



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THE SPEAKER

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11 September 2013

Hon Y R Botha MP
Chairperson: P C on Social Development
Parliament of the Republic of South Africa
P.O Box 15
Cape Town 8000

Dear Hon Botha

MEMORANDUM: IMPROVED STATE PENSION

Mr Derek Kloppers addressed a memorandum to me on behalf of a concerned group of civil pensioners. The memorandum contains 2448 signatures.

Mr Kloppers brings to my attention the concerns of senior citizens who receive and rely on civil pension, and includes some recommendations that the pensioners believe will help address their situation.

I am forwarding the submission to your committee for it to consider the issues from the perspective of its mandate, and to deal with it in a manner you deem appropriate.

I would appreciate being kept abreast of any action the committee decides upon in regard to this matter.

Yours sincerely


M V Sisulu MP
Speaker of the National Assembly

Att: The President and Cabinet

I am a 70 yr old State Pensioner and very grateful for the Pension I receive. I find that it is impossible to survive throughout the month on R1200.00 also very disappointed in government the way we pensioners are being treated. It is impossible especially if you still have to pay rent where you are living. We cannot depend on our children as they too have commitments of their own. Majority pensioners have nothing left of their money on pension day.

We have drawn up a petition and a memorandum to approach Government for a reasonable increase and not the measly R60.00. Most pensioners are living in poverty. My understanding is that Government wants to alleviate poverty but it seems that more poverty is being created. I am the spokes person for the Concerned Pensioners and feel that we have a democratic right to approach Government for a living pension which will alleviate poverty.

We do not belong to any Political Organization but doing this so that the elderly can live comfortably and have peace of mind. Being a born again Christian I am trusting in the Lord for guidance so that this is done in a peaceful manner. We are not criticizing, but pray that the Government will look after the people that worked and contributed to the country and helped to make it what it is today. We did not run away or immigrate but suffered under the previous Regime.

We would like to ask the Minister of Social Services and Pensions to be available to receive the petition and memorandum. We are very disappointed in the pension we are receiving also our Political and Religious Leaders who are neglecting the people that should be treated like human beings.

We ask that the Speaker of Parliament allow us 30 minutes to voice our grievances. Hopping you will treat this letter with your utmost consideration and have a reply as soon as possible. God Bless you. We love our country, but please look after us pensioners as our life span is short.

Mr Derek Kloppers
Plumstead

Pension poverty

Derek Kloppers,
Plumstead

This is an open letter to the president and cabinet.

I am a 70-year-old state pensioner and very grateful for the pension I receive.

However, I find that it is impossible to survive throughout the month on R12 00.

I am also very disappointed in government for the way we pensioners are being treated.

It is impossible, especially if you still have to pay rent where you are living.

We cannot depend on our children as they too have commitments of their own.

The majority of pensioners have nothing left of their money on pension day.

We have drawn up a petition and a memorandum to approach government for a reasonable increase and not a measly R60.

living in poverty. My understanding is that government wants to alleviate poverty but it seems that more poverty is being created.

I am the spokesperson for the Concerned Pensioners and feel that we have a democratic right to approach government for a living pension which will alleviate poverty. We do not belong to any political organisation but we are doing this so that the elderly can live comfortably and have peace of mind.

Being a born again Christian, I am trusting in the Lord for guidance so that this is done in a peaceful manner. We are not criticising, but pray that the government will look after the people who worked and contributed to the country and helped to make it what it is today. We did not run away or immigrate but suffered under the previous regime.

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We are very disappointed in the pension we are receiving and also in our political and religious leaders who are neglecting the people who should be treated like human beings.

We ask that the Speaker of Parliament allow us 30 minutes to voice our grievances. Hoping you will treat this letter with your utmost consideration and have a reply as soon as possible. God bless you. We love our country, but please look after us pensioners as our lifespan is short.

I would like to thank everyone who phoned and supported us thus far, although we are still about 500 names short to reach our target of 1 500. If you have not contacted us yet please do not hesitate to do so as this will benefit all.

For those who have supported us please be patient as Parliament is still in recess. Our plans are still going ahead as promised.

My contact numbers are 021 761 7133 or 073 521 0431.

Honour the elderly

Cheryl Pyper, Plumstead

Regarding the letter ("Call to all pensioners", Bulletin, October 25), I fully agree with Derek Kloppers regarding the pitiful pension of R1 20 a month we receive.

Not everyone is blessed to have family to support them and therefore struggle to get into old age homes because the rent is way beyond their small income.

