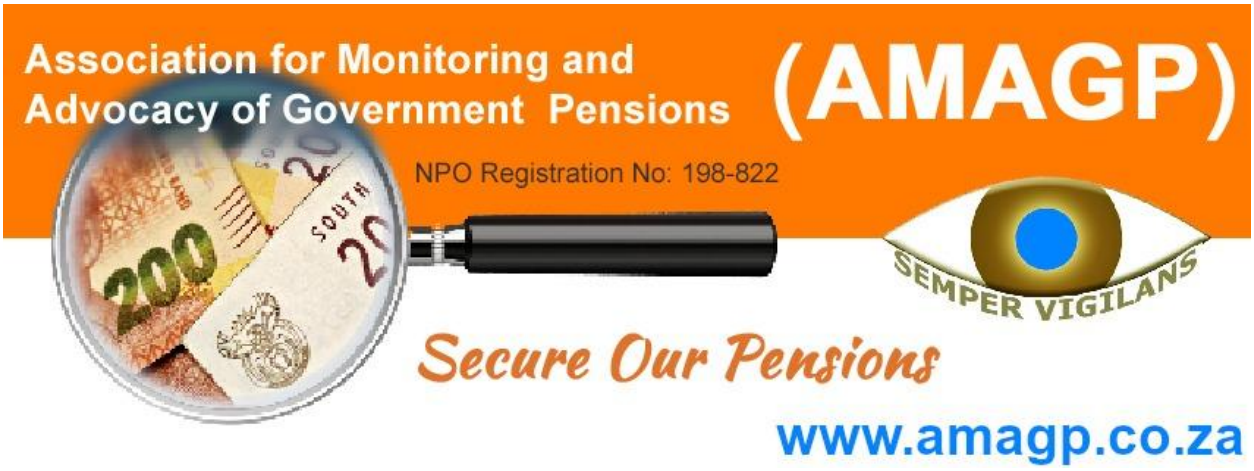

To: The Board of Trustees: Government Employee Pension Fund (GEPF)

From: AMAGP obo All Concerned Members of the GEPF

PETITION TO DEFEND OUR PENSION FUND!!

The exact content of the petition, as it is presented to the members concerned, is shared for your **urgent** attention.

DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMPLIANCE WITH FIDUCIARY DUTIES IN THE MANAGEMENT OF OUR PENSION FUND

Legal Declaration

This petition is submitted in accordance with our legal rights as duly registered members, on behalf of all dependents, pensioners, and beneficiaries (involving more than 1.8 million members) of the GEPF. We, the undersigned, declare that the information presented herein is true and correct to the best of our knowledge.

This petition is submitted as a formal demand under all relevant legal, fiduciary, statutory, and administrative standards governing the Board of Trustees (BoT) of the GEPF. We, the undersigned, reserve all legal rights available under applicable law to support and justify this petition, defending our Constitutional rights, including our rights to freedom of expression, presenting petitions, equality, human dignity and social security.

Background

We are concerned members (as indicated) of the GEPF, who depend on the sound and ethical management of the GEPF. The Fund represents not only our hard-earned retirement savings but also our expectations that the GEPF will meet its long-term obligations toward all members of the GEPF.

It has come to our attention through various sources, such as negative media coverage that escalated recently regarding the outcome of high risk investments involving pension money, the findings of the Mpati Judicial Commission of Inquiry into Allegations of Impropriety at the PIC, and statements by the Association for Monitoring and Advocacy of Government Pensions (AMAGP), that the BoT seems to have failed to uphold their fiduciary duties, including the duties of care, loyalty, prudence, nor to have acted in the best interest of its members.

The following concerns have been raised among members:

Rule 4.1.19 (a) and (b) of the GEPF Law, 1996, determine that each member of the BoT must take all reasonable steps to ensure that the interests of members in terms of the rules of the Fund and the provisions of the Law are protected **at all times** and to act with due care and diligence and in good faith.

