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BREAKING NEWS

HealthMan celebrates 30 years



FRESH OFF THE PRESS

As we enter 2026, we celebrate 30 years of dedication. With this milestone, we unveil a Refreshed Look — a symbol of our enduring commitment to innovation and excellence in healthcare management.

We look forward to celebrating this milestone with you and sharing the next chapter together.

Regards,
The HealthMan Directors

SELLING YOUR PRACTICE?

HealthMan has been doing valuations of medical practices for sale for many years. We can do a full financial report on the value of your practice if you consider selling it to an interested buyer.

We will also provide you with a draft sales contract.

Contact us for valuation of your practice and assistance, even if you are not yet in the process of selling.

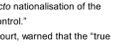
For more information contact:

Steve Roos at steve@healthman.co.za or

Casper Venter at casper@healthman.co.za.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

'Oh, to be a fly on the wall in Government's NHI situation room'



If Government had its way it would be left alone to press its NHI solution on the public over the coming 10, 20 or 30 years, wrote **Gareth Stokes** in **Straight Talk, FA News** (20 Feb 2026).

Meanwhile, the cost of NHI has not been computed from Government, leaving private sector think tanks to come up with estimates of anything from R200bn up to more than R1trln per year.

"Ignoring the systemic issues, NHI seeks to level the playing field between private and public healthcare by securing state control of all healthcare infrastructure, funding and provisioning. As constructed, the legislation enables a *de facto* nationalisation of the private healthcare sector, perhaps not in ownership but in control."

Afrforum, one of the organisations taking the President to Court, warned that the "true cost of NHI will be much more than its mere rand value," adding that the loss of constitutional rights and freedom of choice would carry a far higher price.

"Judges will have to determine not only the legality of specific provisions of the Act but whether the concentration of purchasing and regulatory authority in a single state-controlled entity passes constitutional muster. SA's health insurance and healthcare provider landscapes will thus be influenced up by the courts; it could be years before the NHI path is clear, and longer still before any definitive progress is made."

[READ MORE](#)

'NHI Corruption Risks: Lessons from the home affairs scandal'

"Many experts fear that policymakers are underestimating the risk of corruption in NHI."
— Editorial: **Business Day** (6 March 2026)

The Special Investigating Unit (SIU)'s uncovering of "deep seated rot" in the Department of Home Affairs revealed the lack of oversight and a culture of impunity. The recent arrest by the Department Health's Director-General, Sandile Buthelez, and two other senior officials on charges of fraud and theft related to the diversion of money from the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria suggests the same "culture of rot".

"Despite these warnings, the NHI Bill moved through Parliament without substantive changes to its anti-corruption safeguards. The current evidence suggests that state institutions remain highly vulnerable to capture.

"While corruption in the visa system undermines national security, corruption in healthcare is a matter of life and death. Public health facilities are already struggling with crumbling infrastructure and resource shortages. Every rand lost to a fraudulent tender is a rand taken away from patient care."

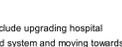
Who pays for NHI?

The latest 2026 budget allocate around R9.3bn to the NHI in both direct and indirect funding. This includes close to R1.5bn in direct NHI grants over the next three years as well as over R7.8bn in "indirect" NHI funding.

Provincial NHI grants amount to R475 R49m and R513m over the medium term (2026-2028) and indirect funding was increased from R2.56bn to R2.6bn, then to R2.7bn between 2026 and 2028. Over R3.3bn was spent in 2025.

UPDATE ON NHI NEWS

NHI preparations continues despite Court Order



Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi told Parliament that the Health Department will press ahead with NHI preparations, despite a recent High Court Order to pause any immediate proclamation or implementation of sections of the NHI Act.

According to Motsoaledi the planned NHI preparations will include upgrading hospital infrastructure, introducing a national electronic patient record system and moving towards price controls for private healthcare services.

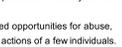
However, in February Motsoaledi and President Cyril Ramaphosa agreed not to proclaim or implement any sections of the NHI Act until the Constitutional Court has ruled on challenges linked to Parliament's public participation process.

