



National Pensioners' Day

8th October 2022



Message from the Hon. Prime Minister



We celebrate 08th October of every year as the National Pensioners' Day to pay tribute to Senior Citizens who were dedicated themselves for the nation and are currently resting.

Government is spending around Rs. 300 billion annually for nearly 680,000 pensioners who had served the nation in the past. This is continued even in the midst of the economic crisis. This accounts 12 to 15 percent of government's recurrent expenditure.

Intervening as the Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government, being able to pay the pensions gratuity that was being delayed, after obtaining the Cabinet approval, is a great duty that has been performed on behalf of the pensioners in the recent past. Accordingly, funds have been allocated for the payment of pension gratuity for last year and this year. Further, we have appointed a committee to submit proposals after careful study regarding maintaining the pension gratuity payment method sustainably.

Even you are burdened with the economic crisis. But, you who are entitled to a fixed monthly salary are secured because of the way the state service pension scheme is managed and its strong existence.

Not only the pensioners, but also the beneficiaries thereafter are secured because of the government service pension scheme.

Provision of your Intellectual contribution by the submission of your reconstruction proposals through the experience in government service of several decades will be a great service to the nation.

I wish you all an independent, healthy retired life.

Dinesh Gunawardena
Hon. Prime Minister, Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Hon. Minister of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government

Message from the Ministry Secretary



Government of Sri Lanka has declared 08th October of each year as the National Pensioners Day to pay tribute to the senior citizens who have retired from government services after contributing their services for nearly or over three decades in government service for the betterment of the general public of our country. I wish to offer my wishes to all the pensioners of our country which exceeds 689,000 from the government service and the tri forces.

However, it is essential that a retiree should have the feeling that he / she is not indebted to the country according to his / her conscience that he / she had performed his / her duties and had contributed to the well being of the country and its people when reminiscing the working life. Only, such a retiree will be able to spend the retired life peacefully and all those who are currently in government service should bear this in mind. General public of this country have contributed to upkeep the government servants and thereafter to maintain the pensioners. Therefore, every government servant should bear in mind that he / she should do his / her best to the country during his / her tenure.

Today, not only Sri Lanka, but also many other countries in the world are facing the economic difficulties and have to face severe socio economic problems due to that. Therefore, all of us have to work together strongly to win the challenges that we face.

Government has already taken steps to introduce rural economic revival hubs for bringing food security. Lots of people are living in this country including retired government servants and retired defence forces personnel. I believe that their knowledge and experience would be actively contributed to the national food security programme. I honourably invite all you retirees to come forward and contribute towards this cause.

I wish all of you good health and great future.

M.M.P.K. Mayadunne
Secretary, Ministry of Public Administration, Home Affairs, Provincial Councils and Local Government

Message from the Director General



Department of Pensions, started in 1970 as a Grade A department is the state institution that has been looking after the payment of entitlements to the pensioners and their beneficiaries thereafter. The duties of the department have been expanded as the institution that manages the pensions of pensioners of our country which exceeds 689,000 pensioners.

Department of Pensions is dedicated in introducing new information technological solutions to the pension payment process in its duties as the pioneer in the social security system in our country and for the socio economic welfare of the pensioners. Our department was able to provide an efficient service so that the pensioners could maintain a normal life even during the prevailing crisis situation.

The mandatory visit to the one time interview at the 'Sathkara Piyasa' to activate the pension and to ensure the widows' and orphans' entitlements was very costly to the pensioners coming from faraway places and this system has been decentralized to district level marking the National Pensioners Day this year. Accordingly, this will be started from Matara district and will be extended to other districts as well in the future.

I wish to express my gratitude to the government, staff of the Department of Pensions and the staff of other state and private sector institutions that work hand in hand with the Department of Pensions in the payment of benefits to pensioners continuously, amidst the current uncertain and crisis-stricken socio economic situation.

I wish all the pensioners, mostly elder citizens rich who are with experience, a healthy retired life to sail through this difficult period by minimizing the risks of this crisis situation while guiding the youth to a better future in respect.

A. Jagath D. Dias
Director General of Pensions

Interview for activating Pension will be decentralized from 8th October 2022

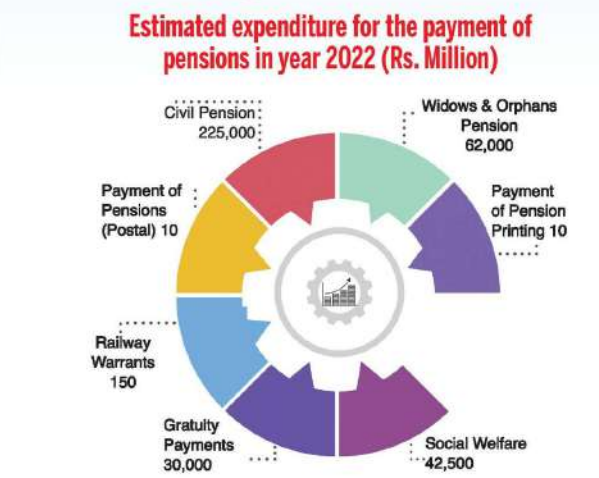
Sathkara Piyasa closer to you

Total number of Pensioners in Sri Lanka is **689,770**
Active pensioners in October 2022 is 673,345

Decentralization of the Sathkara Piyasa

It is mandatory that the pensioners call over at the 'Sathkara Piyasa' of the Department of Pensions to participate in an interview to activate the pensions of the retirees of government institutions. Sathkara Piyasa interview which was started in year 2015 helps to identify the pensioner before activating the pension and to update the files related to Widow and Orphan while the pensioner is alive and to ensure the entitlements of the beneficiaries. At this interview, awarding of the the Pensions Entitlement Card, Registration of pensioners Finger Marks and issue of the Pensioner's Identity Card take place.

Department of Pensions has taken steps by now to decentralize this process to district level, considering the difficulties the pensioners have undergo while coming to the Head Office to 'Sathkara Piyasa' from faraway places. Accordingly, first stage of the decentralization of this process will take place at the Matara District Secretary's Office on 08.10.2022 simultaneously to the celebration of the National Pensioners Day.



Services extended to Pensioners during the most difficult period in 2021 and 2022

- 1 Submission of Applications for Pension to the Department of Pensions made online
- 2 Establishing 415 centres throughout the island for the issue of digital life certificates
- 3 Speeding up of payment of Pensions by increasing online Apps and increasing the services offered via Department's website
- 4 Effecting continued payment of pensions even amidst the global Corona pandemic situation and the unfavourable situation that prevailed in the country
- 5 Taking steps to pay salaries to widows of officers of tri forces and Police who killed in action
- 6 Payment of a monthly allowance of Rs. 5,000.00 to pensioners effective 01.01.2022
- 7 Increasing the gratuity as a merciful alternative to Rs. 50,000



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