

THE POLITICAL OMBUDSMAN (INTERIM) ACT

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THE POLITICAL OMBUDSMAN (INTERIM) ACT

Acts
25 of 2002,
24 of 2017
3rd Sch.

[15th August, 2002.]

PART I. *Preliminary*

1. This Act may be cited as the Political Ombudsman (Interim) Act. Short title.

2. In this Act—

Interpreta-
tion.

“action” includes failure to act, and other expressions
connoting action shall be construed accordingly;

“Constitution” means the Constitution of Jamaica;

“emoluments” means salary, allowances and fees;

“functions” includes powers and duties;

“public service” has the meaning assigned to it by
section 1(1) of the Constitution;

“writing” includes anything communicated by electronic
means.

3. This Act shall continue in force until provision is made
in the Constitution for the establishment of a Political
Ombudsman in terms which preclude the alteration of that
provision otherwise than in accordance with the procedures
prescribed by or in relation to section 49 (2) of the Constitution
and shall then expire. Duration of
this Act.

PART II. *The Political Ombudsman*

4.—(1) For the purpose of conducting investigations in
accordance with the provisions of this Act, there is hereby
constituted a commission of Parliament to be known as the
Political Ombudsman. Political
Ombudsman
commission.

(2) The commission shall consist of such person as
shall be appointed by the Governor-General by instrument under
the Broad Seal after consultation with the Prime Minister and
the Leader of the Opposition.

Tenure of
office.

5.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Political Ombudsman shall hold office for a period of seven years and may, at the expiration of such period, be re-appointed for a period of five years but shall not be further re-appointed thereafter.

(2) The Political Ombudsman may at his own request be relieved of office by the Governor-General and shall in any case, subject to the provisions of subsection (3), vacate office on attaining the age of seventy years.

(3) Notwithstanding that he has attained the age at which he is required by or under the provisions of this section to vacate his office, the Political Ombudsman may continue in office for such period after attaining that age as the Governor-General, acting after consultation with the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, may specify, in order to enable the Political Ombudsman to give his decision or do any other thing in relation to any other investigation he was conducting before he attained that age.

(4) Nothing done by the Political Ombudsman shall be invalid by reason only that he has attained the age at which he is required by this section to vacate his office.

(5) Where by reason of illness, absence from the Island or other sufficient cause, a person appointed Political Ombudsman is unable to perform his functions under this Act, he may appoint a member of his staff to perform those functions for a period not exceeding two months, but if the Political Ombudsman is unable or fails to appoint such a person or if it is necessary that such a person be appointed for a period in excess of two months, the Governor-General, after consultation with the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, may appoint such person as he thinks fit to perform those functions.

(6) The Political Ombudsman may be removed from his office only for inability to discharge the functions of his office (whether arising from infirmity of body or mind or any other cause) or for misbehaviour and shall not be so removed except in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(7) If each House of Parliament by resolution decides that the question of removing the Political Ombudsman from office ought to be investigated then—

- (a) the Governor-General, acting after consultation with the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, shall appoint a tribunal which shall consist of a chairman and not less than two other members, from among persons who hold or have held office as a judge of a court having unlimited jurisdiction in civil and criminal matters in some part of the Commonwealth or a court having jurisdiction in appeals from any such court; and
- (b) that tribunal shall enquire into the matter and report on the facts thereof to the Governor-General and advise the Governor-General whether the Political Ombudsman ought to be removed from office for inability as aforesaid or for misbehaviour.

(8) The provisions of sections 8 to 16 of the Commissions of Enquiry Act shall, apply *mutatis mutandis* in relation to the tribunal appointed under subsection (7) or, as the context may require, to the members thereof as they apply in relation to Commissions or Commissioners appointed under that Act.

(9) Where the question of removing the Political Ombudsman from office has been referred to a tribunal appointed under subsection (7) and the tribunal has advised the Governor-General that the Political Ombudsman ought to be removed from office, the Governor-General shall, by instrument under the Broad Seal, remove the Political Ombudsman from office.

