
Nru. 87

21. 7. 89

MALTA

KAMRA TAD-DEPUTATI

ABBOZZ ta' Ligi mressaq mill-Onorevoli Eddie Fenech Adami, M.P., Prim Ministru, u moqri għall-Ewwel darba fis-Seduta tat-22 ta' Mejju, 1989.

ATT biex jemenda l-Att ta' l-1968 dwar it-Tarzna ta' Malta.

P. MUSCAT TERRIBILE
Skriivan tal-Kamra tad-Deputati

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A BILL introduced by the Honourable Eddie Fenech Adami, M.P., Prime Minister, and read the First time at the Sitting of the 22nd May, 1989.

AN ACT to amend the Malta Dockyard Act, 1968.

P. MUSCAT TERRIBILE
Clerk to the House of Representatives

ABBOZZ TA' LIĠI

msejjah

ATT biex jemenda l-Att ta' l-1968 dwar it-Tarzna ta' Malta

IL-PRESIDENT, bil-parir u l-kunsens tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, imlaqqgħa f'dan il-Parlament, u bl-awtorità ta' l-istess, hareġ b'liġi dan li ġej:—

1. Dan l-Att jista' jissejjah l-Att ta' l-1989 li jemenda l-Att dwar it-Tarzna ta' Malta, u għandu jinqara' u jiftiehem haġa waħda ma' l-Att ta' l-1968 dwar it-Tarzna ta' Malta, hawnhekk aktar 'il quddiem imsejjah "l-Att prinċipali".

Titolu
fil-qosor.
Att Nru. XV
ta' l-1968

2. L-artikolu 5 ta' l-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

Emenda ta'
l-artikolu 5
ta' l-Att
prinċipali.

(a) minflok is-subartikolu (2) tiegħu għandu jidhol dan li ġej:

“(2) Il-Kunsill ikun magħmul minn disa' membri (hawnhekk iżjed 'il quddiem ukoll imsejha l-membri eletti) eletti mill-impjegati tal-korporazzjoni bil-mod provdut b'dan l-Att. Wiehed mill-membri jkun elett *Chairman* mill-membri tal-Kunsill fl-ewwel seduta li ssir wara l-elezzjoni tagħhom.”;

(b) minflok is-subartikolu (6) tiegħu għandu jidhol dan li ġej:

“(6) (a) Meta jkun hemm vakanza fost il-membri tal-Kunsill, din għandha timtela mill-impjegati tal-Korporazzjoni billi ssir elezzjoni għal dan il-għan.

(b) Meta l-kariga ta' *chairman* tal-Kunsill tkun vakanti, il-membri tal-Kunsill għandhom jgħaddu biex jeleġġu wiehed mill-membri tagħhom bħala *Chairman* fl-ewwel seduta li ssir wara li l-kariga ssir vakanti.”; u

(ċ) fis-subartikolu (12) tiegħu, minflok il-kliem "fl-Iskeda li tinsab ma' dan l-Att" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "fl-Ewwel Skeda li tinsab ma' dan l-Att".

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 9 ta' l-Att prinċipali.

3. Minflok il-proviso li hemm fl-artikolu 9 ta' l-Att prinċipali, għandu jidhol dan li ġej:

"Izda l-Gvern ma jistax jiggarantixxi xi passiv tal-korporazzjoni iktar mill-ammont totali ta' tliet miljun u nofs liri Maltin jew dak l-ammont l-iehor li l-Kamra tad-Deputati tista' b'riżoluzzjoni tistabilixxi."

Emenda ta' l-artikolu 10 ta' l-Att prinċipali.

4. L-artikolu 10 ta' l-Att prinċipali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

(a) fis-subartikolu (1) tiegħu minflok il-kliem "kif il-Kunsill, bil-ftehim tal-Ministru responsabbli għall-finanzi, jidhirlu xieraq fiċ-ċirkostanzi" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "kif il-Ministru responsabbli għall-finanzi jista' jistabilixxi li hu xieraq fiċ-ċirkostanzi"; u

(b) fis-subartikolu (2) tiegħu minflok il-kliem "il-korporazzjoni tista' tipoteka jew torbot" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "il-korporazzjoni tista', bi ftehim mal-Ministru responsabbli għall-finanzi, tipoteka jew torbot".

