

The big NHI con

Speech by Lindy Wilson MP, DA Shadow Deputy Minister of Health

There is a quote from Aldous Huxley that reads “Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored.”

And the question is, have you told the truth about NHI?

I was on the public hearings, and without a doubt, those that came out in support of the NHI were misguided and not told the entire truth.

There was without a doubt an assumption that once passed, the NHI would allow them to go to any hospital, including private hospitals and that the lousy clinics they have to attend would be improved straight away.

There was definitely an impression that abysmal services and crumbling infrastructure and doctor and nursing shortages would be fixed immediately.

There was obviously a belief that there would be ambulances for all and that emergency services would no longer be a problem.

They were convinced that medicine shortages would be a thing of the past and corrected very quickly.

So, when exactly will they be told the truth?

When will they be advised that it will be years before they will see the NHI rolled out and that they were misguided by those who arranged to bus them to the hearings?

When will they be advised that the monies that could be used to improve health facilities will be used to establish a string of boards first, who must still discuss exactly what NHI will supply and what not?

When will they be advised that you actually have no idea what NHI will cost and where the monies are going to come from to roll this years' long project out?

When will they be told that the majority of public health facilities are not compliant, and compliance is going to take a long time, and that according to the NHI Bill, they cannot form part of the NHI until they meet requirements?

When will you advise them that private hospitals are a no-go zone until they have bought into NHI and will only offer certain services?

When are you going to tell them that they are stuck with the abysmal services and hospitals for a long time yet?

So, when all the President's men go out and brag that the NHI was passed today, tell them it still must go to the NCOP, then it will take years to see the smallest of improvements and that sorry, you were misled.

Will you do it before the elections? I think not. It is an ANC voting tool. But remember, they will love you or they will hate you, and when they learn they have been conned, it will bite you badly.