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## How is GEPF different from other Funds?

You may have wondered at one point or another how the GEPF is different from other pension funds in the industry, and more importantly, what that means for you.

The Government Employees Pension Fund is a defined benefit fund with over 1.2 million active members and more than 476 000 pensioners and beneficiaries. It is the largest pension fund in Africa. As a defined benefit fund, the benefits you receive from

the GEPF are defined in the rules of the fund and are guaranteed. In the case of GEPF the Fund business is governed by the Government Employees Pension (GEP) Law of (1996).

All GEPF benefits are defined in the GEP Law and rules, which clearly indicate the benefits which members are entitled to; when and how these benefits can be claimed; and who can claim them. These rules are important because they ensure that the right people receive the right payments at the right time. Currently,

the GEPF benefit structure offers members the following benefits, amongst others:

- Resignation benefits;
- Retirement benefits;
- Child pension;
- Death benefits; and
- Funeral benefits
- Spouse pension

The advantage of belonging to a defined benefit fund is that your benefits are guaranteed.

This means:

2 According to the Fund rules, the annual pension increase paid to our pensioners must be at least 75% of the average increase in consumer inflation (CPI) during 1 December - 30 November of the previous year.

1 Benefits are protected against inflation. We have a solid track record in safeguarding the value of members' retirement wealth and in protecting our pensioners against inflation.

3 Where pensions fall behind inflation, we also pay catch-up pension increases.

Members are guaranteed their benefits irrespective of how the investment portfolio is performing.

It is important for members to note that the GEPF is not a private sector fund and that means it is not governed by the Pension Funds Act (PFA). Consequently, there are differences in terms of the benefits and offerings that the GEPF administers and what may be

offered by funds that fall under the Pension Funds Act. As such, any announcements or changes relating to the Pension Funds Act has no bearing on the members of the GEPF.

If you are uncertain about the benefits you are entitled to or would like to enquire about the offerings of the GEPF, check out our website at [www.gepf.co.za](http://www.gepf.co.za), contact the GEPF Contact Centre on **0800 117 669** or visit your

nearest Regional Office for more information.

**Non-contributory benefits** differ from contributory benefits in that they are not based on member and employer contributions. For GEPF members and pensioners these are **funeral, spouse and child pension benefits**. GEPF members can also qualify for post-retirement medical benefit provided for by the employer if they meet the qualification criteria.