



Wes-Kaapse Provinsiale Parlement  
Western Cape Provincial Parliament  
IPalamente yePhondo IeNtshona Koloni

Ref: WCPP 11/4/9

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**

Friday, 04 August 2023, (at 09:00) Chamber, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor

**PRESENT**

**Members:**

**Democratic Alliance**

Pretorius, G (Chairperson)

Fry, C

Plato, D

**African National Congress**

Windvogel, R

**Economic Freedom Fighters**

Klaas, TM

**Additional Members**

Bans, AP (ANC)

Baku-Baku- Vos (ANC)

**NCOP Permanent delegate**

Njadu, Z (ANC)

**Officials and guests' attendance register**

**Attendance register is available.**

**1. Opening and welcome**

Member Pretorius, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Health and Wellness opened the meeting and allowed for brief introductions. He gave a special welcome to Member Z Njadu, the NCOP Permanent Delegate for the Western Cape. The Chairperson reminded the Committee that the purpose of the meeting was to get a briefing from the National Department of Health on the National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill [B 11B-2019] S76.

Member Z Njadu from the NCOP gave an overview on the purpose of the Bill. He briefed the Committee on the NCOP legislative process of the Bill thus far and handed to the Prof. N Crisp to brief the Committee on the Bill.

## **2. Briefing by the national Department of Health on the National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill [B 11B-2019].**

Prof. Crisp, from the National Department of Health, proceeded to brief the Committee on the NHI Bill [B 11B-2019]. He informed the Committee the NHI Bill provides an enabling framework for massive reforms to the entire health landscape in the country. The presentation summarised the 11 chapters of the Bill.

The Committee was informed that the purpose of the NHI Bill was to establish an NHI Fund as a legally defined organ of the state. The Bill provides for the control of the NHI Fund by the Board, the composition of the Board, the appointment of members of the Board, and the appointment of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Board. It seeks to define beneficiaries of services covered by the NHI Fund, including population registration. The Bill also provides for the contracting of accredited providers of personal health care services and allows for the Minister to determine criteria for accreditation and reimbursement of Health care providers. The NHI Bill provides for the Minister to determine health care benefits that will be reimbursed through the NHI Fund, as well as the service coverage and cost measurement provisions. The NHI Fund will purchase services on behalf of South African citizens; permanent residents, refugees, inmates, and specific categories of foreign nationals, and will limit access to pay for asylum seekers and illegal foreigners. However, it will care for all children irrespective of their citizen status.

With regards to the role of provinces under the NHI Act, it was reported that the national Minister of Health will delegate to provinces as management agents, for the provision of health care services, and in those cases, the Fund will contract with sections within the province such as provincial tertiary, regional and emergency services. This aims to strengthen and assist the District Health Management Office in controlling the quality of all health services and facilities. Provinces will provide technical and logistical support to district health councils and will coordinate health and medical services during provincial disasters. Provinces will provide and co-ordinate emergency medical services and forensic pathology, forensic clinical medicines, and related services including the provision of medico-legal mortuaries and medico-legal services. They will provide and maintain equipment, vehicles, and health care facilities, consult with communities regarding health matters, promote health and healthy lifestyles, provide environmental pollution control services, and ensure health systems research and programmes, public sector, and health services to name a few.

The role of medical schemes under the NHI, it was mentioned that once the NH is fully implemented, the national Minister will introduce regulations limiting benefits to services not reimbursable by the NHI Fund. Accreditation of service providers under the NHI, it was reported that they will provide a minimum range of services, adhere to the national pricing regimen, conclude a legally binding contract with the establishment or prodder for a maximum of 5 years, etc.

The source of funding for the NHI will be through Appropriations, general tax revenue, shift funds from provincial equitable share and conditional grants, medical scheme tax credits, payroll tax, and surcharge on personal income tax. Finances will be audited by the Auditor General and Annual Reports of the NHI Fund will be submitted to Parliament and Minister.

The Committee was informed that the NHI would be implemented in phases. Phase 1 planned between 2023 to 26 would focus on health system strengthening initiatives, this is a foundation for a fully functional NHI Fund. Phase 1 will include purchasing of personal healthcare services for

vulnerable groups, training and development, benefits, health technology assessment, migration of Central Hospitals, structuring of the CUPS, accreditation of healthcare service providers, and legislative amendments of 12 Acts, to name a few, and Phase 2 of the NHI is scheduled between 2026 to 2028, this will be the continuation of health systems strengthening activities, mobilisation of additional resources as approved by Cabinet, and selecting contracting healthcare services from private providers.

The Committee deliberated on the presentation.

### **3. Input from the provincial Department of Health and Wellness**

Dr Kariem reported that the province has NHI Pilot Sites in Knysna and Bitou which has made great strides and the Department planned to copy what was implemented successfully in Knysna and Bitou to other three areas in the province that are earmarked for the CUPs Pilot Project. He mentioned that the provincial Department of Health and Wellness's comment on the NHI Bill was largely around Universal Health Coverage. The provincial Department endorsed the United Nations, there was a global movement towards Universal Health Coverage which the Department believes will enhance Health Equity without creating financial hardship, and this was a key strategy for the provincial Department of Health and many other countries around the world that has endorsed the Universal Health Coverage.

Dr Kariem further mentioned that the Department of Health and Wellness supports the strategic intent of the NHI Bill that will achieve Universal Health Coverage. The Department has made representation to both the National Department of Health and the NCOP. In addition, the Department has participated in the public participation process. In summary, the provincial Department of Health and Wellness believes that the Bill should be signed into law. The Department remains committed to working with the national Department of Health to achieve the intent of the Bill and to achieve the intended Universal Health coverage for all.

The Committee deliberated on the presentation.

### **4. Resolutions**

The Committee resolved that:

- 3.1 The public hearings on the NHI Bill will be published in three official languages: English, Xhosa, and Afrikaans. Advertisements will be published in the City Vision for isiXhosa-speaking stakeholders, Weekend Burger for Afrikaans-speaking stakeholders, and Weekend Argus for English-speaking stakeholders.
- 3.2 The Committee resolved to schedule, seven public hearings to cover the six regions and the surrounding areas and to reach as many people as possible.
- 3.3 The hearings will be in Beaufort West, Central Karoo Region, on Monday, 18 September 2023, in George, Southern Cape Region on Tuesday, 19 September 2023, in Caledon, Overberg Region on Wednesday, 20 September 2023, at the Western Cape Provincial Parliament, Cape Metro on Friday, 22 September 2023, in Saldanha, West Coast Region on Tuesday, 26 September 2023, in Vredendal on Wednesday, 27 September 2023, and in Paarl, Cape Winelands on Friday, 29 September 2023.
- 3.4 Stakeholders should be encouraged to attend the public hearing and make verbal and written submissions on the Bill.
- 3.5 All Municipalities should be informed about the scheduled public hearings.
- 3.6 The WCPP Communications Section to make use of the social media platforms and government websites to inform the stakeholders about the scheduled public hearings on the Bill.

- 3.7 The WCPP Public Education and Outreach (PEO) Section should assist the Committee by engaging, inviting, and encouraging relevant stakeholders to attend and give input during the hearings or make written submissions on the Bill. PEO should also assist the Committee in sourcing out venues and assist stakeholders that need transport to the hearings in areas outside the Cape Metropolitan area.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30.

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**MR G PRETORIUS, MPP**  
**CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**  
**WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT**