



MEDIA RELEASE: PSA remains concerned about National Health Insurance impact on healthcare service in South Africa

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) remains deeply concerned about the potential implications of the National Health Insurance (NHI) on national healthcare services.

Whilst the NHI intends to enhance access to quality healthcare for all citizens, there are significant issues that must be addressed to ensure its success and mitigate potential negative consequences. The PSA is troubled by the lack of comfort expressed by numerous stakeholders in the health sector regarding certain NHI provisions. Insufficient consultation on the matter has resulted in widespread discontent amongst stakeholders. The PSA urges the President to encourage more consultation on the process to address these concerns.

Of particular concern is the potential impact on private healthcare and medical schemes. The role of private healthcare in the NHI framework is not adequately outlined, leading to uncertainty and fear in the industry. There are fears that private healthcare and medical schemes may cease to exist once the NHI is fully implemented, which could have adverse effects on the economy and the quality of healthcare services available to citizens.

In addition, the transition to the NHI may result in public servants losing out on the medical-aid subsidy they currently receive through the Government Employees Medical Scheme. This could place an undue financial burden on public servants and their families, particularly if they are required to contribute to the NHI fund whilst receiving reduced benefits. In addition, there are legitimate concerns regarding the standard of healthcare services that will be provided under the NHI. Stringent measures must be put in place to ensure that the NHI operates efficiently and effectively, with a focus on equitable access to quality healthcare for all citizens.

The PSA acknowledges the noble intentions behind the NHI and supports the goal of providing access to quality healthcare for all South Africans. Government is, however, urged to address the concerns raised by stakeholders and implement measures to safeguard against potential negative consequences, including job losses, emigration of medical practitioners, corruption, and misappropriation of funds.

The PSA calls for a collaborative approach towards the implementation of the NHI, with meaningful engagement with all stakeholders to ensure that the vision of equitable access to quality healthcare is realised and achieved.

END

