



INCLUSIVE SOCIETY INSTITUTE

Media Statement

ISI MEETS DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE Presents NHI and inequality research outcomes

Inclusive Society Institute (ISI) Deputy Chairperson, Professor Zweli Ndevu and CEO, Daryl Swanepoel, led a delegation that met with the Deputy Minister of Finance, Dr David Masondo on Tuesday, 9 November 2021. Discussions focused mainly on the ISI's research into the National Health Insurance (NHI), but also on its research into inequality in South Africa, and the Basic Income Grant (BIG).

The meeting was also an opportunity for the deputy minister to meet the ISI research team, who is undertaking the research. The ISI delegation briefed Dr Masondo on its research reports. He expressed a keen interest in having an opportunity to study the findings and welcomed the chance to engage the team. He was particularly interested in the funding model proposals for the NHI.

The ISI research into the NHI has been conducted over a period of 18 months and has identified various pathways to the establishment of the NHI. The ISI research team highlighted that the 2019 NHI Bill outlined a particular pathway, which, in the long run, was less cost-effective than some of the alternative scenarios illustrated in its report.

"In our report," Mr Swanepoel said, "we consider the long-term costs of four alternative scenarios: an improved version of our current health system (Status Quo Gold Standard), an amended version of NHI (NHI Rejigged), a multi-payer NHI scheme (Power to the People), and a multi-payer NHI scheme supported by a move to value-based care (Reorienting towards Value)." A comparison of the long-term costs of these scenarios provides a framework in which policy trade-offs can be considered. Over the longer term, all four alternative scenarios are less expensive than NHI as in the Bill. The report can be accessed via <https://www.inclusivesociety.org.za/reports/trade-offs-on-the-road-to-uhc-a-quantitative-assessment-of-alternative-pathways-for-south-africa/>

The ISI wants to open up the conversation in order to allow for more consensus-building. As a first step, the final report will be fed back to various stakeholders who were consulted in the research process. The ISI team emphasised that there was a need for the State to "rebuild trust by facilitating a participatory and learning approach to our universal healthcare aspirations".

Professor Ndevu expressed the desire that the engagement between the ISI research team and National Treasury should continue with the hope of impacting on policy development. "We want to be part of the solution; not shouting on the side-lines," he said. Dr Masondo, who also serves as Principal of the OR Tambo School of Leadership, invited the ISI team to share some of their research findings in an effort to build the ideological, intellectual and organisational capacity of the broader democratic movement.

Issued by: Inclusive Society Institute
Contact: Berenice Marks
Mobile: 081 352 6202
Date: 22 October 2021