Sostituzzjoni ta' l-artikolu 12 ta' l-Att prinċipali.

5. Minflok l-artikolu 12 ta' l-Att prinċipali, għandu jidhol dan li ġej:

"Applikazzjoni ta' dhul żejjed tal-korporazzjoni.

12. Kull profitt tal-korporazzjoni għal kull sena finanzjarja wara li jiġu addebitati provvedimenti dwar taxxa u l-obbligi tagħha taht l-artikoli 10 u 11 ta' dan l-Att għandu jintuza għal dawk l-ghanijiet li l-Kunsill jista' jistabbilixxi:

Izda —

(a) mhux anqas minn 20% għandhom jiġu akkreditati għall-fond ta' riżerva;

(b) ebda parti mill-bilanċi li jifdal ma għandha tintuza xort'ohra hlief għall-finijiet tal-korporazzjoni jew, safejn hu permess b'dan l-Att, għall-benefiċċju ta' l-impjegati tal-korporazzjoni; u

(ċ) is-setgħa tal-Kunsill taht dan l-artikolu tkun sugġetta għal dawk id-direttivi dwar l-użu ta' kull eċċess bħal dak kif il-Prim Ministru jista' jagħti lill-Kunsill."

Zieda ta' l-artikolu 16A ġdid ma' l-Att prinċipali.

6. Minnufih wara l-artikolu 16 ta' l-Att prinċipali, għandu jidher dan l-artikolu li ġej:

"Skema għal min jirtira kmieni.

16A. (1) Qiegħed b'dan jitwaqqaf għall-impjegati tal-korporazzjoni skema li tkun magħrufa bħala l-Iskema għal Min Jirtira Kmieni li permezz tagħha l-haddiema tal-korporazzjoni ta' bejn l-etajiet ta' 56 u 61 sena, jew dawk

l-etajiet l-oħra li l-Prim Ministru jista' bi ftehim mal-Kunsill skond is-subartikolu (5) ta' dan l-artikolu jippreskrivi, u dawk il-haddiema ta' età iżgħar li jkunu qed iġarrbu xi mard jew korriment, jingħataw pensjoni hekk kif huma jirtiraw kmieni skond il-ftehim milhuq bejn il-Gvern u l-Kunsill tal-Korporazzjoni fis-16 ta' Mejju, 1989.

(2) L-Iskema għal Min Jirtira Kmieni tkun volontarja. L-eligibiltà għal pensjoni taht l-Iskema tkun skond ir-Regoli dwar l-Iskema għal Min Jirtira Kmieni (hawn iżjed 'il quddiem imsejha r-Regoli) li jinsabu fit-Tieni Skeda li tinsab ma' dan l-Att.

(3) L-Iskema titmexxa minn Kumitat mahtur skond ir-Regoli, u l-Kumitat ikun responsabbli, kif sugġett għar-regoli msemmijin, għat-thaddim sew ta' l-Iskema.

(4) L-impjegati tal-korporazzjoni jistgħu sal-31 ta' Diċembru, 1990, jew dik id-data li tiġi wara li l-Prim Ministru bi ftehim mal-Kunsill jista' skond is-subartikolu (5) ta' dan l-artikolu jippreskrivi, japplikaw sabiex jibbenefikaw mill-Iskema.

(5) Il-Prim Ministru jista' jagħmel regola-
menti:

(a) li jippreskrivu dak kollu li jista' jiġi preskritt skond xi wiehed mis-subartikoli ta' qabel dan ta' dan l-artikolu;

(b) li jagħmlu dawk l-emendi fir-Regoli li jistgħu ikunu mehtieġa sabiex jagħtu effett shih lill-ftehim imsemmi fis-subartikolu (1) ta' dan l-artikolu, jew f'kull ftehim ieħor li jsir bejn il-Gvern u l-Kunsill dwar l-Iskema;

(c) generalment sabiex jagħti effett aħjar lid-dispożizzjonijiet ta' dan l-artikolu u lill-ftehim imsemmi fis-subartikolu (1) ta' dan l-artikolu."

