

Xolani Mazomba

HOMETOWN Johannesburg

UNIVERSITY University of Johannesburg

FUNDING National Research Foundation

In 10 years' time ...

'I would like to have completed a PhD in Economics or Finance and be practising as an investment analyst in my own company.'



Essay synopsis

Xolani's essay finds that though the National Health Insurance (NHI) programme is a plausible proposal even considering the skewed nature of South Africa's income distribution, its affordability and success of equitable distribution are well in question.

He states that South Africa's low growth levels hinder any promises of financing coming from improved economic growth. Given the already narrow tax base, increasing taxes, particularly VAT and fuel levy taxes as proposed by the NHI, will only place a burden on the poor, who will have to pay more for food and transport, leaving them with the same understaffed, under-resourced public healthcare centres in villages and townships. The system, he explains, does not promise to be equitable. Evidence from Brazil and Ghana, for example, shows that the poor continue to endure more costs and less access to better healthcare services.

Xolani notes that the availability of human resources is critical to the success of any universal healthcare system and that South Africa falls short in that regard. Government, he suggests, should look into bridging the human resources gap in that regard between the private and the public sectors to mitigate any disparities in the quality of services provided by the two sectors. Also, he proposes that trimming down the current unemployment is critical to ensure a sustainable funding pipeline for the NHI through increased tax rates in the future.

More about Xolani

Favourite subjects:

Macroeconomics, Investment Management, Econometrics

Interests:

Music, reading, drawing, soccer

Inspired by:

My late grandfather, my mother, Robert Rihmeek Williams

Main achievements:

- Supervisor-linked bursary: MCom dissertation, University of Johannesburg (2015)
- NRF scholarship: MCom dissertation, National Research Foundation (2015)
- Semi-finalist: Nedbank and Old Mutual Budget Speech Competition (2014)
- Top Achiever award in Economics: third year, University of Johannesburg, and Genesis Analytics (2013)