



REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE ARMED FORCES

POLICY ON MARRIAGE

By Command of the
Defence Policy Committee

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
TOWER HILL
FREETOWN

REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE ARMED FORCES
WELFARE ASSISTANCE ON MARRIAGE

BACKGROUND

1. Individuals who have been granted permission by their Commanding Officer to get married may be entitled to assistance with the marriage arrangements.

PURPOSE

2. The purpose of this instruction is to provide details of the assistance that may be provided to officers and soldiers on the occasion of their marriage.

ELIGIBILITY

3. The eligibility criteria for the provision of assistance are as follows:

- a. The marriage must have been approved in writing by the individual's commanding officer.
- b. An individual will only receive assistance on the occasion of his first marriage. Additional or subsequent marriages will not normally attract any entitlement. Exceptional cases e.g. A second marriage as a result of the death of a first spouse, may be submitted through the chain of command to the MOD for review.
- c. An officer must have completed a minimum of 6 full years service and a soldier a minimum of 2 full years service. [Note: Same criteria as that used to determine entitlement for allocation of a MQ]

ENTITLEMENT

4. An individual who fulfils the eligibility criteria detailed above will be entitled to the following assistance:

- a. Transport Allowance. A transport allowance of Le 100,000 will be paid to assist with the cost of obtaining transport for the wedding. The allowance will be paid to the individual by the AFPC with his monthly salary. Details of the payment will be recorded on his pay record to prevent a further payment being made.
- c. Uniforms. Subject to availability, ceremonial uniforms will be provided for the groom and best man. The cost of any necessary alterations to the uniforms is to be met by the individual concerned.
- d. Mess Facilities. The respective mess/canteen may be used for the wedding reception. The request for this facility is to be made direct to the PMC of the mess concerned and all associated labour and food costs are to be met by the individual.
- e. RSLAF Regimental Band. The RSLAF Regimental Band may be hired at no cost to the individual other than the repayment of any expenses incurred by the band in completing the engagement. Any request for the hiring of the RSLAF Regimental Band should be made to J1 Branch, HQ JSC. [The aim is to ensure that the engagement is completed at no cost to the band.]
- f. Married Quarter (MQ). The individual may apply for a MQ in accordance with the Married Quarters Policy. Occupation of a MQ will be subject to availability and the vacation of any single accommodation at the same duty station.
- g. Special Leave. Two weeks special leave will be granted. This may be taken either immediately before or after the wedding or a combination of both.

APPLICATION

5. All requests for assistance must be approved by the Commanding Officer of the individual concerned. All applications must be forwarded to SO1 J1, HQ JSC at least 3 months before the date of marriage. Failure to meet this deadline may result in assistance with any or all of the items at para 4 above being denied.