PRIVATE PRACTICE REVIEW

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

FOCUS ON: Views on National Health Insurance

NHI Bill's approval followed by 'barrage of criticism'

*Following the approval of the NHI Bill in Parliament on 13 June 2023 **Health Minister Joe Phaahla** and **Deputy Minister Sue Ross** have been on a barrage of criticism. Both have also been the subject of the report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report.* **Operation News** *21 June 2023.*

"It has faced a barrage of criticism, including concerns that it will drive medical scheme members into the public sector, that it will be unaffordable, and that it is unconstitutional," says Business Leadership South Africa Board of Healthcare Funders and the Health Funders Association. Some of the criticism has been directed at the National Treasury, which is accountable, and the biggest criticism around Minister Dr Joe Phaahla's National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill has been from the National Treasury, the medical schemes industry, advocacy groups, and Parliament's legal advisers, who warned that it might be unconstitutional.

Phaahla has made several appeals to the protesters on medical schemes, who are also a MPs, to be patient, saying he is prepared to provide 'complete' clarity on the NHI Bill's implementation.

Using a proposed by Bill's asset governance provisions, which they say leave the NHI fund open to corruption.

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For an extensive summary of NHI's implications on South Africans, read Ernest Ferreira's article 'Ideology weighs down the NHI' in issue 4 December 2022 PPR

SAPPFU's CEO, Dr Simon Stevenson, recently both **part in a discussion on the NHI Bill on the current affairs television show** *In Depth* on the **Government Channel**.

Click on the button below to watch the clip:

Click Here To Watch The Clip

It's all or nothing, says Health Minister Joe Phaahla

Minister of Health Dr Joe Phaahla and Minister Jackson Mthembu have ensured that the National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill is absolutely necessary, Dr Phaahla said on Friday.

Minister Dr Phaahla said the NHI is a "non-negotiable" and that it will be implemented "in its entirety".

Speaking at a media briefing in Pretoria, Dr Phaahla said the NHI will ensure significant objections from medical scheme members and from leading specialist political parties. Minister Dr Phaahla said the NHI is a medical insurance to co-exist with the NHI medical scheme.

NHI will shut down issues, says Nicholas Crisp

Nicholas Crisp, the Chief Executive Officer of Discovery Health, Discovery Health Chief Executive Officer Dr Nicholas Crisp, has said that the NHI Bill has been "a barrage of criticism" and that the suggestions made with the government's proposed NHI Bill are "not good enough". **Business Day** 21 June 2023.

Speaking at a media briefing, Crisp said he had expected that the NHI would be a "non-negotiable" and that it would provide a singular, standardised benefits package for all medical schemes members.

Also read Anthony Butler's article in **Business Day** 22 June 2023: *'The worship of the NHI is a political'*

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Alarm bells ring over NHI

"All has the blaring alarm bells sounded at against Joe. Bruce Bay Medical Aid Association (BMA) is fast becoming a reality, the healthcare sector is highly concerned about the quality of care, and the NHI is being criticised for its lack of clarity. **Sunday Times** 21 June 2023.

Medicaments CEO Mike van Wyk, who wrote his chapter in Kate Lowitt's book on the NHI, said the NHI is a "complex and ambitious" proposal, and that it is "not clear" how the NHI will be funded, and how it will be implemented. He said the NHI is "not clear" how it will be funded, and how it will be implemented. He said the NHI is "not clear" how it will be funded, and how it will be implemented. He said the NHI is "not clear" how it