



**PRIME MINISTER'S  
(PENSIONS AND BENEFITS) BILL 2014**

**(NO. 17 OF 2014)**





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A

BILL

Entitled

**AN ACT** TO PROVIDE PENSIONS AND OTHER BENEFITS FOR PERSONS WHO CEASE TO HOLD THE OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER AND FOR THEIR WIDOWS; AND TO PROVIDE FOR MATTERS INCIDENTAL TO THE FOREGOING OR CONNECTED THEREWITH.

**ENACTED** by the National Parliament of Solomon Islands.

## ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

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**PRIME MINISTER'S  
(PENSIONS AND BENEFITS) BILL 2014**

1. This Act may be cited as the Prime Minister's (Pensions and Benefits) Act, 2014, and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may appoint by notice published in the Gazette.

Short title and commencement

2. In this Act,

Interpretation

“Minister” means the Prime Minister;

“Prime Minister” means any person who has held the office of Prime Minister having been elected Prime Minister pursuant to section 33 in accordance with Schedule 2 of the Constitution, and who ceases or has ceased to hold office; and

“spouse” means a person who is married in accordance with the Islander's Marriage Act (cap 171).

3. Every person who having held the office of Prime Minister on or after the 7<sup>th</sup> day of July 1978, shall subject to section 4 be paid a pension during the lifetime of that person.

Prime Minister's pension etc.

4. (1) Where a Prime Minister to whom a pension is payable -

Right to pension to cease temporarily

(a) is re-elected and re-appointed to the Office of Prime Minister; or

(b) is appointed to a public office,

the pension payable shall cease to be payable during the time the person holds any of the aforesaid offices.

(2) When a Prime Minister ceases to hold any office as mentioned in subsection (1) the right to pension shall be restored.

5. The pension payable shall be at an annual rate of sixty percent of the current salary payable to the incumbent.

Annual rate of pension

Widow's  
pension

6. (1) Where a person dies while he is the Prime Minister or while he is entitled to receive a pension his spouse shall be entitled to be paid a pension at an annual rate of 40% of the pension receivable by the pensioner at the time of his death.

(2) A spouse mentioned in subsection (1) shall not be entitled to receive a pension under this section if she remarries.

Sources and  
methods of  
payment of  
pension

7. Any pension payable under this Act shall -

(a) be charged on and paid out of the Consolidated Fund; and;

(b) be paid fortnightly.

Protection of  
pension

8. Any pension payable under this Act shall not -

(a) be assignable or transferable except for the purpose of satisfying a debt due to the government or an order of any court for the payment of periodical sums of money towards the maintenance of the spouse, and a child being a minor of the person to whom the pension is payable; or

(b) be liable to be attached, sequestered or levied upon for or in respect of any debt or claim whatever except a debt due to the government or any sum recoverable pursuant to such order of any court as is mentioned in paragraph (a).

Ex-gratia  
payment

9. (1) A Prime Minister shall be paid an ex-gratia payment of \$75,000.00 or such greater sum, equivalent to and payable to a Prime Minister under the current Members of Parliament (Entitlements) Commission Regulations for each term of office he has served.

(2) The spouse of a Prime Minister shall also be qualified to receive an ex-gratia payment equivalent to fifty percent of the payment received by the Prime Minister pursuant to subsection (1).

(3) On the coming into operation of this Act the provisions relating to pensions payable under the Members of

Parliament (Entitlements) Commission Regulations to Members of Parliament who have held the office of Prime Minister shall cease.

10. (1) A Prime Minister shall be provided with a residence free of rent and the cost of water, gas and electricity shall be paid for by the Government. Residence

(2) If no residence is provided in accordance with subsection (1), a Prime Minister, shall be entitled to a monthly housing allowance at a rate equivalent to the upper limit of the range prescribed or determined from time to time by the Members of Parliament (Entitlements) Commission Regulations in respect of Cabinet Ministers irrespective of whether the Prime Minister lives in his own house.

11. (1) A Prime Minister shall be provided with a vehicle for use in connection with his normal duties, or an outboard motor or boat allowance, if he resides in his village. Vehicle

(2) If no vehicle is provided in accordance with subsection (1), a Prime Minister shall be entitled to a monthly transport allowance at a rate determined or prescribed from time to time by the Members of Parliament (Entitlements) Commission Regulations in respect of Cabinet Ministers irrespective of whether the Prime Minister owns a private vehicle.

12. A Prime Minister shall be entitled to medical treatment as prescribed from time to time under the Members of Parliament (Entitlements) Commission Regulations. Medical treatment

13. Where a Prime Minister is assigned to undertake any assignment on behalf of Solomon Islands, he shall be entitled to receive protocols, courtesies and benefits, as may be appropriate. National Representative

14. The Minister may make regulations in respect of all matters that are required or are reasonably necessary or convenient to prescribe and for carrying into effect any of the purposes or provisions of the Act. Regulations

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OBJECTS AND REASONS

This Bill seeks to make provisions for the payment of pensions and other benefits to former Prime Ministers who cease or have ceased to hold office.

PRIME MINISTER





Honiara, Solomon Islands  
Printed under the authority of the  
Solomon Islands Government

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