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Dear Pensioners

I take this opportunity to welcome you, pensioners to 2018 and wish you well for the year. The start of a year is always a special time as it symbolises new beginnings and challenges.

At the GEPF, the beginning of a new year symbolises an opportunity for us to increase our efforts in striving to provide better services to our members and pensioners and to continue to protect their benefits.

As your Pension Fund we will continue to act in members and pensioners' best interests in seeking financial returns while taking into account broader economic developments in our investment decisions.

The year ahead is likely to have its challenges; however I believe that with the support and governance structures that governs the GEPF we will rise above them.

I thank our members, pensioners, GEPF Board of Trustees, Executives and staff for the continuous support and I hope this year will not be different. I look forward to a rich and rewarding year ahead.

Thank you.

Yours Sincerely,

Abel Sithole - Principal Executive Officer (PEO)



Good news to GEPF members



Following engagements at roadshows throughout the country, as well as requests from members, the GEPF Board of Trustees has listened to members' requests and has implemented the following with effect from 1 October 2017:


Increase of Funeral benefits.

The main aim of increasing Funeral benefits is to ensure that the benefits keep up with inflation over time. To this end, the Funeral benefits have been adjusted as follows;

- a) R7500 to R15000 for a member, pensioner and spouse
- b) R3000 to R6000 for an eligible children and stillborn

The Board of Trustees will review funeral benefit levels every 4 years.

When are your beneficiaries entitled to benefits?



Members' beneficiaries only become entitled to their benefits in the event of the member's death in service or death after retirement.

Upon death in service, a member is expected to have had a valid nomination form that will guide the GEPF on who should receive their benefits. Remember, only a nomination form is considered permissible to instruct the GEPF regarding who your beneficiaries are.

For pensioners, beneficiaries can only claim if a member dies within the first five years of retirement. They will

therefore claim the difference between the amount the member has already been paid as a monthly pension, and what is remaining in their monthly pension only.

If a member dies after five years following their retirement, no benefits will be paid out to the beneficiaries. This is because the pensioner's benefits would have been fully paid up within the five years. However, the spouse

will continue to receive a spouse pension. Spousal pension does not come from the pensioner or member's contributions. It is a non-contributory benefit that the GEPF has decided to offer spouses or partners of their members/pensioners.



Is service prior to amalgamation recognised by GEPF?

All employees who worked for government before the establishment of GEPF in 1996 and were contributing to their various pension funds and never claimed their pensions when GEPF was established, their pensionable service period continued with the GEPF. The continuation of the pensionable service period means that the employees will be paid their benefit from the year they started contributing to their pension funds before 1996, until their actual exit from the GEPF.

Pensionable service periods that were claimed upon joining the GEPF in 1996 cannot be paid when the member exits the GEPF. The reason is that if a member has claimed for the period they started working until the formation of GEPF in 1996, it means there is nothing left for such period. Such members will receive their benefits based on their “new” contribution period that started when GEPF was formed.

Who decides which benefits you get?



All benefits due to a member/pensioner are included in the Government Employees Pension (GEP) Law. All GEPF benefits are defined in the GEP Law and rules, which is why GEPF is called a defined benefit fund. The advantage of belonging to a defined benefit fund is that your benefits are guaranteed.

There are very clear rules about the benefits to which members are entitled as well as when and how these benefits can be claimed, and who can claim them. These rules are important because they ensure that the right people receive the right payments at the right time.

The GEP Law may only be amended by Parliament. The rules regarding benefits may only be amended after negotiations in the Public Service Co-ordinating Bargaining Council (PSCBC) or other relevant bargaining structures.

As a member, you are entitled to benefits on the occasion of your resignation, discharge or retirement. Beneficiaries are also entitled to the payment of a lump sum in case you die in service or within five years after your retirement. A spouse's pension is also generally payable if you are married and die in service or at any stage of retirement.

Sorry, No loans allowed



The GEPF receives a lot of enquiries from active members and pensioners about the possibility of getting cash loans from the Fund. The GEP Law does not make provisions for loans to members as the Fund is not a registered Financial Service Provider.

Medical subsidy increases for pensioners

The Minister of Public Service and Administration has determined that the employer subsidy for former employees belonging to a registered medical scheme must be adjusted as shown hereunder with effect from 1 January 2018.

Member profile	01 January 2017 employer subsidy	01 January 2018 monthly employer subsidy
Single Principal member	R1097.00	R1198.00
Principal member with dependant	R2195.00	R2397.00

Various Medical Aid Schemes were informed of the changes in December 2017 and have been instructed to claim the higher amount from 1 January 2018.



BLOW THE WHISTLE

against Fraud & corruption

0800 33 72 83 / 0800 3 Fraud (37283)

LET GEPF KNOW WHEN YOU CHANGE YOUR CONTACT DETAILS



UPDATE

Please remember to send us your latest address and contact details, including your cell phone number, so that we can stay in touch with you. This will assist us in processing your pension benefits efficiently and effectively, and it will ensure that you receive your GEPF newsletter and other GEPF correspondence accordingly. GEPF relies on you to provide accurate personal details. If you know of any GEPF member who does not receive this newsletter, please urge them to contact GEPF to update their contact details.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND US?

CLIENT SERVICE CENTRES

Gauteng: Trevenna Campus, Building 2A, corner of Meintjes and Francis Baard streets, Sunnyside, Pretoria **Eastern Cape:** No. 12 Global Life Centre, Circular Drive, Bhisho **Free State:** No. 2 President Brand Street, Bloemfontein **KwaZulu-Natal:** 3rd Floor, Brasfort House, 262 Langalibalele Street, Pietermaritzburg **Limpopo:** 87 (a) Bok Street, Polokwane **Mpumalanga:** Shop No. 5 Imbizo Place, Samora Machel Street, Mbombela **North West:** Mega City, Office No. 4/17, Ground Floor, Entrance 4, Mmabatho, Mahikeng **Northern Cape:** 11 Old Main Road, Kimberley **Western Cape:** 21st Floor, No. 1 Thibault Square, Standard Bank Building, Long Street, Cape Town

SATELLITE OFFICES

Johannesburg: 124 Marshall Street (corner Marshall and Eloff streets - Gandhi Square Precinct), 2nd Floor, Lunga House, Marshalltown **Port Elizabeth:** Ground Floor, Kwantu Towers, Sivuyile Mini-Square, next to City Hall **Mthatha:** 2nd Floor, PRD Building, Sutherland Street **Durban:** 12th Floor, Salmon Grove Chambers, 407 Anton Lembede Street **Phuthaditjhaba:** 712 Public Road, Mandela Park Shopping Centre **Thohoyandou:** 2010 Centre, next to Phalaphala FM (SABC) **Rustenburg:** Shop 1, Ground Floor, 68 Marais Street

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