

BILL NO. 14 OF 2017

A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE FIJI SERVICEMEN'S AFTER-CARE FUND ACT
1944

ENACTED by the Parliament of the Republic of Fiji—

Short title and commencement

1.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Fiji Servicemen's After-care Fund (Amendment) Act 2017.

(2) This Act comes into force on 1 August 2017.

Section 2 amended

2. Section 2 of the Fiji Servicemen's After-care Fund Act 1944 is amended by deleting the definition of "Serviceperson" and substituting the following—

““Serviceperson” means a member of the disciplined force, as defined in section 163(1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji, who has served in an active service operation;”.

FIJI SERVICEMEN'S AFTER-CARE FUND (AMENDMENT) BILL 2017

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Bill and is intended only to indicate its general effect)

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Fiji Servicemen's After-care Fund Act 1944 ('**Act**') came into force on 2 June 1944.
- 1.2 The Act was enacted in 1944 to provide for the establishment and administration of a Fiji Servicemen's After-care Fund ('**Fund**').
- 1.3 The Fund is used for, *inter alia*, the aid and care of Servicepersons who have served in any active service operation and for the aid and care of the wives, widows, children and other dependants of Servicepersons who have served in any active service operation.
- 1.4 The Fiji Servicemen's After-care Fund (Amendment) Bill 2017 ('**Bill**') seeks to amend the Act to expand the scope of the definition of "Serviceperson" to eliminate the existing discrimination against members of the Fiji Police Force and the Fiji Corrections Service who have served in active service operations without the Republic of Fiji Military Forces.
- 1.5 The proposed amendment in the Bill will ensure that members of the Fiji Police Force and the Fiji Corrections Service who have served in active service operations, regardless of whether these members served with the Republic of Fiji Military Forces, are considered as Servicepersons for the purposes of the Act.

2.0 CLAUSES

- 2.1 Clause 1 of the Bill provides for the short title and commencement provision. If passed by Parliament, the amending legislation will come into force in the new financial year on 1 August 2017.

2.2 Clause 2 of the Bill deletes the current definition of “Serviceperson” in section 2 of the Act and substitutes a new definition that includes members of the Fiji Police Force and the Fiji Corrections Service who have served in an active service operation.

3.0 MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY

3.1 The Act comes under the responsibility of the Minister responsible for defence and national security.

A. SAYED-KHAIYUM
Attorney-General