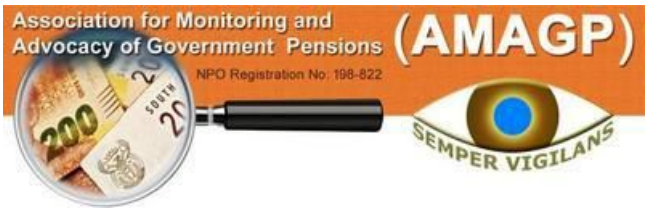


STATEMENT 1/2022

ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE MONITORING AND ADVOCACY OF GOVERNMENT PENSIONS. (AMAGP)

Cape Town
12 March 2022

# PLEA BY CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONERS

The government will soon have a new Board of Trustees (BoT) for the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF).

The BoT consists of sixteen members:

Eight appointed by the government
Six nominated by unions
One elected by the uniformed forces plus National Intelligence Agency
One elected by pensioners of the GEPF.

AMAGP points out that the composition of the BoT is completely skewed. In the interest of the GEPF's members and also to ensure more effective and professional management of the Fund we ask that the concerns of the members should be addressed as a matter of URGENCY.

Pensioners who make up about 25 percent of the members of the GEPF have only one representative on the Board. This is obviously totally disproportionate.

COSATU, being part of the Tripartite Alliance as employer, nominates eight members, and, through its subsidiaries DENOSA, NEHAWU and SADTU, nominates three more members.

COSATU therefore plays a role in eleven of the sixteen appointments. Two or three of them could easily be allocated to pensioners. No amendment to the law is required for this.

COSATU's role in the BoT is then even further strengthened by the four secundus members of subsidiary unions, which is also completely undesirable.

IT IS TIME FOR THE MINISTER TO RECTIFY THIS IMBALANCE!

Our plea to the government is: PLEASE NO CADRES!

> Please appoint trustees who will advance the interests of all members of the Pension Fund; who will exercise strict control over the investments on behalf of the Pension Fund; and, who will not run the fund as if it were the government's dairy cow.

Our request to the unions is:

> Please nominate trustees who will promote and protect the interests of the members of the Pension Fund; who will not try to please their political bosses for the sake of attempting to squander the Fund's assets for all sorts of government adventures.

Our request to pensioners is:  PLEASE VOTE!

> As a single representative our BoT member will have a huge task in representing the interests of all pensioners.  So, please elect a strong representative who has a strong financial background and relevant experience to act in the interest of the Fund and its members.  It must be a person that has sound knowledge and experience of the Fund’s budget and financial

statements through many years of analysing them, as well as excellent knowledge and experience as an auditor of good standing.

This person will help to eliminate and point out existing gaps that currently exist. He/she will ensure that the Standing Committee on Finance of Parliament is respected by all, ensuring that full reporting is done, and that questions asked there are not evaded as in the past.

From the list of nominees it is clear that Christo van Dyk is excellently equipped for the task. His 37 years of experience as a senior auditor on the staff of the Auditor-General makes him eminently fit to ensure that the finances of the Fund are handled correctly; that recognized accounting practices and processes are maintained, and that the requirements of the Public Service Employees Pension Act, 1996 are complied with at all times. He therefore deserves our vote. The members of the Fund sorely need such a person on the BoT.

If all this comes to pass, we will have a professional Board of Trustees that will ensure that the assets of the fund are traded in consultation; that openness and transparency are maintained at all times; that reporting to members of the Pension Fund and parliamentary committees be done in full; that political interference will be something of the past; that proper control is exercised over the investment agents; that investments are made only in a manner that aims to sustain and grow the Pension Fund; that no malpractices in connection with the Pension Fund will take place; and that commissions of inquiry into matters affecting the Fund will consequently be unnecessary.

**Unfortunately the first day of the elections proved that the system used by the GEPF for the elections experiences huge problems.**

**Hundreds of pensioners contacted AMAGP and indicated that they could not gain access to the system to vote. They now distrust the system that is riddled with unsolvable error messages and indicated their unwillingness to proceed with the election process. Is this situation acceptable?**

Ends/

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VERKLARING 1/2022

UITGEREIK NAMENS DIE VERENIGING VIR DIE MONITERING EN VOLHOUBAARHEID VAN STAATSDIENSPENSIOENE (AMAGP)

Kaapstad
12 Maart 2022

**PLEIDOOI DEUR STAATSDIENSPENSIONARISSE**

Die regering sal eersdaags 'n nuwe Raad van Trustees (RvT) vir die Staatsdienspensioenfonds (GEPF) aanstel.

