

fundnews

The quarterly newsletter for pensioners of the Government Employees Pension Fund 2nd Edition 2025/2026



AN UNCLAIMED BENEFIT IS MONEY THAT BELONGS TO SOMEONE. PLEASE ASSIST GEFP TO FIND THEM.



ARE PENSIONERS ALLOWED TO CHANGE THEIR GEMS OPTIONS AFTER THEY RETIRE FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE?



TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR DOUBLE INCOME EARNERS

WHY DON'T PENSIONERS GET A BONUS ON THEIR BIRTHDAY MONTH?

The GEFP does not pay a birthday bonus to pensioners. There are various reasons, e.g.:

1. **Budget constraints:** Allocating funds to paying a birthday bonus could strain the overall budget and potentially impact the sustainability of the pension fund.
2. **Uniformity:** Ensuring all pensioners receive equal benefits without an additional bonus helps maintain fairness and simplicity in the system.
3. **Administrative efficiency:** Managing and distributing a birthday bonus could add complexity to the process of administration of pensions, which would lead to increased cost and potential delays.



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IF I RECEIVE A MONTHLY PENSION FROM GEPF, DO I ALSO QUALIFY FOR THE OLD-AGE SOCIAL GRANT?

One of the responsibilities of the GEPF is to pay a monthly annuity to former employees who are retired and qualify for this benefit.

The Fund is guided by the GEP Law & rules to determine who qualifies for the monthly annuity. Members who have contributed to the Fund continuously for more than ten years and retire from the fund receive a monthly annuity. The amount increases every year until they pass on.

The GEPF is not responsible for determining who qualifies for a South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) old age pension. This is the sole responsibility of SASSA, guided by their own policies and the South African Constitution. If you want to find out whether you qualify for the SASSA old age pension you should visit your nearest SASSA office.

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Unclaimed Benefits are benefits that have been with the GEPF for a period exceeding 24 months and that have not been paid to the rightful beneficiaries.

These funds belong to individuals who, for various reasons, have not yet received what is due to them. Some of these reasons are:

- Incomplete or incorrect documentation: Exit documents have not been submitted, or they contain errors that have not been corrected.

- **Tax issues:** GEPMF may be unable to obtain a tax directive from SARS, often because the member is not registered for tax or has not submitted a tax return.
- **Banking issues:** Payments may be returned due to incorrect banking details, or frozen or dormant accounts, or invalid pay points.
- **Insufficient information:** In some cases, GEPMF does not have enough information to process a payment.

To claim unclaimed benefits from the GEPMF, you need to complete the Banking Details (Z894) form, ensuring all sections are completed accurately and that the form is signed. Also submit a certified copy of your ID, a recent bank

statement or a banking details confirmation letter and ensure that your personal details are up to date. These documents help GEPMF to verify your identity and enable payment of your benefits without delay.

Unclaimed benefits are rightfully yours or your loved ones. Don't let them go uncollected. If you are a pensioner or know someone who might be due unclaimed benefits, please encourage them to contact GEPMF for assistance on 0800 117 669 or via email at enquiries@gepmf.co.za.

Let's work together to make sure every member receives what is due to them.

ARE PENSIONERS ALLOWED TO CHANGE THEIR GEMS OPTIONS AFTER THEY RETIRE FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE?

Yes, pensioners are allowed to change their Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS) options after retiring from government service. GEMS provides several benefit options, and members can choose the one that best suits their needs, even after retiring.

It's important to note that the process for changing options may involve specific timelines and requirements, so it's a good idea to review the GEMS rules or to contact GEMS directly for detailed guidance.



AS A PENSIONER, CAN I STILL UPDATE MY NOMINATION FORM WITHIN FIVE YEARS OF RETIRING?

It is important for a pensioner to update their nomination form within the first five years of retiring. This is because if the pensioner passes on within the first five years of retirement, the GEPF will pay the balance of the annuities up to five years after retirement to the eligible beneficiaries of the deceased pensioner.

For example, if a member retires and passes on within a year, GEPF will pay the remaining pension, which is equivalent to four years' worth of pension, to the deceased's eligible beneficiaries. It is therefore important for pensioners to update their nomination form (WP1002) regularly within the initial five years after retiring.

For more information, contact the GEPF on 0800 117 669 or email enquiries@gepf.co.za

I AM A PENSIONER PLANNING TO MARRY A SECOND SPOUSE, WILL HE OR SHE QUALIFY FOR A SPOUSE PENSION SHOULD I PASS AWAY?

