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The Editor
The New Paper
Forum Page

100 High Street
#07-01 The Treasury
Singapore 179434
www.psd.gov.sg

Dear Editor,

I refer to the letter "Let Them Sort Out Affairs" (7 Apr, TNP) by Mr Leong Sze Hian.

Officers under the Civil Service Pensions Scheme receive a pension upon their retirement from the Civil Service. Pensioners and their dependants also receive medical benefits based on the pensioner's employment terms before retirement. These retirement benefits, which are meant primarily for the pensioner, will cease upon the demise of the pensioner.

This has been the policy position all along in the Civil Service and has never changed.

Mr Leong mentioned in his letter that pensioners' widows were allowed in the past to retain their medical benefits. The scheme he was referring to is the Widows and Orphans Pension Scheme that was started during the colonial administration. This scheme has been phased out since the 1960s.

Unlike the Civil Service Pensions Scheme, the Widows and Orphans Pension Scheme is not a retirement benefit scheme. It is like an insurance scheme where widows and orphans of pensioners would be provided with a pension and medical benefits because their husbands had contributed to the Widows & Orphans fund whilst he was alive. This Scheme is therefore separate and distinct from the Pensions Scheme.

As pensions and medical benefits cease upon the demise of the pensioner, we strongly encourage officers and pensioners to plan ahead and make adequate provisions for their family members. For families which need financial assistance, they may avail themselves of the national-level assistance schemes for Singaporeans.

Ms Bernadette Sim
Director, Personnel Policy
Public Service Division
Prime Minister's Office

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