



SRI LANKA ARMED FORCES PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

(Corporate body of the Sri Lanka Ex- Servicemen's Association)
(Established under Law No 8 of 1976 of The National State Assembly)

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05 June 2019

Congratulations and best wishes to all Armed Forces Pensioners

On behalf of the Members of the Armed Forces Pensioners Association I am in a position to convey the good news published by the Ministry of Public Administration by its Circular No. 14/2019 on 1 June 2019. Those who retired prior to 1 January 2017 are entitled to receive an enhanced pension from 1 July 2019. We are justifiably proud of this achievement.

However, whatever we have gained in the way of increased pensions has taken a lot of time and concerted effort over the last 15 years. I wish to state below what we have achieved just as a reminder to our members and others for their information:

1. Entitlement of Widows & Orphans Pension for the Members of the Volunteer Forces.
2. Increase of pensions from 662/3% to 70% and 73% of the last drawn salary through many years of negotiations with a number of successive Ministers of Public Administration.
3. Cabinet approval was obtained to pay 85% pension on the last drawn salary to all Officers and Other Ranks who had completed 22 years of service in December 2009. Whilst some were paid at this rate more than 10000 pensioners were denied by introducing an irrelevant condition (5 years' service in the operational areas) not stipulated in the Cabinet Approval. From year 2009 to-date our Association has continued to make representations to all higher authorities to have this unjust condition removed. Nearly 2000 Service Pensioners have passed away during this period without receiving this benefit. For 10 long years we have not given up this struggle and are hopeful of having this anomaly rectified in the near future.

4. Up to 2015 we received our pensions based on the 1997 scale. Thanks to this government there was relief granted by implementing 2006 salary scale for payment of our pensions. This too was as a result of our continued representations to authorities without success up to 2015. This was achieved with the support of Mr. Karu Jayasuriya, Former Minister of Public Administration and current Speaker of Parliament who has always been sympathetic towards Ex-Servicemen. Final hurdle was cleared with the intervention of the Hon. Prime Minister when the SLAS top guns objected to inclusion of the Ration Allowance to the Pension.
5. During the intervening years we made representations to the National Salaries and Cadre Commission but to-date its report has not been published. In fact we requested that senior retired Armed Forces Officers be included in the commission as we realized those members were not familiar with the Armed Forces Salary structures and nor sympathetic at all.
6. When the National Salaries Commission was appointed towards end of 2018 we made detailed written submissions to the Commission listing all the pension anomalies of the Armed Forces Pensioners.
7. Early this year we made representations to the Hon. Minister of Finance when he requested written submissions from all sectors prior to preparation of the National Budget in February 2019. Here again we submitted our request for relief to our pensioners. It was as a result of his inclusion of provisions in this year's budget passed in Parliament that the government has decided to publish Public Administration Ministry Circular No. 14/2019 where all ranks pensions are listed in detail. New pension scales will be effective from 1 July 2019.
8. Armed Forces Pensioners Association wishes to place on record our appreciation of the relief granted to our pensioners by this government.
9. I trust those Armed Forces Pensioners who are not members of our Association will decide to join us to strengthen our resolve to continue our future efforts.

With Best Wishes,



Major General Tilak Paranagama VSV USP,

President, Armed Forces Pensioners Association.