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

11-12-2024

PSA vigorously opposes GEMS membership-fee increases!

Members are aware that organised labour engaged the Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS) through the PSCBC GEMS Working Committee on 20 October 2024. This led to a special PSCBC meeting on 12 November 2024. In both meetings, GEMS, led by its Principal Officer, announced the intention to increase members' contribution by a staggering 13.4%, which was rejected by the PSA and other unions.

Subsequently, parties agreed to hold an urgent workshop with GEMS so that GEMS can justify the steep increase. The idea was to find common ground in the interest of the Scheme and its membership to ensure affordability and sustainability. The Secretary to Council was tasked to facilitate the proposed urgent meeting/workshop. However, owing to conflicting interests, the said meeting is yet to take place as wage negotiation engagements have been prioritised. Wage negotiation meetings are planned for 12 to 13 December and 17 to 20 December 2024, with a view to conclude negotiations soonest.

The PSA is inundated with calls from members about proposed GEMS increases for 2025, noting that any deal struck in salary negotiations will be eroded by the increase in GEMS subscriptions.

The PSA will continue to engage GEMS with the aim of protecting members.

Members will be informed of developments.

Reuben Maleka
GENERAL MANAGER