



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA
Ministry of Finance

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Private Bag 13295, Windhoek

MEDIA STATEMENT

05 November 2021

NOTICE BY THE NAMIBIA DENTAL ASSOCIATION (NDA) TO PSEMAS PATIENTS ON TARIFFS INCREASE

1. The Ministry of Finance has taken note of a Notice reportedly from the Namibia Dental Association to all PSEMAS Patients informing, amongst others, that “*Until tariffs have been updated, all PSEMAS will be required to pay directly for all treatment and claim it back from PSEMAS accordingly.*” It is on this basis that we would like to state the following:
 2. Over the past few months, the Ministry has on different platforms, engaged the Namibia Dental Association (the Association) on the issue of Tariffs increasing demands. In this regard, while fully cognizant of the need to have the PSEMAS tariffs increased, we have informed the Association and other Health Care Service Providers of the ongoing PSEMAS Structural Reform that is aimed at restructuring the Scheme to achieve internal cost savings and alternative modes of service provision and that the issue of tariffs is part of the reform.
 3. Despite these engagements, on 15 October 2021, the Association informed us, through a letter, that as from the 1st of November 2021 all contracted dental health service providers shall cease to render dental health services at the 2014 NAMAFA tariffs. Subsequent to that, a consultative meeting was held with the Association on October 29, 2021, to discuss the matter.
 4. It was at this meeting that the Ministry informed the Association that the Government in its quest to address PSEMAS’s challenges needs to adopt a holistic approach, thus a consortium of consultants, led by Dr. Johann Van Zyl, was appointed to provide Actuarial and Technical Consultancy Services. In addition, an examination into the Tariffs, Benefits and contribution structure, and the PSEMAS Contract, amongst others, form part of the Review. Therefore, the Ministry is unable to pronounce itself on the tariffs increase before the reform process is concluded. In this regard, the team (consultants) is expected to report back by end of December 2021.
 5. After what we viewed as fruitful discussion, the Ministry indicated that Dental Health Care Service Providers who at their own accord opt to discontinue offering services to PSEMAS Members at the current rate, (NAMAFA Tariffs 2014), should comply with Clause 10.6 (Termination) of the PSEMAS Contract (Standard Terms and Conditions).
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6. Finally, we would like to reiterate that the Ministry of Finance takes the issues raised by the Association as serious, thus working determinedly to ensure that the PSEMAS Reform is delivered within the set timeframes. Therefore, we wish to encourage Health Care Service Providers to continue offering services to PSEMAS Members at the current rate, (NAMAF Tariffs 2014), while the Reform process is being concluded upon.
7. We are cognizant that not all Dental Health Care Service Providers share the same views and position as that of the Association and as a result will continue with PSEMAS.

For further information, kindly contact Ms. Elizabeth Kharuchas: Deputy Director, Medial Aid at 2092769, or Ms. Ailly Titus: Director of Administration at 2092517.

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