

# fundnews

The quarterly newsletter for pensioners of the Government Employees Pension Fund

1<sup>st</sup> Edition 2022



I have just retired from public service. Do I qualify for a SASSA grant?



The importance of discussing your pension benefits with your family



I heard that the GEPF provides a surplus pension. How true is this?

## The Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) pensioners to receive a 5.5% annual pension increase as of 1 April 2022



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GEPF APP:



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The Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) has implemented an annual pension increase of 5.5% for its pensioners effective from 1 April 2022.

The pension increase was based on the 5.5% inflation rate for the 12 months ending 30 November 2021. **This makes the increase equal to 100% of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and higher than the 75% of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) provided in terms of GEP Law and Rules.**

Pensioners who retired on or before 1 April 2021 were set to receive the full increase of 5.5 % as of 1 April 2022 while pensioners who retired after 1 April 2021 would receive a proportionate increase based on the number of the months they have been in receipt of pension by 31 March 2022.

The GEPF grants pension increases to enable pensioners to keep up with the inflation rate and the increases are based on the affordability of the Fund at a given time. An affordable increase is one that can be granted without placing a strain on the sustainability of the Fund, with due consideration to current needs and future financial health of the Fund.

When deciding on the pension increase, the GEPF considers:

- the investment returns earned over the year;
- the level of inflation over the same period;
- how both relate to the assumptions adopted in the statutory valuations and more importantly;
- how the increase will impact the financial position of the Fund.

It must be noted that increases which are above what is provided for in the GEP Law and Rules are granted at the discretion of the Board of Trustees, taking into account the Fund's investment performance as well as the GEP Law requirements.

Pensioners have received individual letters illustrating the recalculated values of their pensions as of 1 April 2022.

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, give firm guidelines on how the Fund must decide the annual increase that is paid to pensioners.

These documents state that GEPF's Board of Trustees may approve a pension increase after consideration given to the financial conditions of the Fund and the effect of the proposed increases on the Fund.

This minimum funding level states that the Fund's assets must be able to cover at least 90% of its liabilities.

*This means that what the Fund owns (its assets) must be able to cover the cost of at least 90% of what it owes in terms of the current and future pension payments that it is committed to (its liabilities).*

According to the rules, the Fund can only approve an increase that it can afford.



I have just retired from public service.

## Do I qualify for a SASSA grant?

The Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) is not able to determine whether or not you, as a pensioner and a member, qualify to receive the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) grant. Only SASSA can determine whether a GEPF pensioner qualifies for the SASSA grant in line with their rules.

You are advised to visit your nearest SASSA office to enquire on whether you qualify for a social grant/old age pension. If you meet the requirements they have set out, they will advise you. GEPF can however guarantee you that it will continue to pay the pension benefits due to you whether or not you qualify for the SASSA grant.



# I am a pensioner.

## Do I qualify for certain discounts?

While retiring with the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) comes with many benefits, it is important to clarify that GEPF does not negotiate for or facilitate any form of discounts and rebates on behalf of pensioners.

The Fund does not have any arrangements to solicit favourable deals for its pensioners either with private commercial ventures such as retail outlets, or with any government facility and/or state-owned entity like local government municipalities (for rent, traffic fines, etc.), public hospitals, the post office, Telkom etc.

The GEPF however issues pensioner cards to its retirees so that they may use the card as proof of their status as a pensioner in cases where a third party may request such in order to offer them reduced rates or price for goods and services.

Some of these allowances may be in the form of savings on bus ticket prices, parking or groceries for the elderly.

The GEPF does not take part in the registration, application and approval processes relating to any 'third-party' discount promotions that are aimed at the elderly in our communities, be they ordinary pensioners or those belonging to the GEPE.

You can apply for a pensioner card by sending an email to [enquiries@gepf.co.za](mailto:enquiries@gepf.co.za) or by visiting your nearest GEPF office. For your convenience, we have a total of nine (9) Walk-in Centres and seven (7) Satellite offices across the country.

For more information, you are welcome to contact our Call Centre on 0800 117 669. Calls to this number are at no cost to you from any telephone network provider.





# The importance of discussing your pension benefits with your family

One of the challenges the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) has been grappling with is Unclaimed Benefits.

