

GOVT TO DELETE OVER 2,000 PENSIONERS

BY MARTIN KITUBI

A total of 2,709 pensioners from different ministries and government institutions who have not been verified will be deleted from the payroll, according to the Government.

According to pension lists from different ministries, which *Sunday Vision* has seen, 1,319 are Police officers, 693 teachers and 697 health workers.

The list of unverified pensioners has also been posted at their respective ministries and institutions for clarification.

Unverified pensioners have been given a deadline of not later than August to finalise submission of the account and bio-data details and get verified and validated at the Ministry of Public Service.

The deadline to unverified pensioners by the education ministry elapsed on July 28. The Uganda Police has given its pensioners up to August 7 to validate their details.

Speaking to *Sunday Vision* on Friday at the health ministry headquarters in Wandegaya, Vivian Sserwanja, the ministry's public relations officer, urged health unverified pensioners to act now or they will be deleted from the payroll.



Some pensioners appear before the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament on pension scam investigations in 2015

"We want to help our pensioners get verified, but many have not come for the exercise. The public service ministry sent us the lists for verification," she said.

However, Sserwanja explained that pensioners who were verified by the public service ministry can ignore the communication since their bio-data is already captured.

Mike Mabonga, the officer in charge of pension at the defence ministry, told *Sunday Vision* that there are many veterans who have not been verified.

However, he declined

to give the exact figure of the veterans who are not validated, saying: "We are still receiving applications from pensioners and we have told them to go to the public service ministry for verification."

A total of 49,861 pensioners were captured in the just concluded validation and verification exercise, but only 24,000 pensioners had matching information on both the national ID and the employment documents.

The public service ministry subjected over 25,000 pensioners to thumbprint and further verification by

National Identification and Registration Authority.

The 25,000 pensioners had varying names, age, thumbprints on both their academic documents and national identification cards.

In the verification exercise this year, there have been varying numbers of pensioners captured from 71,261 to 71,232, 71,827 and 49,861 in March, April, May and June respectively.

Victor Bua Leku, the assistant commissioner in charge of pension at the public service ministry, attributed the variations of pensioners' numbers to

deaths and retirement of more workers, updating of the pension payroll.

Last year, the public service ministry was allocated sh930m for the pensioners' registration exercise, part of which was for procurement of 12 high-tech printers for instant issuance of validation cards for pensioners using Face Technology.

PUBLIC SERVICE RESPONDS

Leku urged unverified pensioners to go the ministry for final verification.

"We have established a team at the ministry headquarters

BACKGROUND

Last year, the Ministry of Public Service implemented 11 new reforms in pension management, including pensioners' census, computerising of the processing of pension, and transition from cash payment to cheques.

Other reforms include implementation of the Integrated Personnel Payroll System (IPPS), transfer of pension records from legacy systems to IPPS, decentralised management of pension and gratuity to the respective votes of retirements.

According to the ministry, by December 2016, the numbers of active pensioners on payroll were about 70,085.

and they will be responsible for handling all unverified pensioners. We call upon those who were not validated to turn up," Leku said.

He noted that doors will be open for pensioners to be validated at the public service ministry headquarters in Wandegaya, Kampala.