



SADA

THE SOUTH AFRICAN
DENTAL ASSOCIATION

MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOUTH AFRICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION (SADA) EXPRESSES CONCERNS REGARDING THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE BILL (NHI).

Johannesburg, 06 June 2023 – The South African Dental Association (SADA) wishes to highlight its position on the present National Health Insurance (NHI) Bill, which was recently considered and adopted by the Portfolio Committee on Health.

As an organization committed to advancing healthcare and ensuring access to quality services for all South Africans, SADA recognizes the importance of universal healthcare and supports initiatives that strengthen and improve the healthcare system. However, after careful evaluation of the NHI Bill in its current form, SADA cannot endorse its implementation due to several concerns.

One of the primary issues lies in the lack of consideration given to the views and concerns of stakeholders from both the private and public sectors. Throughout the policy process, objections and alternative solutions put forward by the private sector have been dismissed, hindering the development of a comprehensive and inclusive healthcare system.

Furthermore, the NHI Bill fails to address the existing problems within both the public and private health sectors. It lacks mechanisms to effectively monitor and manage these issues, which raises doubts about its ability to achieve its intended goals.

SADA also emphasizes the necessity of a thorough feasibility study before implementing a project as extensive as the NHI. Regrettably, such a study is absent, leaving the bill without clear financial estimates and forecasts. This lack of clarity in terms of costs and affordability raises concerns about sustainability and potential strain on the economy.

The proposed provisions in the bill also raise constitutional concerns. The concentration of power within the National Health Insurance Fund, coupled with the minister's involvement in day-to-day operations, risks infringing on constitutional principles. The lack of clarity surrounding the duties and responsibilities of committees further exacerbates these concerns.

SADA acknowledges the importance of a collaborative approach between the private and public healthcare sectors and remains committed to working with the government to improve the healthcare system. However, it is crucial to address the aforementioned concerns and engage in comprehensive research, analysis, and planning to ensure the health and well-being of the entire nation.

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Release date: 06 June 2023

About SADA:

The South African Dental Association (SADA) is the peak national body for the dental profession in South Africa representing the large majority of active registered dentists, both in the public and private sectors in South Africa. It is a non-profit professional association with voluntary membership organisation represented by a total of 11 branches, one in every province of the Republic of South Africa, with Gauteng and Eastern Cape provinces having two branches each. The Association represents the interests of both the oral health profession and its members in South Africa.

The Association is committed and engaged in processes relating to setting industry standards and formulating policies. Learn more about SADA at <https://www.sada.co.za>