

\51105
Tel: (011) 330-7000

51 Plein Street

Johannesburg Fax: 333-9090

P.O. Box 6 1884 333-4509

Marshalltown 2 107 Telex: 42-1252

AFRICAN

NATIONAL CONGRESS

ANC Press statement on the Health Crisis

The announcement by Health Minister Fina Venter that responsibility for health services would be transferred from racially-owned affairs to general affairs, has nothing to do with the discarding of racially fragmented health service. It only takes the health services eight years back i.e. to the period when the tri-cameral system was imposed. In fact it means we will now have 11 ministries of health instead of 14. Unlike eight years ago the government now has the burden of continuing to employ or to pension personnel from the three discarded ministries at a further cost to the tax payer.

The ANC's health policy spells out the need for a unitary national Health Service for South Africa. The ANC has repeatedly challenged the government's call for greater emphasis on Primary Health Care, while not translating this into budgetary allocations.

Last year's budget increased allocations to the Provincial Administrations and tricameral health systems rather than to local authorities. The ANC is also opposed to unilateral restructuring of academic hospitals, which is proposed outside of a comprehensive national Health policy.

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Marshalltown 2107

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The People Shall Govern!