



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



MEDIA STATEMENT

To: Editors & Health Journalists
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Minister Motsoaledi clarifies his comments on NHI and Constitutional Court

Pretoria: Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi would like to clarify his recent comments about judges, Parliamentarians like himself, and many other prominent and well to do South Africans, being beneficiaries of the current unequal health system.

This reference was made by the Minister to demonstrate the systemic challenges caused by gross inequalities within the country's two-tiered health system, characterised by a well-resourced, heavily state subsidised, private sector which caters for a privileged minority, while the majority are dependent on an under-resourced public sector.

These comments should in no way be construed as second-guessing the judiciary's ability to remain impartial when adjudicating challenges to the constitutionality of the NHI. The Minister wishes to state categorically that he has full confidence and trusts in the fairness and integrity of the judiciary and its commitment to upholding the rights enshrined in the Constitution and the rule of law.

If by talking about disparities the Minister is understood to have been attacking the judges the Minister would like to unreservedly apologise and withdraw whatever statements may have been offensive. The Minister wishes to reiterate that he will not only accept but fully respect any verdict from the judges of our Constitutional Court.

The Minister regrets that these comments may have detracted from the central message he sought to convey, namely that government is committed to the NHI as the viable mechanism for our country to realise universal healthcare coverage in line with the provisions of section 27 of the Constitution which guarantees everyone the right to access healthcare services, including reproductive healthcare. What this means is that we must ensure a health system where every person, no matter their social status, has access to quality health care without having to worry about how they will pay for that care.

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