



A trimester of milestones

Description

As we end the first quarter of 2023, we reflect on how eventful it has been, marked by challenges and promising opportunities.

The most significant event of the quarter was the announcement of the Group's Interim Financial Results, which provided insight into our business's performance over the past six months and set the course for the remainder of the year. We will move forward more aggressively with our strategic ambitions, and I am particularly excited to see our investments to modernise the Group and drive efficiencies yield more results.

On the subject of financials, the Minister of Finance updated us on the plans for the 2023 national fiscus during his annual budget speech. Government's commitment to providing an additional R23.4 billion to healthcare functions over the next four years is indeed encouraging. I look forward to the revitalisation of South Africa's health infrastructure and the opportunities this investment will create for private sector support and partnerships to help improve our sector.

As you know, partnerships are a significant component of growth, and our partnership with Sanlam will be concluded at the end of May, ushering in a new dawn for the majority of South Africans who find healthcare out of reach. In the interim, collaborations continue across the business. Most recently, we convened with our allies at the Sanlam Leadership Conference, which was the perfect platform for us to engage and align our strategic plans in both the healthcare and insurance sectors.

During this quarter, we also focused on several critical health-related issues through initiatives such as World Obesity Day and World Cancer Day, which provided an opportunity to increase awareness of how lifestyle-related habits can increase our risks. Our Integrated Chronic Care Programme remains our most comprehensive intervention to ensure that scheme members receive support with minimum financial impact. We turned the spotlight on safe pregnancy during Pregnancy Awareness Week, providing pregnant women, their partners and the community with information to ensure a safe pregnancy journey for both mother and baby. We continue to be proud of our association with the Eluthandweni Maternity Clinic in Vosloorus, Johannesburg, especially in light of its 100% natural birth

and 0% newborn mortality rates.

This issue of the magazine features a special section on tuberculosis, given that World TB Day falls on 24 March every year. By providing our members with information to identify, prevent, cure and eradicate TB, we contribute to better business outcomes and towards a world where TB is no longer a threat to human health.

We also celebrated International Women's Day, an occasion where the achievements of women, their contributions to society and their ongoing fight for gender equality were commemorated. A special nod to our female colleagues in Botswana, Namibia and Mauritius, who are the bedrock of those businesses.

South African Human Rights Day and Namibia's Independence Day, both on 21 March, serve as reminders of past struggles for freedom and democracy and the ongoing fight for the protection of human rights. These occasions call on us all to reflect on the progress made towards achieving social justice, equality and human dignity and to renew our commitment to building a more equitable society for all.

As an organisation deeply rooted in Africa and its people, let us remain focused on making a difference to every member or provider that we engage with.

Healthier Together

Ahmed Banderker

AfroCentric Group CEO

Category

1. CEO note

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