However:

In contrast, the current investment policy of the GEPF allows the BoT of the GEPF to provide a mandate to the Public Investment Corporation (PIC) to utilise pension funds to invest in high-risk politically driven, transformational and developmental goals. The latter also involves the integration of Environmental, Social and Governance factors into investment processes, contributing overall to B-BBEE and the transformation of the South African economy and its investment industry;

In contrast, risky or underperforming investments/loans may have been made without adequate due diligence, proper risk assessments, feasibility investigations and/or transparency, resulting in vast losses. Such investments relate to, among others, Daybreak Foods, VBS Mutual Bank, AYO Technology Solutions, and some business entities funded by the Isibaya Fund. Such investments and losses cannot be dealt with as generous donations or grant funding and should have secured a competitive financial return; and

In contrast, political interference with the GEPF investment policy requires the BoT to determine its investment policy in consultation with the Minister of Finance. The latter has a veto right not to accept the investment policy in the absence of concurrence between the Minister and the BoT. Such political interference undermines the independence of the Board of Trustees of the GEPF and their sole mandate to determine investment objectives with the utmost care and in the best interest of the members. It erodes the mutual trust that should exist between the Board and the Fund members concerning investment objectives.

Therefore, we make an urgent call for corrective action: We call on the Board of Trustees of the GEPF to –

1. **Withdraw, with immediate effect, the mandate** provided to the PIC, aimed at pursuing high-risk politically driven transformational and development goals with government employees' pension money, without expecting a competitive return on investment, and to phase out all these investments within the shortest period provided for in agreements regulating such investments.
2. **Revisit the current investment policy** of the GEPF to one that will only focus on investment objectives in the best interest of the Fund, that guarantee a return on investment at an average similar to that of other funds (such as the Private Pension Funds, the Unemployment Insurance Fund, Compensation Commissioner's Fund and the Political Office-Bearers Pension Fund).
3. **Ensure Consequence Management** to enforce accountability by instituting appropriate proceedings against any person (including current and previous Board members, as well as present and previous PIC employees) found to have violated their fiduciary duties regarding questionable investments and losses suffered. The Mpati Commission's report and recommendations can be used as a reference.
4. **Provide bi-annual reports** to the AMAGP, representing members of the GEPF, regarding the progress made with the call for corrective actions.

Why It Matters

We members of the GEPF upheld and still uphold our promise to fulfil our responsibilities as government employees while serving all South Africans. In return, we have a legitimate expectation that the GEPF will secure all our future benefits legally due to us on the date of retirement and beyond. Mismanagement or questionable investments of pension fund resources violate this trust and jeopardise the financial futures and social security of countless vulnerable individuals and families. Fiduciary responsibility is not optional; it is the bedrock of GEPF management.

If you, as a member of the GEPF, support this petition, continue and add your voice in support thereof.

By submitting this petition, you confirm that you are a concerned member of the GEPF and fully support the call for the corrective action dealt with in this petition. You further confirm that you understand the contents of this document and sign it voluntarily with full knowledge of its significance.

Note: All petitioners' personal information is protected in terms of the Protection of Personal Information Act, No 4 of 2013 and will only be used for purposes of and in connection with this Petition. Such information will not be disclosed to any third party without the petitioners' consent, and only if legally compelled to do so. Personal information relating to this Petition will not be retained for a period exceeding 6 months after the date of delivery of the Petition to the Board of Trustees concerned.

DISCLAIMER:
AMAGP compiled this petition in good faith and in the best interests of all concerned members as owners of the GEPF. The petition is based on sources of information accessible to the general public at large. This petition does not guarantee any of the desired outcomes and AMAGP does not accept liability for any misinterpretation of this petition by any individual petitioner or the recipient of this petition.

Yours faithfully,

CARL THOMAS
CHAIRPERSON: AMAGP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DATE: 6 November 2025