

voice



Feb 2002

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MGF

MUNICIPAL GRATUITY FUND

From the desk of the CEO

Already 2002! Unbelievable how the big clock of time seems to be ticking faster and faster. We are already in the second month of 2002 with 2001 far away in the distant past, or is it ...

A brief reflection on the past year reveals both highs and lows. In the financial markets there were high returns on the bonds as well as certain shares such as the resources sector. On the contrary, history was made with the all time lows of the rand value towards the end of 2001. Through all this turmoil the Fund is still able to beat inflation with a safe margin in order to add value to your retirement provision.

On the global scene various highs and lows were also experienced.

As far as the highs go, Michael Schumacher again won the Grand Prix world championships. Closer to home Hestrie Cloete secured a gold medal for South Africa at the World Games and at last even the Western Province managed to win the Currie Cup once again.

The cruel World Trade Centre attack on 11 September 2001 with the more than 3 000 wasted lives will be marked as one of the exceptional all time lows in world history. Although it shocked the world and rocked the financial markets, the wheels kept on turning and the immediate losses on the financial markets have been recovered soon thereafter. Unfortunately, the same does not go for those who lost their loved ones. It also remains to be seen what the longer term effect would be resulting from the Afghanistan operations.

In the natural course of our personal lives we also had this ebb and flow. Members married, babies were born,

members were promoted or some had good luck with tata ma chance! But there were also serious illnesses, death of loved ones or financial hardships. Whatever your situation, there was and will always be a divine Helping Hand. You just have to reach out and touch it. In the retirement world we often talk about long and short-term views. How about an eternal investment view? After all, we only have the few days of our lives to invest in eternity. Think about this. It may just change your approach to life in order to add meaning, joy and courage to embrace the highs and endure the lows. That's it, enough of the serious stuff.

What are our goals for 2002?

* We will proceed with the member information meetings in order to establish and maintain the closer ties between members, the Fund and the Administrator.

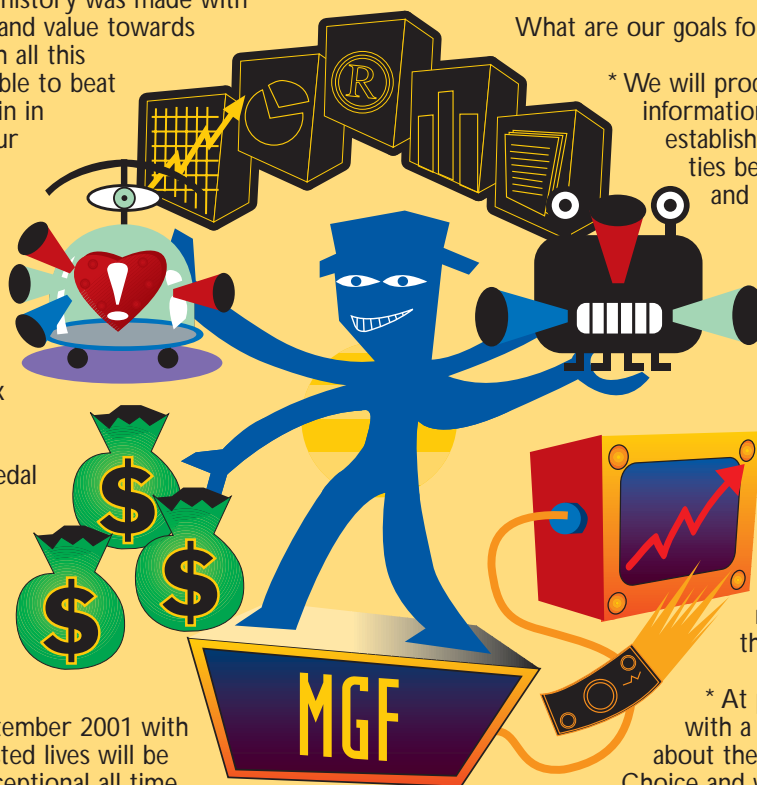
* The workshops, which were introduced last year will again be held from June 2002 onwards.

* We are in the process of updating our member database, so that written communication can be posted to members. Please complete the Member Information Form at the back of this newsletter and return it to the Fund.

* At present we are also busy with a project to inform members about the Member Investment Choice and we hope to reach all our members in this regard.

We have received various enquiries about the so-called Surplus Act. Please read the explanation on how it may affect members in this issue.

Finally may you enjoy the year ahead of you and "climb every mountain, ford every stream, follow every rainbow until you catch your dream." Keep up the good work to keep the wheels turning at your municipality. We are proud to be associated with you.