Government has forgotten about the old folk who helped pave the way in making South Africa productive and they overlook the fact that food prices go up and our pension stays the same.

A very sad situation.



Pensioners' march to Parliament page 4 >>

A call to pensioners

Derek Kloppers,
Plumstead

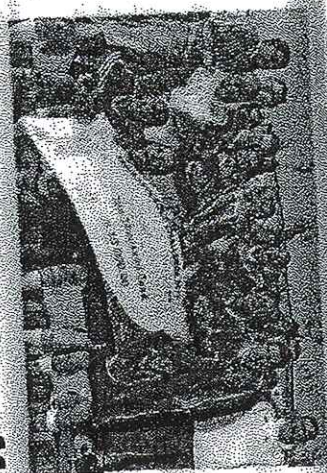
I am calling on all state pensioners who are not satisfied with the pension they receive.

I feel that we have a democratic right to stand up and approach the government for a better living and alleviate poverty. You can call me on 021 761 7133 or 073 521 0431.



Cultural explosion

MULTIMEDIA



Engen KO kicks off

ppost.mobi
 PeoplesPostNewsPaper
 @ThePeoplesPost

NIENHVER Sinner HARBOY ALNEG

boss gave him a pat on the back. He never had an extra R2 000 and a pat on the back. He never had a job again - nobody wanted to hire a man so close to retiring age."

He died in 2005. Moira has been on her own since then.

She pays R400 a month to live in the tiny wendy house in the backyard of a church member.

An old black and white TV is her only source of diversion. She hardly has any furniture as there is only space for her bed, a chipped-up cupboard and a broken fridge in which she stores her perishables.

After she has paid for the roof over her head, she starts working miracles with the remaining money.

"I pay R200 for electricity to my landlord. Once I skipped a payment because I had to pay for my burial fund and they left me without light for a month. I don't like the dark," she shudders.

The remaining R400 is used for vegetables and other staples. Her supper consists of rice and vegetables because she can't afford meat. The change goes towards odds and ends like rat poison and insect killers to get rid of the critters who have infested her modest home.

"I don't know when last I bought myself a treat like cake or my favourite sugar-coated sweets," Moira says sadly. "But that's okay - the Lord still provides me with food every night."

Government should be ashamed of the pitiful state of our pensioners, says Derek Snyders, spokesperson of the South African Pensioners Organisation.

The group supported by hundreds of aged pensioners from across the city recently took to the streets and headed to parliament demanding a review and increase of the grant. The protesters also increased the number of their pickets and feed-back. "It is a disgrace that at our age, we should be worried about where our supper is going to come from," an incensed Kloppers says.

elderly.

"The people who built this country and who gave the backbone of the economy are now being forced to a miserable life in old age homes and waiting for their names to be called out to be admitted to a hospital. It is deplorable that we are being deprived."

People are getting angry and protesting. They are demanding that the government should do more to support the elderly.

A lack of finance has also led to people no longer able to afford private healthcare as more pensioners head to State facilities to save money.

Beatrice (78) suffers from high blood pressure and arthritis, but says she hasn't been to her local day hospital in months as she can no longer manage to stand in endless queues while waiting for assistance.

"My knees can't handle the strain," she says, rubbing her legs through her threadbare trousers.

"We elderly people don't get any special treatment - we also have to wait more than 12 hours for help. People push and shove us out of the way so that they can get done quicker while we sit on the hard benches or lean against walls for support, patiently waiting our turn. I can't take it any more," she says.

Elizabeth Bantom, a public health activist who has been lobbying for improved services for over 30 years, says it is essential that all people speak up about the long wait.

"It is understandable that emergency cases be handled as a priority, but people such as the elderly should also be given preference as they cannot be expected to wait so long," she says.

on your own.

She lives for every second Tuesday for her church's pensioners' group get-together for tea and biscuits.

"I'm chatting to them makes me feel so alive!" She laughs. "We joke and skinner while swapping recipes and *hairsradjies*. I never want those days to end."

She admits to sometimes feeling intense loneliness, but she gets over it with her "friends on the wireless".

"I don't want to be a burden to my children. They have their own lives now, their own families to raise. But I love seeing them. They make me so happy and proud and my grandchildren are so beautiful! It's like I don't even want them to leave."

Berniece Lourens, a community worker who works with the elderly across the peninsula, says it is a tragedy when the offspring of the backbone of society turn their backs on the people who gave them life.

