

Motsoaledi admits that NHI is unaffordable

24 August 2016

Health Minister, Aaron Motsoaledi, admitted today, during questions in the National Assembly, that there is no certainty that his ambitious plans for the National Health Insurance (NHI) will be financed.

In so doing the Minister has effectively admitted that the government's priority must be to introduce reforms to a badly managed health sector.

The DA has long believed that implementing the NHI would be nothing short of disastrous and would in fact make a massive contribution to our country's fiscal risk and even help bring us to junk status.

We have said, all along, that the best way forward with a national health system should be to fix what must be fixed and keep what must be kept. There is a great deal that needs to be fixed in our health system before embarking on what is an elaborate, overcomplicated and monumentally costly path to Universal Health Coverage.

The NHI as proposed, is nothing more than a Rolls Royce that does not address our basic problems.

Now that Minister Motsoaledi has admitted that there is no finance plan for NHI, we [The DA] hope that he will take note when the DA launches its own offering on universal health care in the coming weeks.

We [The DA] would also like to advise Minister Motsoaledi that the DA will be watching closely in the coming months for signs of the Minister attempting to get his hands on medical aid reserves – by, among others helping to appoint sympathetic members to their boards.

By Wilmot James – Democratic Alliance