Management Committee - 2002

At the annual meeting of the General Committee of the Fund held at Ellisras on 2 November 2001, the two employee representative vacancies were filled by the re-election of Mr. B G Fourie of Ekurhuleni Metropolitan Municipality and the election of Mrs. J C Botha of Mokgalakwena Municipality. Mr. Gerald Fourie is well-known having served on the Management Committee for more than 5 years. He has extensive knowledge of financial matters and adds much value to the Fund. Mrs. Hannie Botha has been involved in Fund matters since its establishment in 1994 and has always come forward with pro-active assistance and advice. The Fund can only benefit from her dedication, experience and positive attitude. Nothing is ever too much for her! We congratulate these two trustees on their election and trust that they will find their terms of office a positive experience.

The current Management Committee is as follows:

- Ald. S van Metzinger
- Mr. J D G Venter
- Cllr. H P Maluleka
- Mrs. H J P Knoetze
- Mr. M C Jonker



- Mr. E C Alberts
- Mr. B G Fourie
- Cllr. M I Visser
- Mrs. J C Botha
- Mr. P J Venter

The e-Joburg Retirement Fund

The City of Johannesburg established the e-Joburg Retirement Fund. It is envisaged that all employees of the Johannesburg Metro will eventually belong to it. The Rules of the MGF however protect members against unilateral actions of employers that could be potentially harmful to members where their retirement benefits are concerned.

Information meetings with members in all the regions of Johannesburg were held and the position of the MGF and its members explained:

- The MGF will act according to its Rules and the best interest of members.
- According to the Rules, the City Council of Johannesburg has to table a written application to the Management Committee of the Fund to terminate its contributions to the Fund, stating reasons for such request.
- The Management Committee has sole discretion to grant or deny the request.

- Members from Johannesburg City are urged not to take hasty decisions regarding their future until this matter has been resolved.
- The City of Johannesburg excluded members of the MGF in Johannesburg from compulsory membership awaiting the outcome of the City's application for withdrawal as a participating employer.



Update on the Housing Loan Policy

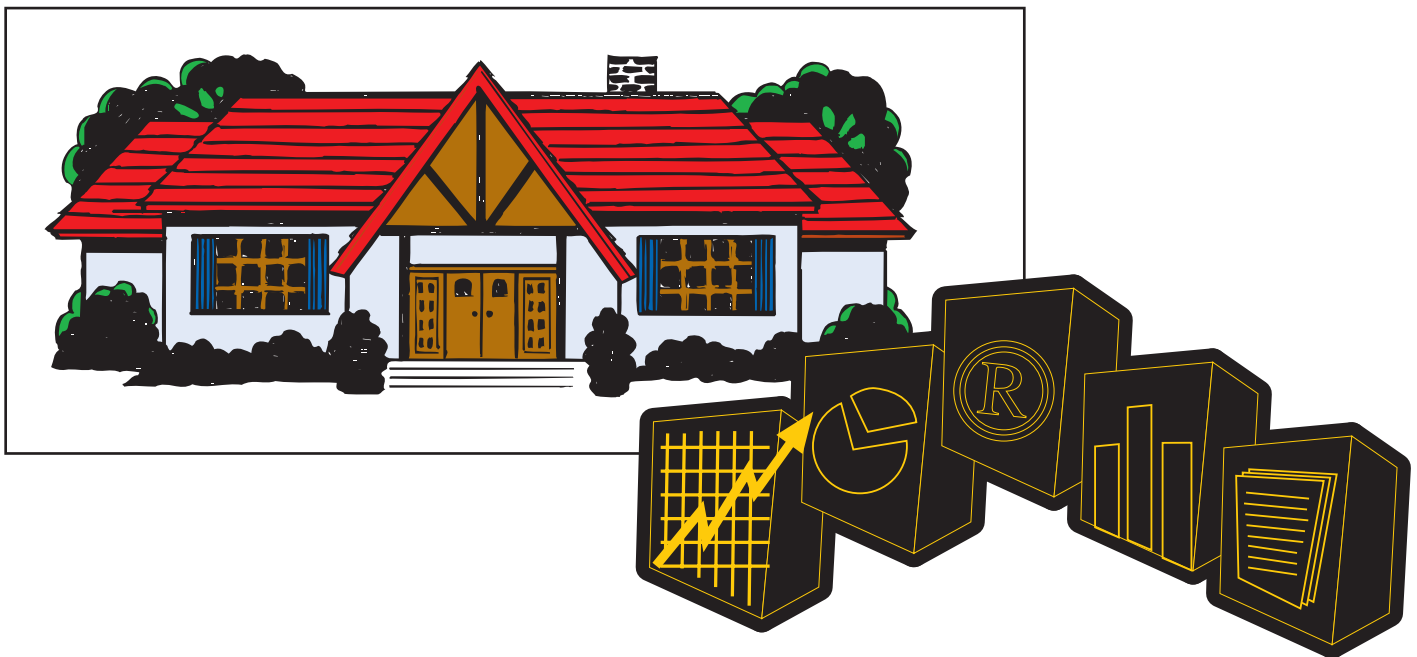
Since October 2001 the Management Committee has made the following amendments to the housing loan policy:

