

Retirement fund reform: Limited withdrawals from retirements funds

Members will recall that the Minister of Finance previously announced that legislation is being amended to allow members of private pension funds to withdraw a portion of their benefits for the purpose of mitigating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the last meeting of the PSCBC on 9 December 2021, the employer stated that Treasury was not yet ready to release the document. The document was, however, circulated through the Secretary of Council on 13 December 2021 and was subsequently shared with all parties. See www.treasury.gov.za (*Latest News: 14 Dec – Two-pot System Retirement Proposal and Auto Enrolment*).

It is, however, noted that the document, according to the employer, is not applicable to public servants as the Government Employees Pension Fund is governed by the *GEPF Law*. The PSA and other unions, however, hold a different view and indicated to the employer that they will consult their membership and revert to the employer. The PSA did, however, indicate that this might need an amendment to the *GEPF Law* in order for public servants to benefit from such provisions. Members will be informed of developments.

The PSA wants to take this opportunity to wish all employees who are unwell owing to COVID-19 a safe and speedy recovery.

GENERAL MANAGER