

# Association for Monitoring and Advocacy of Government Pensions

# (AMAGP)

NPO Registration No: 198-822



## AMAGP GENERAL COMMUNICATION

### INTRODUCTION

1. AMAGP developed several communication channels for communication with its members in particular, and also with GEPF members in general.
2. Apart from these channels, any person can communicate with the AMAGP management by using the "Contact Us" button on the front page of our website [www.amagp.co.za](http://www.amagp.co.za).

### AMAGP WEBSITE

3. The AMAGP website, [www.amagp.co.za](http://www.amagp.co.za), contains a full description of the history of this non-profit organisation, the constitution, and other documents related to the functioning of this organisation that primarily concerns itself with the protection of the pension savings of GEPF members, managed by the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF).
4. The website offers a wide range of topics that are easily accessible under headings such as Quick Links, Project Reports, Newsletters, Media Releases, and Reference Material.
5. Any GEPF member can join AMAGP by selecting the "Registration" button where the online registration forms are available in English and Afrikaans.

### AMAGP NEWSLETTER - GEPF MONITOR

6. This newsletter is compiled by a volunteer who is not a GEPF member, but who is a former government official with a personal interest in the well-being of the GEPF.
7. The newsletter contains a variety of articles extracted from financial publications and other media, with content that has a direct or indirect bearing on the health of our pension fund.
8. AMAGP media releases and other information of general interest to GEPF members can also be read in the newsletters.
9. The GEPF MONITOR is sent by email to every AMAGP member and other interested parties and is also posted on the AMAGP website for general consumption.
10. The newsletter may be distributed to any other person who may be interested.

### AMAGP MEDIA RELEASES

11. Over the past 5 years AMAGP made numerous media releases regarding actions by the government and the Public Investment Corporation (PIC) that threatened the sustainability of our pension fund.

12. Apart from exposing dubious “investments” and transactions, AMAGP asked questions about the apparent absence of the exercise of their fiduciary responsibilities by the GEPF Board of Trustees.
13. After the retirement of our capable and experienced spokesperson, Adamus Stemmet, Zirk Gous offered his services to take over this responsibility and he is doing a sterling job in communicating on behalf of AMAGP as our spokesperson.

#### **FACEBOOK GROUP - GEPF WATCHDOG**

14. This Facebook Group is the social media instrument of AMAGP and was established to inform GEPF members about any developments affecting our pension fund.
15. Over the past number of years, the membership grew to more than 52 000 members, and although this is a considerable number it still only represents some 3% of the 1,7 million GEPF members.
16. Only an exceedingly small percentage of members of this group react to posts on the group or actively participate in discussions.
17. This Facebook group serves as the most effective source of recruitment for new AMAGP members. GEPF members can join AMAGP by completing online membership forms that are available on this group.
18. GEPF WATCHDOG is currently a closed group that does not allow the sharing of posts on the group, which leads to frustration among members who wish to share some of the posts. The group admins are considering closing this group and creating a new open group that will allow the sharing of documents.

#### **FACEBOOK GROUP – GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES PENSION INFO**

19. This group was established when our group GEPF WATCHDOG was inundated with questions regarding administrative problems that GEPF members are experiencing on a daily basis.
20. One of our military pensioners, Susan Voges, volunteered her personal time and resources and has performed a sterling job over the past 5 years in helping thousands of GEPF members with problems that they could not resolve through official channels.
21. Although this service does not form part of AMAGP’s primary focus, we are proud of and extremely thankful to Susan for the selfless service that she is rendering to GEPF members. With more GEPF members offering their skills and time like Susan Voges, AMAGP will certainly be able to stop further wastage of our hard-earned pension savings and ensure the sustainability of our fund.

#### **CONCLUSION**

22. Extensive efforts by AMAGP to mobilise sufficient numbers of GEPF members in support of our drive to protect our pension fund are hampered by two main factors:
  - a. Pensioners are still receiving their monthly pension cheques and annual increases. The majority of our pensioners are ignorant of the massive amounts of OUR money that disappeared down the drain due to dubious “investments” by the PIC and government interference. Most of our pensioners are not reading financial publications and are naively believing the good news stories distributed by the GEPF in their newsletters.
  - b. Working GEPF members are in general not concerned about their pensions as this is something for the future. Furthermore, working members believe that their unions are looking after their interests, but most unions are not at all concerned about the future of members after retirement.
23. The future of AMAGP to successfully work for the sustainability of our pension fund is now in your hands as GEPF members. Without your active involvement, we may have to close down AMAGP and sit and pray that we will not follow the same path as the Transnet pensioners some years ago.



## AMAGP ALGEMENE KOMMUNIKASIE

### INLEIDING

1. AMAGP het 'n aantal kommunikasiekanale ontwikkel vir kommunikasie met lede in besonder asook met GEPF lede in die algemeen.
2. Afgesien van hierdie kanale, kan enige persoon met die AMAGP bestuur kommunikeer deur die "Contact Us" knoppie op die voorblad van ons webwerf [www.amagp.co.za](http://www.amagp.co.za) te druk.

### AMAGP WEBWERF

3. Die AMAGP webwerf, [www.amagp.co.za](http://www.amagp.co.za), bevat 'n volle beskrywing van die geskiedenis van hierdie nie-winsgewende organisasie, die grondwet, en ander dokumente wat verband hou met die funksionering van die organisasie wat primêr ten doel het om die pensioen spaargeld van GEPF lede, wat deur die Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) bestuur word, te beskerm.
4. Die webwerf bied maklike toegang tot verskeie aspekte soos Vinnige Skakels, Projekverslae, Nuusbriewe, Media Vrstellings en Verwysingsmateriaal.
5. Enige GEPF lid kan by AMAGP aansluit deur die "Registration" knoppie te druk en dan die Afrikaanse of Engelse registrasievorm te kies.