"There is nothing more heart-wrenching than seeing an old person shed tears of loneliness. Their own children don't have time for them. They are supposed to be in the prime of the lives, but instead, they are neglected and sidelined to fend for themselves. It is a shameful reality no one speaks about," she says.

Some even consider pension day as an outing, Lourens explains.

"You will find them dressed up in the queues, desperately trying to make conversation with the other old people waiting for their turn. Communication is a human need. These people have stories to tell and memories to share. All they want is someone to listen."

A organisation is hoping to put the pensioners' plight on the table and fight for solutions. The Metro South Older Persons' Forum will be launched on Tuesday 11 June at the Athlone Community Hall at 10:00.

You've Earned It (www.youve-earned-it.co.za) went to visit Derek and Marilyn, after a call asking for assistance. Derek and Marilyn, along with millions of pensioners in South Africa, find it impossible to survive throughout the month on R 1 260, especially when they have to pay rent for their living space.

What is **incredible** about Derek is that at the age of 72, he has taken it upon himself to approach the Government on behalf of the "Concerned Pensioners" group in order to request that they consider a living pension that will alleviate the poverty in which the majority of state pensioners find themselves.

Derek and Marilyn shared with me many stories of pensioners who are battling and hurting. Pensioners who eat pet food as they cannot afford the exorbitant food prices in the supermarkets. Pensioners who eat bread alone from the second week of the month. Pensioners who are on the verge of malnourishment and starvation because of escalating food prices. Pensioners who can no longer afford even the most basic of items. South Africa – this is a disgrace. It is barbaric. We are talking about people who are our mothers and fathers, our grandparents, our ex-colleagues, our friends, our neighbours. The backbone of society. The matriarchs. The patriarchs. One day, we will be the older generation – the seniors, the pensioners. We have to help.

After placing an advertisement in local community papers, Derek and Marilyn have galvanized a movement, which will at the end of April, march to Parliament to present a petition and memorandum to the Minister of Social Services and Pensions. This petition is asking the Government to look after their elderly – the people who have worked hard all their lives and contributed in making the country what it is today. They are asking the Speaker of Parliament to allow them 30 minutes in order to voice their grievances. They are asking for a substantial increase of the "Older Person Grant".

What is also extremely impressive about Derek is that he is following the correct legal channels to organise this march. He has approached the City Council and the Chief Magistrate for permission to have the march. He has approached the Police who will guide the pensioners and ensure that there is security for them. He has approached Parliament to request that they meet with the pensioners. He has organized 50 marshalls. The pensioners will wear black armbands and carry placards.

Derek is adamant that he is not involved in a political organization and that this march is NOT politically motivated. In fact, he received a call from COSATU asking if they could get involved. Derek declined their offer on the grounds that he did not want political involvement. Derek advises that he is a highly religious person and is trusting in God for guidance, so that this endeavour will be a peaceful one, and as we hope, a successful one.

Derek and Marilyn have already received over 2 000 names for their petition. The people supporting this petition are representative of all races and religions, all age groups, come from poor, middle-class and wealthy backgrounds. They come from far and wide – from Guguletu to Constantia, Khayelitsha to Athlone, Plumstead to Brooklyn. The people who will be supporting them on the march come from all areas of Cape Town, and will include some folk in their wheelchairs. What the supporters have in common is the wish to see South African pensioners nurtured and cared for.

All Derek and Marilyn ask is that they, and all pensioners, be afforded the opportunity to live out their lives in dignity. After spending 50 years in the clothing industry as a Sample Cutter and Shop Steward, Derek left his company with a R30 000 pension. He was unable to save any more, as all his salary during his working life went towards his family's existence.

The South African elderly are a highly vulnerable sector of our community. Surely this country needs to look at the plight of pensioners, undergo pension reform in order for the elderly to receive adequate

care— financial and physical, and see out their lives in a dignified, worry-free and caring South Africa.

How can you help?

There are opportunities for everyone to help, despite where you live, your age or your status in life.

Take part in the march

Time: 11h00

Date: Tuesday 30 April 2013

Meet at: the Cape Technikon in Kaizergracht Street.

March with the pensioners down Darling Street, into Plein Street, and gather outside Parliament where Derek will hand over the petition and memorandum. We hope that you, irrespective of your age, will participate, demonstrating your support of the plight of pensioners.

At the very least, place your name on the petition

Telephone or email Derek (contact details below) with your name and the suburb and province in which you live.