Unfortunately, the cases continue to increase as potential members or beneficiaries either cannot be found, or do not come forward to claim their benefits. There are several reasons that contribute to this challenge but the main factor is that employer departments and the Fund do not have sufficient personal information of members and beneficiaries.

We encourage all members to talk about their pension benefits with their families. This approach will undoubtedly make the claiming process easier in the case of the death of a member as it will empower beneficiaries on the process they need to follow to claim their benefits.

More often than not, the reason for families fail to come forward and claim pension benefits in the event of a member's death, is due to the lack of a completed and updated Nomination Form

(WP1002). As a result, the GEPF does not know who the possible beneficiaries are. The problem is compounded if the family is also not aware of the benefits due to them.

We understand that many members may find it difficult to discuss their pension benefits with their families while they are still alive. Nevertheless, the Fund believes that it is very important to share this information as it will assist in having a seamless claiming process in the event that you pass on. We urge you to inform your family members that you are a member of the GEPF. Explain to them the benefits you are entitled to should you pass on, as well as the processes they need to follow to claim those benefits.

Here is another important aspect: DO NOT forget to nominate your beneficiaries and regularly update your Personal Details Form (Z864) and Nomination of Beneficiaries Form (WP1002) each time your circumstances change e.g if you have a newborn baby or change contact number, change address, etc.



**BLOW THE  
VUVUZELA**  
against Fraud & Corruption

# 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](mailto:gepf@thehotline.co.za) |

Website: [www.thehotline.co.za](http://www.thehotline.co.za)

### For more information contact us at:

Government Employees Pension Fund

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# I am a pensioner, do I qualify for the Funeral Benefit?

- A certified birth certificate of a child will be required in instances where you are claiming on behalf of a child.

Our pensioners qualify for the Funeral Benefit. This benefit is intended to assist the deceased's next-of-kin with the costs of preparing for and managing the funeral. The funds can be released within 72 hours of receiving a valid claim with all supporting and correctly completed documents.

The GEPF provides the Funeral Benefit upon the death of a qualifying pensioner, a pensioner's spouse, or an eligible child of a pensioner. The Fund pays a taxable amount of R15000 for the pensioner or spouse and R6000 for an eligible child.

When you claim for this benefit, please make sure that you use the correct form. Secondly, the claimant must ensure that the information completed on the form is correct. Incorrect information and errors of any kind will cause a delay in processing the payment. Furthermore, it is important to know the requirements and the process to follow when you claim for the Funeral Benefit.

Below is a list of the documents that are required:

- A correctly completed Funeral Benefit Claim Form (Z300).
- A certified original death certificate and an original identity document or a passport of the deceased.

If the deceased pensioner or member and their surviving spouse are both members of the Fund, the surviving spouse can lodge a claim on account of the deceased and lodge another claim as a member of the GEPF. In such cases two Funeral Benefit Claim Forms (Z300) will be completed, one under the pension number of the deceased member and the other using the surviving spouse's pension number. This will lead to the GEPF making two payments.

You are advised to update your Nomination of Beneficiaries Form (WP1002) regularly. Keeping your WP1002 form updated will enable the GEPF to process the Funeral Benefit without delays. Legally adopted children of a pensioner also qualify for the Funeral Benefit.

When a minor is unable to administer the fund on their own, the guardian will have to act on their behalf. Therefore, it is important for you to regularly share information with your family members about the benefits you are entitled to and the processes involved in claiming the benefits. Pensioners and families should note that the GEPF Funeral Benefit is not determined by what the family would have spent to bury the deceased. The Funeral Benefit amount payable is a fixed amount set out in the rules of the GEPF.



# Avoid benefits payment delays. **Fix** your tax matters with SARS.

When you claim a benefit that you qualify for, you expect the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) to live up to its commitment of paying your benefits within six weeks of receiving the relevant correctly completed claim forms and supporting documents.

However, while submitting these documents will help the Fund to process your payment, there could be other matters that need attention for your claim to be processed timeously. Outstanding tax matters may delay the payment of your benefits. Therefore, it is important to note that no benefit will be paid until all tax matters are resolved.

The South African Revenue Services (SARS) is responsible for the collection of tax on various forms of financial income. This income includes pension benefits paid to members of


the GEPF. By law, GEPF is obliged to request a tax directive from SARS prior to the payment of any pension benefit.

