



THE ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING INDUSTRY
PENSION & PROVIDENT FUNDS

FSCA REGISTRATION NUMBERS
12/8/4730/1 AND 12/8/36330/1

122 Queen Street
South Kensington
JHB
2094



011 339 2312



ecifund@nbcei.co.za



@ECIRegionAandB



068 210 6783

THE ECI FUNDS NEWSLETTER

3 MAY 2022

Dear Members

The Benefit Counsellor (LIVE TODAY!)

- The Funds are proud to announce the development of an application called The Benefit Counsellor, which goes live on 3 May 2022.
- If Members wish to use the application, it will cost each Member R4.60 per month. The service can be cancelled at any time by giving one month's notice.
- The Application provides Members with **ease of access to their Benefit Statements**, you are able to view your Investment Balances, you can also view which Risk Benefits you qualify for, you can download and fill out your Nomination Forms, and, you will be able to interact with Fund Representatives. **Members, it is vital that you fill out your Nomination Forms, and submit the completed forms to Council.**
- The Benefit Counsellor video shows our Members how The Benefit Counsellor Application works. To view the video, and see all the advantages of using the Application, we invite you to visit: the Funds' Facebook page (search for @ECIRegionAandB); You Tube (search for ECI _Pension&Provident_Fund); Twitter (search for @EciFund); Tik Tok (search for @eci_provident_fund); Instagram (search for eci_pensionfund); and on Council's website: **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**(look for ECI Online Platform(Region A and Region B).
- The Benefit Counsellor is available via: the internet <https://eci.benefitcounsellor.com>, or via Whatsapp 087 240 5220, or by dialing *120*7753#.

Live Forums: to introduce the Funds to our Members; to our Trustees; and to our Principal Officer

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE FORUMS ARE ONLY FOR REGION A1, A2 (GAUTENG, CERTAIN PARTS OF THE NORTHERN CAPE, FREE STATE, NORTHERN PROVINCE, MPUMALANGA, LIMPOPO AND THE MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT OF PONGOLA) AND REGION B (EASTERN CAPE AND SOUTHERN CAPE UP TO AND INCLUDING RIVERSDALE)

- We encourage all our Members to attend. All the venues will be close to taxi ranks, the events will be held on Saturdays from 10h00 to 13h00. Free snacks and refreshment will be provided, you are therefore required to confirm your attendance ahead of each Forum.
- You will have the exclusive opportunity to engage with our Trustees and Principal Officer, and address any queries you may have regarding your benefits, or around any subject you have questions about.
- We held a Forum in Braamfontein, Johannesburg on 5 March 2022, being that it was our first live forum in over two years, we found it to have been very successful. The Board Chairperson commented after the Braamfontein event, holding the live event proved how fundamentally important it is for the Funds to engage with its Members, in person.
- **The next Live Forum is scheduled for 6 and 7 May 2022, in Kathu (Northern Cape).** The Funds will advertise all upcoming Forums through: its Newsletters/ via WhatsApp/ through flyers/ on Council's website/ through local radio stations (in the relevant areas)/ and, via the following platforms: the Funds' Facebook page (search for @ECIRegionAandB); You Tube (search for ECI _Pension&Provident_Fund); Twitter (search for @EciFund); Tik Tok (search for @eci_provident_fund); and Instagram (search for eci_pensionfund).
- All our Members will be advised, well ahead of the time, of the upcoming Forums in the following areas: Vaal; Welkom; Nelspruit; Polokwane; Rustenburg; Bloemfontein; Upington; East-London; Gqeberha; and in George.

TRUSTEES: BOARD OF FUNDS

MM Mfikoe SM Mayisela M Straton S Khola R McAlpine E van Zyl D van Deventer AM Van Niekerk J Gill R Sheehan
Chairperson Vice Chairperson Independent Principal Officer

Page 1 of 6



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Due diligence visits to inspect the physical Assets of the Funds' Investments

- As part of the Funds' Investment Strategy, the investment of Members' money includes impact investments. These are investments that lead to a positive impact on the community, the environment, and in some cases, creates job opportunities directly for the Funds' Members. Whilst the investments have a positive impact for the wider community, they also offer returns, although the returns are typically only realised over a long period of time.
- Part of the Trustees Governance duties include due diligence visits to the Funds' Investment Managers. The Trustees recently visited two such Investment Managers, namely Sampada and Thirdway.