Financial support

Financial support is needed for a number of items – the costs of transport for those unable to use the train, notices to place in day hospitals, churches, community centres etc, placards, armbands, elastic, printing costs, telephone and cell phone costs.

If you are able to assist in this regard, please contact Derek or Marilyn.

Your time

If you are able to assist with the making of armbands or the drawing up of placards, please contact Derek or Marilyn.

Contact details

Derek and Marilyn Kloppers

Address: 92 Mothwa Haven, Tobruk Road, Plumstead

Tel: 021 761 7133

Cell: 073 521 0431

Email: mjklppers@telkomsa.net

Cape Talk interview

As an update to this article, John Maytham of Cape Talk Radio interviewed Derek Kloppers at the request of YEI.

There was considerable response to this interview – here are some of the comments:

- Can Golden Arrow assist on the day of the march by allowing pensioners free trips to and from town? (YEI will follow up with Golden Arrow).
- John Maytham has undertaken to contact someone in the Treasury to find out how they determine the amount of R1260.
- One listener called in to say that she discovered her pensioner parents made two meals out of one chicken breast. She now helps her pensioner parents as much as possible.

- One listener advised that Macdonalds offers free coffee to pensioners on a daily basis (YEI will follow up on that one!).

[Comments RSS](#)

Discussion (43) ↗

1. [Jacobus Thiar](#)

May 1, 2013, 6:09 pm | <#> | [Reply](#)

I would love to see Pensioners to get a Pension that is worth their while in their last days!! They Deserve it, All of them!! No one can Live a life with that kind of money!! If it was not for them We would not have been here!!God knows That is True!!!!

2. [Pieter Louw](#)

April 30, 2013, 3:16 pm | <#> | [Reply](#)

Is this GEPF monthly amount ? I am also a pensioner

o [Marilynh](#)

May 2, 2013, 7:37 am | <#> | [Reply](#)

Dear Pieter

This is not the Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF) amount – this is the amount that pensioners who apply for the ‘Older Persons Grant’ receive.

Marilyn, YEI Editor

3. [Pieter Louw](#)

April 30, 2013, 3:08 pm | <#> | [Reply](#)

Did you contribute to a Pension Fund for example the GEPF?

4. [Jenny Reimers](#)

April 30, 2013, 2:39 pm | <#> | [Reply](#)

Dear Derek and Marilyn, I think what you are both doing is marvellous and it is way overdue. All the very best to you both in your drive towards a better future for our precious elderly who helped in building this country to what we all enjoy freely today. The infrastructure in our country is in place and it is all thanks to their hard work. The pensioners rights, as citizens of our beautiful country, is abused because of a lack of backing and it is just too easy to ignore and overlook the issues that need to be addressed at government level. I do think that our government and all of us should hang our heads in shame for ignoring the plight of our elderly for so long. Non-pensioners should be put to the test and allowed to experience first-hand what it is like to receive a government pension of little monetary value for perhaps one calendar month. This would of course include the big spenders, namely our President and government officials who waste the tax payers hard earned money on petty spending sprees that add very little value to improving the lives of the citizens on our wonderful land. Maybe experiencing first-hand what the elderly receive as a government pension each month will help us to re-evaluate our views of the monetary value of a pension, when we reach our target goal. I would gladly join your drive if I lived in Cape Town. All of you are all in my thoughts and prayers going forward

5. *Muriel*

March 18, 2013, 6:11 am | # | [Reply](#)

I would like to sign your petition as I am also a State pensioner. I live in a Communicare flat and my son has to pay the rent. When you apply to live in Communicare you have to have someone sponsor you otherwise they do not accept your application. Then the rent is put up 10% per year when we do not even get that increase in our pensions. Without the help of family and friends we would not survive.

6. *Marilynh*

March 17, 2013, 4:24 pm | # | [Reply](#)

Thank you all SO much for your comments. I am sure they are a great inspiration to Derek and Marilyn, who are working so hard towards this wonderful initiative on behalf of all pensioners. Marilyn, YEI Editor

7. *philip*

March 15, 2013, 6:08 pm | # | [Reply](#)

Alle voorspoed met hierdie groot onderneming. Mag onse God julle daardie dag in sy barmagtige arms omvou en julle pleidooi nie op dowe ore sal val nie.

8. *Ray*

March 14, 2013, 5:55 pm | # | [Reply](#)

Derek and Marilyn we will definately pass this to family and friends. We stand behind you and say thanks for all the time and effort you are putting into this plan. I will not be able to march but you can add my name to your petition in support.

