

BUDGET POLICY STATEMENT 2022/23 BY MINISTER OF HEALTH, DR JOE PHAAHLA IN THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES (NCOP)

01 JUNE 2022

Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces (NCOP), Honourable Amos Masondo,

Chief Whip of the NCOP, Honourable Seiso Mohai,

My colleague and Deputy Minister, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo,

Chairperson of the Select Committee on Social Services, Honourable Maurencia Natalie Gillion

Honourable Members of the NCOP,

Members of Executive Councils (MECs) for Health in Provinces,

Director-General and Heads of Provincial Departments,

Chairpersons of Boards and Management of Health Entities,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to thank the Chairperson of this August House of our Parliament for affording us the opportunity to present the 2022/23 Health Budget Policy statement.

We do this in cognizance of where we come from, that the past two years have been challenging both for the general society and moreso for us in the health sector as we battled with the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic was devastating, it disrupted the normal way of life and the economic activity throughout the world.

However, the global community responded to the calamity presented by the pandemic. Measures were initiated to limit the spread of infection through the non-pharmaceutical measures, whilst the search for medical measures

KeReady campaign conceptualized and led by young medical doctors, who give clear explanation on the effects and protective capacity.

On Friday, we will be launching the Global Vax campaign in partnership with the US Embassy in uMgungudlovu District in KwaZulu-Natal, emanating from the commitment made by the US President to donate more than 1.2 billion vaccine doses globally to vaccinate 70 percent of the global population by end of 2022.

The Global Vax will be implemented through a mechanism called ADAPT (Accelerating Development Against Pandemic Threats Activity) in support of the National and Provincial Departments of Health. This seeks to increase vaccination uptake and awareness, including amongst the vulnerable people, undocumented people and young people through collaboration to reduce vaccine hesitancy. We will also use this day to sign our bilateral agreement with the US government.

Honourable Chairperson

As we emerge from Covid-19, we recognize that the pandemic has derailed some of our major health programmes as we had to redirect resources towards the prevention measures as agreed. However, there are also positive experiences and measures we learnt during this difficult period; we learnt to work as one government from local to national, bringing all skills and expertise from our entities to use at once.

We also learnt on how to work with private sector and integrate initiatives, from the procurement of commodities like PPEs, diagnostics, therapeutics and even securing and administering the vaccines. We have learnt to work

The recovery of the comprehensive health services programmes means clear intent to intensive work to fight against these in the form of health promotion and disease prevention strategies. Yesterday in Somerset East, under

Here, we urge the Provincial delegates to the NCOP to support this when it comes before you, as is the major health reform agenda to be initiated since the advent of democracy.

In the meantime, we have begun to lay the foundation for a strong health system, which will be underpinned by an integrated health service for the country. The Covid-19 emergency measures have facilitated the closer cooperation between the public and private health sector, from sharing hospital beds availability to common platform for reporting on tests, and to recording system for vaccination, the EVDS, which is entirely owned by the National Department of Health.

Within this budget, the NHI allocations are essentially meant for strengthening the public health delivery platforms such as targeted infrastructure upgrades across the provinces, contracting private PHP doctors, acquiring of oncology services and also adding more capacity for mental health services.

We have also ring-fenced an amount for implementation of NHI such as the benefits design and pricing, provider accreditation, management of health products procurement, further development of the digital information systems and developing risk management and anti-corruption systems.

Improvement in the quality of service at public health facilities will be a major focus in this financial year. A lot of progress has been made with the Health Patient Registration system, which has now already registered more than 5,7 million South Africans in 311 health facilities. More work has been done towards the establishment of the single, portable patient record system with

interoperable digital system. Already 21 quality learning centres have been established in the country with 102 hospitals, including private ones, 90 PHCs and 25 EMS participating in the program.

In this regard provinces would receive R693 747 million in National Health Insurance grant to further work on the implementation of the NHI.

Honourable Chairperson

The Presidential Stimulus Package, announced in 2020 for Covid-19 was implemented only for 2021/22, and this enabled provinces to employ over 73 000 additional staff, many on short-term contracts. All provinces are experiencing challenges in this financial year as allocated funds for Covid-19 have been reduced, as those temporarily employed demanding permanent placement.

Progress has been made with regards to the stability in the employment of more than 47 000 Community Health Workers (CHW), even though more work still needs to be done to finalise the nature of their long-term engagement. This cadre of CHWs is very essential to the sustainability of the PHC, focusing on health promotion, prevention, adherence to treatment to HIV and AIDS, TB and other NCDs. Additionally, 2 429 medical interns, community service personnel. We are grateful for an additional R2,1 billion over the next two financial years allocated for medical interns and Community Service Officers.

Honourable Chairperson

The Medico-Legal claims are a drain on vital and scarce resources to save lives

Deputy Minister, my colleagues in the Provinces, MECs, Director-General and Management of the Department, our entities, private and civil society for support and continuous collaboration.

I thank you.