

MINISTRY OF FINANCE CIRCULAR NO. 3 OF 2014

FROM: - FINANCIAL SECRETARY

TO: - CABINET SECRETARY, SOLICITOR GENERAL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER ACCOUNTING OFFICERS

SUBJECT: BENEFITS AND OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE WIDOWS' AND CHILDREN'S PENSIONS (W&CP) ACT

DATE: April 24, 2014

Your attention is drawn to the Widows' and Children's Pensions (Repeal) Act, 2014. A copy of this new Act, Gazetted 7th February, 2014, is attached for your perusal.

While the 2014 Act repeals the W&CP Act, Chapter 32 of the Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2000, all the benefits due or obligations payable under the old Act at the time of the commencement of the 2014 Act shall continue to be in force. Hence, as per Section 3 (1) of the W&CP (Repeal) Act of 2014 the following Sections of the old Act shall remain effective:

1. Section 14 of the old Act that deals with "**contribution due and payable by a reduction of pension or gratuity**" shall remain effective in accordance with Section 3 (2)(a) of the W&CP (Repeal) Act of 2014. Section 4(2) of the 2014 Act further provides for such monies to be paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund;
2. Section 13 of the old Act dealing with the "**return of periodical contributions**" shall continue to be in force, as provided for by Section 3 (2)(b) of the W&CP (Repeal) Act of 2014; and
3. Sections 7 and 11 of the old Act that deals with the calculation of "**widow's pension payments**" and "**children's pensions rate and mode of payment**" shall continue to be applicable in accordance with Section 3 (2)(c) of the (Repeal Act) of 2014.

The W&CP (Repeal) Act of 2014 also provides for the payment of pension or the return of contributions that continue to have effect shall be paid out off the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

You are hereby advised that, subject to what is stated above, the periodical contributions by public officers under the Widows' and Children's Pensions Act are to cease effective 7th February, 2014 in accordance with the Widows' and Children's Pensions (Repeal) Act, 2014.

Should you have need for further clarification please feel free to contact this Ministry.

Your attention and adherence to this Circular is greatly appreciated.



JOSEPH WAIGHT
FINANCIAL SECRETARY