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GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS

NO. 7134 **13 February 2026**

MILITARY VETERANS ACT, 2011
(ACT NO. 18 OF 2011)

MILITARY VETERANS PENSION BENEFIT REGULATIONS, 2025

I, Matsie Angelina Motshekga - Minister of Defence and Military veterans, hereby in terms of section 24 (3) of Military veterans Act, 2011 Act No 18 of 2011, publish Military veterans Pension Benefit Amendment Regulations 2025 in the Government Gazette for implementation of the Pension Benefit.

Ms M.A MOTSHEKGA, MP
MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND MILITARY VETERANS
DATE: 20 . 12 . 2025

SCHEDULE

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1. Definitions

In these Regulations, any word or expression to which the meaning has been assigned in the Act has a meaning so assigned and, unless the context otherwise indicates—

"birth certificate" means an official document of the child reflecting the particulars of both parents, including their identity numbers;

"dependents" is defined in terms of the definition as defined in the Military Veterans Act 18 of 2011.

"identity document" means the identity document or card referred to in the Identification Act, 1997 (Act No. 68 of 1997);

"means test" means the evaluation of the income and assets of the person applying to determine whether the person's means are below a stipulated amount. The means test is a way of determining whether a person qualifies to receive this Military veteran's pension benefit;

"national military veterans database" means the official computerised information system established and maintained by the Department of Military veterans containing the names and personal information of verified military veterans and the list of the dependents registered;

"reserve force" means a voluntary, part-time component of the South African National Defence Force

"the Act" means the Military veterans Act, 2011 (Act No.18 of 2011); and

"**the Agency**" means the Government Pensions Administration Agency (GPAA).

2. Objectives

The objective of these Regulations is to provide a Pension to Military Veterans in terms of section 5(1) (h) of the Act.

3. Eligibility

(1) A qualifying military veteran, spouse, or dependent of a deceased military veteran residing in the Republic of South Africa will be subject to a means test in line with the old age grant as contemplated in section 5(2)(a) and (b) of the Social Assistance Act, 2004 (Act No.13 of 2004).

(2) A military veteran or spouse of a deceased military veteran receiving the pension benefit must in writing, inform the Department of Military Veterans of the "change of employment status" within 90 days of when the change of employment status became effective.

(3) The annual update on the threshold amounts in sub-regulation 3(1) will be aligned to those of the old age grant as would be pronounced by the Minister of Finance and gazetted in terms of the Social Assistance Act 13 of 2004.

(4) Despite sub-regulation 3(1), a military veteran who has been convicted of rape, murder, robbery, theft or high treason committed after 27 April 1994 and sentenced to imprisonment for a period exceeding 5 years without the option of a fine is disqualified from receiving any benefits provided for in the Act and these regulations.

(5) Sub-regulation 3(4) must not be interpreted as also disqualifying a dependant of a military veteran disqualified in terms of that sub-regulation from receiving any benefits provided for in the Act and these regulations.

4. Pension benefit amount

(1) A qualifying Military veteran will receive a monthly pension income, calculated based on the amount of the old age grant contemplated in section 10 of the Social Assistance Act, 2004 (Act No.13 of 2004), adjusted by a multiplier of 2,5.

(2) A dependent, widow or widowers of a deceased military veteran qualify shall receive up to 50% of the monthly pension benefit provided they are not receiving any form of monthly pension above the mentioned 50% threshold from the military veteran pension benefit.

(3) A dependant, who became an orphan, is entitled to receive the monthly pension in terms of paragraph 4 (2) —

(a) until the orphan reaches the age of 18;

(b) until the orphan reaches the age of 23, if the orphan is a full-time student (provided he or she provides proof that he/she is still attending an educational institution annually); or is suffering from total disability or permanent impairment by the time of death of the main member, will continue to receive the monthly pension benefit until he or she dies.

5. Recovery of sums overpaid

(1) If the Agency pays money to a person in reasonable belief that he or she is a bona fide military veteran, widow, widower or dependent and entitled thereto in terms of the Act or any law repealed by the Act, but he or she was not entitled thereof, the amount of money so paid is an amount due and payable to the State by such a person or, if he or she is deceased, by his or her estate.

(2) The Agency must recover the amounts to which a person was not entitled, as contemplated in subsection (1), in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act, 1999.

(3) The Minister shall remit an amount owing by a person in terms of subsection (1) if such a person satisfies the Minister that he or she received the amount without knowing if he or she was not entitled thereto.

