

## **2026 ATTACHMENT 1 PPREV JAN – JUN**

### **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 by Government, leaving private sector think tanks to come up with estimates of anything from R200bn up to more than R1trl 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.”

#### ***NHI financial framework under growing scrutiny***

SA’s NHI financial framework is under growing scrutiny amid constitutional challenges and limited Budget 2026 allocations.

Government has delayed implementation of the NHI Act pending the Constitutional Court’s ruling on several challenges. – ***Business Day*** (4 May 2026)

On 6 May Acting Justice Narandran Kollapen’s of the ConCourt reserved judgment in both the BHF’s and Western Province’s cases.

Meanwhile, analysts warn the policy promises universal coverage without fully developed operational systems.

About R9.3bn has been earmarked over the medium term, but this falls short of the funding required for a full single-payer model. National Treasury has also retained medical scheme tax credits, signalling caution and a desire to protect private healthcare affordability.

The debate centres on how the NHI design will affect long-term private investment in hospitals, specialists and medical technology.

If reimbursement tariffs fail to reflect real costs, investment and innovation could decline, weakening access to advanced care.

Hybrid funding models, including phased transitions and shared-risk mechanisms, are emerging as practical alternatives to balance universal access with sustainable private sector participation.