7. (1) L-Iskeda li tinsab ma' l-Att prinċipali għandha tiġi enumerata mill-ġdid bħala l-Ewwel Skeda tiegħu;

Zieda ta'
Skeda ġdida
ma' l-Att
prinċipali.

(2) Minnufih wara l-Ewwel Skeda li tinsab ma' l-Att prinċipali kif enumerata mill-ġdid għandha tidhol din it-Tieni Skeda li ġejja:

"It-Tieni Skeda

(Artikolu 16A)

REGOLI TAT-TARZNA TA' MALTA DWAR L-ISKEMA
GHAL MIN JIRTIRA KMIENI

- Kumitat. 1. It-tmexxija ta' l-iskema ghandha tkun ir-responsabbiltà ta' Kumitat mahtur mill-Prim Ministru u pubblikat fil-Gazzetta.
- Kompożizzjoni tal-Kumitat. 2. Il-Kumitat ikun magħmul minn erba' membri, wiehed mill-Ministeru tal-Finanzi, wiehed mill-Ministeru għall-Politika Soċjali, wiehed mill-Kunsill tat-Tarzna ta' Malta u wiehed mill-*Management* tat-Tarzna ta' Malta. Id-deċiżjonijiet kollha tal-Kumitat għandhom ikunu unanimi.
- Funzjonijiet u Setgħat tal-Kumitat. 3. (i) Il-Kumitat jirregola l-proċeduri tiegħu.
- (ii) Meta tiġi kontestata xi talba sabiex wiehed jirtira kmieni sew mill-*Management* jew minn min ikun għamel it-talba, kull waħda mill-partijiet li jkunu qegħdin jikkontestaw ikollhom id-dritt ta' appell li jsir quddiem il-Kumitat u għal dan il-ghan il-Kumitat jaġixxi bhala Tribunal Amministrattiv u f'din il-kapaċità jkollu s-setgħa li jilqa' jew jiċhad talba sabiex wiehed jirtira kmieni u d-deċiżjoni tiegħu għandha titqies bhala waħda finali.
- (iii) Il-Kumitat ikun jista' jikseb kull informazzjoni rilevanti li jkollu l-*Management* dwar kull applikant li jkun jista' jiġi kkunsidrat bhala eliġibbli għall-iskema irrispettivament jekk dik l-eliġibiltà tkun fuq bażi ta' età, jew fuq bażi ta' saħħa.
- Id-Deċiżjonijiet tal-Kumitat Jorbtu l-*Management*. 4. Kull deċiżjoni tal-Kumitat skond id-dispożizzjonijiet tar-regola 3 għandha torbot lill-*Management* tat-Tarzna ta' Malta u l-*Management* għandu jassigura li dawk id-deċiżjonijiet jitwettqu minnufih.
- Eliġibiltà. 5. L-iskema tkun miftuħa għal:
- (a) (i) Kull impjegat tat-Tarzna ta' Malta li jkun kiseb l-età ta' 56 sena fil-każ ta' raġel u l-età ta' 55 sena fil-każ ta' mara, fi jew qabel il-31 ta' Diċembru, 1990; u
- (ii) Li kien impjegat fit-Tarzna ta' Malta għal mhux anqas minn 10 snin; u
- (iii) Li, li kellu jibqa' impjegat sa l-età ta' 61 sena fil-każ ta' raġel u sa l-età ta' 60 sena fil-każ ta' mara, kien jissodisfa l-kondizzjoni kontributorja għall-ghoti ta' pensjoni ta' żewġ terzi skond id-dispożizzjonijiet ta' l-Att ta' l-1987 dwar is-Sigurtà Soċjali.
- (b) L-iskema għandha tinkludi wkoll lil applikanti li jiġu ċertifikati bhala li ma humiex medikament tajba tkun xi tkun l-età tagħhom.

