

Association for Monitoring and
Advocacy of Government Pensions

(AMAGP)

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STATEMENT

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On behalf of : The AMAGP
Cape Town

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“PROMOTIONS” IN THE SAPS

1. The front page report in Rapport of today is absolutely shocking. There are surely a lot of questions to be asked about experience as police officers, promotion courses successfully completed, qualifications, how these promotions will affect the morale and capability of the force, the effect the present rank inflation will have on the salary budget of the Saps etc etc.
2. The Association for the Monitoring and Advocacy of Government Employees Pension fund (AMAGP) will leave the above type of question to the politicians and other commentators.
3. There are, however, a few questions pertaining to the GEPF that should be asked. The most important one, of course is: HOW WILL OUR PENSION FUND BE AFFECTED??? On the face of it, it would appear that we are now seeing a new type of theft of workers' and pensioners' money from their pension fund.
4. In the normal course of events it will take years of service and, therefore, contributions to the pension fund, before reaching the senior ranks of Brigadier, Major General or Lieutenant General. Contributions to the pension fund are calculated at 7½% by the member and 16% by the government on the salary earned by members of the uniformed forces.
5. It stands to reason that the contribution by the sergeant in this case, jumping to the rank of Brigadier will be much less than that of a long serving member before attaining that rank. Furthermore, person promoted to the substantive rank of Major General after his retirement did not contribute on this higher rank and any increase of his pension because of this retrospective promotion will be to the detriment of his fellow members of the pension fund. He will in fact be vulturing on his long serving colleagues. They surely have reason to complain about this erosion of their pension fund, especially now that the sustainability of the pension fund is already being questioned.

6. What we also do not understand is that these promotions are as the newspaper put it "in direct conflict with Treasury and the Minister of Finance'. How on earth can this be allowed?

7. It will be interesting to note whether the SAPS have consulted with the Board of Trustees of the GEPF before implementing this disastrous scheme and whether they have agreed to it.

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