(10) Where the question of removing the Political Ombudsman from office has been referred to a tribunal under subsection (7), the Governor-General, acting after consultation with the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, may suspend the Political Ombudsman from performing the functions of his office, and any such suspension may at any time be revoked by the Governor-General acting as aforesaid, and shall in any case cease to have effect if the tribunal advises the Governor-General that the Political Ombudsman ought not to be removed from office.

Disqualifica-
tion for
appointment.

6.—(1) No person shall be qualified for appointment to the office of Political Ombudsman if he—

- (a) is a member of the Senate or the House of Representatives; or
- (b) is an undischarged bankrupt; or
- (c) has at any time been convicted of any offence involving dishonesty or moral turpitude.

(2) The Political Ombudsman shall vacate office if any circumstances arise that would cause him to be disqualified for appointment as such, by virtue of subsection (1).

Filling of
vacancy.

7. When a vacancy arises in the office of Political Ombudsman the Governor-General, after consultation with the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, may designate someone to act in that office during such vacancy, until an appointment is made.

Remuneration
of Political
Ombudsman.

8.—(1) The Political Ombudsman shall receive such emoluments and be subject to such other terms and conditions of service as the Governor-General may, from time to time acting on the recommendation of the Commission constituted under subsection (4), prescribe.

(2) The emoluments and terms and conditions of service of the Political Ombudsman, other than allowances that are not taken into account in computing pensions, shall not be altered to his disadvantage during the period of his appointment.

(3) The emoluments for the time being payable to the Political Ombudsman under this Act shall be charged on and paid out of the Consolidated Fund.

(4) The Commission referred to in subsection (1) of this section and subsection (1) of section 10 shall consist of—

- (a) the Speaker, as chairman;
- (b) the President of the Senate;
- (c) the person designated by the Prime Minister as Leader of Government business in the House of Representatives;
- (d) The person designated by the Leader of the Opposition as Leader of Opposition business in the House of Representatives;
- (e) the person designated by the Leader of the Opposition as Leader of Opposition business in the Senate; and
- (f) the Minister responsible for the public service.

9. The provisions of the First Schedule shall have effect with respect to the pension and other benefits to be paid to or in respect of a person who has held office as Political Ombudsman.

Pensions.
First
Schedule.

10.—(1) The Political Ombudsman may appoint and employ for the purposes of this Act, at such remuneration and on such terms and conditions as may be approved by the Commission, such officers and agents as may be considered necessary to assist him in the proper performance of his functions under this Act.

Appoint-
ment of
staff.

(2) The Governor-General may, subject to such conditions as he may impose, approve of the appointment to the staff of the Political Ombudsman, of any officer in the public service, provided that in relation to pension, gratuity, allowance and other rights as a public officer, such officer shall be deemed to be in the public service while so employed.

Oath of
secrecy.

11. Every person appointed to the staff of the Political Ombudsman shall, before he performs any function assigned to him under or by virtue of this Act, take and subscribe an oath to be administered by the Political Ombudsman, in the form set out in the Second Schedule.

Second
Schedule.

PART III. *Functions of Political Ombudsman*

Investigation.

12.—(1) Subject to this section, the Political Ombudsman shall investigate any action taken by a political party, its members or supporters, where he is of the opinion that such action—

- (a) constitutes or is likely to constitute a breach of any agreement, code or arrangement for the time being in force between or among political parties in Jamaica; or
- (b) is likely to prejudice good relations between the supporters of various political parties.

(2) The Political Ombudsman shall not be precluded from conducting an investigation in respect of any matter by reason only that it is open to the complainant to apply to a court for redress under section 25 of the Constitution.

(3) The fact that an action is commenced in any court in connection with a matter under investigation by the Political Ombudsman shall not preclude such investigation unless the court otherwise directs.

(4) The Political Ombudsman, after consultation with the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, may—

- (a) appoint a tribunal comprised of representatives of political parties to assist the Political Ombudsman in the investigation of complaints arising out of an action referred to in subsection (1); and
- (b) make regulations, subject to negative resolution, in relation to the constitution and operation of the tribunal, and otherwise in relation thereto.

(5) The fact that a tribunal is not appointed under subsection (4) shall not affect the validity of anything done by the Political Ombudsman in the exercise of powers conferred on the Political Ombudsman by subsection (1).