- Loans are restricted to one every twelve months provided that payments on previous loans are up to date.
- The minimum loan amount is R2500.
- The monthly payments on a loan must be affordable. Payment on housing loans should not exceed 33% of a member's basic salary plus housing subsidy.
- The Rules of the Fund determine that a member's total loans or collateral may not exceed 40% of his total fund credit.
- The most recent consumer account must be attached to the application as a way of verifying occupation.
- A member that is placed under administration due to a court order will not be allowed to borrow money for a housing loan. Should such a member already have a loan, that loan will not form part of the administration order.
- In terms of the Pension Funds Act, members are not allowed to borrow money for any other purpose than housing.

Molao Mabapi le Kadimo Ya Matlo

Ho tloha ho October 2001 Batsamaisi ba mokotla ba entse diphetoho tse latelang:-



- Motho a ka kadima hang ka mora dikgwedi tse le shome le metso e mmedi le hore o ne a lefa ka tshwanelo.
- Bonyane boo o kabokadimang ke R2 500-00.
- Ditefello tsa kgwedi ditshwanetse ho ba tse kgonehang.
- Ditefello mabapi le dikadimo ha di a tshwanela ho feta 33% ya moputso oa leloko ho kenyeletswa le dithuso.
- Molao oa mokotla o re kadimo ea leloko le collateral di se fete 40% ea tjhelete e bokeileditsweng ke leloko (Fund Credit).
- Molao o laolang lenane la kadimo o tla latelwa ke mokotla.
- Lengolo la ho lefa rente le tshwanetse ho tsamaisana le lengolo la kopo (Application Form). Ke ka hoo maloka a thibellwang ho sebedisa ditjhelete matlong ao e seng a bona.



Indemnity Statement: The Municipal Gratuity Fund do not accept liability for any loss, damage or expense that may be incurred as a direct result or consequence of reliance upon the information in this document. If there is any conflict between the information in this document and the actual Rules of the Fund, then the actual Rules of the Fund will prevail.

Interim Bonuses: Hop Skip and Jump - or Not?

Due to the introduction of the member investment choices, the Fund is compelled to allocate the investment reserves at the end of every financial year in the form of a final bonus to members. This prevents members moving between the two portfolios, namely the Guaranteed Portfolio (GP) and the Standard Portfolio (SP) from subsidising each other. This means that no reserves will be held to smooth the monthly interim bonuses in the SP. The effect of this is that interim bonuses of members in the SP will be considered from month to month and allocated according to the performance of the financial market. Interim bonuses since 1 July 2001 were allocated as follows:

	Standard portfolio			Guaranteed Portfolio			
	July	0.6%	–	July	0.643%		
	August	0.6%	–	August	0.643%		
	September	-2.0%	–	September	0.643%		
	October	0%	–	October	0.643%		
	November	2.75%	–	November	0.643%		
	December	0.75%	–	December	0.643%		

Member Investment Choices: The Guaranteed Portfolio

Are you concerned that you will lose some of your hard earned retirement money because the financial market is unstable, especially when you are close to retirement?

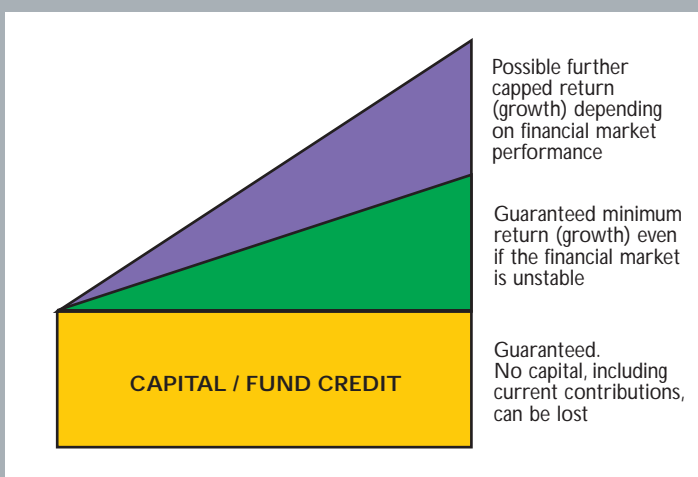
Then consider transferring your fund credit to the Guaranteed Portfolio!

What is guaranteed?

- Your fund credit
- A minimum return (growth)



The GP can be illustrated as follows:



As from the next financial year i.e. 1 July 2002 you also have the choice of splitting your fund credit between the GP and the SP. Your monthly contributions will then be split in the same ratio.