To encourage you and all the viewers I am leaving everyone with these two verses from God's Word.

Psalm 46 verse 1 : God is our refuge and strength a very present help in trouble.
Psalm 46 verse 10 : "BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD"

There is no mountain too great for the Lord and I am leaving you with the words from a beautiful hymn which you can find on U-Tube. The title is 'Prayer is the Key' it goes like this.

"Prayer is the key to Heaven, and faith unlocks the door
Words are so easily be spoken, Prayer without faith is like a boat without an oar
Have faith when you pray to the Master, that's all he asks of you
Prayer is the key to Heaven , and failth unlocks the door"

9. *Hazel Ruth Fair*

March 14, 2013, 11:03 am | # | [Reply](#)

Elderly folk should be loved and spoilt for all their life's hard work

10. *Anita Elliot*

March 14, 2013, 8:06 am | # | [Reply](#)

May you both be richly blessed

11. *Linda Jean Schaffers*
March 14, 2013, 7:58 am | # | [Reply](#)

I take my hat off to Derek and Marilyn. It is time we as pensioners take a stand against the Government who really shows no interest in us. I wrote to Trevor Manual when he was still in office about this but of course received no reply. I receive a pension from my company but it is taxed and that causes quite a dent in the balance I receive. The government has also made it very tough for persons who receive company pensions to apply for a State Pension which is unfair, we paid our taxes so we should be entitled to a State Pension. They should revisit the whole State Pensioner port folio and balance it with the cost of living just maybe they will realise how difficult it must be for a pensioner to live a simple yet dignified life. Unfortunately I live in East London and cannot take part or offer any assistance but please place my name on the petition.

12. *Andy O*
March 13, 2013, 12:45 pm | # | [Reply](#)

Notice that Pravin Gordhan didn't turn a hair as he announced the increase in social pensions the other day. This attitude has been noticeable with every Budget I have watched over the years. Add this to the petition.

13. *Frik*
March 13, 2013, 10:20 am | # | [Reply](#)

Dankie vir jou pogings namens ons almal op pensioen.

Ek kry nie 'n staats pensioen nie omdat ek net-net te veel kry uit 'n karige maandelikse private annuïteit wat ek opgebou het terwyl ek nog gewerk het. Dit is nie veel beter as die staatspensioen nie, so ons sukkel net so baie.

Is daar nie iets wat asseblief gedoen kan word om 'n subsidie te kry vir Eskom en ons water en ligte nie?

Ek en my vrou woon in die Suide van Johannesburg en ek kan bevestig dat daar duisende ou mense is hier wat ontsettend swaar kry. Ek hoop en bid Hemelse Vader sien julle dat ons lot verbeter kan word.

Ek doen ook 'n beroep op die duisende oues van dae deur die hele land om julle te ondersteun – meeste van ons sal nie kan bekostig om saam te gaan loop in Kaapstad nie, maar ons sal jou petisie met graagte onderteken.

14. *Steph Brotherton*
March 13, 2013, 8:37 am | # | [Reply](#)

I am in total sympathy with all who only receive such a small pension. I am fortunate to get a pension from my late husband's fund (GSPF). It is half of what he used to get and I suddenly realised that if he was still alive we would not be able to live on the full amount. I have a small house (thank God) but am finding it impossible to maintain it (repairs etc) on R3089 per month. But it is a Catch 22 situation, because if I sell it and invest the money I will be taxed on the

interest, and then, also, where do I find a place to live? Waiting lists for affordable retirement places are long, and in many cases one cannot apply if one owns property (which is understandable). But the big question is What is a reasonable pension to expect and is it not all related to ones lifestyle? R10,000 may be fine for some, but a pittance for others. I pity those who have no one and are at the mercy of unscupulous "carers" or are simply alone with no one to give a damn.

15. *Jackie Dittberner*

March 13, 2013, 8:31 am | # | [Reply](#)

I so appreciate your efforts to improve the future of pensioners, Derek and Marilyn!

Please add my name to your Petition. Unfortunately I cannot take part in your march as I live too far away.

I am not a pensioner yet, but will be in 10 years time. In the meantime I am helping an impoverished family of old friends – one receives an old age pension and suffers from heart disease and Alzheimers, one with Down's Syndrome receives a disability grant, and the third is unemployed and looking after the other two. How they survive, I do not know.

If all of us who are still earning could contribute even R50 per month to someone who is battling, it would help. How about pensioners in desperate need being put on a list which is made public to those willing to help, and those of us who can assist, "adopt" a pensioner. I doubt the Government will ever be willing or able to cope with the magnitude of the poverty problem they are facing (though they certainly could do a whole lot better).

