

fundnews

The quarterly newsletter for pensioners of the Government Employees Pension Fund 1ST Edition 2023/2024



TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR DOUBLE INCOME EARNERS – REMINDER FOR PENSIONERS TO MAKE THEIR CHOICES



GEPF IS A DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION FUND



Q & A on GEPF's Self-Service

UNDERSTANDING HOW PENSION INCREASE IS DETERMINED

The Fund has in the previous years granted its pensioners an increase on their monthly income. The increase is effected to enable pensioners to keep up with the inflation rate, based on the affordability of the Fund at a given time.



For more information contact us at:
Government Employees Pension Fund

☎ 0800 117 669 ✉ enquiries@gepf.co.za 🌐 gepf.co.za
📘 Government Employees Pension Fund 🐦 @GEPF_SA

Government Employees Pension Ombud

✉ enquiries@gepo.co.za 🌐 gepo.co.za ☎ +27 12 110 4950



GEPFTM
your investment. your future

The GEPF is governed by the Government Employees Pension (GEP) Law of 1996, as amended, and the rules that accompany it. These rules, along with GEPF’s pension increase and Funding Level policies, provide firm guidelines on how the Fund must decide the annual increase that is paid to pensioners.

The Board of Trustees, on the advice from the actuarial team, may approve a pension increase provided that the pension increase does not compromise the current and future financial position of the Fund. The Board of Trustees is then required to notify the Minister of Finance regarding the level of increase they consider effecting prior to implementation.

The minimum funding level states that the Fund’s assets must be able to cover at least 90% of its liabilities. This means that the assets the Fund owns must be able to cover the cost of at least 90% of its commitments (its liabilities). According to the rules, the Fund can only approve an increase that it can afford.

The GEPF’s annual pension increase is made up of four elements defined in the approved Pension Increase policy of the Board.

The four elements are the following:

Basic increase	75% of the year-on-year change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all pensioners who retired on or before 1 April of the previous year. Pensioners who retired after the said date receive a proportional share of the increase based on the number of months they have been on retirement.
Further inflation-related increase	An inflation-related increase of more than 75% of the change in the CPI applicable to pensioners who retired on or before 1 April of the previous year. Similarly, pensioners who retired after the said date receive a proportional share of the increase based on the number of months they have been on retirement.
Catch-up increase	For pensioners who retired before 1 April of the previous year and whose pensions have fallen below the amount paid at retirement adjusted for full inflation to date, an amount is paid to compensate for the effect of inflation. This amount is added after the basic increase and the further inflation-related increase. The catch-up increase could be 100% of the change in the CPI from the date of retirement to 30 November of the previous year, or a lower amount that the Fund can afford.
Supplementary increase	Any increase that the Board chooses to make that is not related to inflation.

The Board cannot always grant all four elements each year but considers the ones to be awarded based on affordability. Pension increase that is above what is provided for in the GEP Law and rules is granted at the discretion of the Board of Trustees, taking into account the performance of the Fund’s investment portfolios and affordability.

TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR DOUBLE INCOME EARNERS – REMINDER FOR PENSIONERS TO MAKE THEIR CHOICES



In 2022, the South African Revenue Service (SARS) made changes to the revised tax rate in terms of the tax required to be deducted by an employer from an employee's remuneration paid or payable (PAYE).

As a result, the Government Pensions Administration Agency (GPAA) implemented a directive from SARS that provided for the revised tax rate to be deducted from pensioners' monthly payment pension. It is important to note that only pensioners who receive multiple sources of income are affected by the revised changes.

Pensioners have the option to opt out of the revised tax rate provided by SARS and revert to the normal Pay As You Earn (PAYE) rate applicable to their pension. However, if a pensioner chooses to opt out, the Government Employees Pension Fund will continue to deduct as per the previous tax rate and not in the more accurate effective tax rate as provided by SARS. This may result in pensioners having to settle a tax debt with SARS at the end of the tax year.

Pensioners can request the GEPF to deduct an additional amount for tax, from the monthly annuity they receive.

Typically, this will apply to pensioners who have other income sources in addition to the pension they receive from the Fund. This is because in such cases when all income is declared to SARS, the pensioner is likely to fall in a higher tax bracket and thus has to make additional payment to SARS after assessment.

Should a pensioner opt to request the Fund to deduct an additional amount for tax, the pensioner must specify the amount to be deducted and paid to SARS monthly, as well as when the deductions must start and end. If no end date is specified, the deduction of the stipulated amount will continue indefinitely, and the amount paid to SARS will be reflected on the IRP5 issued every year.

Enquiries may be directed to the GEPF Call Centre: 0800 117669

The GEPF respects privacy and personal information of its members and pensioners and therefore subscribes to the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013. Visit www.gepf.co.za to view GEPF Privacy Policy and Privacy statement.

OUR MISSION
To ensure the sustainability of the
The efficient delivery of benefits
Whilst empowering our beneficiaries
through effective communication

GEPF

IS A DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION FUND

You may have been asking yourself as a member of the Fund about the difference between the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) and other pension funds. As a defined benefit fund, GEPF pension benefits are defined in the rules of the Fund and are guaranteed.