What must you do to transfer?

Complete the option form on the next page before 31 May 2002 and fax, post or even better, bring it to the Fund personally.

The Fund will confirm the transfer with you within 10 working days! If we don't, call us!

NB

Members who want to transfer to the GP will know before 31 May 2002 exactly what the guaranteed minimum growth as well as the possible further capped growth will be for the period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003. This possible further capped growth however is not guaranteed and will only be declared if the financial market performs well enough.

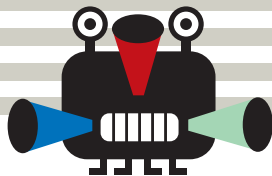
Once you have exercised an option (preferably when you know the guaranteed rates) to transfer your fund credit or part of it to the portfolio of your choice, you have to remain in such portfolio for the full financial year, 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003.

Contact the Fund or attend the information session that will be held before 31 May 2002 at your municipality if you are not sure or need more information.

Contact persons:

Riana Notley	011 748 7062
Kobus Zietsman	011 748 7020
Dewald Jacobsohn	011 748 7030
Elserina van Zyl	011 748 7064

If you are satisfied to stay in your current portfolio no action is required from you



MGF Member Investment Choice: Option Form

Complete either Section A or Section B. In either instance fill in section C.

Section A: Transfer to Guaranteed Portfolio

I, _____ the undersigned hereby elect to transfer ____% of my fund credit as well as the said percentage of my future contributions from the **Standard Portfolio** to the **Guaranteed Portfolio** as from **1st July 2002**.

I agree:

- that my capital (fund credit) is guaranteed in the **Guaranteed Portfolio**
- that a minimum growth of * ____% for one year from **1st July 2002** to **30 June 2003** is guaranteed
- that any additional capped growth will depend on the performance of the financial markets but that it is restricted to * ____% for the above mentioned twelve months and will only be payable if I am in the **Guaranteed Portfolio** on **30 June 2003**

* Growth percentages will be communicated when available, before **31 May 2002**.

Section B: Transfer to Standard Portfolio

I, the undersigned hereby elect to transfer ____% of my fund credit as well as the said percentage of my future contributions from the **Guaranteed Portfolio** to the **Standard Portfolio** as from **1st July 2002**.

I agree:

- that I bear the full investment risk of the financial markets

Complete Section C if you chose either A or B.

Section C: Particulars and Signature

I agree:

- that this transfer of funds and future contributions as indicated above is valid for the period 1st July 2002 to 1st June 2003 and that I cannot withdraw from this option before the latter date except on termination of membership
- that the option exercised by me will only be valid after the Municipal Gratuity Fund has received my application and acknowledged receipt by facsimile
- that I subsequently indemnify the Fund from any claims in respect of investment in a member choice made against my intention if I cannot submit proof of acknowledgement of receipt

My Member Number is: c_____

My Fax Number is: _____

My Telephone Number is: _____

Signed at _____ (city or town) on the _____ (day) of _____ (month) _____ (year)

Signature of member _____

Witness' name in block letters _____ Signature: _____

Witness' identity number _____

Fax the completed application to Riana Notley at (011) 748 7066.

If you want to transfer from the GP to the SP you have to notify the Fund in writing before 31 May 2002. Attach a copy of your identity document



Important Questions to Consider at your Retirement

Barend Ritter - Allan Gray

At retirement, as a member of the MGF, you may take the money that accumulated over time in your fund credit account at the Fund as a cash lump sum. A portion of the cash lump sum is taxable at your personal average rate. The remainder can be taken out tax-free. The size of the tax-free portion depends on the time that you contributed towards this Fund prior to March 1998 (this date was determined by the Receiver of Revenue). A longer contribution period prior to March 1998 will result in a higher tax-free portion.

At retirement you also have the option to invest a portion of your money in a retirement vehicle that provides you with an annual income such as living annuity or a guaranteed life annuity.

The following is a list of typical questions and answers that we trust will assist you with planning for your retirement:

Q: How much money will I need to provide for a comfortable retirement?

A: If you retire at 55 and assuming that you will live until 79, you will normally need a cash lump sum of around 25 times the annual after tax income. The factor of 25 is based on the assumption that your annual income grows with inflation; that you have a partner who lives 6 years longer than you; that your partner receives 75% of the income after your death and that your marginal tax rate is around 30% after retirement. Assuming that you require an after tax income of around R4 000 per month (R48 000 per year) after retirement, you need to retire with a cash lump sum of R1 200 000 (R48 000 x 25).

Q: Should I retire early?

