

Pension fund members encouraged to get to grips with new two-pot system

Members of pension funds are urged to seek clarification from their funds regarding their benefits under the two-pot retirement system in order to safeguard their benefit entitlement.

The Pension Funds Amendment bill has been signed into law, clearing the way for the implementation of the two-pot retirement system which provides for a vested component, a savings component and a retirement component. Generally, members' contributions from 01 September 2024, will be split between the savings component and the retirement component.

Pension fund rules and administrative systems will have to be amended to fall in line with the two-pot retirement system.

The vested component will consist of the member's contributions in the fund up to 31 August 2024. From this component, 10% or R30 000, whichever is lower, will be utilised as a once-off seed capital amount in the savings component, which can be claimed from 01 September 2024.

The vested component will be subject to existing retirement laws, allowing a member to claim a withdrawal benefit from this component when they resign from employment.

The savings component will consist of the once-off seed capital amount and one-third of the member's contributions in

the fund from 01 September 2024, which can be accessed once every tax year by the member.

The retirement component will consist of two-thirds of the member's contributions from the implementation date and can only be accessed at retirement.

The role of the Office of the Pension Funds Adjudicator (OPFA), a statutory body, is to investigate and determine complaints relating *inter alia* to the improper application of fund rules, maladministration, disputes of fact or law and employer dereliction of duty in respect of pension funds.

The two-pot retirement system requires pension funds to amend their rules and adjust their administrative systems to allow pension fund members to access a portion of their retirement benefits from 1 September 2024.

The role of the OPFA in any complaint relating to the two-pot system is to apply the fund rules and ensure that funds comply with their administrative process in this regard. If the rules of a fund do not afford a fund the legal power or capacity to do something, then such purported act by the fund is *ultra vires* and accordingly null and void. Therefore, if a fund fails to amend its rules to provide for the two-pot retirement system, then the OPFA cannot grant relief in this regard.

There is a fiduciary duty on funds to act in the best interest of their members and provide them with relevant and adequate information. Thus, funds should ensure that they amend their rules and embark on a communication exercise to inform members of their benefits and the implications of the two-pot retirement system.

There is a corollary duty on members to seek information from their funds regarding their benefit entitlement relating to the two-pot system in order to exercise and protect their rights and benefit entitlement.

In view of the Refer to Fund (RTF) process of adjudicating complaints, funds and members are encouraged to resolve these types of complaints at an early stage by sharing information regarding what is payable in terms of the fund rules, turnaround times and any challenges that a fund may be experiencing in implementing the two-pot system.

This will minimise unnecessary complaints before the OPFA which could have been resolved quicker and earlier if there was clear communication.

Further, the OPFA expects funds to resolve complaints relating to claims for payment to be resolved at an early stage if members do not qualify to access the once-off seed capital amount in the savings component in terms of the fund rules.

The OPFA will monitor complaint trends in this regard and alert the industry of any shortcomings in relation to the implementation of the two-pot system. Continuous engagements with stakeholders will be strengthened in this regard to minimise unnecessary complaints.

Members are advised to contact their pension funds to enquire about their benefits as from 01 September 2024.

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GA-SEGONYANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

INVITATION TO BID

BID NO	BID DESCRIPTION	FUNCTIONALITY CRITERIONS & CIDB GRADING	TECHNICAL CONTACT PERSON	CLOSING DATE, TIME AND VENUE	PREFERENCE POINTS
02/2024-25	Panel Appointment: Appointment of Contractors for the Construction of Rural Roads for A Period of 36 Months	7CE	G. Monchwe 053 712 9403	27 September 2024 12:00 Municipal Board Room	80/20 OR 90/10
03/2024-25	Panel Appointment: Appointment of Contractors for the Construction of Rural Water Supply for A Period of 36 Months	7CE	B. Kgosieng 053 712 9369		80/20 OR 90/10
04/2024-25	Panel Appointment: Appointment of Contractors for the Construction of Rural Sanitation for A Period of 36 Months	7GB/ 7CE	B. Sehogela 053 712 9344		80/20 OR 90/10

Bids marked with reference number on the outside of the sealed envelope must be placed in the Bid Box of Ga-Segonyana Local Municipality on or before the closing date as indicated above.

Bid Documents are obtainable from 30 August 2024 for a non-refundable fee of R2, 000.00 per document at the Cashiers Office, Cnr Voortrekker and School Street, Kuruman, 8460 OR can be downloaded free of charge at www.etenders.gov.za and/ or www.ga-segonyana.gov.za.

Bids will be evaluated based on the Preferential Procurement Policy of the Municipality and the municipal's Supply Chain Management Policy. Bids must be accompanied by a valid TAX COMPLIANCE STATUS (TCS with pin). Bidders must be registered on the Central Supplier Database (CSD) for Government.

M. M. TSATSIMPE (MUNICIPAL MANAGER)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AND EXTENDED PUBLIC REVIEW OF DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT

PROPOSED 400KV POWERLINE BETWEEN THE FERRUM AND UPINGTON SUBSTATIONS, NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE

Notice is hereby given in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations of 2014 (as amended), in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA).

