GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

NATIONAL TREASURY

NO. 7061 **30 January 2025**

AMENDMENT OF THE RULES OF THE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES PENSION FUND

In terms of section 29 of the Government Employees Pension Law, 1996 (Proclamation No.21 of 1996), the Board of Trustees hereby amends the rules of the Government Employees Pension Law, 1996, as set out in the Schedule.

Mr. Frans Baleni

Chairperson of the Board of Trustees

On behalf of the Board of Trustees

GENERAL EXPLANATORY NOTE:

[ ] Words in bold type in square brackets indicate omissions from existing enactments.

____ Words underlined with a solid line indicate insertions in the existing enactments.

The Rules of the Government Employees Pension Law, 1996 are hereby amended so as to amend certain definitions; correct or clarify any previous omissions; and to provider for matters connected therewith.

SCHEDULE

1. Amendment to the definition of "unexpired service" in Rule 1 of the GEPF Rules by the insertion of the following after the existing definition:

"unexpired period of service',

the period between the date on which a member ceases or would cease to be a member of the Fund and the date he or she would have attained the age of 60 years, or 65 years in the case of a member who holds an office referred to in rule 14.2.3 (b) (iii) (BB) at the commencement date and who vacates such office at the end of such term of office. If a member or an officer attains the said age after the first day of a month, he or she shall be deemed to have attained it on the first day of the following month."

2. Amendment and correction of Rule 14.2.1 (a) by deletion of the following in the existing rule:

Rule 14.2.1 (a)

(a) a gratuity calculated at 6.72 percent of his or her final salary multiplied by the period of his or her vested service, ~~provided that the vested service is at least 10 years~~.

3. Amendment and correction of Rule 14.2.3. to include the following insertions:

Rule 14.2.3

"Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the rules, a gratuity which is payable in terms of Rules 14.2.1 (a), 14.2.1 (b), 14.2.2 (a) and 14.2.2 (b) to a member who is a member of the South African National Defence Force and who is discharged in terms of any law before he or she attains the age of 53 years, shall be increased by 12 per cent of such gratuity".

4. Amendment and correction to Rule 14.5.3 to explicitly include the following insertions in the description of the annuity payable:

Rule 14.5.3

"If a member dies and the total of such a member's period of total pensionable service and his or her unexpired period of service is at least ten years, there shall be paid to the surviving spouse, if any, a spouse's pension which is equal to half of the annuity and the supplementary amount which the member would have received in terms of the provisions of Rules 14.2.1 (c), 14.2.1 (d) and 14.2.1 (e) if he or she had retired on the date of his or her death in terms of a reason mentioned in Rule 14.3.1 (a): Provided that total pensionable service for this purpose also includes the member's unexpired period of service: Provided further that where there is more than one spouse, the spouse's pension will be divided equally among the spouses.

5. Amendment and correction to Rule 14.5.4 to explicitly note that the member's total pensionable service and his or her unexpired period of service is at least ten years and explicitly include the following insertions:

Rule 14.5.4

"14.5.4 With effect from 1 June 2018, if a member dies and the total of such a member's period of total pensionable service and his or her unexpired period of service is at least ten years, and leaves an eligible child pensioner, a child's pension shall become payable to such eligible child pensioner equal to the percentage of the annuity and the supplementary amount which the member would have received in terms of the provisions of Rules 14.2.1 (c), 14.2.1 (d) and 14.2.1 (e) if he or she had retired on the date of his or her death in terms of a reason mentioned in rule 14.3.1 (a): Provided that the total pensionable service for this purpose also includes the member's unexpired period of service. The percentage shall be as indicated in the table below, subject to a minimum child's pension as determined by the Board, which minimum child's pension may not be less than R200.00 per month."

6. By insertion of a new Rule 18.3 after the current Rule 18.2

"18.3 Effect of service reductions on the nature of benefits

18.3.1 For the purposes of determining the nature of the benefit payable in terms of these Rules in terms of whether a member qualifies for benefits applicable to members with
(a) total pensionable service of less than ten (10) years, or
(b) total pensionable service of ten (10) years or more,

the nature/structure of the benefit entitlement shall be determined without taking into account any reduction in pensionable service arising from:

(i) any savings withdrawal or similar benefit that reduces vested service, savings service or retirement service;
(ii) any division of pension interest pursuant to a divorce order or similar order of court; or
(iii) any other form of service reduction implemented for the purpose of downscaling the member's accrued benefit.

18.3.2 Any reduction referred to in Rule 18.3.1 shall affect only the amount of the benefits payable and shall not change the nature of the benefits that would have been payable based on the member's total pensionable service before such reductions were applied. "

7. **Renumbering** of current **Rule 18.3** to become **Rule 18.4.**

8. **Renumbering** of current **Rule 18.4** to become **Rule 18.5.**

9. **Renumbering** of current **Rule 18.5** to become **Rule 18.6.**

10. Commencement date

The rules shall come into operation on date of publication.