A: The earlier you retire, the longer the time that you will spend on retirement and therefore the more money you need to save for your retirement. Retiring at 50 will require around 30 times your annual after tax income. It is generally advisable to postpone retirement to age 60 or later.

Q: How should I invest the cash lump sum that I receive at retirement?

A: It is very important to realise that the money in your pension fund is intended to provide you with an income for the remainder of your retired life. It should therefore be invested wisely to provide you with an income for the remainder of your life and (where applicable) your partner's life.

Select an asset manager that has a good investment track record over the long term (5 years and more). Look for

consistency of returns and low risk of negative performance. Various surveys are available that compare South African asset managers - also visit the following web site www.assetbase.co.za. It is normally a good idea to spread your money between more than one asset manager. Selecting an asset manager that you can trust is a very important part of your retirement planning.

For each manager, choose a combination of unit trust funds. Unit trusts are available as:

Equity-only funds (investment shares only, shares provide higher returns over the longer term but are more risky).

Balanced funds (investments in a combination of shares, bonds and cash - lower risk than equity-only funds).

Fixed interest-only funds (lower risk than equity-only funds and balanced funds but the value of your capital can rise and fall).

Money market funds (no capital risk, - provides income).

Sector-specific funds (e.g. Funds containing only gold shares or only shares in small companies etc).

It is normally not advisable to invest in unit trust funds where you as investor should decide on when to switch your assets away from one fund to another. Sector-specific funds require the investor to be actively involved in selecting the most attractive fund. One should rather invest in a unit trust fund where the asset manager is buying the most attractive shares across the whole market and selling the shares that are no longer attractive.

Selecting between equity-only funds (high return, higher risk), balanced funds (medium return, medium risk) and fixed-income funds (lower return, low risk) - such as fixed interest or money market funds depends on your risk profile. If you are already on retirement, a balanced fund should suit your risk profile best. If you are conservative by nature you may want to combine the balanced fund with the money market fund to reduce your risk further. If the return on your investment is more than sufficient to cover your living expenses i.e. You can afford to face a period of capital loss in return for potential to earn higher returns you should consider combining the balanced fund with an equity fund.

Q: How much money should I draw from my lump sum on an annual basis?

A: The rate at which you should withdraw funds from your investment should not exceed the annual return achieved for an extended period of time. Over the long term, the return yielded by investment tends to be 3% to 4% more than the inflation rate. With inflation at 6%, this implies growth of around 10% per annum. The impact of fees paid

to the investment manager reduces the total growth to around 9% per annum. From this it is evident that if you draw less than 8% per annum, your investment should experience positive growth. One should also attempt to draw a small income in the initial years; say around 5% per annum to allow your funds to benefit from compounded growth. Large withdrawals in the initial years can have a major negative effect on the time that your pension will be sufficient to provide for your needs.

Q: Should I pay off my bond on my house or my car and only invest the remainder of my pension?

A: Yes. The interest rate that you have to pay on a bond typically exceeds the after tax return that an investment in a portfolio of shares will yield. Furthermore, investing in shares exposes you to risk of capital loss. As property values are more stable than shares, paying off your bond is a lower risk alternative.

Q: Should I invest my money by buying a business?

A: Investing a big portion of your money in a single business is very risky. Small businesses are particularly vulnerable to changes in the local economic environment. It is also highly unlikely that the current owners of a successful business with good long-term prospects will sell it at a fair price. The business environment is also highly competitive, making it difficult to earn an above average return without having a significant competitive advantage.

Would you like to attend a workshop and consult with Barend Ritter personally? Complete the form below and fax it to Riana Notley or Elserina van Zyl at (011) 748 7066. If enough members are interested in such a workshop we will create the opportunity.

MGF - ALLAN GRAY WORKSHOP

First name										
Initials										
Surname										
Language Preference										
ID Number										
Council										
Business Address	P.O.Box									
	City / Town									
	Code									
Telephone	Home									
	Work									
	Cell									
e-mail										
Fax Number										
Membership Number										
Indicate the month that it would suit you best to attend the workshop	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec



**R100
MILLION
BY AGE 27**

We turned R100 000 into R100 million between 1974 and 2001.*

ALLAN GRAY

LONG TERM INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT
27 YEARS OF SUPERIOR WEALTH CREATION

0860 000 654

Surplus Act

The Second Amendment Act on Pension Funds, No. 39 of 2001, known as the Surplus Act came into effect on 7 December 2001. The Act deals with the apportionment of surplus funds and the payment of minimum benefits.

The Act requires that if, at the first statutory actuarial valuation, made every three years, an actuarial surplus exists, a scheme for the apportionment of such existing surplus shall be submitted to the Registrar of Pension Funds within eighteen months after such an actuarial valuation.

