

Support for NHI

There was unanimous SUPPORT FOR the principles of NHI:

- universal quality health care
- social solidarity
- equity in health access

There was a call for IMPLEMENTATION !!!

Concerns around NHI

- Financing for NHI
- Tiered insurance system vs equal package
- Power of provinces with district implementation
- Excessive power in the office of the Health Minister
- District NHI Pilot Sites – lessons learnt?
- Private sector profiteering
- Access of migrants to NHI health system

Health System Concerns:

- Infrastructure: Substandard and Unsafe facilities
- Shortages of critical posts and FROZEN POSTS
- Corruption at all levels - lack criminal proceedings
- Political Interference in operations – incompetent managers
- Lack of medicines, supplies and equipment STOCK OUTS
- Bureaucratic procurement processes
- Fragmented health information systems and lack of data for planning

Quality of Health Care Concerns

- Health system is mainly hospicentric
- Lack of focus on promotive and preventative health care
- Vulnerable people: elderly and people with disabilities marginalized
- Lack of equal access in rural areas – undignified transfer system
- Overcrowding and long waiting times
- Deprofessionalisation of health professions e.g nursing education
- Accreditation – majority of 696 facilities did not reach OHSC benchmark

Proposals Theme 1: Expanding Primary Health Care Systems

- Focus Shift: curative health services to promotive and preventive healthcare
- Increase Human Resources PHC:
Community Health Workers, Dieticians, Nurses, GP's, key specialists, physiotherapy, OT, speech, audiology etc
- Decentralise health care to households
- Address burden of disease by promoting health
- Multidisciplinary teams at PHC/subdistrict
- Streamlined referrals systems
- Budgeting for promotive and preventative health care

Proposals theme 2: Financial aspects

- Increase investments to a community based health system
- Abolishing private health credits to mobilise funds for NHI (R26 billion)
- Containment of malpractice expenditure and consider a separate No Fault Fund for this
- Budgeting for the NHI should consider the impact of migration
- Consider abolition of state medical schemes

Proposals Theme 3: Human Resources

- Training of all health professionals in line with the health needs of the country
 - emphasizes PHC
- Formalising training and increase appointment of CHW
- Emphasis on recruitment of rehabilitation health workers
- Immediate and Urgent HUMAN RESOURCE intervention to:
 - fill of critical posts and unfreezing posts
- Encourage multidisciplinary, integrated work between health workers
- Workplace health: psychological and occupational health and safety
- Ensure intolerance for abuse of health workers by communities or managers

Proposals Theme 4: Access and Quality

- Dignified access and transfer of patients from rural areas
- Guidelines should integrate the needs of persons with disabilities at all levels of care
- Home based care - increase package of care including rehabilitation and disability care
- Ensure adequate and ongoing training of health managers
- URGENT PUBLIC SECTOR ACCREDITATION PLAN:
 - Upgrade to accreditation all public health facilities (OHSC)
 - Annual targets for number of facilities to meet benchmarks e.g. 20% per year
 - Targets and timelines made public and clear line of accountability