

### ***Motsoaledi starts health overhaul***

THE government will be advertising 92 hospital CEO posts this weekend, according Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi. This is part of the Department of Health's efforts to prepare for the National Health Insurance (NHI) system. In addition, all sections of the National Health Act of 2003 will be coming into force next Thursday. Motsoaledi told a briefing in Pretoria that this would correct the issue of people in acting CEO positions, wrong placements, wrong qualifications and wrong experience or level. Sections of the act related to governance will "allow us to ensure that hospitals are properly designated and the correct manager with the skills, knowledge and behavioural attributes is managing the institution", he said. The Health Minister added that there would be no hospital in the country whose CEO was below the level of a deputy director-general. However, Alex van den Heever, Old Mutual chair of social security at Wits University, said simply ensuring CEOs had the required credentials would not fix SA's poor public health system. He said the regulations did not go far enough and that the system lacked formal accountability structures - district oversight supervisory structures. Van den Heever said internationally, hospitals had strong structures that were depoliticised and could hire and fire a CEO, or someone working in a district - none of the structures in the National Health Act envisioned that. Dr Motsoaledi said hiring and firing staff was not the prerogative of the national government - "the executing authority is the MEC". Van den Heever said the public health system had not only been degraded by a lack of qualifications, but also by how people were appointed and their lack of supervision. It was a political process, and this had not been addressed at all, he said.

*Sarah Wild: Business Day, 24 February 2012*