



Natal Joint Municipal Pension KwaZulu-Natal Joint Municipal Provident Funds

"Your Fund, Your Savings, Your Future"



"KEEPING YOU INFORMED"

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2015

7 Awards at the IRFA Awards in 2015!!!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- IRFA Awards
- Africa Investor
- Election of Representatives
- Training Workshops
- Wills Campaign
- Know Your Fund Rules & Regulations
- New Interactive Website
- Financial Literacy
- Member Details Form



From the left: Cheryl Ward (COO), Sam Camilleri (CEO/ Principal Officer), Bongzi Mkhize(CFO)

Following on the Batseta (Council of Retirement Funds South Africa) awards recently received by the Fund; the Fund has done it again by winning the Best Practices Industry Awards (BPIA) presented by the Institute for Retirement Funds Africa (IRFA); which is a non-political body which represents and promotes the interests of the retirement industry in Africa. At its annual conference held at the Cape Town International Convention Centre in July 2015, it announced the BPIA winners.

During the ceremony, the Fund won the following awards;

- Trophy winner for excellence in Trustee Development,
- Trophy winner for excellence in Stakeholder Communication Project,
- Gold Standard certificate for excellence in Stakeholder Communication Project,
- Gold Standard certificate for excellence in Trustee Development,

- Merit certificate for excellence in Treating Customers Fairly: Internal Training programme,
- Merit certificate for excellence in Trustee Training at nomination stage and candidate motivation on appointment,
- Merit certificate for excellence in alignment of previously disadvantaged Fund with previously advantaged Fund.
The 2015 BPIA programme aimed to recognize professionalism and seek the most diligent of retirement funds across a broader range of categories which includes; Communication Strategy, Communication Project, Financial Reporting, Fund Governance, Trustee Development and Investment Practices. These awards give funds the platform to showcase their innovations and highlight their expertise in the public domain.

Africa Investor Capital Markets Index Series Awards 2015

The Fund recently submitted an entry to an international institution, Africa Investor (Ai) for their Capital Markets Index Series Awards. Africa Investor is one of the leading international investment and communications group. The category the Fund competed in is "African Pension Fund Initiative of the Year". The purpose of these awards is to profile African Capital Market success stories to the global investment community. The Awards are based around the Ai Index Series and are designed to recognize Africa's best performing stock exchanges, listed companies, investment banks, research teams, regulators, socially responsible companies and fund managers.

In August 2015, the Fund was shortlisted by the international institution (Africa Investor) for being among a limited number of retirement funds in Africa to show good investment practices in the development of capital markets in Africa. The Fund has been invited to attend the summit and the awards ceremony which will be held in September 2015 in New York. The Fund is excited about being recognized amongst the leading pension funds on the continent. "It is truly a privilege to be part of the representatives for Africa in these prestigious awards. It really shows that through applying best practices for investments, governance, administration, education and communications, we are making a positive transformation for our stakeholders", said Sam Camilleri the Principal Officer of NJMPF.

Important announcement

“ Closing date
for submission
of elected
representatives
is 20 October
2015!!”

Election of Employer & Employee Representatives!!!

You are reminded that the results for the employee and employer representative to the Fund’s General Committee must reach the Fund by no later than **20 October 2015**. This is your opportunity to have Your say! Your Vote! Your Voice! If you need further clarity, please contact your Human Resource officer or the Fund through our Client Services section via Tel: 031 279 5300 or E-mail: info@njmpf.co.za or Fax: 031 266 6715.

Human Resource & Payroll Workshops 2015

During September 2015, the Fund conducted Human Resource and Payroll officers training workshops at the NJMPF offices in Westville, Durban. The workshops were conducted from the 7th to the 10th of September 2015 and all municipalities were invited to participate. Part of the line-up of speakers during the workshops were NJMPF team who provided information regarding new developments at the Fund and the rules and regulations. Siphon Mthethwa and Margaret McCullough from J. Leslie Smith (the Fund’s legal advisors) presented on Wills and the importance of having a Will in preparation for National Wills Week which took place from the 14th to the 18th of September 2015. Themba Mahlangu from the Financial Services Board (FSB) educated delegates about Saving, Insurance and Financial Planning. The FSB was accompanied by representatives from the Pension Funds Adjudicator, Charlson Raphadana and Tshepo Dooka-Rampedi. Pictured below are all the speakers from the workshops.



