a milestone development that paves the way for unifying our health system and guarantees universal and comprehensive quality health coverage for all.
- We support the United Nations call of Sustainable Goal Number 3 i.e. Universal Health Coverage. Quality healthcare for all citizens is human capital investment. The evidence is consistent that NHI type systems drive economic growth because of a healthier population that is able to participate at full potential in the economy for a longer lifespan.
- The NHI Bill is based on the constitutional rights of all South African citizens and all children to quality healthcare. It obliges the State to make all necessary plans within available resources to meet these rights. It also recognises the current situation of unequal access to healthcare due to the legacy of apartheid, and the unsustainable exclusive binary system that defines the medical industry today. We recognise this.
- We will support NHI when it is implemented. We support the establishment of a fund whereby resources are pooled into a single fund that will strategically purchase healthcare services on behalf of healthcare user based on need. This is an effective risk mitigation strategy on behalf of the citizen through social solidarity where those who are young, healthy and working cross subsidise those who are elderly, sick and financially destitute.
- We support the initiative that access to healthcare shall be based on one's medical needs and not whether one has the money to pay for it or not. Those who do work will no longer suffer the burdens of rising medical aid costs and out of pocket expenses for less and less coverage.
- We support the fact that NHI puts money back in the pocket of the consumers and even companies who will pay much less employer derived tax than the medical aid contributions they currently contribute. Companies will also benefit from the productivity of a healthier and longer living population. It is about economic prosperity through social justice.
- We support the provision of well-trained professionals and filling of all vacancies of doctors, specialists, nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists and radiographers.
- We support the training of more frontline professionals.
- We support the ring fencing of the budget for medicines to avoid drug stock outs.
- We support the quality improvement plan that will ensure good quality of service and caring staff attitudes both in public and private hospitals and clinics.
- We support the rebuilding of all hospitals and clinics to be acceptable quality.
- We support the NHI Fund where all citizens have equal access to healthcare and making the medical aids available for situations that are not reimbursable by the NHI Fund.

Signed by



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Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

