



GAUTENG
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

To: All Media
Attention: News Editors
Date: 26 April 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Premier Lesufi rejects the distortion of his views on the National Health Insurance Bill

Premier Panyaza Lesufi has expressed contempt for the edited video that the NHI's opponents and opposition parties, such as the DA, are using to distort his views on the subject.

He rejects this manipulated video that is circulating and challenges his detractors to play the entire video so that it can be clear he was urging the President to sign the NHI Bill first, for its benefits to be due. The Gauteng Legislature supported the Bill and the DA as usual opposed it and want to be opportunistic on this matter.

The Gauteng Provincial Government reaffirms its unwavering support and dedication to the National Health Insurance (NHI), which aims to give all South Africans access to high-quality, reasonably priced healthcare regardless of their socioeconomic status.

The goal of the NHI is to ensure that everyone has access to quality healthcare, as guaranteed by provision 27 of the Constitution: "Everyone has a right to have access to healthcare services".

The NHI will also align South Africa's health system with global efforts to attain universal health coverage by the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 3).

"The provincial government is firmly in favour of the NHI's full implementation as it works to redress historical wrongs and systemic injustices brought about by the old apartheid state. The opponents of Universal Health Coverage regrettably perpetuate these apartheid-engineered inequalities by defending the current system that prioritizes business over the well-being of our residents," said Premier Lesufi.

The Gauteng government's efforts to modernise the province's healthcare system, especially system operations, are evidence of its dedication in enacting the National Health Insurance (NHI).

“Our healthcare system needs to be transformed in many ways, and one of the first steps is to create the NHI. Other improvements include reallocating resources and emphasising the importance of primary healthcare as the foundation of the system.

“The NHI Bill was enacted by the National Assembly with a resounding majority and therefore we reiterate our call for President Cyril Ramaphosa to honour the people's will by signing the NHI Bill into law.

“The country cannot be held at ransom by the detractors of NHI who offer no solutions to addressing the high disease burden in this country that has seen millions of people die from preventable and manageable diseases”, added Premier Lesufi.

Issued by the Gauteng Provincial Government

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