

fundnews

The quarterly newsletter for pensioners of the Government Employees Pension Fund

3rd Edition 2022/2023



THE SPOUSE PENSION IS NOT TRANSFERABLE



IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR THE FAMILY TO WITHDRAW THE MONTHLY PENSION AFTER THE PENSIONER'S DEATH



CAN I ADD DEPENDENTS ON MY MEDICAL AID AS A PENSIONER?



Year-end message from the PEO

As 2022 ends, it is very evident that the GEPF has begun to emerge from the challenges we faced over the past two years because of the global pandemic and the subsequent economic impact both on our organisation and our personal lives. Together we have dealt with personal and professional uncertainties and have come out stronger and more resilient.

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GEPFTM
your investment. your future

we achieved a **9.6%** year-on-year growth in the last financial year with Fund having a market value of **R2.3 trillion**.

As the GEPF we have continued to remain focussed on what matters the most for us, growing the Fund for the benefit of our members, pensioners, and beneficiaries. As we faced the challenges this year I took comfort by our work, in our work and in your efforts and commitment to the GEPF and those we serve.

Despite the challenges facing our country and the world at large, we achieved a 9.6% year-on-year growth in the last financial year with Fund having a market value of **R2.3 trillion**. Together with the Board we have begun to tackle the impediments that slow our progress, in particular ensuring improved service delivery by GPAA and more sustainable investments by the PIC. These challenges need to be systematically addressed and requires patience and careful consideration as we build a more effective and efficient GEPF.

Our achievements during this year clearly demonstrates the Fund's resilience to withstand headwinds. Our continued growth is not a once-off achievement. The GEPF's accumulated funds and reserves grew at an average annual rate of 8.6% for the 10-year period 2013-2022. This is remarkable despite the tough economic conditions we operate in. I encourage you to read our latest Annual Report 2021 - 2022,

which explains in more detail our performance in the past financial year.

I do not take these achievements for granted and together with our Executive team, I am committed to continuously improve so that we can meet your expectations as well as of those we serve, our members, pensioners, and beneficiaries.

While there is much work to be done and there may be further challenges ahead, we end 2022 stronger than we started the year. The success of the GEPF during the year was built on the efforts of you and in this year, we enjoyed many successes.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment that each of you has shown. The new year will bring its own mix of successes and challenges, but our direction is clear, and we know what must be done. Together we can tackle the challenges that lie ahead with resilience, agility and gratitude. We will make mistakes, but it is the way we deal with the mistakes that will define us as a team.

Finally, as we approach the festive season, the Executive team and I wish you a safe festive period. Please enjoy a well-deserved rest with family and friends, remember mask up, and stay safe.

Warm regards.
Musa



The Spouse Pension is ~~not~~ transferable

The Spouse Pension or annuity is payable only to the lawful spouse or approved life partner of a member or pensioner who has died. It is not payable to any other dependents or beneficiaries who may have been named on the Nomination of Beneficiaries form and it cannot be transferred to other beneficiaries or dependents.

If a member dies with more than one surviving lawful spouse, the Spouse Pension will be divided equally among the spouses. The Spouse Pension is a non-contributory benefit, which means that members of the Fund are not required to make any contribution towards the benefit.

When a member or pensioner passes away, the spouse receives 50% or 75% (depending on the choice made by the member on retirement). The Spouse Pension is payable even if the spouse remarries and is payable until the spouse(s) passes.

To apply for the Spouse Pension the lawful spouse will be required to complete the Application for Spouse Pension form (Z143) and submit it to the GEPPF, together with the following documents:

- A certified copy of his or her ID document or Card (certified within the last six months)
- A Banking Details Form (Z894)
- A certified copy of the Death Certificate
- A certified copy of your ID document/Card or Passport and confirmation of death by the Department of Home Affairs
- A certified copy of the Marriage Certificate OR your Customary Union Certificate/Lobola Letter/Civil Union Certificate; OR a certificate confirming your Hindu or Muslim Marriage, or marriage in terms of any other religion. Members and pensioners who are married customarily are advised and urged to register such in terms of the Recognition of Customary Marriages Act, 120 of 1998.

Understanding the GEP Law



Understanding the GEP Law and the rules contained in it is an important way of empowering yourself as a GEPF member as this will help you to have clarity on how the Fund is administered and managed, and the benefits of the Fund.

The GEP Law of 1996 applies to the GEPF and prescribes how the GEPF and its benefits must be administered.

This law makes provision for the payment of pensions and other benefits to members and pensioners of the GEPF. The dependents of these employees may also qualify for certain benefits if they meet the requirements as determined by the GEP Law.