A Spouse Pension is a benefit paid by the GEPF to the lawful spouse of a deceased member or pensioner. This benefit primarily constitutes 50% of the monthly annuity that a person would have received at the time of death in service or after going on retirement.

However, members have an option to elect that GEPF grant their spouse 75% of their monthly annuity. This is done by completing the Enhanced Spouse Pension 1 (ESP1) choice form at retirement. This election will however reduce the member's gratuity or monthly annuity.

The spouse of a member who passes on while in service will receive **50% of the member's** potential retirement annuity, provided that the member contributed to the Fund for ten or more unbroken years of service, or if their unexpired period of service would have allowed them to reach ten years of service. The term unexpired period refers to the number of years remaining for a member to reach **60 years of age** at the time of death, added to the number of years that the member had contributed to the Fund. If the member was married to more than one spouse, the spouses will share 50% of the member's monthly annuity equally.

For example: Itumeleng has been working for the Department of Education and contributing to the Fund for more than ten years. He is customarily married to four wives. Had he retired

at the time of death, he would have received a monthly annuity of **R40,000.00**. **50% of R40,000.00 is R20,000.00**. Itumeleng's four wives will share the **R20,000.00** equally, which means that they will receive a monthly annuity of **R5,000.00** each. Similarly, if Itumeleng married one or more wives after retirement, and passed on after that, all his lawful wives would share the **50%** of his monthly annuity **equally**.

A spouse pension benefit does not discriminate against spouses who were married after retirement. If the newly married spouse satisfies the requirements of the GEP Law to qualify for this benefit, they will receive it for the rest of their lives.



TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR DOUBLE INCOME EARNERS

In 2022, SARS made changes to the revised tax rate in terms of the tax to be deducted by an employer from an employee (Pay As You Earn or PAYE). Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) had to implement this directive from SARS and deduct the revised tax amount from pensioners' monthly payments.

These changes only apply to pensioners who have more than one source of income. This is because the pensioner is likely to fall into a higher tax bracket when all income is declared to SARS, and the pensioner will then have to make an additional payment to SARS after assessment.

The changes also give pensioners the option of opting out and changing back to the normal PAYE rate applicable to their pension. However, it is important to note that if the pensioner chooses to opt out, the GEPF will continue to deduct tax based on the changes made in 2022, which could result in the pensioner owing SARS tax.

To avoid this, pensioners must request that the GEPF deduct an additional amount of tax from their monthly annuity. Should a pensioner opt for this additional deduction, they must specify the

amount to be deducted as well as the commencement date. This arrangement will continue until the date indicated by the pensioner. However, should no end date be indicated, deductions will continue indefinitely, and the amount paid to SARS will be reflected on the IRP5.

Further enquiries may be directed to the GEPF Call Centre on 0800 117 669. The Fund respects the privacy and personal information of its members and pensioners and subscribes to the provisions of the Protection of Personal Information Act 4 of 2013. For more information, please visit www.gepf.co.za to view the GEPF Privacy Policy and Privacy Statement.

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SELF-SERVICE, GET EVERYTHING IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND

ZERO RATED Mobile App

Access to the GEPP App or Self service is FREE and does not require nor incur charges on airtime or data.



1. *What is Self-Service?*

Self-Service is an online system that allows members to access certain GEPP information themselves or to select certain services that they want to use. Whether you're on using smartphone, tablet or computer, you can log in securely at any time, from anywhere, to manage your GEPP profile. This allows members of the Fund to access and update their information, and to track their pension or other related benefit claims.

2. *By using the GEPP Self-Service portal, users are able to:*

- View their benefit statement
- Retrieve tax certificates
- Update personal contact details
- Nominate or revise listed beneficiaries

3. *Using the GEPP Self-Service system means:*

- All your information is accessible 24/7 from any internet-connected device.
- You are able to claim from your Two-Pot Retirement savings pot.
- You are able to engage with the GEPP from anywhere.
- There is no need for you to travel to a Walk-in Centre, contact the Call Centre or wait for your documents to arrive by post.
- You can check your personal details and update them anytime.

4. *Getting started*

Before accessing the platform, registration is required. This helps verify your identity and ensures secure access. You can sign up via the GEPP Self-Service website or mobile app.

5. *Travelling locally or abroad? No problem*

Even if you're outside the country, the Self-Service site and app remain fully functional. All services will be available as long as you have internet access.

6. *Whom do I contact if I have any queries?*

For any Self-Service-related questions, contact GEPP on 012 319 1400 or via email selfservicesupport@gpaa.gov.za. Make sure to use these contacts specifically for Self-Service support.