



## **EFF CALLS FOR GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW EMPLOYEES FREEDOM OF CHOICE ON MEDICAL AID USE**

Thursday, 30 September 2021

The EFF calls for the Department of Public Service and government to allow government employees to utilise a medical aid scheme of their choice and not force them to utilise Government Employees Medical Aid Scheme (GEMS).

South African government and the corporate sector have draconian policies where they force employees to subscribe to particular medical aid schemes whether they would prefer cheaper aid schemes or not, and this policy is enforced through dictatorship policies and manipulated processes.

This is not only inconsistent in terms of the democratic right to determine how to cater for one's medical health, but inconsistent with imminent legislation such as the National Health Insurance which will ensure quality healthcare is provided to all through the state.

Most recently, a circular has been sent which indicates that low-cost benefit options in terms of medical aid schemes are to be discontinued as per the Council of Medical Aid Schemes due to the ceasing of exemptions which ordinarily allowed them to operate. This is nothing but in service of the monopoly of GEMS and other prominent medical schemes.

Employees of government, blue collar workers and all employees must be allowed to assess their options for medical coverage but most importantly not be obliged to pay higher fees in medical aid schemes. Against the Will and many requests from labor and industry practitioners. Millions of workers stand to lose their hard earned benefit as a result of such dictator manipulated circular.

Low-cost benefit options must be granted all necessary exemptions up until such a time that the NHI is implemented and access to quality healthcare is granted to our people. This is in the interest of those who can't afford expensive medical aid.

The EFF calls for the circular issued by the Council for Medical Aid Schemes which has an adverse effect on low-cost medical aid options to be immediately withdrawn as it is nonsensical and anti-workers, who cannot afford to pay the high costs of medical aid schemes prescribed for them by employers.

**ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS**

**Elections Spokesperson** (Leigh-Ann Mathys) 063 201 0807

**Elections Communications Manager** (Karabo Metsileng) 073 397 4351

 [communications@effonline.org](mailto:communications@effonline.org)

 <http://www.effonline.org>

 @EFFSouthAfrica

 @EFFSouthAfrica

 Economic Freedom Fighters

**VOTE EFF**



**2021 LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS**