



The Bi-Annual newsletter to the Stakeholders of Negotiated Benefits Trust Company Limited (NBC Ghana Trust) has been aptly named Fihankra. The name

Fihankra is taken from the Adinkra symbol representing "safety and security".

This Ashanti symbol denotes a compound with only one entrance and an exit demonstrating safety and security – and this is what NBC Ghana offers to the industry.

This mouthpiece for NBC Ghana will feature company news, industry trends, notices from the regulator and forecast. Fihankra will be disseminated electronically via e-mail and will also be made available on the NBC Ghana website: www.nbcghanatrust.com

Your comments and suggestions will be warmly welcomed. You may e-mail the team via info@nbcghantrust.com.gh

Notes from the Editor

William Asiedu Yeboah

Fihankra Newsletter ISSN No: 2676-2781 June 2021



In this edition the pensions industry in the second decade is highlighted. We recognize the complementary roles of the well-established SSNIT and the Private Trustees in the Tier 2 and 3 space.

Members have recognized the impact of prudent investments on their benefits. Whilst Tier 1 provides long term stable and regular support during retirement, Tier 2 and 3 is very much evaluated on the standards of the investment market and compliance with the law.

In this issue we introduce series of articles on the Service Providers in the Pension Market. The first to be featured is **the role of Trustees** in the industry.

They are featured as an addition to the pension schemes to ensure trust in the operations is achieved.

The expansion of coverage for the informal sector can be achieved with the Tier 3 retirement plans. This is a mission the regulator is promoting strongly.

We have observed the need for technological improvements for collection of contributions, as well as needed education to enhance the growth of coverage in the informal market.

We encourage our readers to join us in the unfolding story of the pensions and especially, informal sector plans which per current statistics of the Pensions Regulatory Authority covers only 3% of Ghanaian workers.



From the CEOs Desk

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A good place to start with "Retirement Income Security" is the role of the Trustee. I would like us to dedicate this edition to the emergence of Trustees and their unique role in ensuring that we achieve "Retirement Income Security" with the National Pensions Act. When a Trustee is appointed under the Pension Act, the law creates category of Service Provider whose responsibility is to act in Trust for the members. The Trustee has the advantage that the service they provide has long been associated with an established organization, in the existence of SSNIT.

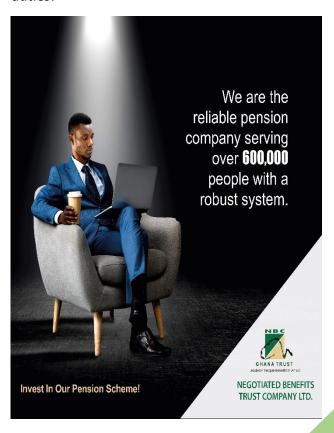
The pension fund and all approved schemes are managed by Trustees. Their role is defined by the Act and includes the following:

- Act as Trustees for members.
- Keep accounting Records.
- Ensure investment is done properly.
- Ensure regulatory compliance.
- Appoint other Service Providers.

The Trustees also act in a fiduciary capacity for members. As stated in the Act, a fiduciary capacity requires that the Trustee will avoid taking personal profits from the scheme and does not indulge in conflict of interest.

The key risk in the performance of Trustee's duties is the ambit of personal profit and incidence of conflict of interest. Future editions of Fihankra Newsletter will address these issues with practical examples.

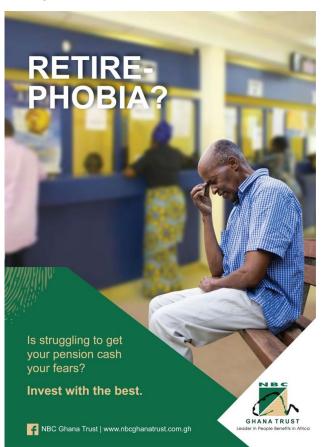
The members will expect that the Trustee has taken due care and diligence in managing their retirement plans. Due care applies to investment, timely responses, clarity of documents, compliance with the law and avoidance of conflict of interest, among several duties.



From the CEOs Desk Cont'd

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The Service Providers on the fund will expect that the Trustee has taken due care and diligence in the investment advisory role. Due care applies to timeliness of investment decisions, evaluating risks clearly, compliance with investment guidelines, clear communications, accuracy in records keeping and avoidance of collusion with market agents, among several duties.



The employers will expect prompt communication and compliance with the Act.

