PRIVATE PRACTICE REVIEW

NEWS

Private Practice Review is pleased to be able to provide our readers with a summary of important news items from all sectors of the private healthcare industry. We have included items from the mainstream media, specialist healthcare publications and from our own sources. We have also included items which we think are of interest to our readers, but which may not be of immediate importance to them. We hope that our readers will find this summary useful and informative. We welcome feedback and suggestions for improvement. Please contact Mandy Bhatnagar at mandy@healthman.co.za if you have any comments or suggestions.

HealthMan wishes its members

Quality time to Relax, Reflect & Reboot

HealthMan Highlights 25 July - December 2023

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"This year, we s ay a lo ng ers for healthcare in SA. There were several policy developments, landmark court cases, bipartisan pieces of legislation, and deals. Yet, little seems to have changed."
Marana Law, Spotlight 12 Dec 2023.

NHI Bill: More Criticism

'An unstoppable train'

On 6 December the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) passed the National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill, "setting the scene for an inferior healthcare system for business, healthcare professionals and opposition parties".
Marc Hasenfuss, Daily Maverick 6 Dec 2023.

- **ANC** reinforces the NCOP decision the passage of the Bill as "an unstoppable train" and warned that the Bill will be implemented "whether people like it or not".
- **Cosatu** has "no problem with the passing of the NHI Bill", but wants the ANC to "deal with the corruption in the health sector". Cosatu also wants the Treasury to ensure that the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) is "properly capacitated".
- Chief Executive business, the newly formed SA Health Professionals Collaboration and Transformation Forum, and the Democratic Alliance have all called for a complete overhaul of the current system. The DA's proposals include making private hospitals and medical schemes "part of the solution" and allowing medical schemes to "compete for members". **Business Tech** 6 December 2023.
- **Dr Mike Pillay**, President of the Hospital Association of South Africa, has warned that the NHI Bill will "cripple the private healthcare sector". **Business Tech** 6 December 2023.
- **Dr Ramaphosa** has "no problem with the passing of the NHI Bill", but wants the NCOP to "deal with the corruption in the health sector".
- **Tshepo Mokhele**, President of Cosatu (SAC), "The ANC cannot a Second bill through Parliament in such a way in side-stepping civil society. Implementing universal health coverage is a very complex matter. It is not a matter that can be rushed through in the manner of an ideologically primed."
- **Dr Mike Pillay**, President of HASA, "We do not believe the services available to the civil servants are equal to what the private sector has to offer." **Business Tech** 6 December 2023.
- **Cosatu** is planning to organise a "mass action" against the NHI Bill.

'Rubber-stamping' no surprise

"The ANC steamrollers Yellow scrambled singing in Cosatu jumbo affairs, an "unstoppable" vehicle represented "rumbling
article **Michael Sutton** (The Market Foundation) in **Business Day** 21 Dec 2023.

- **Michael Sutton**, Senior Fellow at The Market Foundation, "The ANC steamrollers Yellow scrambled singing in Cosatu jumbo affairs, an "unstoppable" vehicle representing the country's largest state-owned enterprise (SOE) by a significant margin.
- "Having tabb ed state governance, it maintains the perfect SOE to fill with political appointees to provide patronage for the ANC's and Cosatu's bloated membership and the enrichment of great-uncle compadres. The NHI governance model starkly opposes the SOE model, with the NHIF being a non-profit company with independence from the service through the ABC's tactics replicated poorly in a constitutional and legal.

'Let's not mess this up, asseblief'

"Decade of lost opportunities, the government has grudgingly accepted that it needs to work with the private sector to make the National Health Insurance scheme work. Let's not mess it up, asseblief."
Mandy Bhatnagar in **City Press** 3 Dec 2023.

- **The healthcare professions**, including progressive health advocates who have spent years the last years is settling here, has spoken loudly about the impending disaster that the NHI Bill will inflict on the country's healthcare system.
- **Top** ca. ca. ca. the should disregard of daily because a massive very also of under PHC confidencies during the stock shares. Kim Sakwarde the ANC sector to private sector, Dr Mike Pillay, President of the Hospital Association of South Africa, Dr Lesley Cohen, President Hospital, Lindsay Ferrer and Medicross to their shockings, all tender of the Bill, Dr Ramaphosa, Cosatu, Dr Mike Pillay.

To read more, click on the button below:

Read More

'RAF cutting its nose to spite its face'

"The claims/bodily whose liability for the Road Accident Fund (RAF) that will not pay victims or pa cash relief or expenses, and that it is "cutting its nose to spite its face" and will be forced to pay out almost the full amount anyway." **Marc Hasenfuss** (Daily Maverick) in **Daily Maverick** 12 July 2023.

- **"Tricked with lawyers** Hence the RAF has taken its hopeless case to the Constitutional Court. It is a desperate attempt to avoid a reckoning from **medical schemes**."
- According to Discovery Medical Scheme, which lost to the change against RAF, the medical schemes "are not in a position to pay the RAF claims".
- Meanwhile, the RAF - already collecting more than R200m annually in bonds as "compensation" for its victims - is "cutting its nose to spite its face".

Also Read
The RAF says Private Claim Medical Schemes

The ethics of using AI in healthcare

"Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a powerful tool in healthcare, with the potential to revolutionise the way we diagnose, treat and care for patients. However, the use of AI in healthcare also presents ethical challenges that must be addressed to ensure that it is used responsibly and ethically. This article will explore the ethics of using AI in healthcare, including the potential benefits and risks, the ethical principles that should guide its use, and the role of regulation and oversight. - **Prof Mark Sheehan**, Professor of Ethics, University of Oxford, Oxford Martin School, Oxford Uni Hospitals NHS Trust, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, Oxford Health Biomedical Research Centre, Oxford Health Biomedical Research Unit