



**TO: All media houses**

*Dear fellow citizens*

## **ANCPL VINDICATED BY SECTION 59 INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS ON UNFAIR RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**

**JOHANNESBURG:** The African National Congress Professionals' League welcomes the section 59 investigative findings with vindication and wait in anticipation for the final report. It is our conviction that the interim report will not be any different from the final report. We believe that this report demonstrates a gross unethical violation of black healthcare professionals' human rights, and that it should not go unpunished. It remains an anachronistic grotesquery that black professionals remain racially segregated, and are persistently treated as sub-humans and abused in their own country. Their sin, apparently, is little more than the colour of their skin. It seems that we still live in a country where blackness is equated to criminality by medical schemes and white-dominated corporate South Africa.

We have noted, with interest, similar discriminatory tendencies amongst insurance companies, as well as the financial sector, and the recent report on the lack of transformation at PWC in particular. We shall soon attend to these arrogant companies. The journey towards total liberation of all our people, and blacks in particular, has been long and hard, but we remain committed to confront these persistent tendencies in white-dominated corporate SA.

In 2019, the ANCPL released a report on this very matter, namely, the exploitation and racism suffered by healthcare professionals in the hands of white-dominated medical schemes.<sup>1</sup> This report was released after extensive consultation with healthcare professionals across South Africa. The racial profiling of black professionals has had a huge impact on their livelihoods, as this abuse shuttered businesses, and destroyed homes and families. It is for this reason that we call on all progressive healthcare bodies to unite and forge a solid front, to fight and defeat this oppressive system. An invitation will be sent by the ANCPL leadership so that all progressive forces in the healthcare space can come together urgently, to chart a way forward.

We note with disdain the statement issued by the principal officer of GEMS. The statement shows no remorse nor sympathy to the thousands of black professionals, whom according to the report, GEMS nonetheless has about an 88% chance of having victimised due to their payment policies. The principal officer of GEMS is himself a black professional, yet he is allowing the oppression from a bygone colonial era to perpetuate. In the interests of the broader body, and of black professionals, we will therefore leave no stone unturned in locating corporations which practice racial profiling of this sort. We shall also confront and remove those black professionals, who are selling out our liberation struggle, inasmuch as we confront and challenge a white-dominated

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<sup>1</sup> The report is available on our website at <https://www.ancpl.org.za/index.php/2019/05/23/preliminary-report-on-the-allegations-of-exploitation-racism-suffered-by-healthcare-professionals-when-dealing-with-medical-aid-schemes/>



corporate South Africa which refuses to transform, and diligently preserves its undeserved privileges.

The ANCPL is currently consulting a team of lawyers, to prepare for class action against these perpetrators of racism. We will be specifically addressing the action to GEMS (Metropolitan), Discovery, and Medscheme. All black professionals' suffering and pecuniary losses must be compensated for and recovered from these avaricious medical schemes. This class action seeks therefore to restore the lives and dignity to these professionals who have been discriminated against and victimised.

The ANCPL continues to call for the unity of all progressive forces in the fight against racial discrimination, and particularly, the calculated undermining of black professionals. The ANCPL takes this moment to salute the healthcare professional bodies, namely NHCPA, SAMA, SOLUTIONIST and IMBUMBA, for doing sterling work in leading the struggle to represent black professionals. Their joint efforts and commitment to the total liberation of our people remains our common cause. As the saying goes, "United we stand, and divided we fall."

We remain abhorred by these findings, and we also call on the Department of Health to keep their fingers on the pulse, to ensure that in future and from now on, that medical schemes do not continue to be a law unto themselves; where they are both referee and player in matters of adjudication.

The ANCPL remains firm in the pursuit of a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa.

ENDS

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