The theme of the second workshop for 2015 was Savings and Financial Planning. The strategic mandate for the Fund was to ensure that Human Resource and Payroll officers are educated and informed about financial literacy as part of a national campaign by the FSB. The layout of the training workshops aimed to equip Human Resource and Payroll officers (in a train the trainer format) so that they are empowered, thus being able to transfer their knowledge and wisdom to members within the municipalities in the Province. The Fund takes financial literacy seriously and this is why it continuously tries to find avenues to partner with institutions who can equip stakeholders to make better financial decisions.

Campaign on the importance of having a Will

The Fund recently sent out information about National Wills Week which ran from the 14th to the 18th of September 2015. This was an opportunity for members of the Fund as well as the public to get a Will drafted free of charge with participating attorneys. The Fund emailed pamphlets, factsheets and schedules reflecting contact details of attorneys to all the municipalities associated with the Fund. A sms notice also made members aware of the offering. We hope that many took the opportunity that was made available to them during Wills Week. It is very important to have a Will, as passing away without a Will has major implications for both the administrator of the estate as well as the family left behind. A Will is the only way in which a person can ensure that their estate will be divided according to their wishes after death. Please note that a pension does not form part of an estate, so it cannot be set in a Will. However, the Fund will use the deceased's Will as a guide of what his/her wishes were when processing a death benefit.

Know Your Fund Rules & Regulations

Death Claims:

The Fund pays death claim benefits according to Section 37C of the Pensions Funds Act. The act is there to ensure that benefits are distributed equitably amongst all dependents (factual or legal). The Fund also takes into account the wishes of the deceased. Members must please note that Wills and Nomination forms are used as a guideline for the deceased's wishes but the Fund Trustees are not bound by them when distributing benefits as pension benefits do not form part of the deceased's estate.

Some of the considerations include:

- Age of dependant
- Relationship with the deceased
- Extent of dependency
- Future earning capacity of dependants, and
- Current earnings

In light of the above, the Fund will require specific documents from beneficiaries and dependants when processing death claims. If these documents are not completed fully or documentation is outstanding, payment cannot be processed. We therefore encourage members and beneficiaries to ensure that all required certificates are certified and that the required affidavits, and claim forms are commissioned by a Commissioner of Oaths. This is to make sure that benefits are paid timeously and efficiently so that no unnecessary delays are felt by the claimants. Where required, more supporting documents will be requested. This is why the Fund is on a drive to encourage members to update their personal details and draft Wills. Members should apply for documents such as Full- Birth Certificates (BI-19) for all their children whilst they are still alive as these are difficult for the beneficiaries to obtain after the death of a member.

“ Ensure all required certificates are certified and required documents are commissioned.”

“ The Fund’s new interactive website is coming soon!! For instant, efficient and easy access to personal information and statements...”

New Interactive Website

The Fund is currently developing a new interactive website for its stakeholders. The aim of the interactive website will be to educate members and provide them with relevant information regarding their retirement contributions and benefits. The Fund conducted a survey with a sample group drawn from the employer group, active members and pensioners. The responses we received were invaluable and we thank all those who participated. Some of the features that will be available on the new website include a member login, training videos, net replacement ratio and loan repayment calculators, instant access to pension certificates and benefit statements. **Stakeholders will have instant access anywhere-anytime!!** The Fund aims to make access to information, communication and education easy, faster and more efficient. The Fund will keep its stakeholders informed once the site is up and running and available to the public.

Financial Literacy

Inflation is a rise in the general level of prices of goods and services in an economy over a period of time. The most common measure of inflation is the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Inflation is the reason why the cost of food such as milk has increased in price over the years. For example, if a sachet of milk was R8.50 in 2010 - it is R 12.50 in 2015.

Inflation has a significant effect on investment returns. Inflation reduces the purchasing power of members’ money. This is why members must carefully consider their retirement savings plans. We encourage members in the Provident Fund to contribute at the highest percentage of 9.25% towards their pension. In our visits to municipalities over the next few months, we will be discussing inflation and its effects on future retirement savings and benefits.

Member Details Forms

“Members to please return the completed Member Details Forms...”

During July 2015, the Fund distributed benefit statements to all active members at the municipalities through the Human Resource offices. Attached to the benefit statements was a member details form; the Fund requested members to complete and return the form. The Fund is on a drive to update member’s information as we know people can forget to inform the Fund when circumstances change in their lives. Up-to-date information is critical when the Fund has to distribute communication via post, email or sms. If the information is not updated, we cannot ensure that correspondence will reach the intended person. For those who have not yet returned these forms, please do so through our Client Services section via Tel: 031 279 5300 or E-mail: info@njumpf.co.za or Fax: 031 266 6715.