

DEBATE ON VOTE 18: HEALTH
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
09 MAY 2023

HON SPEAKER

HON CHAIRPERSON

THE PRESIDENTIAL HEALTH SUMMIT THAT WAS HELD THIS PAST THURSDAY AND FRIDAY IN THE EAST RAND WERE NOTHING MORE THAN AN ANC CONGRESS IN PREPERATION FOR THE 2024 ELECTIONS. THIS WHOLE SUMMIT WERE NOTHING MORE THAN A TELL AND LISTEN PROCESS AND IT WAS NOT A CONSULTATION PROCESS.

I HAVE ATTENDED THE SUMMIT ONLINE FOR THE REASON THAT NOT ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES IN THE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH COULD ATTEND THE SUMMIT IN PERSON. ALL THE PRESENTATIONS THAT WERE PRESENTED DURING THE SUMMIT, WAS DONE BY GOVERNMENT AND THE AFRICAN UNION. IT MIGHT AS WELL BEEN DONE IN A NORMAL PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE MEETING. ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN THE MEDICAL INDUSTRY, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC, AS WELL AS ALL POLITICAL PARTIES REPRESENTED IN PARLIAMENT SHOULD HAVE BEEN AFFORDED THE OPPURTUNITY TO MAKE AN INPUT ABOUT THE PROBLEMS IN THE HEALTH SECTOR AND TO PRESENT SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS THAT ARE TRHEATENING THE LIFES OF OUR PEOPLE ON A DAILY BASIS IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH SECTOR. THEN YOU CAN CALL IT A HEALTH SUMMIT. THIS WAS NOTHING MORE THAN AN ANC TALKSHOP.

EVERY YEAR ANNUAL PERFORMANCE PLANS FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND ITS ENTITIES ARE PRESENTED TO TE HEALTH COMMITTEE. EVERY YEAR WE ASK THE SAME QUESTIONS BUT NEVER RECEIVED ADEQUATE ANSWERS ON THE PROBLEMS THAT IS THREATENING THE LIFES OF PATIENTS IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS. WE ARE CURRENTLY SITTING WITH A DECREASED BUDGET OF R64.6 BILLION FROM 2022/23, TO R60.1 BILLION FOR 2023/24. SERVICE DELIVERY IN OUR PUBLIC SECTOR IS CURRENTLY NON-EXISTING. PATIENTS COMPLAINING DAILY FROM INSIDE HOSPITALS THAT THEY ARE LYING THERE FOR WEEKS AND MONTHS AWAITING SURGERIES JUST TO FIND IT CANCELLED DAY AFTER DAY FOR EITHER THE UNAVAILABILITY OF BEDS, MEDICINE, DOCTORS OR THE AIRCONS THAT HAVE BROKEN DOWN IN THEATRES. PATIENTS ON THE OUTSIDE IS ALSO COMPLAINING OF HOSPITALS THAT CAN NOT ADMIT THEM TO PERFORM URGENT MEDICAL PROCEDURES

OR TREATMENTS. NOT A DAY GOES BY WITHOUT RECEIVING THESE TYPES OF COMPLAINTS. WE ARE RECEIVING THEM ON A DAILY BASIS IN HUGE NUMBERS.

THE EASTERN CAPE CURRENTLY SUFFERS A HUGE SHORTAGE OF CRONIC MEDICINE ACROSS THE PROVINCE DUE TO THE NON-PAYMENT OF MANUFACTURERS. THE BACKLOG IN MEDICAL PROCEDURES ARE WORSENING BY THE DAY. THE FINANCIAL AND FISCAL COMMISSION REPORTED TO THE COMMITTEE THAT, COMPARED TO OTHER COUNTRIES, SOUTH AFRICA HAS THE LOWEST NUMBER OF DOCTORS PER 1000 PATIENTS AS WELL AS THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF PATIENTS PER DOCTOR. THE SITUATION IS WORSENING AS SOUTH AFRICA HAD 0.79 DOCTORS PER 1000 PATIENTS IN 2019 AND IT DECREASED TO 0.32 IN 2022.

THE HUGE DIESEL BILL OF R685 MILLION FOR THE PAST FINANCIAL YEAR TO KEEP THE LIGHTS ON IN HOSPITALS IS A HUGE WORRY. WITH THE PLAN TO INSTALL SOLAR PANEL SYSTEMS AT CLINICS, IT IS ALSO NOT CLEAR IN HOW THIS SYSTEM WILL BE FUNDED AND THE SECURITY MEASURES IMPLEMENTED TO SEE TO IT THAT THESE PANELS OR ITS COMPONENTS WILL NOT BE STOLEN OR VANDALISED. THE FACT THAT MORE THAN A 178 000 CHILDREN DIED IN OUR STATE HOSPITALS IN THE LAST DECADE IS ALSO A HUGE CONCERN. EVERY YEAR WE MUST HEAR IN THE COMMITTEE THAT NEW PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES ARE BEEN CONSTRUCTED OR CURRENT FACILITIES BEEN REVITALISED BUT WE NEVER SEE A REPORT ON THESE MATTERS EITHER FROM THIS DEPARTMENT OR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS. REGARDING THE DRAFT BILL REGARDING MEDICO-LEGAL CLAIMS IT IS STILL NOT CLEAR WHAT THIS BILL WILL ENTAIL AND IF IT WILL ADDRESS THE PROBLEM. THE FACT THAT THERE IS ALSO A SHORTAGE OF EXECUTIVE HEADS AT PROVINCIAL HOSPITALS, ESPECIALLY IN SIX OF THESE INSTITUTIONS IN GAUTENG, CAN BE SEEN AS ONE OF THE REASONS FOR POOR SERVICE DELIVERY AT THESE FACILITIES.