Looking to our children for financial assistance is not always the answer either. My kids are struggling themselves just to keep up with paying their children's school fees and the basics needed to survive in today's world.

All the best with your endeavours. I will be praying for a change of heart for those in authority.

16. *Jemarie*

March 13, 2013, 8:03 am | # | [Reply](#)

Thank God for people like you that not only cares but takes action. I won't be able to attend or contribute financially but in spirit I will be with you every step of the way.

17. *Rosemary Gaydon*

March 13, 2013, 7:56 am | # | [Reply](#)

My sister is 79, does not drive and also has the State Pension and lives in JHB. Thank you for your support.

18. *Ellen*

March 13, 2013, 7:55 am | # | [Reply](#)

Best of luck to you all. I support my Mom-in-law & know that basic necessities become harder & harder to afford! Nappies should be given out free at frail care facilities (Condoms are given out free to people who should be able to afford to buy them, so why not?)

19. *Marilynh*

March 12, 2013, 4:23 pm | # | [Reply](#)

Hi from Hermanus, Derek, all strength to your arm. My wife and I are in the same boat as you and Marilyn, and we hope to march with you on the 30th of April. I cannot help financially for obvious reasons, but I can design a website which may help in getting a greater number of signatures on the petition. The site can be up and running by this weekend if you think the idea is good. Please let me know what you think.

Best regards,
(77 years young!)

20. *Marilynh*

March 12, 2013, 4:22 pm | # | [Reply](#)

Thank you for doing something and in God's will. My mom is 88years and I look after her all on my own. I simply cannot afford to feed her and myself so I choose to go without for days rather than my beautiful mom. I have day care during the week whilst I'm at work – my mom has to wear nappies which is a huge added expense but necessary. All this is a huge strain and my heart goes out to all those who have no-one to look after them or rely on, except the government! And they certainly have failed in that department. It is disgusting how little they allocate to social grants.

I live in Johannesburg but I will be in the march in spirit. Please take this mail as a signed petition.

21. *Marilynh*

March 12, 2013, 4:20 pm | # | [Reply](#)

Good morning Derek and Marilyn

I just read your story on the internet regarding the petition you are planning on 30 April 2013. As both my husband and I are also pensioners, we whole heartedly support your cause but unfortunately as we live in Johannesburg, we will not be able to be at the march to Parliament.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both of you on behalf of myself and all the hundreds and thousands of other South African pensioners for the hard work you are putting into this effort and I will really pray very hard that your mission is successful.

I wish you both an absolutely wonderful day and will keep watching for news on your progress. God Bless you in your endeavours.

22. *Marilynh*

March 12, 2013, 4:19 pm | # | [Reply](#)

Well done to you and your wife. You are the pillars society needs!

We salute you
"Almost pensioners"
Gauteng

23. *Marilynh*

March 12, 2013, 4:18 pm | # | [Reply](#)

From a lady in Kempton Park, Gauteng

Dear Derek and Marilyn, I was very moved by the article on the plight of pensioners. I am almost

70 and my sister of almost 75 lives with me. We are also pensioners but, thank the Lord, I receive a monthly amount from the Retirement Annuity I contributed to while I was working, and my sister gets a widow's pension from the British government because her late husband was British.

If the South African government would stop squandering tax-payers' money, stopped lining their own pockets and stopped the wide-spread corruption that is bleeding our country of billions each year, they would have enough in their coffers to ensure that all pensioners and the disabled receive an adequate grant every month.

My mother worked until she was 72 but she was never able to contribute towards a pension scheme because, initially she had to raise four children by herself, and when we all left home she had to continue to pay rent, food, clothing and medicines for herself out of her small salary. My father was a violent drunk who never contributed to the home and he would actually steal the money my Mom put aside for food and rent, and he would sell our furniture for booze. He was still drinking heavily when he died at the age of 75.

When my Mom's ill health forced her to retire at the age of 72 she came to live with me and my sister and together we managed to give her a good and happy life until she died in 2001. We will always be forever grateful to our Mother for ensuring that we always had food on the table and clothes on our backs while we were growing up, and that she protected us from our father's fists.

Please would you e-mail me the petition as my sister and I would live to sign it. We wish you all the very best with this very worthy cause and that you receive loads of positive media exposure.

