

Rlbn pension scandal

RETIRING SECURITY COMPANY EMPLOYEES ARE 'ROBBED' OF THEIR PPROVIDENT FUNDS

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SECURITY company employers have defaulted on pension fund payments of more than R1bn, leaving thousands of retiring security guards penniless. They are losing out on benefits owing because some unscrupulous employers have not paid their monthly contributions to the provident fund.

Only 210 000 of the industry's 450 000 security employees belong to the mandatory Private Sector Security Provident Fund.

Provident fund spokesperson Jackson Simon said the fund is currently owed more than R1bn by defaulting employers.

This is despite it being a statutory requirement that security industry employers and employees contribute to this fund which is the only retirement benefit that caters for security guards who remain among the lowest paid workers at an average of R2 637 per month.

Simon said many security companies were robbing their employees of their pension money, funeral cover and disability benefits.

"All the employees whose money has not been paid to the fund forfeit their benefits.

"This has affected thousands of claims. This includes 409 funeral claims between July 2010 and December 2014. And 277 of these cases are member deaths where additional life cover totalling R20.7m would have been payable to families of the deceased if the

the end of their careers or when death struck.

One of many employees in the sector struggling to access their pension, a 70-year-old woman who asked not to be named, said she had been working for the private security company since 1991.

However, she was told there were no benefits she would be entitled to upon retirement.

"The managers are running away from us. No one is telling us what is happening. I retired last year and I have still not received anything."

Another worker said he had only received R2 000 from his pension fund after 10 years of service.

"The fund says the company was not paying."

Repeated efforts to get a response from the Eastern Cape company were fruitless as telephone calls went unanswered.

Ironically, papers seen by The New Age list a former high-ranking Cosatu official as the owner of this defaulting company that is now being taken to court for owing the provident fund R3m.

Simon accused such employers of using devious methods to "rob" employees of their benefits.

"The non-compliant categories include employers not registering with the fund to avoid payments to the fund, some collecting money from workers but not paying the fund and others only paying for some of the employees and leaving out others in order to cut costs," Simon said.

Proteas' sudden death clash at SGB



CRUNCH TIME: Proteas captain AB de Villiers limbers up in Sydney in preparation for South Africa's quarter final World Cup Cricket clash against Sri Lanka at the Sydney Cricket Ground tomorrow.

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that they will not buckle under the huge burden of expectation.

As the clock continues to tick towards the first ball tomorrow, Proteas coach Russell Domingo did not want to discuss tactics.

"We are not telling you of our plans because you will tell the rest of the world. That is for us to keep to ourselves," he said.

Going into the knockout stages, the

"We have faced the fact that in the past we have let opportunities slip and hopefully we would have learnt from the lessons the previous sides have made in events like this." Domingo said. In similar vein, the coach was not going to avoid the question regarding Quinton de Kock.

"We started the discussions on Sunday about our starting 11. It is a tricky selection because on one the hand we

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Quarterfinal 1: SA v Sri Lanka, Sydney, March 18

	P	SA	SL	T	NR
Overall	59	28	29	1	1
WC	4	2	1	1	0

Quarterfinal 2: India v Bangladesh, Melbourne, March 19

	P	Ind	Bang	T	NR
Overall	28	24	3	-	1
WC	2	1	1	-	0

Quarterfinal 3: Australia v Pakistan, Adelaide, March 20

	P	Aus	Pak	T	NR
Overall	92	57	31	1	3
WC	8	4	4	0	0

Quarterfinal 4: New Zealand v West Indies, Wellington, March 21

	P	NZ	WI	T	NR
Overall	60	23	30	0	7
WC	6	3	3	0	0