



the gpaa

Department:  
Government Pensions Administration Agency  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## Press Release

**14 April 2016.**

**For immediate release.**

### **GEPF on a drive to empower members and pensioners in Mothibistad - Kuruman.**

Pretoria - The Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF), through its national outreach campaign, will be visiting Mothibistad in the Northern Cape province. The event will be held on Saturday, 23 April 2016 at the Thabo Moorosi Multipurpose Centre in Mothibistad.

The main purpose for this initiative is to interact with the Fund's active members, pensioners and beneficiaries in order to inform and educate them about the Fund's services, processes and benefits. Members will have their queries and questions attended to on site and they will also be able to update their personal information.

Currently there are about 5 577 GEPF members in the John Taolo District Municipality, comprising of 4 412 active members, 832 pensioners, 327 spouses and six orphans.

Some of the issues that GEPF will address include encouraging members not to resign when they have approached the retirement age. This is because many members have resigned after being convinced by brokers who take their hard earned pensions without understanding the disadvantages of resigning early from the Fund.

It is also hoped that the road show will provide GEPF with the platform to allay the fears of those members who are still uncertain regarding the recently promulgated Tax Related Retirement Reforms that came into effect from 01 March 2016. Furthermore, the roadshow will afford GEPF with the opportunity to address the issue of unclaimed benefits and, where possible, locate some unknown possible beneficiaries within the province.

Unpaid benefits refer to all cases where more than 60 days and less than 24 months have lapsed since an identified benefit became legally payable but, due to a lack of information from either the beneficiary, employer or the member, the payment cannot be successfully effected.

Currently there are about 15 505 cases of unclaimed benefits nationally, amounting to 382 571 821.99 and the Northern Cape accounts for 164 of these unclaimed benefits, amounting to 4 376 413.85.

It is also hoped that we will address the issue of certain financial brokers who had been masquerading as GEPF employees and offering members GEPF services and products, while at the same time advising them to resign instead of retiring by promising too good to be true financial returns.

In order to improve pension service delivery to the more than 23 111 active members and about 3 893 pensioners in the province, GEPF established a Regional Office situated on 11 Old Main Street, Kimberley. Members are always welcome to consult GEPF officials at this office whenever they have concerns.

Members of the media are invited to attend.

### **Details of the event**

Date: 23 April 2016

Time: 10h00 to 13h00

Venue: Thabo Moorosi Multipurpose Centre  
Mothibi Road  
Mothibistad

### ***Note to editor***

The GEPF is the largest pension fund administrator in Africa with over 1.2 million contributing members and more than 320 000 pension recipients. The Fund is also responsible for more than R1 trillion of assets under its management.

The Fund was established on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1996 through the amalgamation of a number of pension funds serving Government employees and has therefore been in existence for 19 years. It was established in terms of the Government Employees Pension (GEP) Law, Proclamation 21 of 1996. In terms of the Income Tax Act, the GEPF is classified as a 'Fund established by Law'.

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Issued by: Government Pensions Administration Agency