13.—(1) A complaint to the Political Ombudsman may be made by any person or body of persons, whether incorporated or not who claims to be affected by any such action as is mentioned in section 12 (1), but such complaint shall not be made by a local authority or a body constituted for the purposes of the public service or a local authority. Com-plainant.

(2) Where the complainant—

- (a) is a minor, the complaint may be made by his parent, guardian, next friend or person in *loco parentis*;
- (b) is unable to act for himself by reason of infirmity, or for any other cause or has died, the complaint may be made by his personal representative, or a member of his family, or any other suitable person.

(3) Every complaint to the Political Ombudsman shall be made in writing.

(4) Notwithstanding anything provided by or under any law where a complaint addressed to the Political Ombudsman is made by a person who is an inmate of a Government institution or is detained therein—

- (a) it shall be forwarded to the Political Ombudsman by the person for the time being in charge of the institution; and
- (b) if such complaint is contained in a sealed envelope, the envelope shall be forwarded unopened.

(5) Regulations made under section 24 may make provisions for ensuring confidentiality of communication between any such person as is mentioned in subsection (4) and the Political Ombudsman.

Investigation.

14.—(1) An investigation pursuant to section 12 (1) may be undertaken by the Political Ombudsman on his own initiative or on a complaint made to him pursuant to section 13.

(2) The Political Ombudsman may, in his absolute discretion, determine whether to undertake or continue an investigation and in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, may refuse to undertake or continue any investigation if he is of the opinion that—

- (a) the subject-matter of the complaint is trivial;
- (b) the complaint is frivolous or vexatious or not made in good faith;
- (c) the complainant has deferred for too long the making of his complaint to the Political Ombudsman;
- (d) the complainant does not have sufficient interest in the subject-matter of the complaint; or
- (e) having regard to all the circumstances of the case, no investigation or further investigation is necessary.

(3) Where the Political Ombudsman decides not to undertake or continue the investigation of a complaint, the Political Ombudsman shall inform the complainant in writing of his decision and give reasons therefor.

PART IV. *Processing Investigation*

Procedure.

15.—(1) Where the Political Ombudsman proposes to conduct any investigation under this Act, he shall give to the specified officers an opportunity to comment in writing on any allegations relating to such action; and for the purposes of this subsection “specified officers” means, in relation to an allegation concerning an action mentioned in section 12 (1)—

- (a) the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, and any other person holding, within a political party in Jamaica, such office as may be prescribed; and

(b) any officer of a political party who is alleged to have done or authorized the doing of any such action as aforesaid.

(2) The Political Ombudsman may adopt whatever procedure he considers appropriate to the circumstances of a particular case and, subject to the provisions of this Act, may obtain information from such persons and in such manner, and make such enquires as he thinks fit.

(3) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as requiring the Political Ombudsman to hold any hearing, and except as provided by subsections (1) and (5), no person shall be entitled as of right to comment on any allegations or to be heard by the Political Ombudsman.

(4) Regulations made under this Act may prescribe the procedure to be adopted at any hearing and such procedure may include provisions to ensure that any such communication as is mentioned in section 20 (5) is not disclosed at that hearing.

(5) If it appears to the Political Ombudsman during the course of an investigation that there are sufficient grounds for making a report or recommendation that may adversely affect any person, he shall give that person an opportunity to be heard and that person may, if he wishes, be represented at that hearing by an Attorney-at-law or any other person.

(6) Where, for the purposes of an investigation, the Political Ombudsman requires a person to attend before him, that person shall be entitled to be paid, according to the scale set out in the First Schedule of the Witnesses' Expenses Act, expenses incurred by him by reason of such attendance and by way of compensation for the trouble and loss of time suffered by him.

(7) After conducting an investigation under this Act, the Political Ombudsman shall inform the specified officers of the result of the investigation and if he is of the opinion that the action to which the complaint relates constitutes or is likely to constitute a breach as mentioned in section 12 (1) (a) or is likely to have the prejudicial effect mentioned in section 12 (1) (b), he shall inform the specified officers of the reason for that opinion and may, as he thinks fit, make recommendations for action to be taken by those officers within a specified time.

(8) Where the Political Ombudsman has made a recommendation under subsection (7) and within the time specified or a reasonable time thereafter, he is of the opinion that no adequate remedial action has been taken, he shall lay before Parliament, a special report on the case.