6. Ir-rata ta' pensjoni tkun ekwivalenti għal żewġ-terzi tal-medja fis-sena tal-paga jew salarju bażiku mħallas matul l-aħjar tliet snin kalendarji konsekuttivi qabel ma wiehed jirtira taht din l-iskema. Rata ta' Pensjoni.

7. Dawk li japplikaw u li jsiru eligibbli għall-iskema minhabba f'kundizzjoni medika ikollhom, minbarra li jissodisfaw il-kundizzjoni tal-paragrafu (b) tar-regola 5, il-proporzjon ta' 2/3 sostitwit bil-proporzjon li n-numru ta' xhur shaħ ta' impieg fit-Tarzna għandu għal 540. Rata ta' Pensjoni Mnaqqsa.

8. (i) Applikanti li jsiru eligibbli għall-iskema taht il-paragrafu (b) tar-regola 5 għandhom jipprezentaw dawk iċ-ċertifikati mediċi li jkunu jikkonfermaw il-kondizzjoni tagħhom. Panel Mediku.

(ii) Dawk l-applikanti jintbagħtu quddiem *Panel Mediku* magħmul mill-Uffiċjal Prinċipali Mediku tat-Tarzna ta' Malta, speċjalista mediku mahtur mill-*Management* tat-Tarzna ta' Malta u żewġ speċjalisti mediċi mahturin għal dan il-għan mill-Ministru għall-Politika Soċjali.

(iii) Il-*Panel Mediku* għandu jikseb il-parir ta' l-esperti tekniċi tat-Tarzna ta' Malta fil-qasam partikulari qabel ma jaslu biex jiddeċiedu.

9. Il-*Panel Mediku* jkollu s-setgħa jirreferi lil applikanti sabiex jagħmlu dawk l-eżamijiet mehtieġa fi Sptar tal-Gvern, hekk kif fl-opinjoni tagħhom jistgħu jqisu li jkun mehtieġ sabiex jikkunsidraw jekk dawk li jkunu applikaw ikunux għadhom jistgħu jahdmu jew le. Eżamijiet Mediċi.

10. L-opinjoni tal-*Panel Mediku* tiġi biss riferita lill-Kumitat meta jkun hemm nuqqas ta' ftehim fost il-membri. Riferenzi Mediċi.

11. Il-pensjoni li tithallas bl-iskema għandha terġa' tiġi kalkulata mill-ġdid ta' kull sena b'seħħ mill-ewwel Sibt f'Jannar tas-sena meta terġa' tiġi kalkulata mill-ġdid sabiex ikunu jistgħu jingħataw xi żiediet fil-paga sew b'effett ta' żieda ġenerali fil-pagi mogħtija mill-Gvern jew b'effett ta' żieda f'xi struttura tal-pagi fit-Tarzna ta' Malta. B'dan illi, fil-każ ta' struttura tal-pagi ġdida fit-Tarzna ta' Malta, il-qliegħ pensjonabbli għandu jżied fuq punt korrispondenti fl-iskala ta' l-istruttura. Stima mill-Ġdid ta' kull Sena.

12. Għandu jithallas lil kull pensjonant bonus li jkun ekwivalenti għal dak li jithallas taht l-artikolu 91 ta' l-Att ta' l-1987 dwar is-Sigurtà Soċjali. Bonus.

13. Għandha tithallas mill-iskema kontribuzzjoni skond l-Att ta' l-1987 dwar is-Sigurtà Soċjali lill-pensjonant b'dan illi l-kontribuzzjoni mħallsa mill-iskema lill-pensjonant għandha tkun ekwivalenti għal kontribuzzjoni tat-II klassi tas-Sigurtà Soċjali li kienet tkun dovuta fuq il-qliegħ li jinkiseb mill-pensjoni u l-bonus. Kontribuzzjoni tas-Sigurtà Soċjali.

Ebda kontribuzzjoni bħal dik ma għandha tithallas mill-iskema meta l-pensjonant ikollu jedd għal kontribuzzjoni akkreditata skond l-Att ta' l-1987 dwar is-Sigurtà Soċjali.

