

NHI aims to provide access to health services for everyone – IOL - 5 August 2019

There are few things more devastating than being denied quality health care because of one's socio-economic status. This, sadly, is a reality faced by the majority of South Africans.

The country's health-care system has over the years resulted in disparities in how it is administered. It is based on both the private and public health systems.

Up to 84% of the population receive services through public health facilities which are inadequately resourced, while only 16% have access to the private health-care system, which is highly resourced.

More so, the unfortunate reality is that even those who are members of private medical aid schemes often find themselves in a quagmire as medical aid savings and benefits are exhausted before the end of the annual financial contribution cycle.

This is always attributed to the exorbitant price structure in the private health system. This, then, cannot be a fair system.