(9) The Political Ombudsman shall not, in any report under subsection (8), comment adversely on any person unless he has given that person an opportunity to be heard.

(10) Where the Political Ombudsman—

- (a) takes action under subsection (7), he shall inform the complainant of the action taken and of the recommendations (if any) which have been made to remedy the breach or to avoid the likely prejudicial effect of the action to which the complaint relates; or
- (b) is of the opinion that the action does not constitute or is not likely to constitute a breach as mentioned in section 12 (1) (a) nor is likely to have the prejudicial effect mentioned in section 12 (1) (b), he shall inform the complainant of that opinion and the reasons therefor,

and may make such comments in relation to the case as he thinks fit.

(11) On the conclusion of an investigation, the Political Ombudsman may make to the political party concerned such recommendations as he thinks fit and in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, may recommend any or all of the following—

- (a) that the action which was the subject-matter of the complaint be reviewed;
- (b) that compensation be made to the complainant.

16.—(1) Subject to subsection (5), the Political Ombudsman may at any time require any officer, member or supporter of a political party or any person who, in his opinion, is able to give any assistance in relation to the investigation of any matter, to furnish such information and produce any document or thing in connection with such matter, which may be in the possession or under the control of that officer, member, supporter or person. Evidence.

(2) Subject as aforesaid, the Political Ombudsman may summon before him and examine on oath—

- (a) any complainant; or
- (b) any officer, member or supporter of a political party or any other person who, in the opinion of the Political Ombudsman, is able to furnish information relating to the investigation,

and such examination shall be deemed to be a judicial proceeding within the meaning of section 4 of the Perjury Act.

(3) For the purposes of an investigation under this Act, the Political Ombudsman shall have the same powers as a Judge of the Supreme Court in respect of the attendance and examination of witnesses and the production of documents.

(4) Subject to the provisions of this Act, any obligation to maintain secrecy or any restriction on the disclosure of information or the production of any document or paper or thing imposed on any person by any other law (including a rule of law) shall not apply in relation to the disclosure of information or the production of any document or thing by that person to the Political Ombudsman for the purpose of an investigation; and accordingly, no person shall be liable to prosecution for an offence under any other law aforesaid, by reason only of his compliance with a requirement of the Political Ombudsman under this Act.

(5) No person shall for the purpose of an investigation, be compelled to give evidence or produce any document or thing which he could not be compelled to give or produce in proceedings in any court of law.

Privilege.

17.—(1) Except in the case of proceedings for an offence under section 22 (c), no proceedings whatsoever shall lie against the Political Ombudsman or any person concerned with the administration of this Act for anything he may do or report or say in the performance of his functions under this Act.

(2) Anything said or any information supplied or any document or thing produced by any person for the purpose or in the course of, any enquiry by or proceedings before the Political Ombudsman under this Act, shall be absolutely privileged in the same manner as if the enquiry or proceedings were proceedings in a court of law.

(3) For the purposes of the Defamation Act, any report made by the Political Ombudsman under this Act and any fair and accurate report thereon shall be deemed to be privileged.

PART V. *General*

18.—(1) The Political Ombudsman and every person concerned with the administration of this Act shall regard as secret and confidential all documents, information and things disclosed to them in the execution of any of the provisions of this Act, except that no disclosure—

Secrecy of
information.

- (a) made by the Political Ombudsman or any person aforesaid in proceedings for an offence under section 22 of this Act or under the Perjury Act, by virtue of section 16 (2) of this Act;
- (b) which the Political Ombudsman thinks it necessary to make in the discharge of his functions and for the purpose of executing the provisions of section 15 and section 20, subject as provided in subsection (5) thereof,

shall be deemed inconsistent with any duty imposed by this subsection.

(2) Neither the Political Ombudsman nor any such person aforesaid shall be called upon to give evidence in respect of, or produce, any document, information or thing, aforesaid in any proceedings other than proceedings mentioned in subsection (1).

19.—(1) The accounts and financial transactions of the office of the Political Ombudsman shall be audited annually by the Auditor-General and a statement of accounts so audited shall form part of the annual report mentioned in section 20.