The GEP Law also contains the rules about the type of benefits GEPF must pay and how members

and pensioners' money must be prudently invested, in order to grow the Fund and ensure its financial sustainability and stability.

The aim of the law and the rules that guide the Board of Trustees in governing the Fund are to ensure that the GEPF puts the interests of its members and pensioners first. This includes ensuring that benefits are safeguarded and sustainable. The GEPF is a defined benefit fund which means that the benefits are independent of the contributions payable and are not directly related to the investments of the scheme.

The clients of the Fund are urged to read the GEP Law in order to familiarise themselves with its contents and any amendments that could have been effected. The document is available on the GEPF website. They can also visit the GEPF office near them to request for the document.

It is unlawful for the family to withdraw the monthly pension after the pensioner's death



There have been many instances where family members have withdrawn the monthly pension of a deceased pensioner following his or her passing. The GEPF would like to advise family members or any individual related to pensioners, that such conduct is unlawful and that the Fund has the legal right to recover such money.

When a pensioner passes away, it brings their association with the Fund to an unfortunate end. The family has the responsibility to notify

the Fund of the passing to ensure that no further monthly pension is paid out. Only the lawful surviving spouse or approved life partner may continue to receive a monthly pension known as the Spouse Pension if his/her application is approved.

If the pensioner passes away before they receive the monthly pension, the family or those close to him or her are advised to alert the GEPF by either visiting the nearest Client Service Centre or Regional Office. You can also contact our toll-free call centre on 08 00 117 669, or email: enquiries@gepf.co.za for assistance.

Is it possible for GEPF to increase the Funeral Benefit?

The GEP Law, 1996 provides that the Board of Trustees of the GEPF has the power to make certain rules. These are however subject to certain processes and conditions. Rules regarding any benefits paid by the GEPF, must either be consulted and/or negotiated, as the case might be, in the relevant structures. The affordability and sustainability of the Fund must however always be considered.

If it is affordable and in the interest of the Fund and its members and pensioners, the Board may consider changes to benefits, which may include increasing a particular benefit, once the required procedures and prescripts have been adhered to.

The GEPF rules in respect of the Funeral Benefit apply to all members and pensioners and members

and pensioners thus cannot have their individual funeral benefit increased from the set amount as prescribed in the rules. The Funeral Benefit is a non-contributory benefit. This means that members do not contribute towards it, but the Fund offers it as an added value.

As it stands, the Funeral Benefit amount is **R15 000 for GEPF members and pensioners**. The same amount is also paid out on the death of a lawful spouse or an approved life partner.

Eligible children, as defined in the GEP Law, are covered with an amount of **R6 000, including stillborn deaths**.

The GEPF Board of Trustees monitors the benefits of the GEPF and strives to ensure that the benefits offered by the GEPF are adequate whilst remaining affordable.



CAN I ADD DEPENDENTS ON MY MEDICAL AID AS A PENSIONER?

The Post-Retirement Medical Benefit is a non-contributory benefit that was established to ensure that members who have medical schemes continue to receive medical subsidy even after they retire.

For a member to qualify for this benefit, they must have been a member of a registered medical scheme for a continuous period of 12 months as on date of retirement. He or she further needs to have 15 or more years of actual service (not pensionable service).

If the member satisfies these requirements and they wish to add a beneficiary to the medical aid while on retirement, they should register the dependant with their medical scheme.



The post-retirement medical benefit is calculated at 75% to a maximum of R1, 624 if the principal member is the only one covered by the medical aid and R3, 248.00 if there are registered dependants. This benefit is payable until the member passes on or terminates their medical scheme.

In an instance where the principal member passes on, the surviving spouse should apply for membership at the medical scheme and he/she will continue to receive the medical subsidy until he or she passes on. Only the dependants registered under the deceased's membership number on date

of death will continue to receive a subsidy benefit if these dependants are transferred and registered to the spouse's membership record.

If for whatever reason, the member terminates the membership of their medical scheme when going on retirement and has been a member for 12 months as on date of retirement and has more than 15 years of service, he or she can still qualify for the subsidy benefit if the member rejoins a medical scheme.



ACCESS GEPF INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

With the introduction of the digital communication platforms such as the Self-Service Web and Mobile App, the GEPF members, pensioners and beneficiaries can access their pension information at their fingertips.

Unlike before, you do not have to leave the comfort of your house and go to the GEPF offices if you want to change your personal details such as your address or contact information. Through the Self-Service Web and Mobile App, active members, pensioners and beneficiaries can update their personal details on their smart phones, tablets or computers at their own convenience.



