

13 May 2020

For immediate release

**A TRIBUTE TO OUR COLLEAGUE AND FORMER TRUSTEE OF GEMS, DR CLARENCE
MINI**

It is an honour to write this tribute to an esteemed former Trustee of the Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS) who was also Chairperson of its Clinical Governance Committee. A colleague, a friend, a father, a dedicated husband, a struggle veteran and a true servant leader. Dr. Mini, in whatever role you knew him, stood out as an extraordinary individual who without hesitation passed his baton to those he led.

Since his appointment as a Trustee at GEMS from 30 July 2014 to 15 December 2017, he led with vigour, determination and relentlessly strived for excellence. A man who knew that the new normal would be full of crises, he strongly believed in Winston Churchill's saying, "never waste a good crisis". As such, he was integral to developing the current GEMS 5-year Strategy and what stood out was his passion for the Scheme's focussed approach to stakeholder management.

During his tenure at GEMS, Dr. Mini was a much loved and respected leader who was steadfast about ensuring that GEMS contributed positively to healthcare industry reform. He was passionate about the growth and development of young leaders in the healthcare industry, and was a mentor to many. His passion for healthcare reform extended well beyond GEMS and can only be defined as national in reach. His commitment to reforming the healthcare industry presented many with challenges, however these were overcome successfully by political will and good leadership.

It was indeed with a deep sense of sadness that we learnt of Dr. Mini's passing away on 11 May 2020 after being hospitalised for just over a month. As we say goodbye to him, we shall miss his unshakeable spirit, his sense of humour, his humility and knowledge. It was a privilege to have crossed paths with such an enormous personality. Your association with the second biggest medical scheme in the country, although much too short, shaped GEMS indefinitely.

Dr Mini was larger than life, a gentle giant that touched the hearts and minds of all those who cared to work with him. Because of him, we are leaders and not followers.

On behalf of the Government Employees Medical Scheme, Dr. Millicent Hlatshwayo (the GEMS Board Chairperson) and Dr Stanley Moloabi (the GEMS Principal Officer) we would like to extend our sincere condolences to his wife, Mrs. Nancy Mini, the children, Yandi and Nomhle as well as the rest of the Mini family.

May Dr. Mini's soul rest in peace.

ENDS