



NATIONAL NEWS FLASH



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PENSIONS: UNCLAIMED BENEFITS

As far as pensions are concerned, members of NAPTOSA fall into two categories. Those members employed under the Employment of Educators Act, 1998 and the Public Service Act, 1994, who belong to the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) and members employed by Independent Schools, School Governing Bodies and TVET/CET College Councils who, where applicable, belong to private pension funds covered by the Pension Funds Act, 1956.

The Financial Sector Conduct Authority ("FSCA") has now implemented an unclaimed benefit search engine to assist former members of retirement funds in tracing their unclaimed benefits. The following is an extract from a FSCA document explaining what an unclaimed retirement benefit is and what is required for the Authority to assist former members of such funds:

"What is an unclaimed benefit?"

Unclaimed benefits refer to any benefit not paid by a retirement fund to a person within 24 months of the date on which it became due and payable to such person in terms of the retirement fund's rules.

How can you enquire if you have an unclaimed retirement fund benefit?

Via the FSCA website

The unclaimed benefit search engine is available on the FSCA website (Departments > Retirement Funds > Searches > Unclaimed Benefits Search) or on the following link: <https://www.fsc.co.za/Customers/Pages/Unclaimed-Benefits.aspx>.

You will have to complete certain data fields such as your name, surname, contact number or email address.

Providing only your ID number via an email enquiry

You can only enter your ID number as the subject in an email to the following email address: Pensions.UBmemberID@FSCA.co.za. An unsuccessful search on an ID number only does not necessarily mean that there is no unclaimed benefit due to you. Therefore, where your search is unsuccessful, you can send additional information by email (see hereunder) or do an enquiry on the FSCA website.

Providing as much as possible information, such as your name, surname, the name of the retirement fund, your former employer's name, your date of birth and ID number

· in an email to the following email address: Pensions.UBQuery@FSCA.co.za

· via a fax submission to 0865 781 183

· to the FSCA call centre by calling the following toll-free numbers: 0800 20 3722 (toll-free)

· to the FSCA in writing. You must include all or at least one of the following in your letter: your contact number, email address and your contact address. The letter should be addressed to: The Financial Services Board, Pensions: Surveillance and Enforcement, PO Box 35655, Menlo Park, Pretoria, 0102

Visiting the FSCA offices

You will be assisted by FSCA staff to establish if there are possible unclaimed benefits due to you. The physical address of the FSCA is River Walk Office Park, Block B, 41 Matroosberg Road, Ashlea Gardens, Pretoria.”

The FSCA search engine will benefit former non-GEPF members of NAPTOSA.

Please note that as far as GEPF members are concerned, the GEPF has its own requirements to access unclaimed pension benefits, *inter alia* completing certain public service specific forms (Z forms). Information on unclaimed GEPF benefits can be obtained at <https://www.gepf.gov.za/unclaimed-benefits/>

Members are called upon to pass on the above information to anyone that they are aware of that might require assistance with unclaimed retirement benefits.

BASIL MANUEL

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR