

ALSO READ:

Funds needed for NHI 'will destroy the economy'

“With an estimated R200bn-plus needed to fund the National Health Insurance, experts warn expecting taxpayers to cough up the money would leave a massive dent in their disposable income and ‘destroy the economy’. Tanya Tosen, remuneration specialist at Tax Consulting SA, has calculated that for a family of four, the loss would amount to R1 220 a month or R14 640 per annum; a family of two would experience a monthly decrease of R728, equating to R8 736 annually. – ***The Citizen*** (10 Nov 2023)

“With steep annual increases for medical aid being implemented each fiscal year, this could also destroy the medical aid industry, where members would consider downgrading plans further or even cancelling membership due to financial constraints.”

ALSO READ

No additional NHI funding in Medium Term Budget

Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana made no mention of additional funding for NHI in his Medium Term Budget Policy Statement on 1 Nov 2023 – reported ***Medical Brief***.

Business Day reported on 1 November that the Treasury has allocated an additional R2bn in the current fiscal year to help fund the wage increase in personnel-heavy sectors, including health, education and the police service.

“The Treasury said maintaining service delivery amid budget constraints would require health to improve efficiency in areas such as overtime payments, medical supplies and security services and delay infrastructure projects.”

ALSO READ

ON THE OTHER HAND: The NHI debate is throwing up misconceptions

Regarding the ongoing debate about the NHI Bill, ***Daily Maverick*** (4 July 2023) published an article by **Dr Olive Shishana**, honorary professor at the University of Cape Town and special adviser to President Cyril Ramaphosa:

“Per-capita health expenditure in the private sector is much higher than in the public sector.

The exorbitant costs stem from medical scheme administration, which accounts for 15% of expenses. In contrast, the NHI’s administration costs are expected to be less than 3%. The private sector’s inefficiency and unsustainability make a compelling case for NHI. Concerns have also been raised about the potential collapse of medical schemes under NHI. However, medical scheme numbers and beneficiaries have declined without NHI’s influence.”

ALSO READ

Discovery must clarify stance on NHI, says IRR – Politicsweb (17 Nov 2023)

In a letter to the CEO of Discovery, Adrian Gore, the Institute of Race Relations (IRR) urges him to come clean on where the organisation stands on the NHI scheme.

“In January 2022, Discovery Health made presentations to Parliament in support of NHI structural reform through a blended funding model and public-private partnerships. Additionally, last year, the organisation went as far as stating: ‘Discovery is supportive of the NHI and will use its capabilities and resources to assist.’

“However, Discovery has recently flagged the implementation of NHI in its current form as the second-biggest risk facing the group.”