Waqfien ta' Pensjoni.

14. Pensjoni li tithallas taht l-iskema tieqaf milli tibqa' tithallas fl-ewwel Sibt li jigi wara li tintlahaq l-età tal-pensjoni kif imfissra fl-Att ta' l-1987 dwar is-Sigurtà Soċjali.

Caħda mid-Dhul fl-Iskema.

15. Applikant eligibbli għall-iskema li jkun għażel li jidhol fl-iskema jista' jigi rifjutat biss jekk meta jirtira dan ikun ta' preġudizzju għall-interessi tat-Tarzna ta' Malta.

Tnaqqis fil-Pensjoni ta' min jibda Jahdem bi Qliegħ.

16. Pensjonant li jkun qiegħed jirċievi pensjoni għal min jirtira kmieni taht l-iskema u li sussegwentement jibda jahdem bi qliegħ jitlef il-jedd tiegħu għar-rata shiha tiegħu tal-pensjoni għal min jirtira kmieni jekk it-total shih tal-qliegħ tiegħu flimkien mal-pensjoni mħallsa taht l-iskema jkunu jaqbzu Lm50 fis-sena l-qliegħ pensjonabbli li tkun għet kalkolata fuqu l-pensjoni tiegħu, u rata mnaqqsa ta' pensjoni ekwivalenti għall-bilanċ li jinkiseb bit-tnaqqis tal-qliegħ tiegħu mill-qliegħ pensjonabbli korrenti li fuqu l-pensjoni tiegħu kienet għet kalkolata flimkien mas-somma ta' Lm50 fis-sena għandha tigi mħallsa.

Rifużjoni ta' Pensjoni.

17. Pensjonant li jkun qiegħed jirċievi pensjoni għal min jirtira kmieni taht l-iskema jkun marbut li jinforma l-*Management* tat-Tarzna ta' Malta dwar kull attività li minnha jkun qiegħed jikseb xi qliegħ. Jekk dan il-fatt materjali jibqa' ma jigix dikjarat, il-pensjonant jista' jingieghel jirrifondi kull pensjoni, bonus jew kontribuzzjonijiet li jkunu thallsulu u li ma kenux dovuti."

Għanijiet u Raġunijiet

L-Għan ta' l-Abbozz huwa sabiex jemenda l-Att prinċipali sabiex jagħti seħħ lill-ftehim milhuq bejn il-Gvern u l-Kunsill tat-Tarzna ta' Malta.

**A BILL
entitled**

AN ACT to amend the Malta Dockyard Act, 1968.

BE IT ENACTED by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the Malta Dockyard (Amendment) Act, 1989 and shall be read and construed as one with the Malta Dockyard Act, 1968, hereinafter referred to as "the principal Act".

Short title.
Act XV
of 1968.

2. Section 5 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

Amendment
of section 5
of the
principal Act.

(a) for subsection (2) thereof there shall be substituted the following:

"(2) The Council shall consist of nine members (hereinafter also referred to as the elected members) elected by the employees of the corporation in manner provided by this Act. One of the members shall be elected as Chairman by the members of the Council at the first sitting after their election.";

(b) for subsection (6) thereof there shall be substituted the following:

"(6)(a) Where a vacancy occurs among the members of the Council, it shall be filled by the employees of the corporation by means of an election held for the purpose.

(b) Where the office of chairman of the Council becomes vacant, the members of the Council shall proceed to elect one of their members as Chairman at the first sitting held after the vacancy occurs."; and

(c) in subsection (12) thereof, for the words "the Schedule to this Act" there shall be substituted the words "the First Schedule to this Act".

Amendment of section 9 of the principal Act.

3. For the proviso to section 9 of the principal Act, there shall be substituted the following:

"Provided that the Government may not secure any liability of the corporation beyond the aggregate sum of three and a half million Maltese liri or such other sum as the House of Representatives may by resolution determine."

Amendment of section 10 of the principal Act.