The GEPF's operations are governed by the Government Employees Pension (GEP) Law of (1996), which means that all the Fund's pension benefits are defined in the GEP Law and rules, which clearly indicate the pension benefits that members are entitled to. Furthermore, The GEP Law also indicates when and how these pension benefits can be claimed, and who can claim them.

These rules are important because they ensure that qualifying members and beneficiaries receive the correct payments within the right time frames. The current pension benefits structure of GEPF offers its members the following benefits, amongst others:

Resignation Benefits	Retirement Benefits	Child's Pension
Death Benefits	Funeral Benefits	Spouse Pension

Being a defined pension fund means that members are guaranteed their pension benefits irrespective of the economic situation. The GEPF has a solid track record of safeguarding the value of members' retirement benefits and paying claims without saying the money is finished.

It is important for members to note that the GEPF is not like other pension funds that are governed by the Pension Funds Act (PFA). This implies that announcements or changes relating to the Pension Funds Act do not affect the members of the GEPF.

If a member wants to know about the pension benefits they are entitled to, or have questions about a particular product that GEPF offers, they can visit the Fund's website at www.gepf.co.za or call the GEPF Contact Centre on 0800 117 669 or visit their nearest Clients Service Centre.



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 by 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:

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BEFORE YOU CHANGE YOUR BANK DETAILS...

We advise our pensioners not to close their existing banking accounts until payments from the GEPF have begun to be paid into the new banking accounts. Once a payment run for a particular month has been completed, it is difficult to immediately reverse the payment that has been made into an old or closed bank account because of the long and complicated processes involved.

The GEPF only receives a comprehensive report from the banks about the returned/rejected payments at the end of the following month and it is only after receiving this report that GEPF officials can perform a reconciliation. By the time we receive the bank report showing that payments for certain pensioners have been rejected, a new payment is already being scheduled for the next run. We therefore urge all pensioners to inform us about any changes to their bank account details and to keep the old account open until a payment from the GEPF has been made into the new account.

The GEPF is constantly working on improving its processes to ensure that pensioners get the highest quality service we can provide. If you have any queries in this regard, please contact the GEPF's toll-free Call Centre on 0800 117 669, alternatively you can visit your nearest GEPF Regional Office for assistance.



UNCLAIMED PENSION

Do you know of any public servant who did not claim his or her **GEPF pension**?

Are you a dependent of a deceased person who worked for government and contributed to the GEPF and their **GEPF pension was not claimed**?

Are you a former government employee and you have not claimed your **GEPF pension**?

Taking care of you today for a better future.

For more information contact us at:

Government Employees Pension Fund

☎ 0800 117 669

✉ enquiries@gepf.co.za

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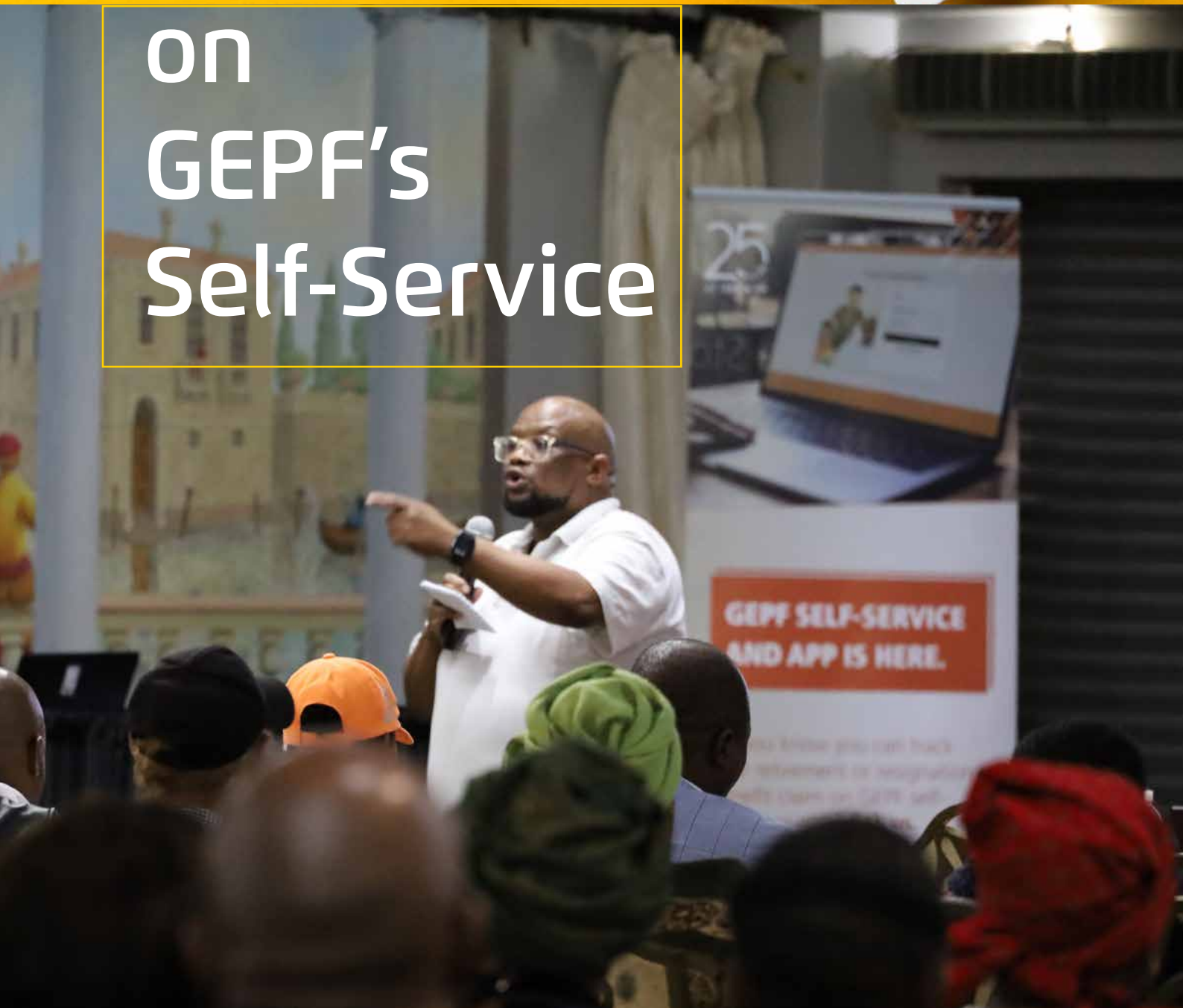


