

PM: Niucare must be fair and effective

BY GORETHY KENNETH

PRIME Minister James Marape has put the Niucare Insurance Program on hold, calling for further Cabinet deliberation despite recognising its potential benefits for public servants.

Speaking on the controversial initiative while on arrival from Davos, Switzerland on Monday night, Marape asserted that, while the guiding principles behind Niucare aim to provide essential coverage for health and housing support, the program must be meticulously structured to ensure fairness and effectiveness in meeting the needs of all public service employees.

"Our intention is to give basic cover to all public servants," Marape stated, emphasising the necessity for a reliable framework that truly delivers meaningful assistance when required.

He acknowledged the complexity of implementing such a system, reiterating that it is crucial to refine the program's mechanics to ensure it can adequately support those who serve the nation.

Marape hinted that an announcement regarding the program's future will be made ahead of the country's upcoming anniversary, underscoring the government's commitment to establishing protective measures for public servants.

"At our 50th anniversary, our public services must have some sort of cover," he stated, highlighting the administration's dedication to enhancing the welfare of its workforce." He said with the significant implications for public service employees, the review process signified a critical step in aligning the Niucare program with the government's broader objectives of transparency and accountability in public service provisions. Our intention is to give basic cover to all public services, but it must be a structure that carries well and delivers on our intention to give cover to all public services while they're working, when they need health interventions, when they need house-cry support, etc. The intention is good. It's a structure that delivers this intention."

"And as we receive this, we will make an announcement on what happens. At the future anniversary of our country, our public services must have some sort of cover. That's the intention for us."

"I think we just need to look at the structure, the mechanics of the structure, so that it's a structure that is fair and gives cover to all public services in a proper sense."