

# Summary of Health Issues in South Africa

Period 29/02/2016 – 04/03/2016

R25.8 million has been paid out over the last year by the Western Cape Department of Health, with an excess of R15 million in litigation settlements. This resulting in many specialists leaving their fields of expertise. Seemingly a solution to this potential bankruptcy of the department, is to “cap” the quantum a specialist might be sued for. Another alarming result could be procedures such as MRI scan in the event of headache, likewise, a safer C-Section than a normal delivery of a baby, all resulting in the cost of private healthcare rising. In order to project into the future what such cost could entail, an exorbitant amount of R220 million has been forecast for the next three to five years.

REFERENCE: SIPOKAZI FOKAZI CAPE ARGUS, 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016

In South Africa a high percentage, that being 20%, of teenage mothers die during childbirth. This should not be the case at all as clinics should be able to cope with birthing procedures. An evidence of high blood pressure was found. This is easily detected and treated.

Another area of concern was the lack of referral to a more suitable facility when problems were encountered, instead of the smaller, far away clinics trying to resolve issues beyond their scope. Another problem is the lack of treatment for the young girls suffering such as TB and HIV. Along with all these factors comes the shame they felt by falling pregnant at a young age, thus hiding this from others, avoiding early detection of problems.

REFERENCE:-KATHERINE CHILD: THE TIMES, 11<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2016