

MEDIA RELEASE	PSA rubbishes Treasury statement to exclude public servants from pension withdrawal
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The Public Servants Association (PSA), representing a substantial number of public servants, who are members of the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF), has noted the media statement issued by National Treasury, stating that the early withdrawal and amendment to the *Pension Fund Act* will not affect the GEPF.

The PSA is aware that the pension savings of public servants is governed by its own set of laws and rules *via* the *Government Employees Pension Fund Act* and Rules.

The PSA indicates that Treasury must equally take note that public servants have also equally been affected by the devastating impact of Covid-19, like other employees in the country. Government and specifically the Treasury, is well aware that public servants are having to make “ends meet”, after not receiving their salary increases for 2020.

The PSA has already initiated the process, by tabling a demand that public servants access pension monies in the Public Service Co-ordinating Bargaining Council (PSCBC), which is yet to be convened. It is not impossible to also amend the GEPF Law to permit for such withdrawals, even if it is a defined benefit. There is a way, and the PSA is ready to engage government on finding such a relief for its members. The PSA cannot no longer allow that pension monies of public servants only be available for high-ranking politicians and connected individuals, who access these monies through the Public Investment Corporation (PIC), while the owners of the monies are suffering without houses and drowning in debts.

The GEPF laws must be amended to allow for public servants to access their pensions. Alternatively, GEPF should not be the sole pension scheme for public servants, there must be alternatives for government employees to contribute to other pension schemes, were they will also be allowed to access their pension monies.

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