

fundtalk

The quarterly newsletter for members of the Government Employees Pension Fund

2nd Edition 2025/2026



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASE OF SERVICE?



YOUR PENSION BENEFITS ARE GUARANTEED WITH GEPF



UNCLAIMED BENEFIT



**IF THIS
IS YOUR
RETIREMENT
YEAR,
GET THE EXIT
PROCESS ROLLING
URGENTLY**

Retirement is a major milestone that should be approached with proper planning and timely action. If 2025 is your retirement year, it's crucial that you begin the process as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary delays in receiving your pension benefit.

Many government officials make the mistake of waiting until the last minute to start the retirement process. This may lead to administrative errors and delays in paying out your pension benefits, which can be stressful.

The first step is to give yourself enough time to gather all the necessary documents and resolve outstanding issues (if any) six months before you exit. This will ensure that you get all your documents together and timely submit them to your HR department. The HR department will complete the Z102 form (Withdrawal from Fund Application or "exit request"). HR department will co-sign the Z583 form (Medical Subsidy), Medical Choice form and the Retirement Choice Form as well as Z894 (Bank Form), if these are applicable.

Your retirement should be a time of peace, reflection and reward. Do not let administrative delays get in the way of you retiring on time.

For more information contact us at:
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Government Employees Pension Ombud

0800 117 669



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GEPFTM
your investment, your future



**Claim
Pending**

WERE YOU EMPLOYED ON CONTRACT AND DID NOT CLAIM YOUR PENSION BENEFITS?

The Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) is grappling with a large number of S-Cases. S-Cases are situations where a member has worked for the government, contributed to the GEPF, but had one or more breaks in service, and has not claimed their pension benefits that accrued during their previous periods of service.

The manner in which the member exited the Fund is known. Due to multiple different pensionable service periods, these members end up with more than one pension number. Their pension funds relating to one or more of their previous service periods remain with the Fund, and their employer department has failed to submit the required Withdrawal from Fund documents, e.g. a Z102 form or supporting documents.

There are other ways in which benefits become S-Cases. These include: members who resigned or were dismissed from a government department but have not claimed their benefits; members who owe their former employer money and their pension benefits claim cannot be processed. A benefits claim cannot be submitted to the Fund until such a dispute is settled.

GEPF is currently dealing with a large number of S-Cases, with the two biggest contributing employer departments being the Department of Education and the Department of Health nationwide.

Some of these members and former members of the Fund are not aware that they have benefits that they

should claim. Instead, they carry on working, thinking that their membership of the Fund has continued without interruption.

Affected members who previously worked on a contract basis for the government or an institution whose employees contribute to the GEPF, are urged to approach their employers or the nearest GEPF office and enquire whether they have any outstanding benefits that they need to claim. The consultant at the GEPF office or an official at the employer department or institution will advise on the process to follow to access these benefits. Typically, the documents that should be submitted for you to claim are:

- Z894 Form (banking details) obtainable from your employer or the GEPF website
- Z864 Form (updating of details)
- Choice form
- Certified copy of your Identity Document
- Marriage Certificate (where applicable)
- Divorce Decree and Settlement Agreement (where applicable)
- Z1525 (details of an approved fund where benefits should be transferred to)

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASE OF SERVICE?

Service may be purchased if a member wants to increase the value of the pension benefits they will receive when they retire. Members may choose to increase their pensionable service by "purchasing of service".

For example, if a member joins the public service at an advanced age, they may opt to purchase service so that by the time they retire, their pension benefits meet their needs.

To purchase service, the member must ask for a quotation of what it will cost for the period of service they want to purchase. The additional service is only recognised as pensionable service once the member has paid the amount due to purchase the service.



IS THE SERVICE PERIOD PRIOR TO AMALGAMATION RECOGNISED BY GEPF?

The GEPF does not recognise periods of service prior to its establishment in 1996 if those pensionable service periods had already been claimed by members when they joined the GEPF i.e. if they were already paid a pension benefit from their previous fund.

This is because once a member has claimed their pension benefit for that period, there are no remaining benefits to be paid.

However, if a member who was a member of previous fund did not claim their pension for the pensionable service period served before 1996 and continued their pensionable service with the GEPF, they are eligible to receive benefits for the

entire period of service, starting from when they first contributed to their pension fund (before 1996) until the date they exit the GEPF.

This ensures that members who have not previously claimed their pensions can still receive their full benefits, while those who have already claimed do not receive a double benefit payment for any period of service.



YOUR PENSION BENEFITS ARE GUARANTEED WITH GEPF

GEPF is Africa's largest pension fund. It has over R2 trillion in assets, over 1.2 million active members and more than 500 000 pensioners.

It provides retirement, resignation and death benefits to government employees. Its mission is to protect the interests of members and pensioners through responsible and transparent management of their pension.

When you dedicate your life to public service, you deserve assurance that your future is financially secure. The GEPF exists to provide that.

GEPF offers a wide range of benefits for all major life events, i.e.:

- Retirement benefit
- Resignation benefit
- Death benefit
- Funeral benefit

As a public servant, your pension is your most important asset. As a GEPF member, your retirement pension benefits are guaranteed. GEPF ensures that your years of service are rewarded with lifelong financial security.

IS IT POSSIBLE TO REVERSE MY PENSION IF IT IS TRANSFERRED TO AN APPROVED EXTERNAL RETIREMENT FUND?



The GEP Law allows you to elect to transfer your pension benefits to an approved retirement fund. However, once the transfer process is concluded, you cannot change or cancel the transfer as it is an irrevocable choice you make.

You may only be able to transfer your funds back to the GEPF once the first transfer process is complete. To transfer your pension funds back to the GEPF, you must be re-employed in the public sector and contributing to the GEPF.

Funds may only be transferred to and from approved retirement funds that are registered with the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) and the South African Revenue Services (SARS).

The transferring Fund must send the Recognition of Transfer (ROT) document to GEPF to complete and return to them, whereupon the transferring Fund will request approval from Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) for the funds to be transferred.

When your transferring fund has made the payment to GEPF, it must submit the proof of payment to gepftransfers@gpaa.gov.za or Special.ProjectEnquiries@gpaa.gov.za.

UNCLAIMED BENEFIT

You or someone you know have an unclaimed benefit.

Thousands of public servants and their families haven't claimed their GEPF pension benefits.

Did you, a loved one, or someone you know work for the government but never claimed a pension benefit?

Don't let the money stay unclaimed. Check today.

Contact GEPF on **0800 117 669** | **UnclaimedBenefit@gpaa.gov.za**