24. *Garthm*

March 12, 2013, 10:05 am | <#> | [Reply](#)

The government officials are too busy filling up their own pockets to even think of the pensioners who helped build this country. Wait until someone in their family needs a state pension.

25. *Marilynh*

March 11, 2013, 12:48 pm | <#> | [Reply](#)

This email was sent to YEI – we will send this on to the appropriate person who deals with Geriatric Medicine at UCT – thank you to George for your suggestion:

Many old age pensioners still seem to help their grand kids from their old age pension
 What help do children give their old age parents
 Can a study be done what is happening in our community as far as children look after their old age parents
 Can a tax benefit be developed for children supporting their parents

Marilyn, YEI Editor

26. *Marilynh*

March 11, 2013, 12:43 pm | <#> | [Reply](#)

Ek is n disinbilty pension van R1200. Per maand. Ek moet huur betaal en kos self koop. Ek eet baie gras as ek so honger word
 Henk

This email was sent to Marilyn and Derek – they thought they should share this with YEI, as this is incredibly heartbreaking, and just plain wrong.
Marilyn, YEI Editor

27. *Celeste*

March 11, 2013, 12:31 pm | # | [Reply](#)

Dear Marilyn and Derek

Thanking you for your support of the elderly, it is truly shocking how the elders get treated in this country. After such high taxes during ones working careers one would have thought that the government would be more caring of the elderly. I've travelled extensively and have seen how other countries assist and take care of the retired. All's I can say is we have a lot to learn there is so much we can do if someone would just listen. Thank you for taking the initiative and you have my vote of confidence and were ever we can we will support your endeavours to the end.
Good luck with your march and God speed.

28. *Ms G. Singh*

March 11, 2013, 7:11 am | # | [Reply](#)

it is sad that pesioners are finding it so difficult to make ends meet with their meagre pension of R1260.

29. *Abraham Fullard*

March 10, 2013, 7:38 pm | # | [Reply](#)

Ek ondersteun die beweging en glo dat dit susevol sal wees

30. *FALDELAH*

March 10, 2013, 4:30 pm | # | [Reply](#)

Yes this is a great shame and very painful that our seniors who have sacrificed their all to make this country a better place have to suffer in this way. Some of them are still fit to work, but either they forced to go on pension, and also their hand are tied if they want to make an additional income to substitute their pension. they get pinalised for still wanting to do so then their pension gets taken away, Why not still allow them to make additional income as well!

Sure the authorities knows that if you go into a supermarket and buy two bags of nothing it cost at least R300 a time which last a few days only We talking basic food stuff

Maybe they should trade places for a day I think they just dont care Theres not even relieve for basic human rights

Good luck, if I cant be there in person I will be there in spirit

Good bless

31. *dicky*

March 10, 2013, 8:53 am | # | [Reply](#)

Yes, I think we all agree that the fat cats in parliaments and bureaucrats can do with a reminder

that it was us, during our better productive years who contributed to the fiscus, who kept the country rolling that these very same fat cats now benefit from. A lot of them were still wet behind the ears then; most of them were not even born yet but look at them now: all well fed, well dressed with luxurious homes in plush suburbs and stables filled with swanky vehicles. Many of us trained others in their professions, back then, so they can be productive, responsible citizens who also pay their taxes. Many of us had children that we raised, that we battled to educate who are today's professionals who are now taxed huge amounts that feed these fat cats and sustain their affluent lifestyles. Our reward? A pittance further reduced another 14%, FOR THEIR UPKEEP, every time we have to spend in order to simply survive!

Derek and Marilyn, we wish you all the support you can get and every success in your noble, public spirited endeavour. All those circumstance prevents from coming out are none-the-less, right behind you and you have our gratitude too!

32. *hendrik*

March 10, 2013, 8:25 am | # | [Reply](#)

Dis n skande hoe ons ouers behandel word,ek is gelukkig in die situasie om na my ma om te sien in my eie huis,maar ek is bekommerd oor die mense in ouetehuse wat hul geld vat en dan is hul kinders nie eers betrokke nie.

33. *Cheryl Pyoer*

March 10, 2013, 1:12 am | # | [Reply](#)

It is beyond shocking how the Government treat their elderly. Let us go forward and voice our plight

34. *C de Jager*

March 8, 2013, 1:35 pm | # | [Reply](#)

My Mother and Grandmother has to live on R1260 p.m. that they get from the government. My Mother paid 45% tax on sales when she was still employed as a Sales Manager and my Grandmother paid tax untill she retired at age 84! This is a slap in their faces for all the money they had to pay when they were still employed. Thank you Derek and Marilyn for taking the first step!

