

<b>TELPOS PENSIONER ASSOCIATION TELPOS PENSIONARIS VERENIGING</b>
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27 August 2013

Mr. S.E. Khlowane M.P.  
Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Communications  
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**CAPETOWN**

ATTENTION:  
Committee Secretary  
Mr. T. Ngoma Portfolio Committee on Communications  
90 Plein Street  
**CAPE TOWN** E-mail: [tngoma@parliament.gov.za](mailto:tngoma@parliament.gov.za)

Dear Sir

The Association of Telpos Pensioners is a voluntary body that represents the interests & acts as spokesperson for pensioners who retired from S.A. Post Office Ltd, Telkom S.A. Ltd, the former Department of Posts & Telecommunications as well as other related organizations. S.A. Post Office Ltd., has on numerous occasions in the past discussed pensioner issues with us & **we would greatly appreciate your assistance with the under mentioned matter that is of great concern to some 7000 pensioners of the Post Office Retirement Fund.**

Most of the pensioners under discussion were former employees of the Department of Posts & Telecommunication who elected to join S.A. Post Office Ltd in terms of the provisions of Post Office Amendment Act 85 of 1991. **Paramount to their agreeing to transfer their services to the new company on 1 October 1991 was the guarantee, included in the Act, that their service conditions --- especially pension & medical aid benefits ---- would not be less favorable than those applicable immediately preceding the transfer date.** Without such a provision in the relative Act, employees of the former Department would undoubtedly have preferred to remain "State Officials" & thus render the establishment of a Post Office company unviable!!! This guarantee was also extended to employees who joined the Company after 1 October 1991 & who subsequently retired.

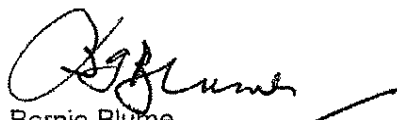
What the guarantee entails is that in the event of the P.O. Retirement Fund being unable to meet its obligations, the S.A. Office Ltd &/or **State itself as the only shareholder would become liable for the payment of annuities to all pensioners of the P.O.R.F.**

It has always remained an enormous feeling of comfort & security to the aged or infirm that the State itself guarantees the pensions of its former employees or their widows/dependents. **The importance of this benefit cannot be over emphasized!**

**It has come to our notice that the Post Office Act 44 of 1958, in which amendment 85 of 1991 is now embodied, is to be replaced in its entirety & that the new Act eliminates the guarantee of the State towards pensioners of the Post Office Retirement Fund.**

**Pensioners are vehemently opposed to the removal or even change of the Act that will effectively absolve the State from their obligation towards pensioners who served the State &/or the Company with loyalty & devotion for many years. It is nothing less than absolutely immoral for the State to try to manipulate itself out of its obligation to pensioners!**

The Association of Telpos Pensioners accordingly fully opposes the changes and supports any protest or action deem as necessary in order to uphold the pension guarantee by the State towards retired Post Office employees.

  
Bernie Blume  
Chairman.