Accounts,
etc.

(2) The Political Ombudsman shall, at such time within each year as the Minister may direct—

- (a) submit to the Minister a statement of the accounts of the Political Ombudsman audited in accordance with the provisions of subsection (1);

- (b) submit to the Minister for approval the estimates of revenue and expenditure for the financial year commencing on the 1st day of April next following.

(3) In this section “Minister” means the Minister responsible for finance.

Reports.

20.—(1) The Political Ombudsman may at any time be required by Parliament to submit thereto a report in respect of any matter under investigation by him.

(2) The Political Ombudsman shall submit to Parliament an annual report relating generally to the execution of his functions and may at any time submit a report relating to any particular case or cases investigated by him which, in his opinion, require the special attention of Parliament.

(3) Reports under this section shall be submitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate who shall, as soon as possible, have them laid on the Table of the respective Houses.

(4) The Political Ombudsman may, in the public interest, from time to time publish in such manner as he thinks fit, reports relating to such matters as are mentioned in subsection (2) and any case which is the subject of a special report under section 15 (8) and (11), provided that no such reports shall be published until after it has been laid pursuant to subsection (3).

(5) The Political Ombudsman shall not, in any report furnished under this section, disclose or act upon any communication—

- (a) between a medical practitioner and his patient in their professional relationship; or
- (b) between a minister of religion and any person consulting him in his capacity as such; or

- (c) between an Attorney-at-law and his client in their professional relationship,

where such communication came to the Political Ombudsman's knowledge during the course of an investigation under this Act.

21.—(1) Where the Political Ombudsman decides to Register. investigate a complaint, he shall cause to be recorded in a register kept for the purpose—

- (a) the name of the complainant;
- (b) the subject-matter of the complaint and the date thereof; and
- (c) on the conclusion of the investigation, the Political Ombudsman's decision on the complaint.

(2) Any person may, on payment of such fees as may be prescribed, inspect, during the hours and on the days of business of the Political Ombudsman, any register kept pursuant to this section.

22. Every person who—

Offences.

- (a) wilfully makes any false statement to or misleads or attempts to mislead the Political Ombudsman or any other person in the execution of his functions under this Act; or
- (b) without lawful justification or excuse—
 - (i) obstructs, hinders or resists the Political Ombudsman or any other person in the execution of his functions under this Act; or
 - (ii) fails to comply with any lawful requirement of the Political Ombudsman or any other person under this Act; or
 - (iii) contravenes the provisions of section 13(4);

- (c) in a manner inconsistent with his duty under section 18 (1), deals with documents, information or things mentioned in that subsection,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction before a Resident Magistrate to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars or to imprisonment not exceeding six months, or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Unaffected remedies.

23. Nothing in this Act shall be construed as limiting or affecting any remedy or right of appeal, objection or procedure given to any person by any other provision of law.

Regulations.
24/2017
3rd. Sch.

24.—(1) Subject to subsection (2), the Political Ombudsman may make regulations to provide for any matter which is or may be prescribed by this Act and for any other matter in respect of which it may be necessary or desirable to make regulations for the better carrying into effect of the provisions of this Act.

24/2017
3rd. Sch.

(2) The Minister responsible for finance may make regulations in relation to pensions and such Regulations shall be subject to affirmative resolution.

Provisions applicable where no Leader of the Opposition.

25. Where pursuant to any provision of this Act, the Governor-General is required to act after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition and—

- (a) there is no person holding office of Leader of the Opposition; or
- (b) the holder of that office is unwilling, or by reason of his illness or absence from Jamaica, unable to perform his functions in that regard,

the Governor-General shall act as if the reference in such provision to the Leader of the Opposition were a reference to such person as the Governor-General, in his discretion, considers appropriate.

FIRST SCHEDULE

(Section 9)

Pensions and Gratuities

1. In this Schedule—

“Fund” means the Pension Fund established under the Pensions (Public Service) Act;

Interpretation.
24/2017
3rd. Sch.

“pensionable emoluments” has the meaning assigned to it in the Pensions (Public Service) Act;

1A. With effect from such date as may be determined by the Minister by Order published in the *Gazette* as a contribution towards pension, gratuity or other allowances provided for in this Schedule there shall be deducted from the salary of the Political Ombudsman each month, an amount to be prescribed by the Minister by Order.

