



MEDIA RELEASE PSA supports public-private dual system for healthcare in South Africa

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The Public Servants Association (PSA), as a major South African trade union, supports a public-private collaboration for healthcare in addressing the needs of vulnerable communities.

Whilst the National Health Insurance (NHI) scheme is committed to achieving universal healthcare coverage and reducing disparities in access to healthcare services, its successful implementation requires adequate funding and sustainable financing mechanisms. The PSA recognises the significance of innovative solutions to address challenges faced by the healthcare system. Public-private collaboration can enhance healthcare delivery across the country. Whilst the public sector plays a crucial role in providing essential primary healthcare services, collaborating with the private sector can bring additional resources, expertise, and efficiency to the healthcare system. The PSA also encourages the retention of the subsidy contribution provided through the Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS) to public servants, which assist them to access affordable healthcare. Through strategic collaborations, South Africa can improve access to quality healthcare services for all citizens, regardless of socio-economic status.

The PSA also notes the importance of retaining private medical schemes in the healthcare landscape. Private medical schemes have been instrumental in providing healthcare coverage to many citizens, offering choice and flexibility in healthcare options. By preserving private medical schemes, government can ensure access to a range of healthcare services tailored needs and preferences.

The PSA calls on policymakers to explore innovative financing solutions and prioritise investments in healthcare infrastructure, human resources, and technology. By allocating sufficient resources to the NHI, the country can build a stronger, more resilient healthcare system that meets the needs of all South Africans. The PSA remains committed to fostering dialogue, collaboration, and constructive engagement on healthcare reform.

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