

AMAGP PROGRESS REPORT - MAY 2018

1. **Introduction.** The current Management Team of the AMAGP consists of the following members:

Honorary President – Adamus (AP) Stemmet

Chairperson - Antonie Visser

Deputy Chairperson - Albert van Driel

Executive Members - Hendrik (Hennie) Roux and Hendrik Bernardus (Hennie)

Heymans

Co-opted Member - David Blyth

Secretary - Errol Massey-Hicks

2. **Environment.** In order to understand the progress that the AMAGP is making, it is important to understand the environment in which it is operating.

The AMAGP came into existence 2 years ago, and the environment is characterised by the following aspects:

- **Funds.** Everything that we did till very recently was funded from the pockets of the few participating members! We cannot consider any litigation, unless somebody does it for us free of charge.
- **Attitude of the GEPF Board of Trustees (Board).** The GEPF Board is doing its best to avoid giving specific answers to the questions that we ask. During discussions with the Board, they follow the same approach. The Board also keeps a veil of secrecy over certain aspects.
- **GEPF Power Base.** The GEPF and Public Investment Corporation (PIC) have a strong established power base of staff, and lots of money at their disposal. They even have insurance for possible claims against their members. Board members (who make the important decisions regarding our fund) are paid with our money. We are represented by only 1 of the 16 GEPF Board members, and this person is apparently not allowed to liaise with us, or answer our questions.
- **AMAGP Power Base.** In contrast with the GEPF power base above, we have to build up a power base with a hand full of voluntary members (pensioners who spend many hours of their own time), and with extremely limited funds. We have to mostly operate in an indirect way, which is time consuming, and also carries the risk of possible litigation against us. (Compare our situation with OUTA, which is in existence for 8 years, and which acts against corruption – OUTA has 30 full time paid employees, and millions of Rands at their disposal.
- **Recruitment.** Despite the large potential that there is in the number of GEPF members, with vast experience and expertise, we are struggling to recruit sufficient numbers. There seems to be an apathy amongst our GEPF members towards the corruption prevailing in government institutions, and the mismanagement of our pension fund. We are grateful for the growth in numbers on our Facebook page, but the page primarily serves as a source of

information to our GEPF members – we need many more members to formally apply for the AMAGP membership (thank you for everybody who recently joined us), and to offer their expertise and time (and where possible, financial support) to our cause.

3. Progress. Despite the challenges that the AMAGP is facing, we have made progress in our efforts to protect our pension fund, of which the following are the most important:

- **Foundation.** The Constitution of the AMAGP was promulgated. The Aim and Policy was formulated, and the association was registered as a non-profit organisation (This process took one year, and necessitated the change of our name), at the relevant government department. A bank account was opened for the AMAGP, and a filing system was created. A Facebook page was created, and this was followed by the recent launching of the AMAGP website. The AMAGP newsletter, GEPF Monitor, is also published on a regular basis.
- **Liaison with the GEPF.** Numerous meetings were held with the GEPF Board and the PIC. A paper trail of all enquiries regarding various aspects was handed over to the GEPF Board.
- **Information Gathering and Interpretation.** This takes place on a continuous basis, and large volumes of documentation is scrutinised. A number of significant research documents have already been produced, and is utilised for own use and during liaison with other interested parties.
- **Liaison with Other Interested Parties.** Liaison with influential interested parties takes place on an ongoing basis. Various discussions have taken place with people and organisations such as Dawie Roodt, Flip Buys, OUTA, Helen Suzman Foundation, Gyskrag and the FW de Klerk Foundation. We have also reached out to a number of relevant labour unions, in order to join forces. To date, we succeeded in creating links with the Public Service Association (PSA) and Solidarity.
- **Printed Media, Radio and TV.** A large number of media releases were made, and there are reasons to believe that some of these releases had an impact on the behaviour of the GEPF Board, the PIC and even some labour unions. These releases are made pro-actively, often when the GEPF Board is considering to make an investment or providing a loan. Newspapers frequently approach the AMAGP for, and publish our opinion, although not always under our name. Various inputs were made to relevant radio and TV discussions. The AMAGP newsletter, GEPF Monitor, is published on a regular basis on our Facebook page and website – it does not only provide relevant news, but also give interpretation and comments.
- **Social Media.** Our Facebook page is providing an instant source of information regarding developments impacting on our fund, and our recently established website is serving the needs of GEPF members who are not active on Facebook. We may open a Twitter account in the near future.