As we move into the second decade, the coverage of pensions for more citizens and security of benefits will need to be achieved.

I am delighted to encourage our readers to endeavour to use the Pensions Training facilities for trustees, which has been setup by the regulator.

As Trustees, current knowledge of risks and challenges in the fund is helpful. The need to identify long-term uncertainties that may impact the fund adversely is recognized when we assess the current risks and performance properly.

The NPRA training school is a requirement for us as trustees. I urge members in the industry to use these facilities to enhance continued capacity development.

SSNIT Announces 2021 Pension Indexation

PRESS RELEASE

07 JAN 2021

10%

OVERALL INDEXATION RATE

LOWEST EARNING PENSIONERS WILL RECEIVE

GH¢334.49

11.5% ^

FROM **GH#300** IN 2020

MINIMUM PENSION FOR 2021

GH¢300

The Social Security and National Insurance Trust (SSNIT), in consultation with the National Pensions Regulatory Authority (NPRA) and in accordance with **Section 80** of the National Pensions Act 2008 (Act 766), has indexed monthly pensions upwards by **10%** for the year 2021.

This increment shall be implemented as follows:

All Pensioners on the SSNIT Pension Payroll as at 31st December, 2020 will have their monthly pension increased by a Fixed Rate of 9.34% representing the annual average price inflation, plus a redistributed Flat Amount of **GH** ϕ 6.47.

Accordingly, Pensioners receiving the minimum pension of **GHs300.00** as at 31st December, 2020 will have their monthly pensions increased to **GH¢334.49**, representing an effective increase of **11.5%**.

Redistribution is a mechanism applied to the indexation rate to cushion Members on low pensions in line with the solidarity principle of social security. Low pensions arise as a result of low basic salaries on which contributions were paid.

The minimum pension for all new Pensioners effective January 2021 will be **GH**¢300.00. This means, pensioners whose computed monthly pensions fall below **GH**¢300.00 will be placed on this minimum.

About SSNIT

The Social Security and National Insurance Trust is a Statutory Public Trust with the mandate of administering the First Tier Basic National Social Security Pension Scheme under the National Pensions Act 2008 (Act 766).

SSNIT is charged with the responsibility of replacing part of lost income to its contributors and their dependants due to old age, invalidity, emigration or death.

The pension a member enjoys under the First Tier Scheme is dependent on the Basic Salary (on which contributions were made) and the number of months one has contributed to the Scheme.

Pensioners will be paid on the third Thursday of each month.

The Management of SSNIT wishes its cherished Pensioners a fulfilling New Year.

For further details, kindly contact SSNIT on:

Contact Centre: 0302 611 622 Whatsapp and SMS only (DG's Office Direct): 0500 003 050 Toll Free: 0800 1100 94 (Vodafone only) 

Economic Snapshot

Fihankra Newsletter ISSN No: 2676-2781 June 2021

Inflation

We expect a very marginal uptick in inflation in Q 1 2020 based on the following

- Growth in domestic money supply owing to fiscal and monetary policy measures, which were implemented by the government as a response to the Covid 19 shocks.
- Emerging price pressure from lagged effects
 of higher crude oil prices in the global
 market on account of supply cuts, resulting
 in a gradual uptick in ex pump fuel prices
 close to pre Covid levels.

Stocks

- Investor appetite for the stock market appears to be rebounding following successful Presidential and Parliamentary elections in December 2020. This should reinforce investor confidence about the country's political stability and reflect on the volume, value and prices of stocks traded on the market.
- The low interest rate regime in the Fixed Income market mean investors are getting paid very little to own bonds causing some investors to look into investing in stocks. This increased interest will boost prices on the market and spur market activity.

Currency

The expectations are for the GHS [cedi] to remain well supported in Q 1 2021 due to:

- improved regulatory oversight
- enhanced FX [foreign exchange] forward allotments and
- continued improvements in risk appetite of non-resident investors

Fixed Income

- In view of the latest increase in inflation and existing inflationary risk, some economists have projected that the monetary policy committee (MPC) of the Bank of Ghana will maintain the policy rate at 14.50% during the January 2021 policy meeting.
- Offshore demand for local bonds is expected to be fuelled by the successful conclusion of the 2020 polls. The influx of demand on the bond market will cause prices to trend upwards in the near term.
- Additionally, on the supply side, the high government debt to GDP ratio which is projected by the IMF to end 2020 at 76.7%, will affect government's exposure to borrowing as steps are taken to reduce the ratio to about 69% within the year 2021.

