

Closing Remarks by Honourable Mr S J Mohai (MP) during the Virtual Ministerial Briefing Session on the Impact of Loadshedding in the Provision of Healthcare Services: *Measures to Mitigate Against the Negative Impact of Loadshedding in the Provision of Healthcare Services to Communities*

21 February 2023

Honourable Chairperson
Honourable Deputy Chairperson
Honourable Deputy Minister Dr S M Dhlomo
Honourable MECs for Health
Honourable House Chairperson: Committees and Oversight
Honourable House Chairperson: Members Support and IR
Honourable Permanent Delegates
Honourable Special Delegates
Ladies and gentlemen

Allow me to firstly convey my profound appreciation to the Chairperson of the NCOP, Honourable Mr A N Masondo (MP) for his opening remarks that gave a historical account the of the problem of loadshedding.

We are particularly grateful to Deputy Minister Dr S M Dhlomo (MP) and the various MECs who gave us a comprehensive picture of the impact of loadshedding in the provision of healthcare in the country.

I am sure that this information will empower our honourable members and the various committees of Parliament in their oversight work, especially on the issue of the negative impact of loadshedding the provision of healthcare in our various healthcare facilities, including in our clinics and hospitals.

Honourable Chairperson, the energy crisis that is facing our nation requires greater resilience and decisiveness in our measures to find a lasting solution that will ensure energy security in our country. It is clear that the energy crisis will not only reverse the enormous gains that have been made in addressing the damage that has been caused by the covid-19 pandemic over the last three years.

While we welcome the various measures that have been initiated to address the energy crisis, we remain extremely concerned about the disruptive impact of loadshedding to almost all facets of life.

From the various presentations that were made today, it is clear the entire healthcare sector has been put under enormous pressure and even forced to divert their essential resources that could have been used to provide healthcare to our people.

We want to extend our profound appreciation to all the healthcare workers who continue to put their shoulders to the wheel to serve our people under this very difficult challenges. We are equally grateful to the Ministry and the various MECs and their management teams for working tirelessly to put in place various measures to manage and minimize the disruptive impact of the energy crisis in the provision of quality healthcare to our people.

I thank you.