4. Section 10 of the principal Act shall be amended as follows:

(a) in subsection (1) thereof for the words "as the Council, with the concurrence of the Minister responsible for finance, may deem appropriate in the circumstances" there shall be substituted the words "as the Minister responsible for finance may direct as appropriate in the circumstances"; and

(b) in subsection (2) thereof for the words "the corporation may hypothecate or charge" there shall be substituted the words "the corporation may, with the concurrence of the Minister responsible for finance, hypothecate or charge".

Substitution of section 12 of the principal Act.

5. For section 12 of the principal Act, there shall be substituted the following:

12. Any profits of the corporation for any financial year after charging provisions in respect of tax and of its obligations under sections 10 and 11 of this Act shall be applied for such purposes as the Council may determine:

Provided that —

(a) no less than 20% shall be credited to the reserve fund;

(b) no part of the remaining balance shall be applied otherwise than for purposes of the corporation or, to the extent permitted by this Act, for the benefit of the employees of the corporation; and

(c) the power of the Council under this section shall be subject to such directions as to the application of any such excess as the Prime Minister may give to the Council."

Addition of new section 16A to the principal Act.

6. Immediately after section 16 of the principal Act, there shall be added the following section:

16A. (1) There is hereby established for the employees of the corporation a scheme to be known as the Early Retirement Scheme whereby workers of the

corporation between the ages of 56 and 61 years, or such other ages as the Prime Minister in agreement with the Council may in accordance with subsection (5) of this section prescribe, and those of a younger age suffering from ill-health or injury shall be given a pension upon their early retirement in accordance with the agreement entered into between the Government and the Council of the corporation on the 16th May, 1989.

(2) The Early Retirement Scheme shall be voluntary. Eligibility for a pension under the Scheme, shall be governed by the Rules governing the Early Retirement Scheme (hereinafter called the Rules) contained in the Second Schedule to this Act.

(3) The Scheme shall be run by a Committee appointed in accordance with the Rules, and the Committee shall subject to the said rules be responsible for the proper functioning of the Scheme.

(4) Employees of the corporation may up to the 31st December 1990, or such later date as the Prime Minister in agreement with the Council may in accordance with subsection (5) of this section prescribe, apply to benefit from the Scheme.

(5) The Prime Minister may make regulations:

(a) prescribing anything that may be prescribed in accordance with any of the foregoing subsections of this section;

(b) effecting such amendments to the Rules that may be necessary in order to give full effect to the agreement referred to in subsection (1) of this section, or in any agreement entered between the Government and the Council concerning the Scheme;

(c) generally for giving better effect to the provisions of this section and to the agreement referred to in subsection (1) of this section.”.

7. (1) The Schedule to the principal Act shall be renumbered as the First Schedule thereto;

(2) Immediately after the First Schedule to the principal Act, as renumbered there shall be added the following Second Schedule:

Addition of
new Schedule
to the
principal Act.

"Second Schedule

(Section 16A)

RULES GOVERNING THE
EARLY RETIREMENT SCHEME — MALTA DRYDOCKS

- | | |
|---|---|
| Committee. | 1. The running of the scheme shall be the responsibility of a Committee appointed by the Prime Minister and published in the Gazette. |
| Composition of Committee. | 2. The Committee shall be composed of four members, one from the Ministry of Finance, one from the Ministry for Social Policy, one from the Council of the Malta Drydocks and one from the Management of the Malta Drydocks. All decisions of the Committee must be unanimous. |
| Functions and Powers of the Committee. | <p>3. (i) The Committee shall regulate its own procedures.</p> <p>(ii) Where any claim for early retirement is contested either by Management or by the applicant, either of the contesting parties shall have the right to petition for an appeal to lie with the Committee and for this purpose the Committee shall act as an Administrative Tribunal in which capacity it shall be empowered to allow or disallow a claim for early retirement and its decision shall be construed as final.</p> <p>(iii) The Committee shall have access to relevant information held by management in respect of any applicant who may be considered as eligible for the scheme irrespective whether such eligibility is on the grounds of age, or on the grounds of ill-health.</p> |
| Decisions of Committee shall bind Management. | 4. Any decision by the Committee under the provisions of rule 3 shall bind the Management of the Malta Drydocks and the latter shall ensure that such decisions are implemented immediately. |
| Eligibility. | <p>5. The scheme shall be open to:</p> <p>(a) (i) Every employee of the Malta Drydocks who will have attained the age of 56 years in the case of a man and the age of 55 in the case of a woman on or before the 31st December, 1990; and</p> <p>(ii) Who has been in employment at the Malta Drydocks for not less than 10 years; and</p> <p>(iii) Who, if he had to continue in employment up to the age of 61 years in the case of a man and up to the age of 60 years in the case of a woman would have satisfied the contribution condition for the award of a two thirds pension in accordance with the provisions of the Social Security Act, 1987.</p> |

