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Subject: State of the Nation Address: health sector issues addressed

Below extracts from the Presidential State of the Nation Address, which affects the health sector:

*Our long-term infrastructure programme will help us grow faster.
Our education and skills programmes will increase our productivity and competitiveness.
Our **Industrial Policy Action Plan** and our new focus on green jobs, will build stronger and more labour absorbing industries.*

...

*To ensure the promotion of an inclusive economy, to aid growth and development, we have established the **Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Advisory Council**, chaired by the President.*

...

*Another key outcome is to ensure a long and healthy life for all South Africans.
We will continue to improve our health care system.*

This includes building and upgrading hospitals and clinics, and further improving the working conditions of health care workers.

*We have partnered with the Development Bank of Southern Africa to improve the functionality of **public hospitals and their district offices**.*

We are also collaborating with the DBSA and the Industrial Development Corporation, in a Public-Private Partnership programme to improve hospitals and provide finance for projects.

Honourable Members,

We must confront the fact that life expectancy at birth, has dropped from 60 years in 1994 to just below 50 years today.

*We are therefore making interventions to **lower maternal mortality rates, to reduce new HIV infections and to effectively treat HIV and tuberculosis**.*

*We will also reduce infant mortality through a massive **immunisation** programme.*

*We will reinstate **health programmes in schools**.*

We will implement all the undertakings made on World Aids Day relating to new HIV prevention and treatment measures.

Intensive work is underway to ensure that this work is on schedule.

*We will also continue preparations for the establishment of a **national health insurance system**.*

...

Please let us know should you require documentation or analysis on aspects mentioned above.

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