



BUSINESS UNITY SOUTH AFRICA

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MEDIA RELEASE

BUSA comment iro NHI engagement

Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) is deeply concerned about the inappropriate rhetoric directed at those who have raised legitimate concerns regarding the NHI Act, in its current form, as a suitable vehicle to deliver universal health coverage. Raising these concerns is not only appropriate, but in fact, the responsible and necessary course of action to ensure that the path that we choose as a country is both viable and sustainable.

BUSA has never wavered from its genuine commitment to healthcare reform, and our country's objective of achieving universal health coverage. Our primary objective, in conjunction with Government and other stakeholders, is to ensure that everyone in South Africa has access to quality healthcare, and that the inequalities across the healthcare system are addressed in a responsible and expedited manner. This is not only a social necessity but also essential to driving the economic growth our country so desperately needs.

We have on many occasions and across every legislative forum, made constructive proposals on how the country can do this without negatively impacting our economy, healthcare system and fiscal stability. We have also been extremely clear in our position that the NHI, as is envisioned in the Act, is unaffordable, unimplementable and unconstitutional, and therefore requires urgent amendment.

We are disappointed that despite commitments by the government to engage on the NHI Act, structured discussions have not yet taken place. It is only through formal, constructive engagement with the President, Minister of Health and National Treasury, focused on collaboration rather than division, that we will create a healthcare system that is equitable, effective and sustainable for generations to come. BUSA remains ready to participate in meaningful dialogue with Government.

Ends

Cas Coovadia

Business Unity SA CEO

REGISTRATION NUMBER: 2014/042417/08

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