35. *steven*

March 8, 2013, 12:32 pm | # | [Reply](#)

it is an utter disgrace that the government after taxing you to death thinks that paying this measly amount to all the aged warrants a wonderful & fulfilling lifestyle.not everyone was fortunate enough to save for a rainy day.to think that pensioners who over the years have contributed to the GOVERNMENT COFFERS thinks & feels absolutely nothing about the plight of all our aged.as long as THEY, the government can squander millions upon millions of our hard earned money so that THEY may live in a lap of luxury,then why feel sorry at all

36. *dallian*

March 8, 2013, 12:18 pm | # | [Reply](#)

I think what your ll are doing is great because its the very people who are now old who contributed to the countries success.it almost feels that they were used and are no longer good

enough. I really wish you all much success.

37. *tshomang sam mosala*
March 8, 2013, 10:48 am | # | [Reply](#)

if we care we will think about the great achievers of this country they deserve better live every thing going up food, medication, transport they cant afford things things in their old age we plea to the leaders of south Africa to think about our parent

38. *Gary Hendrickse*
March 8, 2013, 10:28 am | # | [Reply](#)

I agree that one cannot live on the govt pension yet retired folks have spent a lifetime contributing to SA by paying tax etc. But I also think that the children should be more supportive – how can one let one's parents live in poverty or misery? If they lived with their kids, the pension could either contribute towards a household or (because rental etc is then not an issue) provide the retired couple with some little luxuries.

39. *Piet Lombard*
March 8, 2013, 9:39 am | # | [Reply](#)

Hier in Despach, Uitehage area is baie wat jou sal ondersteun
Sterkte
Piet

- o *Marilynh*
March 8, 2013, 9:44 am | # | [Reply](#)

Thank you for your comment, Piet.
Please pass the word on to all the residents in your area who would like to sign Derek's petition. All you need to do is send their names and area on to Derek, whose email address is in the article.
Thank you, Uitenhage!
Marilyn, YEI Editor

40. *AMANDA MILWARD*
March 8, 2013, 9:34 am | # | [Reply](#)

I agree 500%! I guess my grandparents who have passed on almost 15 years ago were fortunate to receive a pension from Eskom, but what about my friends and their parents/grandparents, previous colleagues who were less fortunate and live off the government pension. These pensioners are not looked after by their own families let alone the government.

I live in Johannesburg and I think a march should be organized up here as well. To show how serious the matter is.

I would like to share a statement my grandmother shared with me....."A mother can have 10 children and look after each of them, BUT 10 children CANNOT look after 1 mother" how sad!! as this is so true I have seen it over and over for myself.

Good luck with the march

I am all for it!

Amanda Milward

- o *Marilynh*
March 8, 2013, 9:47 am | # | [Reply](#)

Thank you for your email and your support, Amanda.

Do pass the word around to all your family members, friends and colleagues. Through doing this, perhaps you will find one willing soul, like Derek, who is prepared to make a difference in your neck of the woods.

In the meantime, do ask all your contacts to send their names, and where they are located, to Derek, so he can add this to his petition.

Marilyn, YEI Editor

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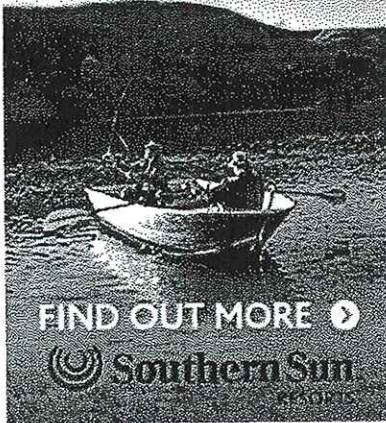
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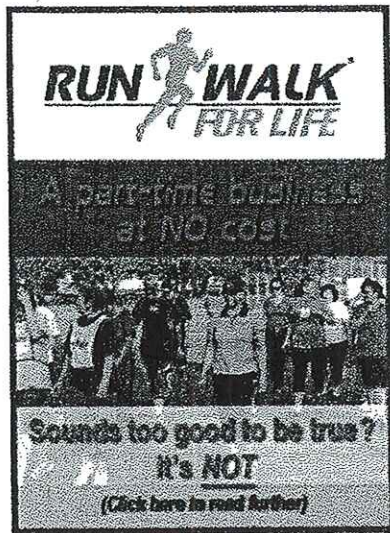
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