Current members as well as former members who left a pension fund as far back as 1 January 1980 must be taken into consideration with the apportionment of the existing surplus. The Act is only retrospective to 1 January 1980 insofar as it renders a former member who left the fund since the said date, a claim on the existing surplus. Therefore it is not the surplus as on the date the member left the fund that is taken into account but the surplus determined during the next statutory actuarial valuation.

The next statutory actuarial valuation of the Municipal Gratuity Fund is for the financial year ending 30 June 2002. In the event that a surplus does exist, a scheme for the apportionment of the surplus must be submitted to the Registrar of Pension Funds not later than 31 December 2003. The Act contains instructions of how there should be liaised with stakeholders, being current and former members before the apportionment scheme is submitted.

The Fund will adhere to these instructions in the event that there is any actuarial surplus that must be apportioned. It is unlikely that the next actuarial valuation will reflect any actuarial surplus in the MGF because the MGF is a typical defined contribution fund where all returns (growth) are allocated to members and reserves are not held back. The Fund is in possession of particulars of former and current members since the creation of the Fund on 1 January 1994. If a member had a change of address it is very important to notify the Fund. Members are advised to also provide their latest information to former funds that they may have belonged to as those funds may have actuarial surpluses, especially if they are defined benefit funds.

The requirement of the Act concerning payment of minimum benefits is already in essence being adhered to by the Fund as the MGF is a defined contribution fund, where all returns are apportioned to members by means of interim and final bonuses.



Reaching Out

The MGF is now reaping the benefits of regional training workshops held in all regions. Regional workshops are intended to inform all stakeholders, that is member representatives, trade union representatives and municipal personnel of the human resources offices and pay offices about the administrative procedures and benefits. The workshops are also meant to strengthen the link between participating local authorities and the Fund. The tremendous support we received showed that we are taking the right direction enforcing the close working relationship with our members. The regional training workshops will commence again in June 2002.

Over the past 18 months personnel of the Fund held member information meetings at all the local authorities. Some of them have already been visited three times during this period. We will continue these visits on members' requests. The member information meetings address concerns and questions of members on all issues pertaining to the fund. If you have any questions regarding your pension fund do not hesitate to contact any of our friendly public relations officers that always take pride in helping you:

Piet Ntuli (011) 748 7063
Riana Notley (011) 748 7062
Stanley Muremi (011) 748 7146

You can also write to us at:
Municipal Gratuity Fund
Private Bag X041
Benoni
1500

Send e-mail to mgf@netline.co.za
Visit our vibrant web site www.mymgf.co.za

Customary or 'Lobolo' Marriages

Have you paid "lobolo" and now have a brand new wife? Then register this marriage at your nearest office of the Department of Home Affairs!

The Recognition of Customary Marriages Act, no.120 of 1998, was promulgated on 20 November 1998 and came into effect on 15 November 2000.

In terms of this Act, a marriage which is a valid marriage by customary law and existing at 15 November 2000 is for all purposes recognised as a marriage, whilst a customary marriage entered into after that date will only be recognised as a marriage if it complies with the requirements of the Act.

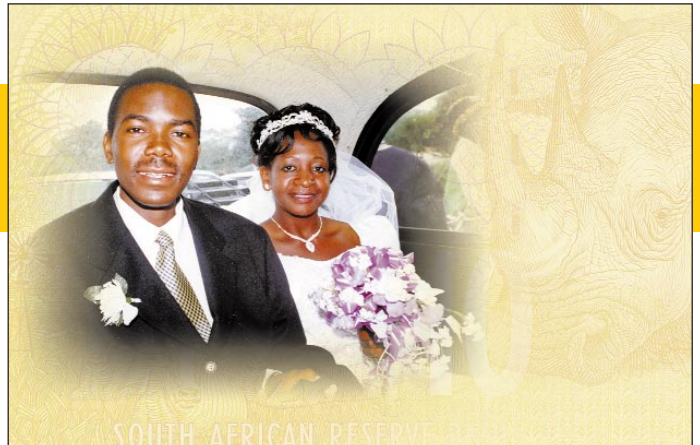
The relevant stipulations of the Act regarding the validity of a customary marriage entered into after 15 November 2000 are as follows:

- The prospective spouses must both be 18 years or older and must consent to the marriage.
- The marriage must be negotiated and entered into or celebrated in accordance with customary law.
- A person in a customary marriage may not enter into a civil marriage under the Marriage Act, no. 25 of 1961 during the existence of such customary marriage.
- The marriage must be registered within 3 months after the conclusion of the marriage.
- Customary marriages before 15 November 2000 are not invalid but should also be registered.

On registration, a certificate will be issued by the registration officer which serves as proof of registration.