Sampada Fund II (Pension Fund only)

- The Trustees and the Principal Officer conducted due diligence site visits during December 2021, which proved to be very successful. Firsthand knowledge was obtained in respect of the inner workings of the various investments. Sampada invests money into mostly rural areas to grow employment opportunities where, typically, few employment opportunities exist. Some of Sampada's projects include shopping centers in rural areas, and in informal settlements.
- Some of the sites visited were Bushbuckridge Shopping Mall; the strawberry and cattle farms in Limpopo; the Siyabuswa Mall in Mpumalanga, and Avari Cars in Pretoria.
- The Trustees were very happy to see growth in the Funds' investments. It was further evident (from speaking to the community in the rural areas), that the community members are benefiting from the sites being on their doorsteps. The Funds are driving the employment of electrical contractors who belong to the NBCEI(SA).

Third Way Investment Partners Excelsior Wind Farm Site visit on 9 March 2022 (Pension Fund only)

- Third Way Investment Partners invests in infrastructure investments, mostly renewable energy such as wind farms. In addition, they aim to invest in poorer areas across all provinces in South Africa.
- The Trustees conducted a site visit to the Excelsior Wind Farm in Swellendam on 9 March 2022.
- The construction of the Wind Farm was completed in December 2020 and it is on track to deliver long term investment returns.
- In addition, Third Way allocates 1% -1,5% of revenue to community development programs such as Bursary Programmes, the Protection of Habitat Projects, and extensive involvement in local education, with the emphasis on Early Education.



the Third Way team and institutional investors



School children from Uitvlug Primary school, a beneficiary from the Community Development programme of Excelsior

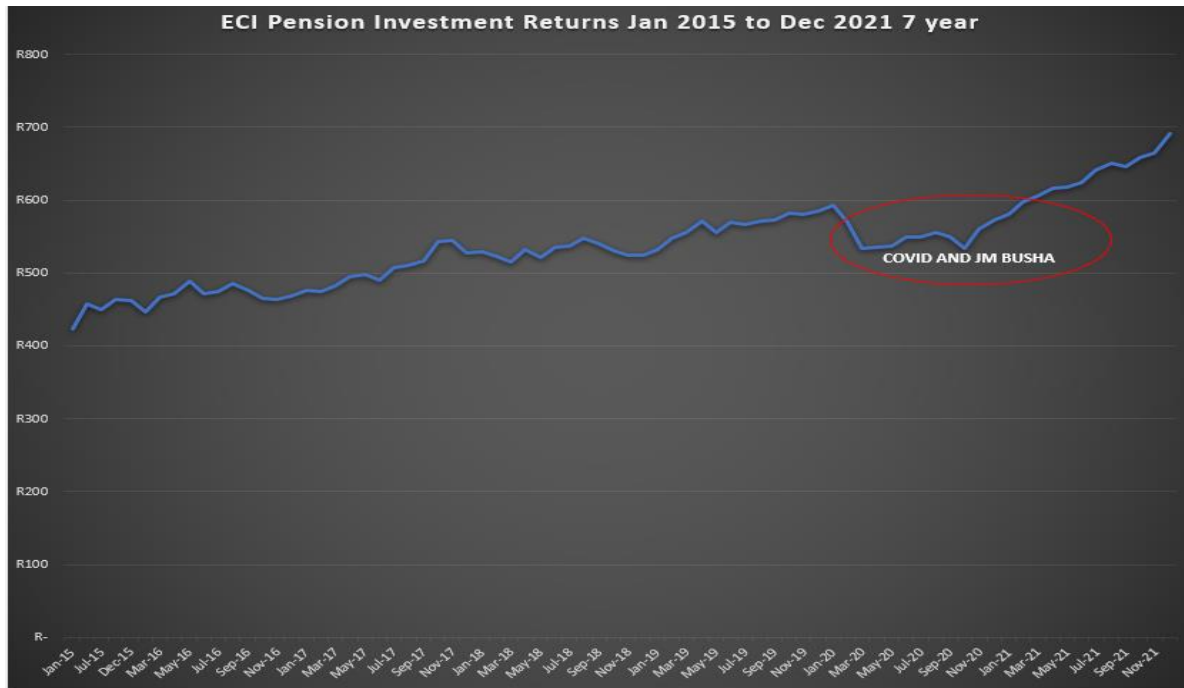
We urge our Members, keep your Funds Investment in the Funds