By: Fidelity Securities Limited

Investment Outlook

Fihankra Newsletter ISSN No: 2676-2781 June 2021

Overview

The US has entered a new phase in its COVID containment measures as Health officials have eased recommendations for fully vaccinated people.

The domestic economy recorded a rebound in March as the Central Bank's updated Composite Index of Economic Activity registered a strong annual growth of 26.8% in March 2021 compared to a contraction of 1.9% in the corresponding period of 2020.

Macroeconomic Indicators	
Inflation Rate	8.50%
Inflation Target	8.0±2%
Monetary Policy Rate	13.50%
Interbank Interest Rate	13.57%
GSE Composite Index YTD	24.70%
182 day treasury bill rate	13.5483%
364 Day Treasury Bill rate	16.4194%

Inflation

Headline inflation dipped to the single digit at 8.5% for the month of April due to a sharp decline in food inflation from 8.8% in March to 6.5% at the end of April. Within the food group the vegetables and tubers subgroup accounted largely for the decline as it dipped from 20.3% in January to a deflation rate of 2% due to the base drift effect from the panic buying that occurred in April last year following the lockdown.

With a weight of 10% in the basket of goods and services, the vegetables and tuber subgroup drove down inflation for the food group. Non-food inflation on the other hand rose to 10.2% from 10.0% in March.

Outlook: Over the medium term, inflationary pressures from the non-food group are projected to ease as the rebound in crude prices is moderated by the projected increase in production by OPEC+ members, beginning May 2021.

However, inflation expectations gauged from a survey of businesses, consumers and financial sector inched up in April, reflecting in part, sentiments surrounding tax adjustments and recent challenges associated with the power sector.



By: Fidelity Securities Limited

Investment Outlook Cont'd

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Interest Rates

The Monetary Policy Committee lowered the prime rate by 100bps to 13.50% on account of declining headline inflation that has eased sharply to the medium-term target band, driven mainly by lower food prices and a tight monetary policy stance and stable exchange rate conditions. The Committee predicts that the above conditions would remain broadly unchanged in the next quarter.

Outlook: In line with the slash in key interest rate we expect Treasury bill rates, interbank lending rates as well as lending rates to see a decline.



Exchange Rate

At the end of May, the Cedi had appreciated marginally by 0.22% against the US dollar compared to the 0.49% appreciation recorded at the end of April. The Cedi's strength has been driven by the issuance of the US\$3bn in late March as well as the FX forward auction market.

At the end of April, Gross International Reserve position of the country was US\$11bn equivalent to 5.1 months of import cover compared to a position of US\$10bn in April 2020 equivalent to 4.8 months of import cover.

Outlook: The improved reserve position has served to support the central bank's interventions on the spot market in recent weeks and should help maintain the bank's intervention volumes while USD demand remains elevated.

Stock Market

The Ghana Stock Exchange recorded its highest monthly trading value so far this year, as value of shares traded hit GH¢72 million cedis in May 2021.

The month of May 2021 also recorded its second highest monthly volume of trading of 58.9 million shares changing hands. The volume and value traded represented an increase of 98% and 134% increase respectively over the previous month. MTN Ghana's share was the most active stock on the GSE.

Investment Outlook Cont'd

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However, May was not a good month for the market as stocks moved from a 31% YTD return in April to a 24% YTD gain in May.

Outlook: We expect the market to stabilize in the month of June 2021, following profit-taking by both retail and corporate investors, leading to significant selling pressure and declining share prices in the month of May.



Commodities

Oil prices hit the highest level in more than a year as OPEC and its allies decided to gradually ease production as demand outlook improves. Gold prices held firm above \$1,900 after U.S. inflation rose above the Federal Reserve's 2% to boost appeal for the precious metal.

Cocoa prices also rose as dry weather persisted in the last week of May and threatened the mid-crop season in Cote D'Ivoire.







SSNIT

It's Official

SSNIT is merging social security numbers of Members with their NIA numbers





NIA number (Personal ID number)

Roll-out: Monday, 28th June, 2021

Get ready



If John Can Invest, So Can You!

Fihankra Newsletter ISSN No: 2676-2781 June 2021

Can I invest? Do I earn enough to invest? Where can I learn to save! These are questions that most individuals have. John had those questions too and then he met NBC!