### AMAGP NUUSBRIEF GEPF MONITOR

6. Die nuusbriewe word saamgestel deur 'n vrywilliger wat nie 'n AMAGP lid is nie maar hy is wel 'n voormalige staatsdienswerknemer met 'n persoonlike belangstelling in die welvaart van ons pensioenfonds.
7. Die nuusbriewe bevat 'n reeks artikels wat die gesondheid van ons fonds direk of indirek aanspreek. Hierdie artikels word onttrek uit finansiële tydskrifte en ander betroubare media.
8. AMAGP se media vrystellings en ander informasie van algemene belang kan ook in die nuusbriewe gelees word.
9. Die GEPF MONITOR word per epos aan elke AMAGP lid gestuur en word ook op die AMAGP webwerf geplaas vir algemene toegang.
10. Die nuusbriewe mag vryelik versprei word na enige persoon of instansie daarin mag belangstel.

### AMAGP MEDIA VRYSTELLINGS

11. AMAGP het oor die afgelope 5 jaar talle media vrystellings gemaak rakende optredes van die regering en die Openbare Beleggingskorporasie (OBK) wat die volhoubaarheid van ons fonds bedreig het.

12. Afgesien van die ontbloting van verdagte “beleggings” en transaksies, het AMAGP verskeie vrae gestel oor die skynbare afwesigheid van die uitvoering van hul fidusiêre verpligtinge deur die GEPF Raad van Trustees.
13. Nadat AMAGP se deurwinterde segsman, Adamus Stemmet, afgetree het Zirk Gous as nog ‘n vrywilliger na vore getree en lewer tans uitmuntende diens as ons nuwe segsman.

#### **FACEBOOKGROEP GEPF WATCHDOG**

14. Hierdie Facebookgroep is die sosiale media instrument van AMAGP en is gestig om GEPF lede in te lig oor verwickelinge wat ons pensioenfonds raak.
15. Die ledetal van hierdie groep het oor die afgelope aantal jare tot meer as 52 000 gegroei, en hoewel dit ‘n saakmakende getal is verteenwoordig dit steeds slegs 3% van ons 1,7 miljoen GEPF lede.
16. Daar is ongelukkig ook slegs ‘n klein persentasie van die lede van hierdie groep wat aktief deelneem aan besprekings wat op die groep gevoer word.
17. Hierdie Facebookgroep dien as die mees effektiewe bron vir die werwing van nuwe AMAGP lede. GEPF lede kan by AMAGP aansluit deur die aanlyn registrasievorms te voltooi wat op die blad beskikbaar is.
18. GEPF WATCHDOG is tans ‘n geslote groep wat beteken dat plasings op die groep nie met ander persone gedeel kan word nie, wat tot frustrasie lei by lede wat plasings graag wil deel. Die groep administrateurs oorweeg tans die ontbinding van GEPF WATCHDOG en die vervanging daarvan met ‘n openbare groep om die deel van plasings moontlik te maak.

#### **FACEBOOKGROEP GEPF FORUM**

19. Hierdie groep is gestig toe ons oorspronklike groep GEPF WATCHDOG oorval is met vrae vanaf gefrustreerde GEPF lede wat sukkel om administratiewe probleme rakende hul pensioen opgelos te kry.
20. Een van ons militêre pensioenarisse, Susan Voges, het haar persoonlike tyd en bronne beskikbaar gestel en lewer vir meer as 5 jaar ‘n uitmuntende diens aan GEPF lede wat nie hul probleme deur amptelike kanale opgelos kry nie.
21. Alhoewel hierdie diens nie deel vorm van AMAGP se primêre fokus nie, is ons baie trots en uiters dankbaar teenoor Susan vir die onbaatsugtige diens wat sy aan GEPF lede lewer. As meer van ons GEPF lede hul tyd en vaardighede soos Susan wil aanbied sal AMAGP beslis in staat wees om die vermorsing van ons hard verdienende pensioen spaargeld te stop en die volhoubaarheid van ons fonds te verseker.

#### **TEN SLOTTE**

22. Omvattende pogings deur AMAGP om saakmakende getalle GEPF lede te mobiliseer ter ondersteuning van ons saak word deur die volgende twee faktore beperk:
  - a. Pensioenarisse ontvang steeds hul maandelikse pensioen inbetalings en selfs gereelde jaarlikse verhogings. Die meerderheid van ons pensioenarisse is totaal onbewus van die massiewe bedrae van ONS geld wat verdwyn het as gevolg van verdagte “beleggings” deur die OBK en inmenging deur die regering. Die meeste van ons pensioenarisse lees nie finansiële publikasies nie, en aanvaar goedsmoeds die goeie nuus stories wat die GEPF in hul nuusbriewe versprei.
  - b. Werkende GEPF lede stel oor die algemeen nog nie veel belang in hul pensioen nie aangesien dit nog iewers in die toekoms lê. Verder glo talle werkende GEPF lede dat hul vakbonde ook na hul pensioenbelange omsien, maar in werklikheid is daar slegs enkele vakbonde wat enigsins belangstel in die toekoms van hul lede na aftrede.
23. Die toekoms van AMAGP en ons vermoë om suksesvol te werk vir die volhoubaarheid van ons pensioenfonds is in u hande as GEPF lede. Sonder u aktiewe betrokkenheid sal ons AMAGP moontlik moet sluit en dan gaan sit en bid dat ons nie dieselfde pad as Transnet pensioenarisse gaan volg nie.