- The Trustees of the Fund work with professionals to ensure that your funds are invested both safely and to ensure growth over the long term. It is important to remember that a retirement fund is set-up and managed to grow Members' money **over the long term, typically at least 30 years**. Therefore, you should not withdraw your money in between periods of employment, to ensure that you Retire with Dignity.
- During uncertain times, investments will typically lose value, such as during 2020 when Covid-19 had a negative impact on investments all over the world. Covid-19 also impacted your money, however, as you will see from the graphs below, your investments have made a strong recovery in 2021.



The next graph shows all the listed investments in South Africa, and you can see that your money into the investments made by the Funds follow a similar trend as indicated on the listed investments. It is also important to note the long-term growth, for example: if you had R447.00 in the funds in 2015, at the end of 2022 this would have grown (without new contributions) to R691.00 by the end of 2021. **This is a +55% growth of your investment over 7 years.**

JSE All Share Index (ALSI)





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2021 Member Benefit Statements

- The normal audit for the 2021 Financial Year is currently underway, once completed the Funds will be in a position to distribute the Member Benefit Statements. The anticipated delivery date to Industry is end-June 2022. If this date changes, it will be communicated to our Members.
- The Administrator has undertaken to ensure there are no errors on the 2021 Member Benefit Statements. The Administrator has given the Funds an undertaking that 14 months of Contributions will reflect on the 2021 Member Benefit Statements.
- In the event your Benefit Statements have missing contribution months, please note - this will be due to the fact that your Employer either did not pay over your contributions to the Funds, or that your Employer paid over your contributions too late for the information to be included in your Benefit Statements.

The Funds 2020 Audited Financial Statements

- The 2020 Audit has been completed for both Funds, and has been submitted to the FSCA. The audits were conducted by PwC.

The Funds 2021 Audited Financial Statements

- The Funds' auditors are currently busy with the 2021 Audit of the Annual Financial Statements, this will be submitted to the FSCA before the end of June 2022.

RisCura

- RisCura has been appointed as the Funds Investment Consultants from 1 February 2022.
- RisCura has been around since 1999 and their existing clients include Discovery, Sentinel Retirement Fund and Hollard.
- In a world that continues to change exponentially, RisCura holds the constant belief that it is not only about money and numbers, but the lives and futures of all the people who are impacted by the work RisCura does. With specialised capabilities in frontier and emerging markets, and a passion for Africa and China, RisCura provides independent advice, analyses and reporting for Asset Owners, Investment Managers, Hedge Funds, Private Equity Firms, Service Providers, and brokers.

Not sure if you have any Unclaimed Benefits in our Funds?

- Simply click on <https://www.fscsa.co.za/Customers/Pages/Unclaimed-Benefits-Search-Engine.aspx>, and fill in all required fields to check whether you have any unclaimed benefits. Kindly also alert all your ex-colleagues of the FSCA link.

You are a New Fund Member: how to obtain your Member Certificate

- Our Call Centre will be in contact with you, you will receive a link via email, please then proceed to download your Welcome Letter and New Member Certificate – please save both documents and keep them safe. You may also obtain both documents by emailing the Funds at ecifund@nbcei.co.za; or you are welcome to contact the Funds via our Call Centre on 011 339 2312/ or via WhatsApp 068 210 6783/ or via Facebook/ or via Facebook Messenger (search for @ECIRegionAandB).



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For any queries you may have

- *Before lodging a complaint with the Office of the Pension Fund Adjudicator (OPFA), please raise any queries you may have by emailing the Funds at ecifund@nbcei.co.za, or you are welcome to contact the Funds via our Call Centre on 011 339 2312/ or via WhatsApp 068 210 6783/ or via Facebook/ or via Facebook Messenger (search for @ECIRegionAandB).*
- In order to ensure a speedier resolution to your queries, please kindly provide us with your email address and cellular phone number, via any of the channels listed above and, *please remember, you must include your full names, surname, identity number and the name of your last/ current Employer.*