- **Recruitment and Funding**. Although we are steadily growing in numbers, we seriously need many more active members to help carry the flag, and to strengthen the powerbase of the AMAGP as a pressure group. Membership contributions and donations are currently not sufficient for undertaking any major projects or litigation.
- **Inputs for Parliament**. The AMAGP is frequently requested by parliamentarians to give inputs regarding GEPF matters. We also attend relevant special parliamentary meetings in order to collect information, and to liaise with prominent role players.
- **Litigation**. The AMAGP currently does not have the financial capacity to undertake any litigation. We do provide inputs to other role players who have the ability to litigate. One such case was the Solidarity case in which they attempted to force transparency on the GEPF via the PAIA Act. The GEPF did not react favourably, and the case is still ongoing.
- **Special Expertise**. The AMAGP is in a very good position with economical and legal expertise on the team. Significant studies regarding the GEPF's sustainability, cash flow and profitability have recently been completed. The results, which are upsetting and totally different from the picture that the GEPF Board is painting, is utilised for questions put to the GEPF Board, during liaison with other role players and in media releases.
- The Chairperson of the AMAGP commented to the Chief Executive Officer of the GEPF on the 2017/18 GEPF Annual Report, and he also posed a number of questions. Once more the reaction was disappointing!

4. **The Way Ahead.**

- Building of our membership, staff and finances.
- Litigation as soon as possible.
- Expanding on liaison and media coverage.
- Ministerial contact, and challenging of the current dispensation.

5. **Conclusion**. The AMAGP succeeded in creating an awareness amongst thousands of GEPF members who were ignorant of the poor/mismanagement of our pension money. Structures were established and a strategy is in place. The only factor that is currently hampering progress and momentum, is the limited number of GEPF members throwing in their weight with AMAGP.

AMAGP VORDERINGSVERSLAG - MEI 2018

1. **Inleiding**. Die Huidige Bestuur van die AMAGP bestaan uit die volgende lede:

Ere-President - Adamus (AP) Stemmet

Voorsitter - Antonie Visser

Vise-Voorsitter - Albert van Driel

Uitvoerende Lede - Hendrik (Hennie) Roux en Hendrik Bernardus (Hennie)

Heymans

Gekoöpteerde Lid - David Blyth

Sekretaris - Errol Massey-Hicks

2. Omgewing. Om te verstaan tot watter mate die AMAGP vorder is dit nodig om die omgewing waarbinne dit funksioneer, te verstaan.

Die AMAGP is nou reeds twee jaar aan die gang, en die omgewing word gekenmerk deur die volgende aspekte:

- **Fondse.** Alles wat ons tot onlangs onderneem het, is ten koste van „n paar individue se sakke! Geen litigasie deur ons self kan oorweeg word nie, behalwe as iemand anders dit kosteloos vir ons doen.
- **Houding van die GEFP se Raad van Trustees Raad).** Die Raad doen hulle bes om geen spesifieke antwoorde op ons pertinente vrae te verskaf nie. Tydens samesprekings word „n soortgelyke houding ingeneem. Sekere aspekte word in geheimhouding gehul.
- **GEFP Magsbasis.** Die GEFP en OBK (Openbare Beleggingskorporasie) het „n groot onderbou van personeel, en het baie fondse tot hulle beskikking. Hulle het selfs versekering vir moontlike eise teen hul personeel. Raadslede (wat die belangrikste besluite oor ons fonds neem) word met ons geld betaal! Ons word slegs deur een van die 16 raadslede verteenwoordig, en die persoon word oënskynlik nie toegelaat om ons vrae te beantwoord of met ons te skakel nie!
- **AMAGP Magsbasis.** Teenoor die GEFP magsbasis hierbo, moet AMAGP „n magsbasis opbou met „n handjie vol vrywillige medewerkers (wat baie manure van hulle aftrede hieraan wy) met beperkte fondse/lede. Ons moet optree op hoofsaaklik indirekte wyses wat tydrowend is, en met die risiko van litigasie teen ons. (In teenstelling hiermee het OUTA, wat reeds 8 jaar bestaan, en wat optree teen korrupsie, meer as 30 besoldigde voltydse werknemers en baie miljoene fondse tot hulle beskikking!!)
- **Werwing.** Nieteenstaande die groot potensiaal van getalle, kundigheid en ondervinding van die lede van die GEFP, asook die algemene aanduidings van korrupsie deur staatsinstellings en wanbestuur van ons pensioengeld, sukkel ons om werwing te doen as gevolg van ons beperkte onderbou maar ook as gevolg van „n apatie by lede van die GEFP. Daar is te min pensionarisse en werkende GEFP lede wat bereid is om daadwerklike hulp aan die AMAGP te verskaf, en dit plaas „n groot las op die min medewerkers wat tans daarmee betrokke is.