Contribution to pensions, etc.
24/2017
3rd. Sch.

2.—(1) Where a person holding the office of Political Ombudsman retires in pensionable circumstances he shall, subject to the provisions of this Schedule, be paid pension and gratuity in accordance with this Act in lieu of any pension, allowance, or gratuity for which he may have been eligible or which he may have been granted pursuant to the Pensions Act or the Judiciary Act.

Entitlement.

(2) A person entitled to pension or gratuity pursuant to sub-paragraph (1) or who is eligible for a grant of pension or gratuity pursuant to sub-paragraph (5) may, by memorandum in writing to the Governor-General, elect to forego his entitlement under this Act and be granted instead—

- (a) if he is, otherwise than under this Schedule, eligible for pension pursuant to section 5 of the Judiciary Act, such award as would be payable under that Act if the office of Political Ombudsman were an office to which that Act applied; or
- (b) in any other case, such award under the Pensions Act as would be payable under that Act if the office of Political Ombudsman were a pensionable office under that Act.

(3) For the purposes of this paragraph and paragraph 4, a person retires in pensionable circumstances if he retires—

- (a) on or after the expiration of seven years from the date of his appointment to the office of Political Ombudsman; or
- (b) by reason of ill health prior to such expiration; or
- (c) on his attaining the age at which he is required by or under the provisions of section 5 to vacate office.

(4) For the purposes of this Act, a person retires from the office of Political Ombudsman on the ground of ill health if—

- (a) he retires on medical evidence, to the satisfaction of the Governor-General, that he is incapable by reason of any infirmity of mind or body of discharging the duties of his office and that such infirmity is likely to be permanent; or
- (b) he is removed from office, in accordance with section 5(6), for inability arising from infirmity of mind or body, to perform the functions of his office.

(5) A person who, pursuant to section 5 (6), is removed from the office of Political Ombudsman for misbehaviour or for any cause other than inability arising from infirmity of mind or body or who retired otherwise than in pensionable circumstances may, subject to sub-paragraph (2), be granted by the Governor-General, in lieu of any pension, allowance or gratuity for which he may have been eligible pursuant to the Pensions Act or the Judiciary Act, such pension and gratuity as the Governor-General thinks fit not exceeding the pension and gratuity to which he would have been entitled had he retired in pensionable circumstances from such office and, for the purposes of sub-paragraph (6), the date of such removal from office or retirement shall be deemed to be the date of retirement in pensionable circumstances.

(6) Pension payable in accordance with this paragraph shall—

- (a) be payable in the manner provided in section 5(1) of the Pensions (Public Service) Act; and
- (b) be paid monthly in arrears with effect, subject to paragraph 4, from the date of retirement in pensionable circumstances and shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, continue to be paid during the lifetime of the person entitled thereto.

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3rd. Sch.

Rate of
pension.

3. The rate of pension payable pursuant to paragraph 2 to any person shall be an annual rate equivalent to the sum of one-half of his pensionable emoluments at the date of retirement and one-three hundred and sixtieth of such pensionable emoluments in respect of each month of service as the Political Ombudsman.

Special
provision on
retirement
before
attaining
age 70.
24/2017
3rd Sch.

4. Where in accordance with paragraph 2(3) a person retires in pensionable circumstances before he has attained the age of seventy years—

- (a) the date with effect from which any pension due to him under this Act shall be payable shall be the date on which he attains that age, but, if he elects pursuant to paragraph 5 to take a reduced pension and commuted pension gratuity, nothing in this paragraph shall prevent payment of the commuted pension gratuity at any time prior to the attainment of that age; and

- (b) if he dies before attaining that age, and he has not made an election to receive a reduced pension and commuted pension gratuity as aforesaid, he shall for the purposes of paragraph 6 be deemed to have died while holding office of Political Ombudsman.

