

## NHI needs all our input: Dr. Zweli Mkhize – Public Eye 30 September

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**Health Minister Dr. Zweli Mkhize has made an appeal to the private healthcare role-players for a frank and open discussion on what needs to be done to make the government's National Health Insurance (NHI) a success.**

Delivering an address during a discussion on NHI in Pietermaritzburg on Friday, Dr. Mkhize said it was important to support the initiative as it would ensure that the country's workforce is healthy, which in turn would be good for the country's development. "This system must be built by South Africans," said the minister in appealing for the involvement of the private sector and civil society.

The gathering was attended by healthcare professionals and public figures, including Msunduzi Mayor Mzi Thebolla.

Dr. Mkhize said South Africa was not the only country rolling out the NHI, citing Canada, Germany, France and Japan as some of the countries that were implementing their version of the Private Public Partnership. He said while government understood South Africa was in a bad financial position to proceed with the initiative, many countries that now use NHI had started it when they were in a worse economic position than South Africa.

He added that government was in discussions with a range of professional bodies in the healthcare sector in a bid to get their input. Some of the areas that needed strengthening included infrastructure and filling vacant posts in hospitals, and training healthcare staff to handle the workload and treat patients in a humane manner. "We have set aside over R300 million to attend to some of these areas that are critical," said the minister.

Aside from the address by the minister, the talk on NHI included a panel discussion which included KZN Health MEC Nomagugu Simelane-Zulu, Health Committee Chairperson Dr. Sibongiseni Dhlomo and Advisor to the Minister on NHI Dr. Sibongile Zungu and allowed guests to ask questions.

Roshan Morar, whose auditing firm Morar Incorporated facilitated the event, said they had organised it to ensure there is a proper understating of what the initiative was about.