John used to think that saving and investing money was complicated and best left to other people. John was quite sure that he didn't even have enough to save!

What John missed was that all of us can and should be saving. Saving is like trying to get fit after not exercising for a long time. It is a slow slog; it takes time, dedication and patience. The other thing that kept John from saving and investing was that is always easier said than done. It really helps if you have someone to assist you.

With the help of an NBC Benefits Advisor John realised that the only way to achieve his investment goals is step-by-step, month-by-month. John learnt to start investing by understanding that just like getting physically fit, to sort your finances out: –

- You need goals
- You need discipline and commitment
- You need to quit your easier lazier ways
- You need time

So, John started to save

He had a chat to one of the NBC Financial Advisers and signed up for the NBC Savings Plan.

John realised that to start with he could only afford to save 200 a month. So that is exactly what he did. Do you know that after his first year John had invested his first 2000 John then realised that he could cut down on some of the unnecessary expenses; he stopped buying airtime for his cell phone and he cut down on his smoking. He found another 100 a month and then started saving 300 each month.

And John's story doesn't end there...

Think about the other positive things that result from John's new savings, he has now formed a 'savings habit', saving and investing is now part of his 'lifestyle, saving and investing seems easy to John because he has practiced.

John is no different from you. If you can only afford to start with 200 a month then you should start, there. You will find that you too can form the savings habit and that sooner than you think you too will have extra cash.

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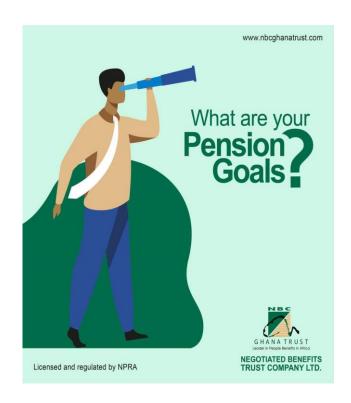
If John Can Invest, So Can You! Cont'd

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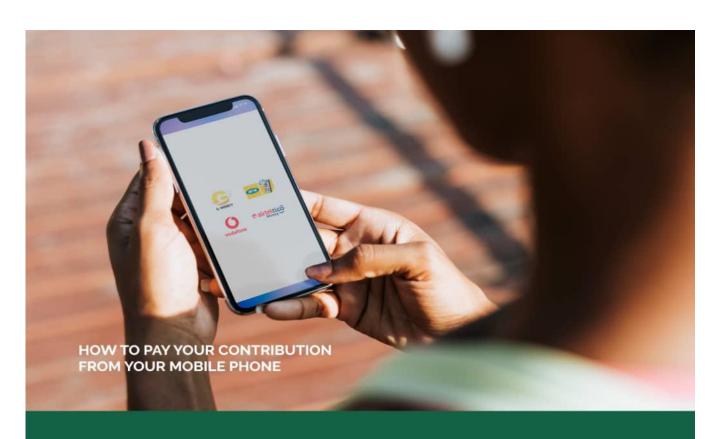
What is the solution for you?

The best way to start saving and investing is to start now! The NBC Savings Plans are ideal savings and investment vehicles for John, and they could be for you. So here are a few easy steps to follow: –

- Contact NBC now fill in the request form on our website (www.nbcghanatrust.com) and we will make sure that someone from NBC contacts you.
- Start looking very carefully at your expenses because you should know better than anyone where your money goes each month.



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HOW TO FUND YOUR NBC GOLD PLAN ACCOUNT

G-Money

- 1. Dial '422# on your G-money registered number.
 2. Select Option 2 (G-Money)
- 3. Select Option 4 (Payment Services) 4. Select Option 5 (Pension)
- 5. Select Option 2 (NBC Gold Plan)
 6. Enter your Policy ID Number ****
 7. Select 1 and Send
 8. Enter Amount

- g. Enter your PIN (After you have verified payment details)

HOW TO FUND YOUR G-MONEY ACCOUNT ON ANOTHER NETWORK

- 1. Dial '170#
 2. Select Option 1 (Transfer Money)
 3. Select Option 5 (Other Network)
 4. Select Option 4 (G-Money)
- 5. Enter your G-Money registered
- 6. Confirm your G-Money

- 7. Enter Amount 8. Enter reference ID 9. Enter your PIN Code

AIRTELTIGO & VODAFONE

Select Option 1 (Send Money) Select Option 6 (G-Money) Enter registered G-Money Number

Enter amount *****

Enter Reference

Enter PIN Code



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One thing to Consider before cashing out.

