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**4th January 2022**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**COUNTRY WIDE MILITARY VETERANS AND BENEFICIARIES PAYROLL VERIFICATION AND FILE UPDATE FOR PENSION AND GRATUITY PAYMENT**

**Kampala Uganda**

The Government of Uganda, Under NRM through the ministry of Defence and Veteran affairs has always demonstrated enormous commitment to paying pensions and gratuities to the Military veterans and their survivors.

This is evidenced by the huge number of veterans and their survivors so far paid from the time of commencement.

11,000, out of expected number of 68,000 backlog cases of Military Veterans and beneficiaries have so far received their payment and more are yet to be paid.

It is in line with the above that, the Ministry of Defence and Veterans affairs is again embarking on a country wide exercise, in a bid to verify the Military Veterans’ Payroll.

This process is geared towards updating records to ensure payroll integrity, for smooth payment of pensions and gratuities to the Military veterans or survivors who have not yet received payment from the government. This exercise will equally target all Veterans and Estate Administrators as well as widows and widowers already receiving monthly pension.

This exercise slated for 17 January 2022 to 4 February 2022, will be Supported by the office of the Resident District Commissioner-RDC, the District Internal Security Office, the office of Local Council 5 Chairperson, of the various Districts in collaboration with the Various Local Governments, and the Judiciary/Magistrates**.**

To ease the exercise, ten (10) Zones have been Created Countrywide and a team from Ministry of Defence and Veteran affairs will visit each District.

The dates of their visit to the various Districts and lists of affected persons will be displayed at the district and sub-county headquarters by January 7 2022.

The Categories to be handled are,

1. Backlog Category, consisting of,
2. Living Veterans,

These are required to present:

* Discharge certificate or in lieu certificate issued by UPDF Directorate of records for lost discharge certificates,
* A Bank statement duly stamped and counter signed by bank officials,
* National Identity Card (ID),
* NS7 Revised pensions form (counter signed bank manager and stamped),
* Provisional 2010 Doc Form with the officer/militant’s photograph in lieu of PSF 18.

1. Estate of veterans Deceased in retirement Category

These are required to be present:

* Discharge certificate or police letter for lost discharge certificates
* Estate Bank account statement
* National Identity card (ID) for the claimant.
* NS7 Revised Pension form (counter signed by bank manager and stamped),
* Original/certificate letters of Administration,
* Death Certificate,
* Family Minutes,
* LC1 Letter.

1. Estates of officers and militants deceased while in active service,

Requirements to be presented are:

* Certified letters of administration.
* Estate bank account statement.
* Death certificate.
* National Identity card (ID) for the claimant.
* NS7 Revised Pension form (counter signed by bank manager and stamped).
* PSF 20 pension form or revised form 1 duly filled and stamped & counter signed by CAO.
* Minutes of Family meeting.
* LC1 letter.

1. Ex-Gratia- Living veteran

Requirements to be presented are:

* LC1 letter
* Bank statement
* National Identity card (ID)
* NS7 Revised Pension form (countersigned by bank manager and stamped)
* Provisional 2010 Doc form from UPDF (issued in previous documentation exercise of 2010)

1. Ex-Gratia- Estate

Requirements need to be presented include,

* LC1 letter
* Bank statement
* National Identity card (ID)
* NS7 Revised Pension form (countersigned by bank manager and stamped)
* Provisional 2010 Doc form from UPDF
* Original/certificate letters of administration
* Death certificate
* Minutes of the Family meeting,

1. Payroll category, consisting of,
2. Living veterans on Payroll

Requirements to be submitted are:

* Discharge certificate or in lieu certificate issued by UPDF Directorate of Records for lost discharge certificates,
* Bank statement duly stamped and counter singed by bank officials,
* National Identity card (ID)
* Estate of veterans deceased in retirement on payroll,
* Discharge certificate or police letter for lost discharge certificates to issue computer printout (CPO) with details of deceased militant by UPDF Directorate of Records (DOR)
* Estate bank account statement
* National Identity card (ID) for the claimant
* Physical presence of widow and orphans with their National ID or NIN if ID is not yet issued as well as birth certificates (Orphans)
* Original/certified letters of Administration
* Death certificate

1. Estates of officers and militants deceased while in Active service on Payroll

Requirements to be presented include:

* Certified letters of Administration
* Estate bank account statement
* Death certificate
* National Identity Card (ID) for claimant
* Physical presence of widow and orphans with their National ID or NIN if ID is not yet issued as well as birth certificates (Orphan)
* Records not migrated from MoPS

1. Estate of officers and militants deceased while in active service on payroll Requirements to be presented are,

* National IDs for the claimants
* Copy of letters of Administration
* Death certificate for the deceased militant
* NS7 form certified by bank manager
* Bank statement for the account she/he last accessed payment /estate account
* Birth certificates for children reflected on PAB minutes

Claimants for pensions and gratuities of the deceased, executioner or administrators of estates who have not yet obtained letters of administration are required to:

* Hold a family meeting with full authorization and endorsement of the chief Administrative officer of the District the deceased Military Veteran hails from.
* For beneficiaries of deceased veteran whose place of origin is now a municipality or Divisions of the city.
* During the meet, the family is required to choose a representative(s) to administer the survivors’ benefits.
* The meeting should be attended by the widow/widower of the deceased, adult children of the deceased, mother/guardians of children under the age of 18 years not born by the widow, and the parents of the deceased where possible**.**
* The chosen representative(s) should apply for letters of administration at the magistrate’s courts in the area of origin of the deceased**.**

Similarly, Military veterans and estate administrators who have not yet registered and obtained national Identity cards should take advantage of the ongoing registration and issuance of national IDs at the district and sub county levels across the country by the National Identification and Registration Authority-NIIRA to register and obtain national IDs or letter confirming registration.

Those whose bank accounts are dormant are equally encouraged to visit their local branch offices to ensure that the accounts are functional.

Finally, in the words of a former US Senator, Judd Gregg, **“The Veterans of our Military Services have put their lives on the line to protect the freedoms that we enjoy. They have dedicated their lives to their country and deserve to be recognized for their commitment.”** It is indeed in line with this thinking, that I wish on behalf of the National Resistance Government, the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs and on my own behalf, reaffirm our commitment to payment of all Military Veterans and beneficiaries their statutory dues by the end of the NDPIII period.

I wish equally to laud all Military Veterans and survivors of ex-military –service personnel for being patient while government mobilizes resources to pay them their statutory dues and also improve their welfare. I further call upon them to avoid fraudsters who purport to help them process their payments faster and end up extorting money from them. The Directorate of Veteran Affairs has a toll free line (0800100013) which they should use for inquiries and to verify any information given to them by third parties.

Hajjat Oleru Huda Abason **(MP)**

**Minister of State for Defence & Veteran Affairs/Veteran Affairs**