



MALTA POLICE ASSOCIATION

YOUR INDEPENDENT UNION

PROPOSALS BY THE MALTA POLICE ASSOCIATION
REGARDING POLICE (TREASURY) PENSIONS

FEBRUARY 2021

Introduction

The Malta Police Association, has been in discussion with the government on several amendments to the current Pension Gratuity being received by Police officers who retire on pension after the completion of 25 years of Service but had not reached their pensionable age, since 2006 before the Police Negotiating Board (PNB) and subsequently the Arbitration Board appointed by the Prime Minister of the time.

MPA request has been evolving around the following principle;

Il-pensjoni li jspiċċa biha membru tal-Korp tal-Pulizija wara li jkun għamel is-servizz ta' ħamsa u għoxrin sena, tibda tizzied u tkun aggstata, minn żmien għal żmien.

Background

This request derives and has been developed from the following facts which effected negatively Police Officers which retire on pension;

1. On 5th February 1979, ninety-eight police constables took the oath of allegiance to join the police force as constables. The pension of such police officers was regulated by the Pension Ordinance at the time Chapter 143 of the Law of Malta. Such ordinance stated that after 30 years of service they were entitled to part with one quarter of their pension. From the above-mentioned police officers some are still serving.
2. On 14th March 1979, Parliament enacted Act XII, which emended the Pensions Ordinance and introduced the two thirds pension. In our opinion such amendment is detrimental to our rights and thus goes against the legitimate vested right which these police officers had acquired when they were employed in the police force. In fact, even the said ordinance at the time stated that no amendments should take place to such ordinance unless such amendments are in favour of pensioner. Furthermore, effects carried out to the ordinance were retro effective because they regulated the pension to all civil servants who were employed by the Government after the 15th January, 1979.
3. Various meetings in this regard were held with the Hon. Minister of Finance to resolve this injustice, an agreement was reached on 4th February 2003 and draft legislation has been prepared, however this proposal did not go through to parliament.

4. The Minister responsible for the police at that time verbally also agreed which such draft regulation. However due to the European Union referendum this draft legislation was put on shelf.
5. During P.N.B. meetings held to consider the increase requested by MPA as the Treasury Pension granted to a police officer after 25 years of service, which pension does not increase and by the time the officer reaches the national retirement age, will devaluate due to higher cost of living and higher wages. Thus, a retired police officer will find it hard to cope will all increase of prices and expenses after serving the state and given it their best of life.
6. The presumption that a police officer works 25 years and then can retire with the pension is only an imaginary situation. An ex-police officer with a family need to earn a living by finding another job to compensate for the loss of income, especially after a couple of years from retiring from the force due to the reasons explained in the previous point.

Conclusion and Requests

In view of the above and as we understand that now, points numbers 1 to 4 are no longer valid since these officers reached the national retirement age and are also benefiting from their Contributory (NI) pension, the Malta Police Association is proposing that the Government of Malta considers;

- a) Legislating to amend the provisions of Chapter 164 so that Police pension (treasury) will be adjusted and revised every 3 years according to the basic pay of the rank and scale in which that particular officer was on the day previous to his retirement. In this way the Police pensions are increased every 3 years till that person reaches the retirement age.
- b) Legislating to permit members of the Force, to receive the pension after 25 years of service, with the possibility of remaining a serving member of same Police Force. We wish to remind that if this officer applies for an external call with any other Government department, he/she will still receive a pension and wages from the Government, so the ideal situation would be to leave that experience and work knowledge for the use of the Police department.