
EDITORIAL

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There is a lot of hope and despair in the land.

Generally speaking, as well as in the field of health care, there are those who are looking forward to a new dispensation and there are the inevitable doom profits. Proponents of both views have much concrete evidence to present.

Discriminatory practices and inequities are on the table for discussion. Dr Rina Venter has vowed to tackle the issue of the maldistribution of the government's health rand. Primary Health Care is a declared priority with the Department of National Health and Population Development. A platform is being erected for major constitutional talks to take place and the chief players keep assuring us that progress will not be halted.

On the other hand there are many people dying on the streets and being cremated in their own homes. Local government in the black townships is all but dismantled and many health services in poor areas are worse off than they have ever been. Young doctors trained at great expense by the South African taxpayer are still leaving the country to serve populations that have not contributed one iota to their education.

In a way we all choose to which camp we belong, even if this is at a subconscious level. I am sure most of us have times of hope and times of despair and hopelessness. May I invite you to join us at SA Family Practice and the SA Academy of Family Practice/Primary Health Care to choose a positive view for the future. We can project and bring hope without having an ostrich mentality about the bad around us.

Now more than ever we have an opportunity to get the different constituencies amongst the health professionals to cooperate to achieve a more balanced health care system. A system in which each citizen will have equal access to quality primary health care in appropriate balance with the total health care system. There must be something every one of us can do each day of 1991 towards this.

Sam Felsen