

Healthcare Federation of SA to be launched in July



Deliberations on the launch of a South African Chapter of the African Health Federation, which commenced during the African Health Business symposium in Johannesburg in October, will come to fruition in Cape Town on July 21 with the formal launch of the Health Federation of South Africa (HFSA).

“This platform will be of value as a public private partnership (PPP) facilitator for the Department of Health in its implementation of National Health Insurance (NHI) and as such will also assist with the Department’s other healthcare initiatives,” interim HFSA chair, Prof Morgan Chetty explained in the launch announcement.

“The ethos in Africa and many parts of the world with the launch of universal healthcare programmes,” he added, “has been the significant role of the private sector working with the public sector. This approach will allow a speedier and more successful NHI implementation in South Africa.”

The launch, which will take place in the afternoon of the first day of the Board of Healthcare Funders (BHF) Conference at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, will include an Africa Delegation led by African Health Federation chairman, Dr Amit Thakker.

An invitation has also been extended to the President of the African Union, Her Excellency, Amira Elfadil, who participated in the initial Johannesburg deliberations, to present a keynote address and support the initiative.

“South Africa,” Chetty went on to explain, “will merge with the Southern African countries and then affiliate with the African Health Federation. We feel that we should look at health in South Africa and be informed of the health delivery for the whole of Africa.

“Time is of the essence,” he continued: “We have several Healthcare Stakeholders on the steering committee from various bodies who will also be invited to participate in the new Executive Committee to be formed. This platform will be presented to the Department of Health and we hope will be accepted by the President – as the NHI is being implemented within the Presidency – to be the legitimate platform for the PPP and the health system strengthening accordingly.”

The Healthcare Federation of SA will be invited to present in October in Addis Ababa, where the North Africa Healthcare Federation will be launched and where it will also join the East and West Africa Health Federations, Central Africa and other affiliates to the African Health Federation.

*Stakeholders wishing to attend the launch of the Health Federation of SA should contact Petra Vandenbergh (email: petra@kznmcc.co.za) to finalise details.