

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA rejects attempts to blame public servants for Government Employees Medical Scheme's self-inflicted crisis
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The Public Servants Association (PSA) noted with extreme concern reports that the Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS) has warned that the Scheme's solvency could fall below the legally prescribed threshold amidst proposed fee adjustments.

The PSA strongly condemns any attempt, directly or implied, to shift responsibility onto public servants for what is clearly a self-inflicted crisis arising from governance and management failures in GEMS. Public servants have been subjected to above-inflation contribution increases in recent years, placing households under immense financial strain. It is therefore unjust and unacceptable for public servants to now be portrayed as contributing to the financial challenges at GEMS.

Recent membership-fee cuts were a step in the right direction and necessary. Public servants pay their contributions diligently and rely on GEMS for essential healthcare security. Scheme members do not determine pricing structures, benefit designs, or financial management decisions of the Scheme. Any suggestion that public servants are responsible for solvency pressures is misleading and is rejected outright. The PSA maintains that the current predicament at GEMS points to poor financial planning and risk management, inadequate cost-containment strategies, and failure to effectively address systemic drivers such as escalating healthcare costs, inefficiencies, and potential fraud. These are management and governance issues, not member-driven problems.

The PSA reiterates that public servants must not be penalised through excessive contributions or reduced benefits to compensate for institutional shortcomings. Whilst the PSA recognises the importance of maintaining the statutory solvency threshold of 25% to ensure long-term sustainability, this cannot be used as a justification to shift blame onto members or to impose unfair financial burdens on already struggling public servants. Instead, GEMS leadership must take full accountability and demonstrate clear, transparent plans to stabilise the Scheme without prejudicing members. The PSA will not accept the scapegoating of public servants for challenges they did not create.

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