Die RvT bestaan uit 16 lede:

Agt aangestel deur die regering

Ses benoem deur vakbonde

Een verkies deur die geuniformde magte plus die Nasionale Intelligensie-agentskap (NIA)

Een verkies deur pensionarisse van die GEPF.

AMAGP wys daarop dat die samestelling van die RvT heeltemal skeef is. In die belang van die lede van die GEPF en ook om doeltreffende en professionele bestuur van die Fonds te verseker, word versoek dat hierdie aangeleentheid DRINGEND hersien moet word.

Pensionarisse wat ongeveer 25 persent van die lede van die Staatsdienspensioenfonds uitmaak, het slegs een verteenwoordiger op die RvT. Dit is ooglopend heeltemal buite verhouding.

COSATU, as deel van die Drieparty-alliansie wat as werkgewer agt lede benoem, benoem deur sy filiale DENOSA, NEHAWU en SADTU verdere drie lede. COSATU speel dus 'n rol in elf van die sestien aanstellings. Twee of drie daarvan kan maklik aan pensionarisse toegeken word. Geen wetswysiging is hiervoor nodig nie.

COSATU se rol in die RvT word verder versterk deur die vier secunduslede van filiaalvakbonde, wat ook ongewens is.

DIT IS TYD DAT DIE MINISTER HIERDIE WANBALANS REGSTEL!

Ons pleidooi aan die regering is: ASSEBLIEF GEEN KADERS!

Maar: Stel asseblief trustees aan wat die belange van lede van die Pensioenfonds sal bevorder; wat streng beheer oor die beleggings namens die Pensioenfonds sal uitoefen; en – wat nie die Fonds sal bestuur asof dit die regering se melkkoei is nie.

Ons versoek aan die vakbonde is:

Benoem asseblief trustees wat die belange van die lede van die Pensioenfonds sal bevorder – wat nie hul politieke base probeer ter wille wees deur die Fonds se bates vir allerhande regeringsavonture te probeer versmous nie.

Ons versoek aan pensionarisse is: STEM ASSEBLIEF!

As enkele verteenwoordiger sal ons trusteelid teen ’n groot oormag ’n reuse taak hê om pensionarisse se belange te behartig.

Verkies dus asseblief vir ons pensionarisse ’n verteenwoordiger wat 'n sterk finansiële agtergrond het; wat die GEPF se finansiële state deur ontleding daarvan vir baie jare ken; wat jare ondervinding as ouditeur het; wat sal toesien dat daar sterk beheer oor beleggings van fondse is; wat bestaande leemtes sal help besweer; en, wat sal toesien dat die Staande Komitee oor Finansies van die parlement gerespekteer word, deur toe te sien dat volledig verslag gedoen word en dat vrae wat daar gestel word nie soos in die verlede ontduik word nie.

Uit die lys van genomineerdes is dit duidelik dat Christo van Dyk uitnemend toegerus is vir die taak. Sy ondervinding van 37 jaar as senior ouditeur op die personeel van die Ouditeur-generaal maak hom uiters geskik om toe te sien dat die finansies van die Fonds korrek hanteer word; dat erkende rekenkundige praktyke gehandhaaf word; en, dat te alle tye aan die vereistes van die Staatsdienswerknemers Pensioenwet, 1996 voldoen word. Hy verdien dus ons stem.

As dit alles gebeur, sal ons 'n professionele Raad van Trustees hê wat**:**

Sal toesien dat daar met oorleg met die bates van die fonds gehandel word; dat deursigtigheid te alle tye gehandhaaf word; dat verslagdoening aan lede van die pensioenfonds en parlementere komitees volledig sal geskied; dat politieke inmenging afwesig sal wees; dat behoorlike beheer oor die beleggingsagente uitgevoer word; dat beleggings slegs plaasvind op 'n wyse wat ten doel het om die pensioenfonds volhoubaar te hou en te laat groei; dat wanpraktyke in verband met die Pensioenfonds nie sal plaasvind nie; en, dat kommissies van ondersoek na aangeleenthede wat die Fonds raak gevolglik onnodig sal wees.

**Ongelukkig was dit reeds op die eerste dag van die verkiesing duidelik dat die stelsel wat die GEPF gebruik groot probleme het. Honderde pensionarisse het aan AMAGP aangedui dat hulle nie toegang tot die stelsel kan kry om te stem nie. Hulle wantrou nou die stelsel wat deurspek is met onoplosbare foute en is nou onwillig om met die verkiesingsproses voort te gaan. Is hierdie situasie aanvaarbaar?**

Einde.

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