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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

No. 17
Series of 2015

SUBJECT : **AMENDMENT TO THE PROVISIONS IN THE GUIDELINES (Administrative Order No. 3 series of 2011, Administrative Order No. 4 series of 2012 and Memorandum Circular No. 25 series of 2014) ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL PENSION FOR INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZENS**

RATIONALE

The Social Pension for indigent senior citizens is being implemented in the country since year 2011. Evidence from program implementers found that social pensions, aside from reducing the scope and severity of income-poverty, it can benefit individuals, families, and wider society.

Further, the indigent senior citizens are able to gain access to health care, purchase of medicines and personal needs as well as augment the daily household expenditures.

The social pension is eventually enhancing the status and social standing of older people among families and communities. Social pensions do not just boost psychological well-being but also their socio-economic condition.

In essence, social pension becomes a source of income of the family, though meager but can able to support the daily basic needs of older people. Since 2011 up to 2nd semester of 2015, the social pension pay-out schedule is every 3rd month of the quarter. Per feedback of the beneficiaries, the social pension they received were utilized for their food, medicines, other basic needs of the family members and payment for their credits ("utang") from their friends, neighbour or store which it is being guaranteed to be paid once they received the social pension. Hence, it becomes a reimbursement of their previous expenses. In this light, it is further necessary to provide the stipend at the start of the quarter to utilize the money for the succeeding days for their basic needs and to spend the amount for their present-day needs. Hence, this amendment to the guidelines aims to provide the monthly stipend to be given to the beneficiary on the 1st month of the quarter which can be utilized by the beneficiary in a timely manner.

AMENDMENTS

Item II, Paragraph c, Sub-paragraph 1 of AO 2011-003 is hereby amended as follows:

Stipends shall be released to senior citizen-beneficiaries in the first month of every quarter i.e., January, April, July and October.

Item VI, Paragraph a, second & third paragraph of AO 2012-004 is hereby amended as follows:

In case of the untimely demise of the beneficiary during the quarter, the following shall be observed:

Death of the beneficiary after the pay-out - *The beneficiary is deemed entitled for the two (2) months advance release of stipend since the stipend is given on the 1st month of*

the quarter to be utilized by the beneficiary for his/ her current needs and not as reimbursement for his/ her previous expenditures. Thus, in case the beneficiary died within the quarter after the pay-out, no refund shall be made.

Death of the beneficiary before the pay-out - In case the beneficiary died during the 1st month of the quarter before the scheduled pay-out, the full amount of the unclaimed stipend shall be given to the replacement beneficiary.

The replacement of a beneficiary who dies within the quarter shall take effect in the succeeding quarter.

The release of stipend for the replacement beneficiary shall take effect on the succeeding quarter which includes the unclaimed stipend for the previous quarter of the deceased beneficiary and the initial stipend for the current quarter of the replacement beneficiary.

Item V, Paragraph B, Sub-paragraph 6 of MC 2014-25 is hereby amended as follows:

The service provider shall deliver the stipend in the amount of phP1,500 to the residence/ given address of the beneficiary in the first month of every quarter, i.e., January, April, July, October.

Item V, Paragraph A, number 6 of MC 2014-25 is hereby amended as follows:

The LGU thru City/ Municipal Disbursing Officer shall submit the liquidation reports on the 2nd month of every quarter to include the **List of Delisted Beneficiaries and Replacements**.

Item V, Paragraph B, sub-paragraph 10 of MC 2014-25 is hereby amended as follows:

The service provider shall submit the liquidation reports on or before 15th day of the 2nd month of every quarter.

Item VII, Paragraph C, sub-paragraph 1.2.8 of MC 2014-25 is hereby amended as follows:

Receive the liquidation reports from service provider on or before 15th day of the 2nd month of every quarter.

Item VII, Paragraph E, sub-paragraph 8 of MC 2014-25 is hereby amended as follows:

Submit the liquidation reports/ documents and refund the balance to DSWD Field Office on or before 15th day of the 2nd month of every quarter.

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately. All other provisions of AO 2011-03, AO 2012-04, and MC 2014-25 not otherwise affected by the foregoing shall remain in full force and effect.

Issued in Quezon City this 15th day of August 2015.


CORAZON JULIANO-SOLIMAN
Secretary