

24 May 2010

Attention: All Media

MEDIA STATEMENT

REDRESS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE EMPLOYEES WHO SUFFERED DISCRIMINATION BY GOVERNMENT PENSION FUNDS UNDER APARTHEID

1. As part of its contribution to the government's broad objectives on restitution and transformation, the Public Service Co-ordinating Bargaining Council (PSCBC), has embarked on the implementation of the final phase of the process to provide redress to public service employees who suffered various types of discrimination related to admission to pensions funds under apartheid.
2. The implementation of this project was launched earlier today by the Minister for Public Service and Administration, the Hon Richard Baloyi, representing government as employer in the PSCBC and the leadership of the trade union parties to the PSCBC.
3. The redress programme was adopted by way of two resolutions, on pension restructuring in the public service namely: 7 of 1998 and 12 of 2002. The redress takes the form of compensation by recognising the non contributory service as pensionable service for employees who were subjected to discrimination based inter alia on race, gender, marital status, employment status, including medical and physical status.

4. The redress will also recognise breaks in pensionable service for qualifying employees who were dismissed for participating in strikes in the former Transvaal and Natal Provincial Administrations for identified periods between 1987 and 1993. The abovementioned resolutions made provision for the establishment of a special fund by the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) to finance the programme.
5. To implement this redress, the PSCBC has overseen the establishment of task teams in all provinces and national departments which will be responsible for the marketing of the redress opportunity, assisting with the completion of application forms and for communicating the results of the process to applicants. The redress opportunity will also be advertised widely through electronic and print media. Employees who have exited the public service will be compensated on the basis of the recalculated pension benefit. Employees still in service will have their pension service adjusted in line with the recognised periods.
6. To qualify for redress eligible employees should have been in service on **2 September 1998**, the date on which the first resolution was adopted.
7. The closing date for submission of applications is **31 August 2010**.

Issued by Public Service Co-ordinating Bargaining Council (PSCBC)

Contact number: 012 644 8100