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PLASA

HEALTHCARE LOGISTICS SECTOR STRATEGIC ADVOCACY UPDATE

01 APPEAL FOR REVIEW OF THE 2026 SEPA

PLASA has formally submitted an appeal to the Honourable Minister of Health and the National Department of Health regarding the 2026 Single Exit Price Adjustment (SEPA) determination of 1.47%.

02 FUEL SUPPLY AND STRATEGIC RISK

PLASA has also formally engaged the National Department of Health (NDoH) and the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) regarding growing geopolitical risks and the potential impact on fuel availability and energy security within South Africa.

The Pharmaceutical Logistics Association of South Africa (PLASA) continues to actively engage government and industry stakeholders on matters impacting the sustainability, resilience, and strategic importance of the healthcare logistics sector.

This update provides a summary of recent initiatives undertaken on behalf of members and the broader healthcare supply chain industry.

These engagements form part of PLASA's ongoing commitment to representing and advancing the interests of the healthcare logistics sector while supporting a resilient, sustainable, and patient-focused healthcare supply chain environment.

01. APPEAL FOR REVIEW OF THE 2026 SEPA DETERMINATION

PLASA has formally submitted an appeal to the Honourable Minister of Health and the National Department of Health regarding the 2026 Single Exit Price Adjustment (SEPA) determination of 1.47%.

While recognising the Department's responsibility to balance medicine affordability and patient access, PLASA raised significant concerns regarding the widening gap between the SEPA increase and the actual inflationary pressures being experienced within the healthcare logistics sector.

The submission highlighted the growing operational pressures associated with above CPI average year on year cost increases due to:

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- Fuel and transportation costs
 - Electricity and energy instability
 - Labour and compliance costs
 - Warehousing and cold chain infrastructure
 - Technology and regulatory investments
 - Security and operational continuity risks

PLASA further highlighted the structural challenges within the current pricing framework, where logistics providers have limited ability to recover escalating costs despite their critical role in ensuring medicine availability nationally.

The appeal also called for:

- Reconsideration of the 2026 SEPA determination
- Greater engagement with logistics stakeholders
- Acceleration of the review of the logistics fee framework

02. FUEL SUPPLY CONTINGENCY AND STRATEGIC RISK ENGAGEMENTS

PLASA has also formally engaged the National Department of Health (NDoH) and the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) regarding the growing geopolitical risks associated with instability in the Middle East and the potential impact on fuel availability and energy security within South Africa.

The communications highlighted the direct risks that fuel supply disruptions, allocation measures, or price volatility may pose to healthcare logistics operations and national medicine availability.

PLASA requested that the healthcare logistics sector be proactively recognised within any national fuel prioritisation or emergency contingency frameworks due to the critical need for:

- National medicine distribution security
- Cold chain integrity for vaccines and biologics
- Healthcare continuity across public and private sectors
- Manufacturer, Retail, Provider and Patient stability
- Generator and backup power continuity during electricity disruptions

PLASA further proposed enhanced coordination and communication between government departments and industry stakeholders to support preparedness, resilience, and continuity planning.

PLASA'S ONGOING COMMITMENT

PLASA remains committed to constructive engagement with government, regulators, suppliers, healthcare providers, and logistics stakeholders to ensure that the strategic importance of pharmaceutical logistics and distribution continues to be appropriately recognised within national policy and operational planning.

Further updates will be shared as engagements progress.



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