— **Business Day** (5 March 2026)

The agreement was made a Court Order on 24 February, following an earlier undertaking in a letter from the State Attorney.

• The Constitutional Court is expected to hear two public participation cases between 5 and 7 May.

Dr Nicholas Crisp's views on NHI and corruption



Recent corruption allegations in the Department of Health have not shaken confidence in NHI, said Deputy Director-General of NHI, Dr Nicholas Crisp, in an interview with **Sunday Times** (8 March 2026).

The officials involved have not been proven guilty and the NHI Fund will not be run directly by the Department but by an 11-member board, said Crisp.

According to him corruption in the Department reflects wider problems in society rather than a uniquely systemic issue.

Although he acknowledged that procurement changes created opportunities for abuse, Crisp insisted that policy design should not be based on the actions of a few individuals. He emphasised that the NHI's function is not to deliver healthcare but to finance it, with both public and private providers responsible for services. NHI's goal is to change how healthcare is paid for to improve outcomes and efficiency, said Crisp.

"Current public and private healthcare spending is estimated at about R650bn annually." According to Crisp scrapping medical scheme tax credits could ultimately boost NHI revenue once the credits are gradually withdrawn.

He also dismissed concerns about limited Treasury support, noting that implementation has not yet begun and awaits Constitutional Court rulings and the appointment of an NHI Board.

Structural barriers threaten NHI deployment

An article in the latest **SA Medical Journal** gives a critical analysis of five major constitutional violations, multi-departmental co-ordination failures and financial sustainability concerns that threaten the NHI's transformative potential.

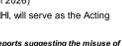
— **MedicalBrief** (4 March 2026)

"Health workforce policies were misaligned with NHI requirements even during preparatory phases. Such policy incoherence is inevitable given absent enabling organisational frameworks."

[READ MORE](#)

NEWS FROM GOVERNMENT

Motsoaledi suspends officials following Hawks' arrests



National Health's Director-General Sandile Buthelez, chief financial officer Phineas Phaswa Mmogale and Deputy Director-General for tertiary health and hospital services Dr Maloke Mahlathi were arrested by the Hawks and charged with fraud and theft in connection with the alleged misuse of Global Fund resources. — **Business Day** (3 March 2026)

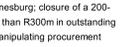
Each of the three accused faces two counts of fraud of more than R1m and one count of theft. Buthelez, who was suspended in 2021 during the Digital Vibe scandal and was later reinstated after disciplinary proceedings, faces an extra charge under the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA).

Meanwhile, Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi confirmed that the three have been placed under precautionary suspension. — **Business Day** (12 March 2026)

Dr Nicholas Crisp, the current Deputy Director-General for NHI, will serve as the Acting Director-General for an initial period of three months.

(The Minister denied that whistle-blowers were targeted, despite reports suggesting the misuse of funds to silence them.)

RAF crisis to 'blow a R400bn hole in the fiscus'



"The Road Accident Fund (RAF) faces an imminent financial crisis, threatening a R400bn hole in the National Budget due to mounting debt and mismanagement."
— **Business Maverick** (11 March 2026)

"The RAF is beset by well-documented corruption and maladministration: a chamber of horrors; around every turn, there is another terrifying pop-up."

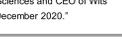
Ahead of last year's Standing Committee on Public Accounts (SCOPA) inquiry into the RAF.

ActionSAMP, Alan Beesley, called former CEO, Collins Letsoalo, a "sociopathic CEO" and requested criminal charges to be investigated against Letsoalo who earned R6m a year for five years, plus a 40% performance bonus.

Allegations against the RAF include: a R79m lease in Johannesburg; closure of a 200-bed Johannesburg hospital after the RAF failed to pay more than R300m in outstanding debt; accusations against executives of the RAF Board of manipulating procurement processes, splitting invoices to bypass approval limits and receiving VIP treatment from service providers in exchange for contracts; Letsoalo's lavish R6m staff party; failure to vet senior officials for suitability; failure to appoint a chief claims officer; and more that R15bn in default judgements.