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The decision to cash out retirement benefits when changing jobs is arguably the biggest contributor to many pensioners' dire financial position.

International research suggests that millennials, the generation born between 1981 and 1996 are most at risk since they tend to change jobs more often than previous generations and will need to overcome the urge to cash out their retirement benefits more frequently.

While there may be instances where it could make sense to cash out **Tier 3 benefits**, it should be the last resort and it should only be done after carefully considering the long-term implications. Here are some things to ponder.



It Becomes Increasingly Difficult to Catch Up

Although one may argue that at age 30 or 40 there is still a long way to go to retirement, and that you will catch up along the way, it becomes increasingly difficult to do so, due to the impact of compound interest.

Ronald King, head of public policy and regulatory affairs at PSG, says if someone starts planning and saving for retirement at age 20, the individual would need to save 12.5% of his salary. If he only starts at age 30 (because he cashed out), he would need to save 22.5%.

If the same person decides to cash out his benefits at age 40, he would need to save 42% of his salary to be in the same position at retirement, he adds.

Due to other financial commitments, most people would be unable to afford such a high contribution rate.

If someone takes his retirement benefits at age 50, and starts saving anew at that point, he would need to save almost his whole salary to maintain his living standard in retirement.

Source: Money web

The Advisory Lounge

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NBC Consulting Services

The changing retirement industry environment has changed the perception that umbrella funds only caters for small companies. A major contributor to this paradigm shift is the additional requirements of the Pensions Fund Act. These requirements have increased the administrative burden, placing higher responsibilities on Trustee Boards and resulted in rising cost for stand-alone retirement funds.



As a result, there has been an increase in the number of stand-alone funds (some with large member numbers) moving to master trust funds. Even though the master trust funds are increasing in popularity, the decision about whether to move from a Stand-alone fund to a master trust fund is certainly not one to be taken lightly.

Before making a decision, Board of Trustees needs to carefully consider all features, requirements and benefits of each structure, whilst taking cognisance of the effects of each of these on the financial wellbeing of members.

Key differences between Stand-alone and NBC's Master Trust Fund (Tier 2 & Tier 3)

Stand-alone funds

- A Stand-alone fund is an employer or industry (i.e. metal industry, mine workers, automotive industry) specific fund and only employees of that company (or industry) may participate in the fund.
- The fund is usually branded by the company or industry that sponsors it.
- A Stand-alone fund is also run by a formal Board of Trustees and set of fund Rules approved and registered by the NPRA.
- The Trustees are fully responsible for all fund decisions, governance and fiduciary duties within the fund.





Note: Before you proceed kindly ensure your registered name on your MTN Mobile account is the same on your NBC Gold Plan Account

- Dial *170# on your MTN Number
- 2. Select option 1 (Transfer Money)
- 3. Select Option 6 (Bank Account)
- 4. Select Option 1 (Wallet to Bank)
- 5. Select Option 3 (GCB Bank)
- 6. Enter the GCB Bank Account 1011*****872
- 7. Confirm the number and proceed
- 8. Enter your Client Unique Number as reference 00***
- 9. Confirm and proceed to make payment

info@nbcghanatrust.com.gh |0307 022257/8 0266 086031

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The Advisory Lounge Cont'd

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- The Trustees normally contract all the services required to operate the fund to service providers (i.e. administration of the fund, investment consulting, actuarial services, risk benefits, benefit and communication consulting).
- However, all the responsibility and control remain with the Board of Trustees (i.e. selection of service providers, investment choices, governance, communication to members, benefit structures, death claims)

NBC's Master Trust funds (Tier 2 & Tier 3)

- The Trustee Board are fully responsible for fund decisions and the fund is governed by master rules for the umbrella fund, drawn up by the trustees and registered with the NPRA.
- The NBC Master Trust Fund allows multiple employer groups (companies) to participate in the fund.
- The NBC Master Trust fund is run by a Board of Trustees and NBC Ghana Trust appoints the trustees, with 100% of the trustees being independent of the NBC Ghana Trust.

- The fund ensures protection of its assets using an indemnity cover against the dishonest act of employees, omissions, negligence and fraud.
- The fund is audited yearly, and audit reports are submitted to the regulator.
- The NBC Master Trust Funds are managed by Licensed Trustees who have fiduciary obligations to members.

