

Speaker	Date	Duration	Time on programme
Dr Thandi Mabeba CMS Chairperson	13 May 2026 (Day 1) **Gala Dinner**	10 minutes	18:35 – 18:45

Programme Director,
Justice Sandile Ngcobo,
Chief Executive and Registrar of the Council for Medical Schemes, Dr Musa Gumede,
Deputy Director-General: Health Regulation and Compliance, Dr Anban Pillay,
Deputy Chairperson of Council, Dr Honours Mukhari,
Fellow members of Council,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this evening's Gala Dinner as part of the CMS Industry Indaba 2026.

Allow me, on behalf of Council, to thank you for joining us this evening and for your participation in today's programme.

The first day of this Indaba has been both meaningful and important.

It has given us an opportunity to engage on matters that are central to the integrity and sustainability of the medical schemes environment.

To reflect on regulatory realities.

To interrogate industry practices.

And to confront some of the difficult but necessary questions that shape the future of healthcare funding.

But this evening offers us a different kind of moment.

A moment to pause.

To reflect.

And to appreciate the broader purpose behind the institutions we serve.

In the work of regulation, much of our focus is necessarily technical.

It is grounded in legislation.

In governance.

In compliance.

And in systems of accountability.

These are the mechanisms through which institutions function.

But they are not the purpose of institutions.

The purpose of institutions is service.

To protect.

To create fairness.

And to build confidence in the systems that people depend on.

This is especially true in healthcare.

Because healthcare is deeply human.

It affects dignity.

It affects access.

And it affects quality of life.

For many South Africans, medical schemes are not simply financial instruments.

They are a mechanism through which people secure access to care, protect their families, and navigate moments of vulnerability.

That is why the work of the Council for Medical Schemes remains so important.

Our mandate is clear.

To protect beneficiaries.

To strengthen governance in the medical schemes environment.

And to support a healthcare funding system that remains fair, transparent and sustainable.

These responsibilities matter.

Because public confidence in healthcare funding systems matters.

Confidence builds trust.

Trust strengthens participation.

And participation sustains the system itself.

This evening's keynote theme — *Regulation, Fairness and Sustainability in South Africa's Health System* — therefore comes at an important time.

It asks us to reflect on the broader relationship between regulation and public value.

How institutions create fairness.

How systems build trust.

And how sustainability is achieved in an increasingly complex healthcare environment.

These are not only policy questions.

They are leadership questions.

And they are national questions.

We are privileged this evening to be joined by Justice Sandile Ngcobo, whose contribution to South Africa's institutional and policy landscape remains significant.

Through his leadership of the Health Market Inquiry, Justice Ngcobo contributed meaningfully to the national discourse on competition, affordability, market conduct and access within private healthcare.

That work remains relevant as we continue to reflect on how to build stronger, fairer and more sustainable systems.

Later this evening, we will also honour the important role of research and evidence in shaping the future of healthcare regulation through the presentation of the Prof Lungile Pepeta Award for Research 2026.

This award reminds us that effective regulation must always be informed by evidence.

That good policy depends on sound research.

And that strong institutions depend on intellectual leadership.

Prof Pepeta embodied these values.

His contribution to health system leadership, medical excellence and public service continues to inspire many within this sector.

And it is fitting that we honour that legacy this evening.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The work of building stronger institutions in healthcare is continuous.

It requires leadership.

It requires integrity.

And it requires the willingness to adapt and improve.

But it also requires moments such as this.

Moments to reflect.

To connect.

And to strengthen the relationships that support the work of reform.

Thank you for being with us this evening and for your continued commitment to strengthening the medical schemes environment in South Africa.

I wish you a meaningful and enriching evening ahead.

Thank you.