

PERSVRYSTELLING NAMENS DIE VERENIGING VIR DIE MONITERING EN BEVORDERING VAN STAATSDIENDPENSIOENE (AMAGP)

Vir onmiddellike vrystelling

Durbanville

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AFGELOERDE VOORGESKREWE BATE BELEID SAL DIE EKONOMIE EN PENSIOENARISSE 'N KNOU TOEDIEN .DIE REGERING N WETSOORTREDER ?

Is die Regering so desperaat dat hy bereid is om sy eie wetgewing veral die OLDER PERSONS ACT te oortree en indien wel, wie sal namens die President die oranjebaadjie dra ?

Die *Vereniging vir die Monitering en Bevordering van die Staatsdienswerknemerspensioenfondse (AMAGP)* is ernstig gekant teen enige gedagte van die Regering om enige swaem van voorgeskrewe bates te implementeer. Ons het al herhaaldelik uitgewys dat dit die ekonomie en pensioenarisse sal benadeel. Die eerste gedagte oor voorgeskrewe bates is deur die apartheidsregering ingevoer, maar die gevolge daarvan het die ekonomie so seergemaak dat dit in 1989 herroep is. Om dit nou weer in te voer sal in elk geval 'n oortreding deur die regering van Artikel 30 van die OLDER PERSONS ACT (ACT 13 OF 2006) wees.

Wie sal bereid wees om namens die President gevangenis toe toe te gaan? Ace Magashule?

Die Regering blyk verbete te wees om sy verstokte beleid oor voorgeskrewe bates deur te voer ten spyte daarvan dat dit in die verlede gefaal het. Ons wonder of LPs se pensioene ook negatief beïnvloed sou word sou die beleid weer in die hek duik. Ons dink egter nie so nie! Waar staan die vakbonde wat die beleid blykbaar steun? Wat ons wel glo is dat dit beslis 'n negatiewe invloed op GEPF se pensioenarisse sal hê.

Die Wet bepaal onder andere dat die ouer bevolking wat ooglopend pensioenarisse insluit, beskerm moet word teen diskriminasie en uitbuiting in enige vorm. Artikel 30 bepaal in besonder dat Finansiële/Ekonomiese uitbuiting verbied word en dat geen onwettige gebruik van ouer persone se pensioen, bates of gelde sonder hulle toestemming gebruik mag word nie.

Die Wet bepaal ook duidelik dat dit onwettig is om ouer persone se fundamentele menseregte, respek, waardigheidspraak en rondskuif te negeer.

Dit is dus duidelik dat die Regering eers volgens die wet ouer persone en pensioenarisse moet ken voordat hulle drastiese besluite volvoer soos om die geldsake van pensioenarisse te wil gebruik in 'n program van voorgeskrewe bates.

Konsultasie met meeste vakbonde oor pensioenaangeleenthede deug nie veel nie, behalwe met die Vereniging van Staatsamptenare. Meeste van die ander is net betrokke by die werkersklas en nie die pensioenarisse nie. Dus is die volhoubaarheid van die pensioenfondse nie vir hulle 'n prioriteit nie.

Konsultasie met die Raad van Trustees sal geen doel dien nie aangesien die Raad asgevolg van n gebrerk aan kontak heeltemal uit voeling met die behoeftes van pensioentrekkers is. AMAGP is die mening toegedaan dat die Raad van die GEPF nie gretig is om met sy lede behoorlik te kommunikeer nie. Dit ten spyte daarvan dat die Fonds se gelde aan die lede behoort. Die Raad moet volgens wet toesien dat beleggings ten voordeel van sy lede gemaak moet word. Doen hulle dit ? Ons twyfel..

Die oorverdowende stilte oor die voorgeskrewe bate- tamentele lei gevolglik tot die siening dat hulle nie meer as verteenwoordigers van die lede van die GEPF beskou kan word nie

AMAGP versoek die Raad van GEPF om sy mantel van geheimhouding af te gooi en behoorlik met sy lede te konsulteer voordat dit te laat is. Die Raad moet verantwoordelikheid aanvaar en behoorlik en eerlik die behoorlike bestuur van sy bates te gebruik voordat ouer persone en hulle bates onbehoorlik wegsink in vergetelheid.

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PRESS RELEASE ON BEHALF OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE MONITORING AND ADVOCACY OF GOVT EMPLOYEE PENSIONS. (AMAGP)

Durbanville, 4 September 2019

THE GOVERNMENT A CRIMINAL? PRESCRIBED ASSET POLICY WILL HURT THE ECONOMY AND PENSIONERS

Is the Government so desperate that it will contravene its own laws? Will the Government blatantly contravene the OLDER PERSONS ACT.? If so, who wear the orange jacket on the President's behalf??

The Association for Monitoring and Advocacy of Government Pensions (AMAGP) has repeatedly pointed out that their cribbed policy on prescribed assets will harm the economy and pensioners. Apparently, the government does not realise that by re-implementing a failed policy they cribbed from their predecessors will be a blatant contravention of Section 30 of the OLDER PERSONS ACT {ACT 13 OF 2006}.

Who will go to jail on behalf of the President if this act is applied in a criminal court? Ace Magashule ?

The Government seems to be hell bent on enforcing its policy of prescribed assets, something that clearly failed in the past and was dumped by the apartheid government in 1989. Yet, we wonder if the pensions of Members of Parliament will also be negatively affected if this Government policy once again fail? Obviously not. They will look after themselves. And what about the Unions that apparently support this whole notion of prescribed assets? What we do know is that it would certainly negatively affect the pensions of the Gepf members!

We do not believe that the Government would want to act against the law when they think about all these ideas of theirs. They would not like to explain their actions in a Court of Law if pensioners feel the need to charge Government with the contravention of section 30 of the Older Persons Act (Act 13 of 2006 as amended).

The Act inter alia stipulates clearly that the older persons, who obviously include pensioners, in our country must be protected against discrimination and abuse in whatever form. Section 30 of the Act in particular inter alia prohibits **Financial / Economic abuse or exploitation**, the illegal use of an older person's grant, pension, assets or money without their clear consent, or and clear understanding of the purposes for which the money is being used for whatever purpose.

The Act also clearly states that the denial of fundamental human rights such as --- respect, dignity, personal privacy, freedom of thought, belief, opinion, speech, expression and movement of older people is illegal.

Effectively this means that Government must first and foremost consult with older persons / pensioners before making such drastic decisions about the use of any of their money and assets in whatever way. Communication with most unions will not be sufficient. Except for one union, the Public Servants Association, unions are mostly concerned with the rights and privileges of the workers and not the pensioners. History has shown that the sustainability of the pension fund is not a priority for them.

Consultation with the GEPF's Board of Trustees will serve no purpose as they are due to a lack of communication completely out of touch with the needs of pensioners. Here we must not forget that the money that the Gepf is supposed to protect and manage belongs to the pensioners. The Board of Trustees must therefore see to it that the money is well-managed in the best interest of the members and pensioners of the GEPF. Do they? We doubt it. Their silence on the matter of prescribed assets is deafening and they can no longer be regarded as the representatives of the members of the Government Employees' Pension fund.

Amagp therefore call on the GEPF Board of Trustees to break their policy of secrecy which currently prevails and consult with its members in a proper legal and open way before it is too late. The Board of Trustees must take responsibility for the proper management of the Fund and its assets. Now is indeed the time to do so before the older persons and their assets get hurt in an inappropriate way.

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