



Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF): Alleged Change to Resignation Benefit

A newspaper article over the weekend alleged that, with effect from 1 April 2015, the GEPF had effected a change to the formula for the calculation of actuarial interest. The article claimed that GEPF had amended the so called F(Z) and A(X) factors in the formula resulting in a reduced benefit in those instances where the actuarial interest is used for calculation purposes (e.g. resignation, discharge for misconduct or discharge for ill-health occasioned by a member's own doing, or early retirement with less than 10 years' service).

Pension Rule 14.4.2 states that the F(Z) and A(X) factors are determined by the Board of Trustees acting on the advice of the actuary, and only after consultation with the Minister and employee organisations. The GEPF, through the State as employer, has not had any consultations with organised Labour in the PSCBC on the (alleged) change to these factors. A request for the matter to be discussed in the PSCBC has already been tabled.

Members should note the following:

- 1. There is NO change to the benefits (gratuity and monthly pension) a public servant will receive on retirement, early retirement (more than 10 years' service) or retirement on medical grounds. Members need not be concerned.**
- 2. We will report on the outcome of the discussion in the PSCBC on the alleged amendment of the F(Z) and A(X) factors when calculating a member of the GEPF's actuarial interest.**

Challenges at Roodepoort Primary School

NAPTOSA Gauteng is concerned about the situation at Roodepoort Primary School, which has steadily deteriorated over the past few weeks. It is regrettable that learners are suffering and teaching and learning is compromised. It is also disgraceful that many of our NAPTOSA members employed at that school had to endure defamatory comments.

NAPTOSA officials have been in contact with members at Roodepoort Primary School on a daily basis and have also supported them by visiting the school and meeting with district officials on their behalf.

NAPTOSA Gauteng is pleased that the Premier and the MEC have established such a high profile panel to mediate and attempt to solve the problems being experienced at the school. NAPTOSA members have also been invited to give testimony. Mr Scorgie will accompany them. We believe that, for the first time, the NAPTOSA teachers will be heard in a forum where their views can be expressed without undue prejudice.

NAPTOSA Gauteng trusts that the panel will come up with an acceptable, fair and lasting solution to the problems so that teaching and learning can commence again.

13th cheque/service bonus

NAPTOSA Gauteng contacted GDE to enquire about the form that must be completed in order to change the payment month of the 13th cheque from the birthday month to the month of the public servant's choice. GDE indicated that they will issue a memorandum to district offices to set out the procedure that employees must follow.

Members are advised to only submit requests for a change of payment date after they have received formal communication in this regard from the district office.

LOUISE SMIT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Increase in duration of Grades 10 and 11 Economics mid- and end year examination (DBE Circular S11 of 2015, dated 27 July 2015)

The 2014 NCS internal moderators' reports highlighted the insufficient time allocated to the Economics paper (NSC examination). DBE therefore, increased the duration of Economics examinations for Grade 10 and 11 as follows:

- 1 ½ hours for Grade 10 mid-year examination;
- 2 hours for the Grade 10 end-of-year examination; and
- 2 hours for Grade 11 mid-year and end-of-year examination.

Circular S11 should be read in conjunction with the CAPS document and the original errata issued under Circular S11 of 2013. Available on the DBE website.

"Don't forget to water them geraniums."

Office bearers

Chairperson: Mr Tinus du Preez
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