6. Procedure for application for a military veteran's pension benefit

(1) An application for a military veteran's pension benefit must be submitted on a form MVP01 2025 contained in Annexure A.

(2) An application contemplated in sub-regulation (1), must be accompanied by—

(a) certified copy of the identity document of the Military veteran;

(b) certified copy of the identity document of the spouse;

(c) a recognized marriage certificate;

(d) certified copies of the unabridged birth certificates of the dependents of the Military veteran, and;

(e) signed Z894 bank form with applicant's account numbers, stamped by the bank

(3) The applicant must submit an application to the Government Pensions Administration Agency (GPAA) either by—

(a) hand;

(b) registered post; or

(c) electronically.

(4) On receipt of an application made in terms of sub-regulation (1), the Government Pensions Administration Agency (GPAA) must furnish the Military veteran with an acknowledgement of receipt of such application within 90 days, which must—

(a) reflect the name and identity number of the Military veteran;

(b) reflect the names of the designated officials acknowledging receipt thereof; and

(c) be dated and stamped with the official stamp of the GPAA.

(5) The Government Pensions Administration Agency must keep a register of all applications received. The register must record the following—

(a) acknowledgment of receipt of the applications;

(b) the particulars of the Military veteran;

(c) the date of the application;

(d) the date on which the application is approved or rejected; and the date of the first payment contemplated.

(6) If an application for the military veteran pension benefit is approved, the Government Pensions Administration Agency must inform the Military veteran, in writing or by electronic communication or any other means of communication of such approval.

7. Appeals

(1) If an application for the military veteran's pension benefit is rejected, the GPAA must inform the Military veteran in writing by electronic communication or any other means of communication of such rejection and of—

(a) the reasons for such rejection; and

(b) the applicant's right, if he or she disagrees with the GPAA's decision, to lodge an appeal with the Military Veterans Appeal Board established in terms section 19 of the Act.

(2) If the Military Veteran disagrees with the decision of the GPAA, the Military Veteran may within a period not exceeding 90 days of the date of the decision, lodge an appeal.

(3) When lodging an appeal, the Military Veteran may not submit any evidence or information which was not provided to the GPAA at the time of the application.

(4) The Appeal Board must consider the appeal by reassessing the decision of the Department against the available information at its disposal and has the powers to either confirm or set aside the decision of the GPAA.

(5) The Appeal Board must finalise the appeal within 90 days from the date on which the appeal was received and must inform the Military veteran by electronic communication or any other means of communication of the decision and reasons thereof.

8. Exclusions

(1) A military veteran and or spouse of a deceased military veteran who receives another State-provided pension or social grant that is more than the Pension amount is excluded from benefiting from this pension benefit, except if this pension will top-up what is already received.

(2) A military veteran and or spouse of a deceased military veteran who, upon retirement transfers the state pension to a privately owned institution or receives another state-provided pension or social grant is excluded from this pension benefit, except if this pension will top-up what is already received.

(3) A military veteran and or spouse of a deceased military veteran who resigned or left state employment due to other reasons and received all their pension contributions is excluded from benefiting from this pension benefit.

(4) A military veteran or spouse of a deceased military veteran who is currently employed and contributing towards a pension fund is excluded from this pension benefit.

(5) A military veteran and or spouse of a deceased military veteran whose income is more than the Military Veteran's Pension amount will be excluded. The department shall provide a top-up amount if the verified Military Veteran's income is below the pension threshold.

(6) A military veteran who qualified and was approved for military veteran pension and subsequently joins the South African National Defence Force as a Reserve Force has an obligation to inform DMV and GPAA so that his monthly benefit can be discontinued. Should his Reverse Force contract be terminated, he or she shall request the DMV or GPAA for the reinstatement of the monthly benefit from the month following his termination of contract.

9. Suspension Of Pension

(1) Every military veteran pension recipient has the responsibility to inform DMV and GPAA of any change in his or her circumstances whether this is a change of address, change of marital status, change of financial position,

(2) The following may result in the suspension of the pension—

(a) Changes in circumstances

(b) Conviction of fraudulent or any misrepresentation and

(c) erroneous approval of the pension.

10. Repeal of laws

These Regulations repeal the Military Veterans Pension Regulations, 2023.

11. Short title

These Regulations are called the Military Veterans Pension Regulations, 2025. The effective date in respect of the commencement of this benefit will not be retrospective, but only applicable upon the signing off of these regulations by the respective authority. Payment to Military veterans will not be retrospective but applicable upon the approval of the application.

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