



FOR PSA MEMBERS: PUBLIC SERVICE COORDINATING BARGAINING COUNCIL (PSCBC)

08-04-2026

GEMS battle continues

Members are aware of activities and actions taken by the PSA together with the other unions in the PSCBC, leading to the Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS) announcement that the 9.8% increase was reduced to 9.5%. Members would recall that the PSA has made a presentation at the Portfolio Committee, participated in the Day of Action where a memorandum was delivered, and launched a strong media campaign to push GEMS to reconsider its illogical increase. The PSA, under auspices of Fedusa, supported by other unions also tabled an item for the review of PSCBC Resolution 1/2006. Again, unions met with the Minister of Public Service and Administration in an attempt to push for his commitment to address the onslaught on public servants.

The PSA hereby informs members that the meeting with GEMS did not take place at the end of March 2026 as per the undertaking by GEMS. Parties are still dealing with their internal processes, and the PSA is engaging other unions to map a clear plan of action to intensify the action against the monopoly and tyranny of GEMS. The meeting with GEMS must still take place where its response will be interrogated and the demands of labour will be sustained. It remains the PSA's view that GEMS has not adequately responded to the demands by labour.

The PSA understands members' impatience as they continue to pay exorbitant amounts to GEMS. Members are, however, assured that the PSA has not abandoned the battle against GEMS. The matter is still on the PSCBC agenda related to the review of PSCBC Resolution 1/2026. This matter, however, requires a multipronged approach and multiparty involvement. It is not a war that the PSA can win alone and collaboration with other unions and the employer is critical. Members are thus urged to be patient to allow the union leadership space and time to deal with this complicated matter, noting that the medical-aid sector is a highly regulated space. Legal matters take time and silence by the PSA does not mean inactiveness. Many activities are taking place behind closed doors and members will be updated on developments.

Employees who want to join the PSA can visit the PSA's website or contact PSA Provincial Offices.

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GENERAL MANAGER