It is however imperative to perform a comprehensive evaluation of the pros and cons of each fund type, before making a decision;

You and your members' needs are unique! Speak to your NBC Consultant to:

- Explain the differences between Stand-alone and master trust funds.
- Provide you with a comprehensive evaluation on the pros and cons of each,
- Assist you with your decision on the fund structure best suited to you, and
- Advise and provide you with a wide range of NBC products, services and master trust fund solutions that can cater for your unique requirements.

National Identification Authority

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NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION AUTHORITY

The NIA was set up in 2003 under the Office of the President with the mandate to issue national ID cards and manage the National Identification System (NIS). This resulted in the passing of the National Identification Authority Act, 2006 (Act 707) to give it the necessary legal premises on which to operate. The National Identity Register Act, 2008 (Act 750) was also passed to give authorization for collection of personal and biometric data and to ensure the protection of privacy and personal information of enrollees/applicants.

Mandate Functions & Powers

The NIA was established by an Act of Parliament Act 707. It is mandated to register all Ghanaians and legally and permanently resident foreign nationals six years and above under the National Identification System (NIS), create a national database or register, issue them with National Identity Cards (Ghanacards) and manage the use of the database.

The Authority is mandated to establish a national data centre and manage a national database, set up a system to collect, process, store, retrieve and disseminate personal data on the population (Ghanaian citizens – both resident and non-resident, and legally and permanently resident foreign nationals), ensure the accuracy, integrity and security of such data, and to issue and promote the use of national identity cards in Ghana. It is also to make data in its custody available to persons or institutions authorized by law to access the data.



Rules and Regualtion

Every Ghanaian citizen living within the country and abroad has the right to be in the National Identification System and citizens who are Zero (0) years and above are entitled to be issued with a national ID card, as required by the law, to provide added convenience and ease when dealing with the public sector, civil society and private sector businesses.

Source: info@nia.gov.gh



National Identification Authority Cont'd

Fihankra Newsletter ISSN No: 2676-2781 June 2021

Key Highlight of the N.I.A Exercise

- The National Identification Authority (NIA) says it has achieved 84.44 percent (15,581,283) of its enrolment target as of June 28, 2021.
- The authority had also printed 15,562,413 cards and issued 13,946,371, representing 89.620 percent of the total as of June 28, 2021.
- The authority has exceeded its target of 80 percent of the population aged 15 years and above.

The Executive Secretary of the NIA, Prof Ken Attafuah said this at the meet the press series in Accra Wednesday (June 30, 2021).

Source: Graphic Online

Integration of the SSNIT card with the National Identification Card

With effect from June, 28, one's number on the National Identification Card has become the unique SSNIT Number. This follows the decision by the Social Security and National Insurance Trust (SSNIT), to merge the two numbers in line with government policy.

- The merger is in compliance with Regulation 7 (1) of the National Identity Register Regulations, 2012, LI 2111, and a directive from the National Pensions Regulatory Authority (NPRA). The regulation, among other things, requires the use of the Ghana Card as a means of identification for "transactions pertaining to individuals in respect of pensions".
- The Social Security and National Insurance Trust (SSNIT) says contributors who fail to merge their SSNIT numbers with their national IDs by the end of December 2021 will not be able to access pension-related services.
- This means that from January 1, next year, SSNIT contributors will no longer use their scheme numbers but will transact all business with SSNIT with their Ghana Card.



From the Board of Trustees

Fihankra Newsletter ISSN No: 2676-2781 June 2021

The Board of Trustees

Keeping beneficiary nomination forms up to date is so important – in the unfortunate event of the death of a member, the entire claim process is speeded up which means your family and dependents need not to experience unnecessary delays waiting for your claim to be paid.

Our Regional Reach Points:

Accra

Tel: (233) 307 022257/8

Takoradi

Tel: (233) 312 002 156

Kumasi

Tel: (233) 322 087927

Who Do I Speak to If I Have A Query?

If you have any questions regarding your Fund, please contact your HR department, any of the representatives elected and/or appointed to assist you with any Fund related Queries.

Your Fund Accountant is:

Bright Abusah + (233) 24 057 3975

Your Fund Administrators are:

Ransford Somuah + (233) 26 608 6103

Mary Donkor + (233) 26 608 6103

Your Investment Advisor is:

Terence Kweku Quayson + (233) 50 422 9436



Disclaimer of Liability

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NBC Ghana Trust since 2009 and still standing tall.

