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### ***Medico-legal claims may pose a risk to NHI, says AG***

The Auditor-General's (AG) office has cautioned Parliament that the government's ongoing failure to control medical malpractice claims poses a risk to its National Health Insurance (NHI) plans, reported **Business Day** (9 Nov 2023).

"In the 2022/2023 fiscal year, provinces faced contingent liabilities for medico-legal claims exceeding R68bn. They paid out only R1.45bn to successful claimants."

According to Mmule Thipe, a senior manager at the AG's office, other health sector challenges include staff shortages, inefficient healthcare facilities, and the lack of policy and legal framework implementation. These issues would have a long-term negative impact on the sector's ability to provide efficient, high-quality healthcare services, which could jeopardise the essential foundations of the NHI.

### ***SAMA lashes out at President for withholding of corruption probe***

" 'Detrimental' is how the South African Medical Association (SAMA) described President Cyril Ramaphosa's non-release of an investigation into 'unlawful and improper conduct' at a statutory body designated to regulate the multibillion-rand National Health Insurance (NHI) scheme.

**News24** reported on 12 October that the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) confirmed that it had completed its probe into "maladministration in connection with the affairs" of the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA). However, the report – that was submitted to the President by 14 March 2023 - has yet to be released.

The investigation followed a proclamation signed in May 2019 by Ramaphosa, who authorised the probe into "any unlawful or improper conduct by the employees or officials of the HPCSA or any other person regarding the registration of health practitioners".

"In August, the Competition Commission revealed to **News24** that the HPCSA, for the last 12 years, has been operating with illegal and anti-competitive rules, dispensing punitive fines of up to R60 000 for professionals who have breached the council's unlawful regulations.

In a media statement the DA agrees with the SAMA that burying the report is severely