



MEDIA RELEASE	GEMS: PSA calls for transparency amidst R600-million vitamin-contract concerns
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) is concerned about allegations that a Government Employees Medical Scheme's (GEMS) R600-million contract might not comply with the *Medical Schemes Act*.

GEMS extended its wellness offering by supplying members with multi-vitamins in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. All expenses must, however, be preceded by due diligence to ensure that there is no maladministration, wastage, or corrupt activities and the decision makers should thus account, if found wanting.

GEMS has an obligation to provide its members with the best medical-aid services and can only do so if there is proper financial management in place. Whilst the PSA will await the outcome of the Council for Medical Schemes inquiry, it would be in the best interest of all concerned for GEMS to be transparent and provide details of what transpired in this matter. The process followed and beneficiaries of this contract must be announced for members to be assured that the trustees complied with legislative framework and policies when awarding the contract. The PSA believes that going public in terms of what transpired and the consideration of the approved service providers, will allay fears and concerns of GEMS members regarding the allegation. Expenditure of this magnitude warrants due diligence as government employees are negatively affected if their money is not properly managed.

The tendering or outsourcing processes have failed government employees and the public, resulting in extreme concern about this R600-million transaction. Failure by GEMS to communicate with members and be transparent will leave room for assumptions, with the potential to cause serious reputational damage and panic amongst members of the Scheme.

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