



# NATIONAL NEWS FLASH

SERVING EDUCATION SINCE 1887



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## GEMS UPDATE

Members are advised of the following developments regarding GEMS subscription increases:

- 🌐 The GEMS increase has been adjusted downward to **9.5%**, effective February 2026, as opposed to the **9.8% increase in January**.
- 🌐 The employer subsidy of **4.5%** will take effect from **1 February 2026**, backdated to **1 January 2026**, followed by a further **0.5% adjustment in April 2026**.

### Where are we now in the fight against GEMS subscription increases?

- Labour has **rejected both the 9.8% and 9.5% GEMS increases**.
- All labour parties in the public service, with the support of their federations remain **united** in opposing the unjustified increases.
- A **draft action plan** is in place, which includes the following:
  - 1. Meeting with the Minister (29 January 2026)**
    - The Minister expressed his dissatisfaction with GEMS and acknowledged the concerns raised by labour.
    - He indicated that he would meet with the GEMS Board during the first week of February and committed to providing feedback thereafter.
  - 2. Further actions under consideration**
    - Media briefing
    - Mass action
    - Review of Resolution 1 of 2006

One thing is certain: **this matter will not be allowed to fade away**. GEMS is no longer serving its original mandate of providing affordable medical aid to public servants. NAPTOSA remains resolute in defending members' interests.

Members will be kept informed as developments unfold.

**Mr BL Manuel**

**Executive Director**