5.—(1) Any person to whom a pension (in this paragraph referred to as “the original pension”) is payable pursuant to paragraph 2 may, at his option exercisable at his retirement in pensionable circumstances or within such period prior or subsequent to his retirement as the Governor-General may allow, be paid, in lieu of the original pension, a reduced pension at the rate of three-fourths of the annual rate of the original pension together with a gratuity (in this Act referred to as a “commuted pension gratuity”) equal to twelve and one-half times one-quarter of the annual rate of the original pension. Reduced pension and gratuity.

(2) The option referred to in sub-paragraph (1) shall be irrevocable unless the Governor-General, on such terms as he considers reasonable otherwise permits.

6.—(1) Where a person dies while holding the office of Political Ombudsman, there shall be paid to his legal personal representative, a gratuity of an amount equivalent to— Gratuity on death.

- (a) one year’s pensionable emoluments; or
- (b) the commuted pension gratuity for which the person aforesaid had a right to opt pursuant to paragraph 5 on the assumption that he retired in pensionable circumstances at the date of his death,

whichever is the greater.

(2) Where a person dies while in receipt of a pension pursuant to paragraph 2, there shall be paid to his legal personal representative a gratuity of an amount equivalent to one year’s pensionable emoluments of that person at the date of his retirement or removal from office, from which gratuity shall be deducted any pension or gratuity already paid to that person under this Act or under the Pensions Act or under the Judiciary Act.

7. Where a person holding the office of Political Ombudsman dies as a result of injuries received— Pensions to dependants where injuries received.

- (a) in the actual discharge of his duties;

- (b) in circumstances in which the injury is not wholly or mainly due to or seriously aggravated by his own serious and culpable negligence or misconduct; and
- (c) on account of circumstances specifically attributable to the nature of his duty,

while in that office, it shall be lawful for the Governor-General to grant to the deceased officer's widow, children, parents or other dependants such award as would have been made under the Pensions Act if the office of Political Ombudsman were a pensionable office for the purposes of that Act.

Pensions, etc.,
not assignable.

8. A pension or gratuity payable under this Act shall not be assignable or transferable except for the purpose of satisfying—

- (a) a debt due to the Government;
- (b) an order of any court for the payment of periodical sums of money towards the maintenance of the wife, or former wife or minor children, of the person to whom the pension or gratuity is payable,

and shall not be liable to be attached, sequestered or levied upon, for or in respect of any debt due or claim whatever except a debt due to the Government.

Family
Benefits
pensions.
24/2017
3rd. Sch.

9.—(1) [*Deleted by Act 24 of 2017, 3rd. Sch.*]

(2) Where a person dies while holding the office of Political Ombudsman or while entitled to a pension under paragraph 2, there shall be paid to his widow a pension at an annual rate equivalent to one-fifth of the pensionable emoluments of the person aforesaid at the date of his death or, if at that date he was entitled to receive a pension under paragraph 2, at the date of his retirement or, as the case may be, removal from office in accordance with this Act.

(3) Pension payable to a widow pursuant to sub-paragraph (2) shall—

24/2017
3rd. Sch.

- (a) payable in the manner provided under section 5(1) of the Pensions (Public Service) Act; and
- (b) be paid monthly in arrears with effect from the date of her husband's death and shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, continue to be paid during her lifetime.

(4) [*Deleted by Act 24 of 2017, 3rd. Sch.*]

(5) In paragraph 7 and sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) of this paragraph, references to a widow shall, in the case of a female appointed Political Ombudsman, be deemed to include references to a widower and cognate expressions shall be construed accordingly and similarly, references to a husband shall be deemed to include references to a wife.

10. Where a person retires without a minimum of seven years service, he shall be granted in respect of his service, the commuted pension gratuity for which the person had a right to opt pursuant to paragraph 5 if he had retired in pensionable circumstances.

Gratuities
where
length of
service does
not qualify
for pension.
24/2017
3rd Sch.

POLITICAL OMBUDSMAN (INTERIM)**SECOND SCHEDULE****(Section 11)*****Oath to be taken by persons appointed to assist the Political Ombudsman***

I do swear that I will faithfully perform any functions assigned to me under the Political Ombudsman Act, and I will not, on any account, at any time whatsoever, except in so far as provisions of the Act authorize, directly or indirectly, reveal any information or the nature or contents of any documents communicated to me in the performance of any functions assigned to me by virtue of the Act.

So help me God.