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Q & A

on
GEPF's
Self-Service



What is Self-Service?

- The Self-Service platform is an online system whereby customers can access certain GEPF information themselves or select certain services that they want to use. It is designed to be viewable on computers, cell phones and tablets from anywhere and at any time. This system has been developed to ensure ease of business when engaging with the GEPF. It allows for members of the Fund to access and update their information as well as track their pension or other related benefit claims.

What services are available on the GEPF Self-Service?

- Access to benefit statements
- Access to tax certificates
- You can trace your registration and retirement benefit
- Update contact information
- Nominate or update beneficiaries
- Access personalised correspondence like letters and newsletters
- Access latest notices from the GEPF

What are the benefits of having the GEPF Self-Service?

- You are able to engage with the GEPF from anywhere.
- No need to travel to a Client Service Centre, contact the Call Centre or wait for your documents to arrive by post.

- You can check your personal details and update them anytime.
- You can access the service using different digital devices at any time from any place that has an internet connection.

Are there any special requirements I need before I start using the Self-Service platform?

To be able to access the service, members, pensioners and beneficiaries are requested to first register for GEPF Self-Service so that they can be authenticated.

I am registered for Self-Service and will be travelling abroad; will I be able to use Self-Service from there?

Yes, Self-Service is accessible from anywhere in the world.

Who do I contact if I have any queries?

Contact the GEPF Self-Service number (012) 319-1400 or email us at selfservicesupport@gpaa.gov.za



IMPORTANT NOTICE

THE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES PENSION FUND OFFERS 5.55% ANNUAL PENSION INCREASE



The Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) has announced an annual pension increase of 5.55% for its pensioners with effect from 1 April 2023. The 5.55% pension increase is based on the 7.40% inflation rate for the 12 months ending 30 November 2022, thus making the increase equal to 75% of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as per the rules of the GEPF.

The Fund's returns in the 12 months preceding 30 November 2022 did not allow for a full 100% of CPI increase. Nevertheless, the Fund remains committed to granting increases that are both affordable and sustainable for its long-term viability while providing the benefits promised to its members, now and in the future.

Pensioners who retired on or before 1 April 2022 will receive an increase of **5.55%** and those who retired after 1 April 2022 will receive a proportionate increase based on the number of months they have been in receipt of pension by 31 March 2023.

Letters regarding the pension increase have been disseminated to pensioners through email and post. The letters will also be accessible through the GEPF Self-Service Web and Mobile App. Alternatively, pensioners can visit any GEPF office to receive their letters.

For more information, please contact:

0800 117 669

enquiries@gepf.co.za

Alternatively, pensioners can visit their nearest GEPF office.



WE HAVE MOVED!!

GEPF BLOEMFONTEIN OFFICE HAS MOVED TO A NEW LOCATION

The new office is located at:
Mimosa Mall, Upper Level, Entrance 5
131 Kellner Street, Brandwag,
Bloemfontein

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

Free State

Mimosa Mall, Upper Level, Entrance 5
131 Kellner Street, Brandwag,
Bloemfontein

Gauteng

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

Kwa-Zulu Natal

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

Limpopo

87 (a) Bok Street,
Polokwane

Mpumalanga

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

North West

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

Northern Cape

11 Old Main Road, Kimberley

Western Cape

Buitengracht Centre, 4th Floor
125 Buitengracht Street
Cape Town

Satellite Offices

Durban

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

Johannesburg

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

Mthatha

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

Phuthaditjhaba

Mandela Park Shopping Centre,
712 Public Road

Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth)

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

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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