



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

WCPP 11/4/9

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Wednesday, 20 September 2023, (at 09:00) Victoria Hall, Ian Toerien Way, Caledon

PRESENT

Members:

Democratic Alliance

Pretorius, G (Chairperson)

Fry, C

Plato, D

African National Congress

Windvogel, R

Additional Members

Bans, AP (ANC)

Baku-Baku- Vos (ANC)

NCOP Permanent delegate

Njadu, Z (ANC)

Apology

Klaas, TM (EFF)

Officials and guests' attendance register

Attendance register is available.

1. Opening and welcome

The Chairperson opened the public hearing and allowed for brief introductions. He gave a brief background on the Committee legislative process of the Bill.

Hon. ZE Njadu, the NCOP Permanent Delegate for the Western Cape, gave a brief background on the select committee process regarding the National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill [B 11B-2019].

Adv. M Moabelo briefed the public on the objectives of the Bill.

2. Public hearing on the National Health Insurance Bill [B 11B–2019] (NCOP)

Adv. Moabelo briefed the public on the National Health Insurance Bill [B 11B-2019] (NCOP). He indicated that the Bill aims to provide universal healthcare coverage to all South Africans. It seeks to establish the NHI Fund as a legally defined organ of state and seeks to establish its functions, powers, and duties. The Bill seeks to define beneficiaries of services covered by the NHI Fund including population registration. The NHI Bill provides for the Minister to determine health care benefits that will be reimbursed through the NHI Fund and the service coverage and cost measurement provision.

The public was informed that the purpose of the NHI Bill was to establish and maintain a National Health Insurance Fund in the Republic that is funded through mandatory prepayment that aims to achieve sustainable and affordable universal access to quality healthcare services. The NHI Bill proposes converting the country's current two-tier health system into a single purchaser and single payer of healthcare services by pooling of funds and strategic purchasing of healthcare services and goods from accredited and contracted healthcare services. The public was informed that once the Bill becomes a law, the NHI scheme will bear the costs and enter into contracts with hospitals including private hospitals. Funding sources for the NHI will include 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. The NHI fund will be audited, and the annual reports will be submitted to Parliament and to the Minister.

With regards to the role of provinces under the NHI, 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.

The role of medical schemes under the NHI, Clause 33 of the Bill states that once the NHI is fully implemented as determined through the regulations in the Gazette, medical schemes will only offer complementary coverage for services that are not reimbursed by the NHI Fund and Clause 6 (o) allows individuals to purchase services not covered by the NHI through voluntary medical insurance schemes.

The following stakeholders and organisations gave oral and written submissions on the Bill:

- 1) Mr Coetzee, from AfriForum
- 2) Ms. B Mkhwebiso, Councillor from Theewaterskloof
- 3) Ms. N Monyama, NEHAWU
- 4) Mr. M Raymond, Mqgaza, community member
- 5) Ms. TP Mosese, ANC Councillor from Grabouw
- 6) Ms R Zondo from the provincial Department of Health and Wellness
- 7) Mr. H. Wyngaard, Cape Forum
- 8) Mr Simon, community member
- 9) Mr L Moyeni, community member from Botrivier
- 10) Ms J Sitsubi, ANC Member
- 11) Mr A Mthombeni, ANC Member
- 12) Mr. X Maweni, ANC Member
- 13) Ms. M Richter, community member from Grabouw

Adv. Moabelo dully responded and gave clarity to some of the questions that were raised during the public hearing.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30.

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GERRIT PRETORIUS (MPP)
CHAIRPERSON: STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND WELLNESS
WESTERN CAPE PROVINCIAL PARLIAMENT