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The Upington area has been identified as one of the highest solar radiation locations in the world, providing the best opportunities for using the sun to generate electricity. As such, Upington has seen an increase in Independent Power Producer (IPP) projects in an effort to utilise renewable energy resources, particularly solar, to meet the growing demand in electricity. This power needs to be fed into the national grid and the result of which is the proposed Project, which entails the construction of a 400 kV power line from Ferrum Substation to Upington Substation, and associated feeder bays.

The Project is located in the Northern Cape Province within David Kruijer Local Municipality (LM) and Gamagara LM, falling within the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality (DM) and John Taolo Gaetsewe DM respectively.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESSES:

The proposed project triggers various Listed Activities in the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) requiring Environmental Authorisation. The powerline falls within the Northern Corridor of the Strategic Transmission Corridor, as published in Government Notice No. 113 of 16 February 2018. Nema Consulting was appointed by Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd. (the Applicant) as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake a Basic Assessment (BA) Process for the Project in terms of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) to seek Environmental Authorisation where the mandated competent authority is the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE).

REVIEW OF THE DRAFT BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT:

The Draft BA Report (BAR) will be available for an extended period of public review at the Upington and Kathu Public Libraries from 23 August 2024 until 23 September 2024. The reports can also be downloaded from the following website: <https://nema.co.za/downloads/>.

Should you have any queries or would like to register as an Interested Affected Party (I&AP) for the project, please contact the Consultant below. Written comments on the Draft BAR need to be forwarded to the EAP by 23 September 2024.

CONTACT DETAILS OF NEMAI CONSULTING (COMMENTS OR QUERIES):

Contact Person: Marilie Pretorius
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Postal Address: PO Box 1673, Sunninghill, 2157

KENNISGEWING INGEVOLGE OMGEWINGSMAGTIGING EN VERLENGDE PUBLIEKE OORSIG VAN DIE KONSEP BASIESE ASSESSERINGS VERSLAG

VOORGESTELDE 400KV KRAGLYN TUSSEN FERRUM EN UPINGTON SUBSTASIES, NOORD-KAAP

Hiermee word kennis gegee ingevolge die Omgewingsimpakbepaling (OIB) -Regulies van 2014 (soos gewysig), in terme van die Nasionale Omgewings Bestuurswet (Wet Nr. 107 van 1998) (NEMA).

PROJEKTOORSIG:

Die Upington area is geïdentifiseer as een van die ligginge met die hoogste solar radiasie in die wêreld, wat goeie geleentheid skep om die son te gebruik om elektrisiteit op te wek. As sulks, het Onafhanklike Krag Voorsiëning (OKV) projekte in die Upington area toegeneem in 'n poging om hernubare kragbronne te benut, veral solar, om te voldoen aan die groeiende vraag na elektrisiteit. Om die opgewekte krag in die nasionale netwerk in te voer, word die Projek om 'n 400kV kraglyn te bou voorgestel vanaf Ferrum Substasie na Upington Substasie en geassosieerde toevoerbeaie.

Die Projek is geleë in die Noord-Kaap Provinsie en vorm deel van Dawid Kruijer Plaaslike Munisipaliteit (PM) en Gamagara PM, en val binne die ZF Mgcawu Distrik Munisipaliteit (DM) en John Taolo Gaetsewe DM onderskeidelik.

OMGEWINGSPROSESSE:

Die voorgestelde projek aktiveer verskeie Gelyste Aktiwiteite in die NEMA OIB Regulasies, 2014 (soos hersien) wat Omgewingsgoeiekeuring vereis. Die kraglyn val binne die grense van die Noordelike Strategiese Transmissie Gang, soos gepubliseer in Staatskennisgewing Nr. 113 van 16 Februarie 2018. Nema Consulting is aangestel deur Eskom Holdings SOC Bpk. (die Aansoeker) as die Omgewingsassesseringspraktisyn (OAP) om die Basiese Bepalingsproses (BB) proses te onderneem vir die Projek ingevolge die OIB Regulasies, 2014 (soos hersien) om Omgewingsgoedkeuring te verkry waar die gemagtigde bevoegde outoriteit die Departement van Bosbou, Visserie en die Omgewing (DFFE) is.

OORSIG VAN DIE KONSEP BASIESE ASSESSERINGS VERSLAG:

Die Konsep BA verslag (BBV) sal beskikbaar wees vir 'n verlengde periode van publieke besigtiging by die Upington en Kathu Publieke Biblioteek vanaf 23 Augustus 2024 tot en met 23 September 2024. Die verslag kan ook vanaf die volgende webtuiste afgelaai word: <https://nema.co.za/downloads/>.

Indien u enige navrae het of as 'n Belangstellende Geïnteresseerde Party (B&GP) wil registreer, kontak asb die onderstaande Konsultant. Geskrewe kommentaar rakende die Konsep BAV moet na die OAP gestuur word teen 23 September 2024.

KONTAKBESONDERHEDE VAN NEMAI CONSULTING (KOMMENTAAR EN NAVRAE):

Kontakpersoon: Marilie Pretorius
Tel: (011) 781 1730 | E-pos: MarilieP@nema.co.za
Posadres: Posbus 1673, Sunninghill, 2157

Dear Class of 2024

Good luck with your pre-lim
examinations! May your hard work result
in academic success. May you achieve
your goals and reach your highest
potential.

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.