

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

SECOND EDITION | OCTOBER 2022



Dear Member

We are fast approaching the end of 2022 – a definite reminder that time is non-recurring, unstoppable and unpreserved. Ours is to make the best of it to ensure the strategies and goals of the MWPF are met to the benefit of our members and stakeholders. Though most of our energy continues to be utilized on improving service delivery in MWPF, we appreciate that it is our very members and stakeholders who continue to motivate and propel us to always keep our best foot forward in order to finish the year strong, having delivered on all that we as MWPF had set out to do in this financial year.

We are aware that many of you have been requesting your 2021 benefit statements and can assure you that while we are experiencing a slight delay in finalizing them, we are currently working tirelessly to ensure that the 2021 benefit statements are delivered to you during the 2022 period still.

I am pleased to report that we have had a very successful unclaimed benefits roadshow in the Eastern Cape which took place from 29 August 2022 until 14 September 2022. MWPF was able to locate 271 ex-miners and beneficiaries with unclaimed benefits amounting to approximately R30m. This would not have been possible without the partnership of our various stakeholders namely, Medical Bureau for Occupational Diseases (MBOD), Compensation Commissioner (CCOD), Tshiamiso Trust, South African Miners Association (SAMA), Qhubeka Trust, IPC and SARS. In the same vein, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of MWPF employees, who sacrificed over two weeks away from home in pursuit of tracing ex-members or beneficiaries with unclaimed benefits. More on the unclaimed benefit roadshows on page 3.

In this instalment of the newsletter, we also discuss the importance of completing a nomination form, MWPF social media platforms, internet banking fraud as well as the impact of a workplace strike that has not been declared lawful, your retirement fund credit.

I hope that you will find the information useful.

Regards
Frans Phakgadi
Principal Officer and Acting CEO

MWPF

IMPORTANT PRODUCTS UPDATES



TEMPORARY TOTAL DISABILITY TTD BENEFIT

On 01 October 2021, the Fund launched the Temporary Total Disability (TTD) Benefit as a new risk benefit. The purpose of the benefit was to provide a monthly income amount to members of MWPF who are temporarily, but not permanently disabled, due to accidents at work.

With effect from 30 September 2022, the MWPF has discontinued the TTD benefit, due to the low number of claims received in the 12 months period from introduction of the benefit until 30 September 2022, in comparison to the high premium rate that is associated with MWPF keeping the TTD benefit.

The Fund will still honour all valid claims received up until 30 September 2022 and members can still follow the same claims submission process.

As the TTD Policy provides for a claim notification period of 6 months, MWPF has provided for a potential contingent liability of TTD claims for a further 6 months from 1 October 2022 until 31 March 2023.

This change in risk benefits does not affect the Permanently Total Disability (PTD) benefit. The PTD is still payable as a multiple of 3 x Annual Salary and this benefit is payable as an annuity as per the tax laws in place, and no longer payable as a full lump sum.

FUNERAL BENEFIT INCREASE

The Fund is pleased to inform you that from 01 October 2022, the funeral benefit will increase as per the below table and at an adjusted premium of R82.50 per member per month (from R79.00):

Category	Current Amount	Increased Benefit Amount
Member	R40 000.00	R50 000.00
Spouse	R40 000.00	R50 000.00
Child 14 years to 21 years	R40 000.00	R50 000.00
Child 22 years to 25 years (full-time students)	R40 000.00	R50 000.00
Child 6 years to 13 years	R25 000.00	R31 250.00
Child 1 year to 5 years	R15 000.00	R18 750.00
Stillborn or up to 12 months	R15 000.00	R18 750.00

Should you have any queries regarding the product updates, please contact 010 100 3001.

EX MINERS AND BENEFICIARIES GET WHAT'S DUE TO THEM

The Fund together with its Trustees are on a mission to significantly reduce the number of unclaimed benefits and as such have collaborated with various stakeholders to ensure that this objective is achieved not only in South Africa but also in the SADC region.

As a start, the Fund embarked on an unclaimed benefits roadshow in the Eastern Cape from 29 August 2022 until 14 September 2022. The roadshow aimed to locate and pay out over R300 million of unclaimed benefits to ex miners or beneficiaries in the Eastern Cape. The Fund is pleased to announce that 271 ex-miners and beneficiaries with unclaimed benefits amounting to approximately R30m were found. We are thrilled to share one of our success stories from the roadshow below.

Widow from Matatiele: One success story is that of a widow, currently working as a cleaner in Durban, she was called by MWPF on the first day of the roadshow on 29 August while she was at work in Durban, and she travelled all the way to

Matatiele in the Eastern Cape on 30 August 2022. Her husband passed away in 2005, however she did not know that she could claim or that she could receive his death benefits from MWPF as her deceased husband was employed by President Steyn at the time of his passing. She shared how difficult life was as she had to take care of their four children, without any other financial assistance apart from the salary she earned from her cleaning job. She will now be able to finish building her house with the funds she will be receiving, and life will surely change for the better.

This is just one of the many beneficiaries who shared their stories with us and one of the reasons why MWPF will continue tracing ex-miners and beneficiaries.

As a member, we ask that you do your bit by ensuring your nomination form (addressed in the next article) is completed or updated every year to save your loved ones the hassle that comes with delayed benefit pay-outs.



THE IMPORTANCE OF COMPLETING NOMINATION FORMS

Occupation: _____ Are you a retiree? Yes No

Personal Details

Name of Beneficiary: _____

Bank Account: (or ID number for confirmation only) _____

Name and Address of beneficiary's bank: _____

Employee: Yes No

Spouse: Yes No

Children: Yes No

Plan Choice: _____

Plan Choice: _____

Plan Choice: _____

PLAN A

PLAN B JOIN NOW!

As an employee or fund member insured in terms of a group risk policy, when you die, the payment of the death benefit is made to your nominated beneficiaries in one of following ways:

- According to the fund rules (in the case of approved / fund benefits).
- According to a valid Beneficiary Nomination form (in the case of unapproved benefits).

The Insurance Act, No. 18 of 2017 (the Act) defines a “beneficiary”. The Act requires unapproved group policy benefits (e.g., group life and funeral benefits provided under a separate group insurance scheme) to be paid only to a “beneficiary”.

Due to the definition of “beneficiary”, group risk benefits may only be paid to a member of the association or fund, an employee, or a person nominated by the member/employee.

Therefore, former provisions for these benefits to be paid according to any other parties’ wishes (e.g. the employer or a committee exercising their discretion in determining the beneficiaries for group risk insurance benefits in the case of your death) no longer apply. This means unapproved benefit payments will only be paid according to a valid Beneficiary Nomination Form that you as a member, have completed. If you did not complete a Beneficiary Nomination Form before your death, the group risk benefits (i.e. claim amounts) will be paid to your estate late, causing a delayed pay-out to any eligible dependents identified during the settlement of your estate.

Why are members encouraged to keep their beneficiary nominated forms updated?

According to Section 37C of the Pension Funds Act, Trustees are required to investigate all circumstances to make a fair decision on how members’ death benefits are distributed amongst their dependents and nominees by considering their financial dependency on the member as well as other pertinent considerations.

It is vital that employees complete a nomination or beneficiary form for unapproved death benefits and especially funeral benefits. These forms should be stored by the company’s HR department and presented to the insurer upon an employee’s death. Employees are encouraged to update their nomination forms at important life events, such as marriage, divorce, the birth of a child, or the death of a beneficiary etc.



KNOW HOW TO IDENTIFY MWPF SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

We understand the ever-changing needs of communication and the importance of staying relevant. As such, MWPF has various digital platforms available where you as a member, can stay in touch with us. These include the Fund's internet website, e-mail, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and WhatsApp.

While these platforms allow for instant and convenient communication, they come with their fair share of challenges, such as fake accounts created by fraudsters wanting to mislead members and members not being able to tell the difference between the authentic account from the fake one. It is important that you know how to separate the fake accounts from the real MWPF social media accounts.

Below is MWPF's official e-mail address, website domain and social media handles:



www.mwpf.co.za



clientservices@mineworkers.co.za



[mineworkers_pf](#)



[mineworkers_pf](#)



[Mineworkers Provident Fund](#)



[071 881 6515](tel:0718816515)

Any other account that operates under different handles but claim to be affiliated with MWPF, is doing so under false pretences, and should be avoided. As a general rule, never give out your personal details, like your banking details on any social media accounts. MWPF will only ever ask for your industry number to log or check a query. MWPF will never ask for your banking details unless at claim stage.



INTERNET BANKING FRAUD

Many bank customers successfully use electronic banking facilities such as internet banking but as with any other type of banking facility, they are also exposed to fraud. Internet banking includes banking apps and cellphone banking.

As a Fund, we cannot overemphasise the importance of staying vigilant when claiming your benefits from MWPF as you make use of such facilities to get your benefits.

HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO FOLLOW WHEN USING INTERNET BANKING:

- Review statements and reconcile accounts regularly;
- Change temporary password to a password of your choice known only to you;
- Do not use the browser facility to store passwords, rather type in passwords each time you log in;
- Type in the bank internet address when logging in, do not use a link;
- Do not use computer terminals to which members of the public generally have access to, example internet café;
- Do not leave your computer unattended when you are logged into your internet banking site and ensure you log out when done using internet banking;
- Treat e-mails, SMSes or calls you receive with caution and be aware that neither MWPF nor your bank will ask you to reveal any personal account or security details (like your PIN, password, etc) in a letter, e-mail, SMS or telephone call.

Please report activities of a fraudulent nature and suspicious activities to the MWPF call centre on 010 100 3001.



THE IMPACT OF AN **UNLAWFUL** STRIKE ON RETIREMENT FUND CREDIT

Strikes in South Africa are a common event. One of the impacts of a strike that may affect employees is their retirement fund.

In an unlawful strike in particular, employees may not get paid their salaries. This results in no contributions being paid towards the employees' provident fund and employers mainly only contribute towards the risk portion (death, disability and funeral). This therefore means that for the duration of the strike, a retirement fund such as MWPF might not be receiving any retirement funding contributions.

Employees should be made aware that in the event of a strike, the salary not paid also impacts their provident fund contributions and consequently, the member's fund credit will not increase at the rate the member expects. Thus, when a member receives their benefit statement, the lack of retirement funding contributions during the strike period will be reflected as such.



HOW TO CONTACT US

We have various channels to ensure that you get the assistance you require. **You may contact us on any of the following channels:**

 010 100 3001

 086 661 9532


 www.mwpcf.co.za

 clientservices@mineworkers.co.za

 mineworks_pf

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 071 881 6515

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