Should SARS notice that you have outstanding tax return(s) or tax penalties, the tax directive will be declined which means that the GEPF will not be able to effect payment of your pension benefit until you have resolved your tax matters with SARS. Once GEPF is informed about your outstanding tax matters, it will advise you to visit your nearest SARS office to address this.

## **Failure to address these outstanding tax matters will delay the payment of your pension benefits.**

It remains your responsibility as a member to ensure that your tax affairs with SARS are up to date and in order to avoid delays in paying benefits. Help GEPF pay your pension benefits on time. Fix your tax matters with SARS!



A close-up, profile view of an elderly woman with dark hair, wearing a blue and white striped shirt. She is looking thoughtfully to the left, with her hands clasped together in front of her. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an indoor setting with natural light.

I heard that the  
GEPF provides  
a surplus  
pension.

**How true  
is this?**

We are aware of the misleading rumours attributed to the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) that are doing the rounds in the public space. We urge you, as members, pensioners and beneficiaries of the Fund, to exercise caution before making financial commitments, especially when confronted with unverified information from unreliable sources.

The GEPF would like to place on record that it is not true that there are “surplus pension benefits” to which GEPF members or pensioners are entitled. This is one of many fabrications that are peddled by persons whose intent is to defraud you or your nominated beneficiaries.

You are encouraged to be more thorough in the handling of your pension and retirement affairs to avoid falling prey to dodgy schemes perpetrated by criminals. Their known method is to convince people to pay an “administration fee” - a proposition which most unsuspecting victims agree to in the false hope of receiving the “surplus amount” benefit.

The GEP Law, under which the GEPF is regulated, does not make provision for any surplus benefit payment. The Fund’s key priorities are to safeguard your future well-being and financial interests as best as we can.

For many years, we have safely managed and disbursed pension benefits to the right people, all thanks to the stringent verification and fraud mitigation measures that we have put in place. We also place emphasis on educating members on our various benefits: how, when and to whom these benefits are due.

Your benefits are secured! Do not be taken for a ride by third parties whose intention is to steal your hard-earned money.

GEPF services are strictly free of charge. The Fund does not share your information with unauthorised parties without your consent. You are once again advised to be extra cautious when sharing your information and personal details to avoid being defrauded. You can check if there is money due to you by calling the GEPF 0800 117 669, sending an email to [enquiries@gepf.co.za](mailto:enquiries@gepf.co.za) or visiting your nearest GEPF office.

**How to register on the GEPF mobile App and Self-Service Web**

**Step 1**  
Download the mobile App on **Google play store, Huawei App Gallery, Apple App Store** or go to the website at [www.gepf.co.za](http://www.gepf.co.za) to access **Self-service Web.**

# Will all my children qualify for the Child's Pension should I pass on?



As a GEFP pensioner, your children/dependants qualify for this pension benefit irrespective of their number for as long as they meet the criteria set by the rules of the Fund.

In the event that a GEFP pensioner dies, their children can apply for the Child's Pension. This will apply for as long as one parent who was a member or pensioner of GEFP is deceased regardless of whether the other parent is alive and can be traced. In the past, children could only qualify for this benefit if both parents were no longer alive.

As part of the Fund's consistent effort to offer its pensioners well-deserved benefits and value for their contributions, the GEFP reviewed this benefit and improved it to cater for situations wherein the other parent is not involved in the upbringing of the child or cannot be traced. As a result of the review, the rules of the Fund were

amended with effect from 01 June 2018 to replace the Orphan's Pension with the Child's Pension. Currently, if a GEFP pensioner dies and the other parent is still alive, the dependant child (biological or legally adopted) may qualify for the Child's Pension if the required criteria is met.

One important aspect to note is that a child qualifies for the Child's Pension up to the age of 18 years and up to 22 when they are still studying. The Child's Pension benefit may be extended beyond the age of 22 years in cases of a disabled child. The requirements for application of the children who fall in that category is that the child or parent/legal guardian must prove (also medically) that the child is physically and/or mentally disabled to such an extent that they are not capable to provide for themselves. If such a child qualifies for the Child's Pension, it remains payable until the child (referred to as a child pensioner) passes away.



# 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](mailto:enquiries@gepf.co.za)  
Website: [www.gepf.co.za](http://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

Brandwag Centre, 20 Stapelberg 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, 4<sup>th</sup> 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

### Thohoyandou

2010 Centre, next to Phalaphala FM (SABC)

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