FOR PSA MEMBERS: **GENERAL 27/2026**

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Retirement: Not end of PSA membership

After years of dedicated service to South Africa, retirement should be a time to enjoy the rewards of a working life. Leaving the public service does not, however, mean that all employment-related concerns disappear. Pension increases, medical-aid costs, pension administration, and financial security remain important considerations for retired public servants.

This is why the PSA encourages members approaching retirement to continue their membership of the Union of Choice through the PSA's Branch for Associate Members: Public Service Pensioners at a discounted membership fee. Established to serve the interests of former public servants who choose to retain their PSA membership, the Pensioner Branch is a fully-fledged Branch of the PSA. It provides pensioners with a structure through which concerns can be raised and interests advanced.

Voice for pensioners

One of the strongest reasons to remain a PSA member after retirement is the need for collective representation. Pensioners are directly affected by decisions relating to pension benefits, annual pension increases, and post-retirement medical benefits. As retired employees, they can no longer participate in workplace structures in the same way as serving public servants. Through the Pensioner Branch, these members have a platform to raise matters affecting their livelihoods. The PSA can use the Union's established structures and collective-bargaining role to advance pension-related concerns through appropriate forums. The Branch also provides a channel through which issues affecting pensioners can be brought to the PSA's attention for consideration and action. Pension increases are particularly important as the cost of living continues to affect household budgets. Even modest increases in food, electricity, healthcare, and other essential expenses can place pressure on a fixed pension income. Maintaining a strong, organised voice for pensioners is therefore essential to protecting their interests.

Support when it matters most

Retirement can also bring administrative challenges. Pensioners or their beneficiaries may need assistance with delayed pension payments, spouse's pension applications, life certificates or queries relating to post-retirement medical benefits. The Pensioner Branch assists members with such matters, helping them navigate processes that can otherwise be difficult and time-consuming. This support is especially valuable when a pensioner or family is dealing with bereavement or uncertainty about benefits.

Continued PSA membership further provides access to PSA membership benefits, including the funeral benefit, *PSAClub*, and benefits offered through PSA business partners.

Remain connected with the PSA

Retirement does not erase the contribution members have made to the Public Service, nor does it diminish their right to raise concerns about matters affecting their future. Pensioners bring valuable experience, institutional knowledge, and insight that can strengthen the PSA and the Union's work on behalf of members. The Pensioner Branch also provides an opportunity to remain connected to fellow former public servants, participate in the Branch's structures, and contribute to discussions about pensioners' welfare. The PSA recognises that the Union's responsibility to members extends beyond their active employment with an ongoing commitment to protecting the interests of retired members.

Do not wait until retirement to make a decision

Your experience matters, your pension matters, and your future matters. Retirement should be a new chapter in your relationship with the Union of Choice. Stay with the PSA and strengthen the voice of public-service pensioners.

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