A customary marriage is dissolved in the same way as a civil marriage under the Marriage Act - by a court by a decree of divorce on the ground of the irretrievable breakdown of the marriage. The court, in granting such a decree, has the powers contemplated in section 7 of the Divorce Act, which means that it can order the Fund to pay to the non-member spouse a certain portion of the member's 'pension interest' (the benefit the member would have been entitled to if he/she had resigned on the date of divorce).

In order to assist the Fund in the payment of your benefit, you are urged to register your customary marriage as soon as possible. Make sure that your employer and the Fund have a certified copy of the marriage certificate.



Usukhokhe "ilobolo" nokuthi usunonkosikazi manje? Okusele manje ukuthi ubhalise loyomshado ehovisi ka muhle eduze nalapho uhlalakhona.

UMTHETHO OMUSHA UTHINI?

Lomthetho washiqilelwa ngomhla ka 15 November 2000.

Yonke imishado eyabakhona phambi kwa lesisikhathi, ivunyelwe kukho-konke. Leyomishado kufanele ihambisane nemigaqo ya lomthetho (The Act).

Imishado yesintu (Customary Unions) eyabakhona ngemuva komhla ka 15 November 2000 kufanele ibhaliswe kwa muhle oseduze nawe. Akusho ukuthi imishado ye sintu ayivunyelwe kuphela nje kufanele ibhaliswe. Izitifikethi ziyakhishwa okuyinkomba yokuthi umshado onjalo ukhona.

Imishado yesithembu ivunyelwe nokuthi umthetho wesehlukaniso (Divorce Law) usebenza kuyo yonke imishado. Umbutho nezezimpesheni ungayalelwa ukuthi ukhokhe imali yelunga yempeshene kumlingane walo.

Nangaphandle kokuthi lomthetho usebenza kubobonke abantu, imishado yesintu e bhalisiwe (Registered) ingaqiniseka ukuthi izimali zamalunga zikhokhwe ngokushesha. Qiniseka ukuthi umqashi wakho kanye nombutho banaso i sitifiketi sakho somshado.

Glenvista Shopping Centre

The centre is situated in the heart of the south of Johannesburg in the suburb of Glenvista. The 8000m² centre is anchored by Checkers and was refurbished two years ago. In a value adding exercise the MGF has concluded a deal with Woolworths to open a state-of-the-art food store in the centre. Clicks, a favourite with many, will also soon open. Alterations to accommodate these stores commenced during January 2002 and the stores should open at the end of April 2002.

Economic Overview

During the last quarter of 2001 the financial markets were in many respects extremely volatile. During this time the rand-dollar exchange rate weakened from R9.02 to R11.97 at the end of December 2001. This constituted a decrease in value of approximately 33%. At one stage during December the exchange rate was R13.85 to the US-dollar. During 2001 the rand weakened 58% against the dollar.

Long term interest rates consequently weakened by between 80 and 100 points. Shares and especially rand hedged shares benefited tremendously by the falling of the rand. During the last three months of 2001 the total share index rose by more than 28%.

The expectation is that the volatility of the rand will continue in 2002 as the political situation in Zimbabwe and other emerging markets contribute to the volatility of the rand. Most economists expect however that the rand will improve to R11 to the dollar.

The MGF had a relatively high exposure to bonds with a rand-hedging element. Until the rand stabilises a relatively high exposure to these bonds will be maintained. Exposure to bonds will be monitored closely and if bond rates rise, thus becoming cheaper, more will be purchased.

In summary it can be said that the MGF experienced a positive period from June 2001 to December 2001. Although a volatile period is expected for the next six months the MGF will do everything possible to ensure that the interest of members are protected with the utmost care and caution.

Are You About to Retire?

In order to receive your benefits promptly, follow these easy steps:

- Notify your local authority three months prior to retirement.
- Contact the nearest office of the Receiver of Revenue to find out if you are registered as a tax payer. If you have a tax reference number, forward it to your human resources officer.
- The human resources officer will complete a D8-form and send it to the Fund.



The moment the Fund receives the D8-form the wheels will be set in motion to ensure that you get your retirement benefit as soon as possible. WITHOUT THE D8-FORM NOTHING CAN BE DONE!

Prize-winning letter October 2001:

L Graumann, Bedfordview



Dear Editor

I would like to congratulate all those concerned in the production of the Fund's newsletter, "VOICE". It is attractive and professional in appearance as well as being interesting and informative.

It is a good idea to invite members to write to the editor but I would suggest that the letter which is published be referred to as the "prize winning letter", as is done by several periodicals. The writer of the letter is then awarded the "prize" of R500 for his/her contribution, as stated in October's "VOICE". Otherwise it can be construed as "payment for services rendered" with income tax implications for both the Fund and the recipient. This may be splitting hairs but it is always a good idea to stay on the right side of the Receiver of Revenue!