3. Vordering. AMAGP het egter wel vordering gemaak, waarvan die volgende die belangrikste is:

- **Onderbou.** Die AMAGP se Grondwet is gepromulgeer, die Doel en Beleid is opgestel, en die organisasie is as nie-winsgewend geregistreer (wat een jaar geneem, en „n naamsverandering tot gevolg gehad het) by die betrokke regeringsdepartement, en „n bankrekening is geopen. Daar is verder „n

Facebookblad, periodieke elektroniese tydskrif, webwerf en liasseerstelsel in bedryf gestel.

- **Skakeling met die GEPF.** Etlike vergaderings is met die GEPF en die OBK gehou. „n “Papierspoor” van navrae oor bepaalde aspekte is aan die GEPF gerig.
- **Informasie Insameling en Vertolking.** Dit vind gedurig en deurlopend plaas. Groot volumes word hanteer. Belangrike navorsingsprodukte word gelewer vir eie aanwending en vir skakeling met ander rolspelers.
- **Skakeling met Ander Belanghebbendes.** Skakeling vind deurlopend plaas met invloedryke individue en organisasies. Samesprekings word periodiek met persone soos Dawie Roodt en Flip Buys, asook met organisasies soos OUTA, Helen Suzman Foundation, Gyskrag en FW de Klerk Stigting gehou. Ons het ook reeds uitgereik na „n aantal vakbonde wat belang het by die GEPF, en suksesvolle gespreke gevoer met die VSA (Vereniging van Staatsamptenare) en Solidariteit.
- **Gedrukte Media, Radio en TV.** „n Groot aantal mediaverklarings is gedoen. Daar is rede om te vermoed dat van die verklarings „n effek gehad het op die wyse van optrede deur die GEPF en OBK, en selfs op „n aantal vakbonde. Sulke verklarings word tydig gedoen – dikwels terwyl oorweging aan „n belegging of lening deur die GEPF plaasvind. Koerante dra dikwels ons menings oor aangeleenthede rakende die GEPF – hoewel nie altyd onder ons naam nie. Waar moontlik word insette in radio en TV besprekings gelewer. Ons periodieke nuusbrieff, GEPF Monitor, hou lesers op datum met die nuutste relevante nuus, en verskaf ook menings daarby.
- **Sosiale Media.** Ons Facebookblad verskaf „n kitsbron van informasie rakende verwickelinge wat ons pensioen raak, en ons onlangs geaktiveerde webwerf bedien die behoeftes van ons lede wat nie van Facebook gebruik maak nie. Ons beplan ook om binnekort „n Twitter blad te skep.
- **Werwing en Fondse.** Daar is vordering met beide, maar tans onvoldoende. Dit het „n remmende effek.
- **Insette vir die Parlement.** Ons word dikwels deur parlementariërs versoek vir kommentaar oor GEPF aangeleenthede. Ons woon ook relevante spesiale parlementere sittings by ten einde informasie in te win en om met belangrike persone te skakel.
- **Litigasie.** Ons het nie die fondse om op hierdie stadium te litigeer nie. Waar intussen moontlik, verskaf ons informasie aan ander instansies wat wel wil optree en oor die vermoëns beskik. So het Solidariteit teen die GEPF opgetree om deur middel van die PAIA wet op deursigtigheid aan te dring. Die resultaat was „n negatiewe antwoord van die GEPF, maar dit word nou verder gevoer.
- **Spesialis Kundigheid.** In beide die ekonomiese- en regs kundighede is ons tans goed beman. Deurslaggewende studies ten opsigte van die Fonds se volhoubaarheid, kontantvloei en winsgewendheid is onlangs gelewer. Dit word in ons skakeling, vrae aan die GEPF en persverklarings aangewend. Die

resultaat van
die GEPF by lede laat.

die studies is ontstellend, en verskil van die indruk wat

- Kommentaar en vrae op die GEPF se 2017/18 jaarverslag is deur die AMAGP se voorsitter aan die Hoof Uitvoerende Beampte gelewer. Die antwoord was weereens teleurstellend.

4. Pad vorentoe.

- Uitbou van ledetal, medewerkers en finansies.
- Litigasie sodra moontlik.
- Uitbou van skakeling en media dekking.
- Ministeriele skakeling en bevraagtekening van die huidige bestel.

5. Slotsom. Die AMAGP het daarin geslaag om „n bewustheid by duisende oningeligte GEPF lede te skep vir die swak/wanbestuur van ons pensioenfonds. Strukture is daargestel en „n strategie is geformuleer. Die enigste faktor wat die vooruitgang en momentum van die AMAGP terughou, is die beperkte aantal GEPF lede wat bereid is om hul gewig in te gooi by die AMAGP.