Step 1:

Download the Mobile App on Google Play Store, Huawei AppGallery, Apple App Store or go to www.gepf.gov.za to access the Self – Service Web.

Step 2:

To register on the GEPF Self-Service Web and Mobile App members will need their ID or passport number, valid e-mail address and a mobile number that is captured on the GEPF system.

Step 3:

Once the member is successfully registered, they will receive a temporary password and username through the email address or text message. The member will then use the temporary login credentials to access the Self – Service Web or Mobile App and reset a password with their preferred characters. However, the username will remain the same.

What functions can members, pensioners and beneficiaries have access to on the mobile app and Self – Service Web?

- Access their benefit statements
- Track their withdrawal claims
- Update their personal information
- Download proof of payment
- Download tax certificates (IRP5 & IT3a)
- Nominate and update a Nomination of Beneficiaries Form (WP1002)
- Access letters, newsletters and latest notices from GEPF

Instead of visiting GEPF offices, members can save themselves time and money by registering on the Self-Service Web or Mobile App and access information about their pension benefits. Registration on the Self-Service web can be done by visiting www.gepf.co.za or downloading the Mobile App on Google Play Store, Apple App Store or Huawei AppGallery.

In the event that members experience technical challenges while they try to register, they should not hesitate to contact GEPF Self-Service agents on 012 319 1400 or send an email to selfservicesupport@gpaa.gov.za and log a query.

Access your pension information anytime, anywhere!

How to Register on the GEPF Mobile App and Self – Service Web?



Together we can stop fraud & corruption.

As part of our continued commitment to zero tolerance towards fraud, corruption and unethical behaviour, the GEPF is urging members to join the fight against fraud today by reporting any fraudulent activities.

What is fraud?

Fraud is an illegal act or a series of illegal acts committed through non-physical means through hiding information or changing information to obtain money.

What are the types of fraud encountered by the GEPF?

Fraudulent activities include but are not limited to:

- Fraudulent exits
- Fraudulent bank forms
- Fraudulent beneficiaries
- Fraudulent payments.

What can you do?


Speak up against fraud by calling the FREE and CONFIDENTIAL Whistle Blower Line.

Tel: 0800 203 900 | SMS: 30916 | Email: gepf@thehotline.co.za |


Website: www.thehotline.co.za


For more information contact us at:

Government Employees Pension Fund

 0800 117 669


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 Government Employees Pension Fund

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Government Employees Pension Ombud

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GEPF™
your investment. your future

Do you know where to find us?

GEPF has a national toll free Call Centre number, **0800 117 669**.
Calls to this number are free from any Telkom line.
We also have regional Client Service Centres in all nine provinces of South Africa.

Contact Details

Toll free number: **0800 117 669**
Email: enquiries@gepf.co.za
Website: www.gepf.co.za

Postal address:
GEPF Private Bag X63
Pretoria
0001

Twitter: @GEPF_SA

Client Service Centres

Eastern Cape

No. 12 Global Life Centre,
Circular Drive, Bhisho

Sunnyside, Pretoria

Kwa-Zulu Natal

Brasfort House, 3rd Floor,
262 Langalibalele Street,
Pietermaritzburg

North West

Mega City, Entrance 4,
Ground floor, Office no 4/17,
Mmabatho, Mahikeng

Free State

Brandwag Centre, 20 Stapelberg Street
Brandwag, Bloemfontein

Limpopo

87 (a) Bok Street,
Polokwane

Northern Cape

11 Old Main Road, Kimberley

Gauteng

Trevenna Campus, Building 2A,
Corner Meintjies and Francis Baard
Streets,

Mpumalanga

Imbizo Place, Shop no 5,
Samora Machel Street, Mbombela

Western Cape

Buitengracht Centre, 4th Floor
125 Buitengracht Street
Cape Town

Satellite Offices

Durban

Salmon Grove Chambers, 12th Floor,
407 Anton Lembede Street

Mthatha

Manpower Building, Ground Floor,
Corner Elliot & Madeira streets,

Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth)

1st Floor, Regus House
Fairview Office Park, 66 Ring Road
Greenacres

Johannesburg

UCB House, 2nd Floor,
78 - 74 Marshall Street, Marshalltown

Phuthaditjhaba

Mandela Park Shopping Centre,
712 Public Road

Rustenburg

Ditiro House, Ground Floor, Corner Motsatsi
and Monareng Streets, Unit 1, Tlhabane
(opposite Tlhabane Square Mall)

Thohoyandou

2010 Centre, next to Phalaphala FM (SABC)

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