**Win
R500**

**Write to
the editor
and view an opinion!**

**Your pearls of wisdom could be
worth R500!**

**Letters received up to
31 May 2002 will be considered.**

Property Portfolio - A Prominent Landmark

The latest acquisition of the Fund is called ABSA-Square due to ABSA being the major tenant in the building. ABSA has established their Mpumalanga head-office in this building situated on the most prominent corner in Nelspruit.



The MGF owns 45% of this property with ABSA Limited owning the remainder of the shareholding. The building was opened for trading on 1 December 2001. This building further enhances the property portfolio of the Fund and is set to be the new landmark in Nelspruit.

The office component is 5600m² and the retail area 2750m². ABSA has signed a lease for the offices for a 10-year period guaranteeing a healthy income stream for the property.

The retail shopping centre has the following interesting tenants:

ABSA Bank
Mr Price Home
Maxi's
Wiesenhof Coffee Shop
Nelspruit Travel
Nelspruit Pharmacy

The retail area offers ample parking in a safe and secure environment.

Mediese Ongeskiktheid



Klagtes word soms ontvang dat die prosessering van aansoeke om mediese ongeskiktheid lank neem. Die huidige paneel mediese evalueerders beskik nie oor voldoende kapasiteit om evaluasies vinniger af te handel nie en die Fonds sal met ingang 1 Maart 2002 van 'n ander diensverskaffer gebruik maak. Hopelik sal dit dan vinniger verloop. Lede moet egter in gedagte hou dat dit 'n deeglike proses is en daarom soms lank kan neem. Dit is nodig dat die proses deeglik gedoen word om te verseker dat kansvatters nie deur die sif glip nie. Alle stappe word gedoen om die lede se belange te beskerm en nie ongeregverdigde eise goed te keur nie. Dit kan egter nog gebeur dat 'n geval deurglip soos blyk uit die volgende uittreksel van 'n brief wat vanaf 'n bekommerde lid ontvang is:

"Dit is interessant hoe lede nadat hulle afgaan as gevolg van mediese ongeskiktheid, so gou herstel van die oorsaak van hulle mediese ongeskiktheid.

Onlangs is Mnr. Jones ongeskik verklaar. Hy het hom daagliks met sy krukke voortgesleep werk toe, maar naweke en na werksure en wanneer hy met verlof is, makeer hy niks en loop sonder sy krukke. Hy kan selfs sy karavaan en tent opslaan.

Groot was 'n mede kampeerder se verbasing toe hy Mnr. Jones op 'n Maandag, na die naweek se kamp, by die werk raakloop en hom met krukke sien. Hy vra hom so ewe of hy dan nadat hulle terugkeer het van die naweek se kamp in 'n ongeluk betrokke

was. Dit is duidelik dat persone wat nie saam met hom werk nie, nie bewus is van sy "besering" nie. Mnr. Jones was duidelik baie verleë aangesien daar ander personeel in die nabyheid was.

Ekself het Mnr. Jones nadat hy reeds uit diens is, gesien loop sonder sy krukke, maar later dieselfde dag moes hy dokumente by die stadsraad kom voltooi, toe sleep hy hom weer voort met sy krukke. Hierdie is die tweede persoon van wie ek bewus is, wat binne 'n week na diensbeëindiging merkwaardig herstel het.

Ek stel voor dat hierdie man en alle ander voornemende mediese ongeskiktheids- kandidate nadat hulle voor 'n mediese raad verskyn het, waar hulle net soos by die werksplek halfdood is, deur 'n persoon onbekend aan hom by sy huis besoek word. 'n Afspraak kan gedoen word waar gevra word dat die persoon verneem hy doen privaat werk soos paneelklop of spreiwark en soek net 'n kwotasie. By die hoor van die woord kwotasie is alle versigtigheid of agterdog op die agtergrond geplaas en sal daar normaal opgetree word, besering of siekte sal vergete wees."

Lede moet die Fonds asseblief verwittig indien hulle van soortgelyke gevalle bewus raak aangesien dit in lede se eie belang is.

MGF - Member Information

Complete and Fax to (011) 748 7066

FIRST NAME:

INITIALS:

SURNAME:

GENDER:

LANGUAGE PREFERENCE:

PREVIOUS ID NUMBER:

NEW ID NUMBER:

COUNCIL:

DEPARTMENT:

BUSINESS

P O BOX:

ADDRESS

CITY/

TOWN:

CODE:

HOME POSTAL

P O BOX /STREET:

ADDRESS

CITY/

TOWN:

CODE:

TELEPHONE

HOME:

WORK:

CELL:

E-MAIL:

EMPLOYEE PAY NUMBER:

MGF MEMBER NUMBER:

TAX REFERENCE NUMBER: