

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NUMBER 1322

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 18 SEPTEMBER 2009

Mr P J C Pretorius (DA) to ask the Minister of Finance:

Whether he will consider amending Rule 14.6.2 of the Rules of the Government Employees Pension Fund to provide for an increased pension payable to the deceased member's spouse(s); if not, why not?

NW1670E

REPLY:

No. The Rules of Government Employees Pension Fund already provide for an increased pension payable to the deceased member's spouse(s). The Member can choose to reduce his or her gratuity or annuity in order to provide for an increased pension payable to the spouse(s). This is a choice which the member may exercise. If the member so elects, the pension payment for spouse(s) will be increased to 75% of the annuity which will be received on the date of his or her death.

The pension for member's spouse(s) also increases annually on the same basis as the member's annuities.

In addition, any increase of annuities which include pension for member's spouse(s) may in accordance with the Government Employees Pension Law, 1996, only be authorised by the Board of Trustees within the financial constraints of the GEPPF and on the advice of the actuary to the GEPPF. The matter is continually reviewed in order to ensure an optimal dispensation in the interest of all parties involved and can only be considered if it is affordable.