THE ANC MUST TAKE NOTE NOT TO LAUNCH A WITCH HUNT ON PRIVATE HEALTH FACILITIES REGARDING THE INSPECTION OF THESE FACILITIES BUT SHOULD RATHER CLOSE DOWN FACILITIES LIKE DORA NGINZA THAT IS NOT FIT FOR HUMAN USE OR MEDICAL TREATMENT.

THEN THERE IS AN AMOUNT OF R1.5 BILLION DEDICATED TO THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE EVEN WITH THE UNCERTAINTY OF WHAT THIS MODEL WILL COST THE TAXPAYER AND NO FINANCE MODEL YET AVAILABLE. THIS

PAST FEW MONTHS WE HAVE WITNESSES THE UNLAWFULLY STRIKES OF HEALTH WORKERS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR THAT HAS LED TO SERIOUS SERVICE DELIVERY CONSTRAINTS IN OUR HEALTH FACILITIES. WE HAVE WITNESSED HOW AMBULANCES WERE BLOCKED TO ENTER PUBLIC HOSPITALS WITH PATIENTS WHO NEEDED URGENT MEDICAL ATTENTION.

DIE HAGLIKE OMSTANDIGHEDI WAARONDER GESONDHEIDSWERKERS OP 'N DAAGLIKSE BASIS HUL WERK MOET VERRIG HET TOT HIERDIE STAKING GELEI EN DIT WAS 'N DUIDELIKE BOODSKAP AAN DIE REGERING EN DIE MINISTER VAN GESONDHEID OM HIERDIE OMSTANDIGHEDI TE VERANDER. ANDERS IS EK BEVREES GAAN ONS NOG MEER STAKINGS IN HIERDIE BEDRYF SIEN. DIT STEL PASIËNTE SE LEWE IN 'N ERNSTIGE GEVAAR EN DIE REGERING MOET DAARVOOR VERANTWOORDELIK GEHOU WORD.

DIE VF PLUS HET DIE AFGELOPE PAAR MAANDE MEER AS 400 KLAGTES OTVANG VANAF PASIËNTE IN STAATS- EN PROVINSIALE HOSPITALE VAN REGOOR DIE LAND OOR DIE ONMENSLIKE BEHANDELING WAT HULLE IN HIERDIE STAATSGERIEWE ONTVANG HET. DIE GRUWELIKE SKENDINGS VAN MENSEREGTE WAT ONS MOES AANHOOR OOR HOE HULLE BEHANDEL IS EN WAT GELEI HET TOT VERSKEIE STERFTES, IS ONBESKRYFLIK. DIE VF PLUS WORD MET GEEN KEUSE GELAAT AS OM DIE NODIGE AKSIESTAPPE TEEN DIE REGERING TE NEEM OM HIERDIE PROBLEME VOLDOENDE AAN TE SPREEK EN DIE REGERING TOT VERANTWOORDING TE ROEP NIE.

EK HOOP VAN HARTE DAT DIE AGBARE MINISTER VANDAG AAN ONS 'N WERKBARE EN UITVOERENDE PLAN VAN AKSIE GAAN VOORLË OM DIE OPENBARE GESONDHEIDSEKTOR, WAT REEDS AFGESTERF HET, TE LAAT HERLEWE SODAT SUID-AFRIKANERS WEER GESONDHEIDSDIENSTE VAN HOOGSTAANDE GEHALTE SAL KAN ONTVANG. EN NEE, DIE NASIONALE GESONDHEIDSVERSEKERING IS NIE 'N PLAN NIE, DIT IS 'N ANC-NASIONALISERINGSAKSIE. ONS SOEK VANDAG OPLOSSINGS EN UITVOERBARE PLANNE WANT SUID-AFRIKANERS STERF DAAGLIKS WEENS DIE REGERING SE ONVERMOË OM GESONDHEIDSDIENSTE TE LEWER. ONS KINDERS, GESONDE MENSE EN ONS BEJAARDES STERF IN HIERDIE GERIEWE WEENS DIE REGERING SE NALATIGHEID EN SLAPHEID. SUID-AFRIKANERS SOEK OPLOSSINGS EN HULLE SOEK DIT NOU.

EK WIL VANDAG HIERMEE 'N BEROEP OP ELKE SUID-AFRIKANER DOEN WAT STEMGEREGTIG IS OM TE SORG DAT U AS 'N KIESER GEREGISTREER IS OM SODOENDE TOE TE SIEN DAT MET VOLGENDE JAAR SE NASIONALE EN

PROVINSIALE VERKIESING HIERDIE RUGGRAATLOSE ANC- REGERING UIT DIE KUSSINGS GELIG KAN WORD EN 'N VERANTWOORDBARE REGERING AAN DIE STUUR VAN SAKE GEPLAAS KAN WORD EN DAT ONS HIERDIE LAND VAN ONS WEER KAN OPBOU.

THE CITIZENS OF THIS COUNTRY ARE FEDUP WITH THIS GOVERNMENT. THE CITIZENZ OF THIS COUNTRY WILL NO LONGER PAY THE PRICE FOR YOUR INCOMPETENCE, MALADMINISTRATION AND MISMANAGEMENT. THE CITIZENZ OF THIS COUNTRY WILL BE SENDING THE ANC HOME.

YOUR TIME IS UP.

PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA WOULD SURELY HAVE BEEN DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED IN YOUR ACTIONS AND THE MANNER IN HOW YOU TREAT SOUTH-AFRICANS IN OUR STATE FACILITIES.

ANC GO HOME!

EK DANK U SPEAKER/VOORSITTER.

**HON. P.A. VAN STADEN MP
FREEDOM FRONT PLUS
09 MAY 2023**