

HEALTH CARE: FROM BAD TO WORSE

The latest government proposals to decrease the health budget for Natal provincial hospitals will serve to worsen an already precarious situation. Health care in Natal has always been inferior for the vast majority of the oppressed, and has for a long time been tottering on a shoestring budget and an inadequate number of medical, paramedical and general staff.

The latest cutbacks mean that more people than at present will needlessly die due to inadequate health care.

Only a government with absolutely no interest in the welfare of its people could introduce such rulings. Recently the state accused health workers who went on strike of callous disregard for the lives of their patients; yet the same state today finds it most opportune to deprive patients of medical care. This act will directly contribute to the deaths of more patients.

This is obviously a government that has utter contempt for the health and welfare of the oppressed. It knows that the health system will not collapse but merely worsen. After all, what does it care about a further increase in the number of people dying?

Any government that places the health and welfare of its people foremost will find the resources to care for its sick. Our demand is for a free and accessible health care system for all in South Africa. The only conclusion we can reach is that this government is unfit to rule.

THE ELLIS PARK INCIDENT

On Saturday 15th August 1992, seventy thousand spectators arrogantly sang "Die Stem" - their racist "national anthem" - at the commencement of the rugby test match between South Africa and New Zealand at Ellis Park. This rendition served to directly insult the oppressed.

We hold the National Olympic and Sports Congress (NOSC) and the African National Congress (ANC) responsible. From the inception of the NOSC (which was launched with the blessing of the ANC) a sellout on the sports front took shape. The ANC, in its haste to bring about a negotiated political settlement, sacrificed the oppressed sport persons by forging bogus unity in