

**MEDIA STATEMENT  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**GEMS NOTES CMS DECISION ON PROPOSED 2026 CONTRIBUTION INCREASE**

**Pretoria, 30 June 2026** – The Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS) notes the final determination by the Council for Medical Schemes (CMS) regarding the Scheme's proposed 2026 weighted average contribution adjustment of 7.5%.

As part of its commitment to supporting members during a period of continued financial pressure and responding to stakeholder requests, GEMS submitted a proposal to the CMS to reduce the previously approved weighted average contribution adjustment from 9.5% to 7.5%. The proposal reflected the Scheme's ongoing efforts to enhance affordability while maintaining comprehensive healthcare benefits and safeguarding its long-term sustainability.

Following the review of the submission made by GEMS, the CMS has not approved the proposed adjustment, setting out the reasons for the decline in correspondence received by the Scheme and affected stakeholders. As a result, the Scheme will maintain the previously approved weighted average contribution adjustment of 9.5%, which has been effective since 01 February 2026. The Scheme is currently finalising the necessary implementation arrangements to ensure members are informed and supported throughout the process.

"The proposal to reduce the contribution adjustment was informed by the scheme's commitment to easing the financial burden on members wherever possible. We recognise the cost-of-living pressures many of our members continue to face, and affordability remains a key consideration in every decision we make. While the outcome is a decline of the proposal submitted by GEMS, we have to respect the assessment of the Regulator and address the concerns raised. GEMS remains committed to working within the regulatory framework on future contribution adjustments that balance the quest for affordability with financial sustainability. GEMS respects the regulatory process and appreciates the engagements we have had with the CMS throughout the review process", said Dr Stan Moloabi, Principal Officer of GEMS.

The Scheme remains committed to working with all our stakeholders on the matter of cost containment going forward and maintaining transparent communication with its stakeholders in this regard. GEMS will continue to act in the best interests of members while ensuring the ongoing sustainability of the healthcare benefits they are entitled to.

Finally, the CMS, in exercising its responsible mandate to protect scheme members, has retained the previously approved contribution adjustment, GEMS remains steadfast in its commitment to balancing members' access to quality, affordable healthcare", concluded Dr Moloabi.

**Ends**

## **About GEMS**

GEMS is the largest restricted membership medical scheme in South Africa, with over 890,000 principal members and more than 2.4 million beneficiaries. GEMS was created specifically to provide healthcare coverage for public service employees. Our purpose is derived from the GEMS mandate received from the government in November 2004, to ensure that there is adequate provision of healthcare coverage to public service employees that is efficient, cost-effective, and equitable, and to provide further options for those who wish to purchase more extensive coverage. GEMS is an authorised Financial Services Provider (FSP No 52861).

**For more information, visit [www.gems.gov.za](http://www.gems.gov.za)**

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