

Tutu Backs NHI Plan

12 May 2016

THE government's proposed National Health Insurance scheme has received an endorsement from Archbishop Emeritus and Nobel peace prize laureate Desmond Tutu, who said access to healthcare is a basic human right; denying people access to healthcare is to deny their humanity. He said the fact that less than 20 percent of South Africans could afford the best medical treatment in the world while more than 80 percent had access to no more than very basic health care was immoral. He added that it is the kind of inequity many South Africans hoped would be a thing of the past, in the 22nd year of our democracy. Tutu said that when he was hospitalised last year he was very conscious of the fact that had it not been for his medical aid and the personal generosity of his doctors he would probably have died. He said he is not proud to live in a country that makes life or death decisions on behalf of its citizens on the basis of their bank balance or good fortune. Tutu said Motsoaledi's vision of a National Health Insurance Scheme, affordable treatment and fair access for all deserves the support of all who care about our country's future.

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