[READ MORE](#)

HPCSA demands millions from former boss



The Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA) has demanded its former president, Simon Nemutandani, repay more than R6.1m he allegedly siphoned off through alleged irregular payments, unauthorised expenses and unreturned assets.

— **MedicalBrief** (4 March 2026)

"The demand follows a forensic investigation by SM Xulu Advisory Services in February 2022 into allegations of financial impropriety during Nemutandani's tenure as president and council member.

"The probe uncovered that Nemutandani was simultaneously employed by the Gauteng Department of Health as Head of the School of Oral Health Sciences and CEO of Wits Oral Health at the time of his appointment to the HPCSA in December 2020."

FINANCIAL NEWS

Generic drug prices to disrupt global markets

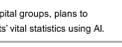
New research revealed that generic versions of Novo Nordisk's blockbuster drugs, Ozempic and Wegovy, could be sold for less than \$3 a month, reported **Bloomberg** (9 March 2026).

"Researchers at the University of Liverpool found that injectable semaglutide could cost as little as \$28 to \$140 per year. Currently, Novo Nordisk lists Ozempic at \$1,027.51 and Wegovy at \$1,349 per month. Even with pledged price cuts to \$675 in 2026, the discrepancy remains vast."

"The researchers noted that the ultimate level of generic semaglutide pricing depends on the mass production of low-cost delivery devices."

Huawei launches "AI+ healthcare" initiative

Chinese technology group Huawei launched an "AI+ healthcare" initiative to apply artificial intelligence (AI) to clinical workflows and medical research. It will focus on pathology where digital systems can reduce delays, support remote diagnosis and improve collaboration between specialists. — **Business Day** (5 March 2026)

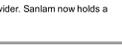


According to Huawei the model covers 19 common cancer types representing about 90% of annual cancer cases in China.

Huawei claims the solution enables second-level access to more than 1,000 pathology sections reducing storage use by 45% and boosts diagnostic efficiency when handling large volumes of digital slides.

Meanwhile, Netcars, one of the country's largest private hospital groups, plans to introduce medical-grade wearable devices to monitor patients' vital statistics using AI.

AfroCentric shows loss



The JSE-listed healthcare investment holding company AfroCentric Investment Corporation reported a sharp rise in revenue for the year to end-December, despite a loss of R1.27bn (151.55 cents per share).

— **Business Day** (5 March 2026).

"Total revenue from continuing operations climbed by 93.9% to R7.30bn. This compares with R3.76bn in the previous six-month period. Headline earnings improved to R117.1m, or 13.92 cents per share, up from R31.9m.

AfroCentric runs a diversified healthcare portfolio. Its best-known assets include Medscheme and Pharmacy Direct, a specialist medicine provider. Sanlam now holds a 59% stake in AfroCentric."

GENERAL NEWS

Baby formula recalled by NCC



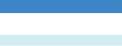
The National Consumer Commission (NCC) recalled 2 989 units of baby formula produced by Nutricia Southern Africa due to a possibility of toxin contamination within some batches, reported **MedicalBrief** (11 March 2026).

The recalls are for the 800g Nutricia Aptamil Nutribiotik 2 and the 800g Nutricia Aptajunior Nutribiotik 3 sold at Dis-Chem and Clicks.

According to Nutricia SA a raw material used in the production of the affected batches may carry traces of cereulide – a toxin that, at high levels of exposure, can cause symptoms such as nausea, vomiting and abdominal cramps."

NEWS FROM MEDICAL SCHEMES

GEMS suggests talks with unions following tariff hikes



GEMS offered to meet with trade unions including Cosatu, Fedusa and the PSA following a dispute over tariff hikes of 9.5%, reported **Business Day** (10 March 2026).

In 2025 the tariff increase was 13.4% while public servants received only a 5.5% pay raise for the 2025/26 cycle.

Unions are demanding structural changes and a forensic audit to scrutinise governance, procurement and administrative practices. They also want members to have the freedom to choose other medical schemes without losing their state subsidies.

Meanwhile, the GEMS Board argues that the premium hikes are essential to maintain the statutory solvency ratio of 25%.

HEALTHMAN DIARY