

For immediate release

Johannesburg, 1 August 2019

GEMS announces appointment of new Principal Officer

The Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS) is pleased to announce that it has appointed Dr Stan Moloabi as its new Principal Officer, with effect from 1 February 2020.

Dr Moloabi will take over from Dr Guni Goolab, who was appointed as GEMS's Principal Officer since 1 August 2013. Dr Goolab is leaving GEMS at the end of January 2020.

GEMS is South Africa's second-largest medical scheme overall, with more than 705 000 primary members and 1.8-million beneficiaries. It is a closed scheme, restricted to the country's public-service employees, and has grown its membership remarkably since its 2004 launch.

"Dr Moloabi, currently the Chief Operations Officer at GEMS, is a dedicated and results-driven healthcare executive. He has achieved great success in implementing board-led healthcare strategies at GEMS and at Medshield Medical Scheme, where he was Principal Officer for three years before re-joining GEMS", said Nkosinathi Theledi, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees.

"Dr Moloabi's appointment will start with a transition period that commences on 1 October 2019, and he will assume his full duties on 1 February 2020. GEMS Board of Trustees thanks Dr Goolab for his dedicated service and effective leadership, which has placed GEMS in its strongest-ever financial position", adds Theledi.

During Dr Goolab's tenure as Principal Officer GEMS achieved several notable successes, the most impressive of which is GEMS's vastly improved financial position. The scheme has achieved record reserves, equivalent to 24.7% of total member contributions by the end of the 2018 financial year. This brought GEMS close to achieving the legislated requirement that medical schemes hold the equivalent of 25% of total member contributions in reserve. Current financial projections are that the Scheme will exceed this requirement by the end of the 2019 financial year.

Dr Goolab also led the Claims Management Programme, comprising underwriting, hospital admission tracking, and an initiative to combat fraud, waste and abuse. This contributed directly to GEMS's improved financial position.

GEMS's fastest-growing benefit option, the Emerald Value option (EVO) is an impressive part of Dr Goolab's legacy. Introduced on 1 January 2017, EVO accounted for 134 000 beneficiaries at the end of the 2018 financial year (1 January to 31 December 2018).

"The GEMS Board of Trustees wishes Dr Moloabi well in his new role, which should be pivotal as South Africa's moves towards Universal Healthcare Coverage. GEMS is an integral part of promoting access to healthcare and fully supports the government's move towards National Health Insurance, through which it aims to ensure all citizens have access to quality, affordable healthcare by 2030", concluded Theledi.

ENDS

Issued by Flow Communications on behalf of GEMS.

For more information, please contact:



Mohau Ravhudzulo
Account Manager
mohau@flowsa.com or +27 (0)11 440 4841.

For GEMS

Phumi Dhlomo
Chief Marketing Officer
082 4562898
phumelela@gems.gov.za