(b) The Scheme shall also include applicants who are certified as medically unfit irrespective of their age.

6. The rate of pension shall be equivalent to two-thirds of the yearly average of the basic wage or salary paid during the best three consecutive calendar years prior to retirement under this scheme.

Rate of Pension.

7. Applicants who become eligible for the scheme owing to a medical condition shall, besides satisfying the condition of paragraph (b) of rule 5, have the proportion of $\frac{2}{3}$ substituted by the proportion which the number of complete months in employment at the Drydocks bears to 540.

Reduced Rate of Pension.

8. (i) Applicants who become eligible for the scheme under paragraph (b) of rule 5 shall present such medical certificates confirming their condition.

Medical Panel.

(ii) Such applicants shall be referred to a Medical Panel composed of the Senior Medical Officer of the Malta Drydocks, a medical specialist appointed by the Management of the Malta Drydocks and two medical specialists appointed for this purpose by the Minister for Social Policy.

(iii) The Medical Panel shall seek the advice of Malta Drydocks' technical experts in the field before reaching a decision.

9. The Medical Panel shall have the power to refer applicants to undergo such tests at a Government Hospital, as they may in their opinion deem necessary in order to consider claimants' inability for work.

Medical Tests.

10. The Medical Panel's opinion shall be referred to the Committee only when there is disagreement among members.

Medical Referees.

11. The pension paid by the scheme shall be re-assessed annually with effect from the first Saturday in January of the year of the re-assessment in order to provide for any wage increases either as a result of a general wage increase awarded by Government or as a result of an increase in any wage structure of the Malta Drydocks. So however that, in the case of a new wage structure at the Malta Drydocks, the pensionable emoluments shall be increased on a corresponding point of scale on the structure.

Annual Re-Assessments.

12. A bonus equivalent to that payable under section 91 of the Social Security Act, 1987 shall be paid to each pensioner.

Bonus.

13. A contribution in terms of the Social Security Act, 1987 shall be paid by the scheme to the pensioner so however that the contribution paid by the scheme to the pensioner shall be equivalent to the Class II Social Security contribution that would be due on the income arising out of the pension and bonus.

Social Security Contribution.

No such contribution shall be due to be paid by the scheme when the pensioner becomes entitled to a credited contribution under the Social Security Act, 1987.

Cessation
of Pension.

14. A pension paid under the scheme shall cease to be payable on the first Saturday following the attainment of pension age as defined in the Social Security Act, 1987.

Refusal to
Join Scheme.

15. Any applicant eligible for the scheme who has elected to join the scheme shall be refused only if his retirement would prejudice the interests of Malta Drydocks.

Reduction of
Pension
following
Gainful
Occupation.

16. A pensioner who is in receipt of an early retirement pension under the scheme and who subsequently becomes gainfully occupied shall forfeit his right to the full rate of his early retirement pension if the aggregate of the earnings he derives together with the pension payable under the scheme exceed Lm50 per annum the pensionable emoluments on which his pension was computed, and a reduced rate of pension equivalent to the balance obtaining by deducting the earnings he derives from the current pensionable emoluments on which his pension was computed together with the sum of Lm50 per annum shall become payable.

Refund of
Pension.

17. A pensioner who is receiving an early retirement pension under the scheme shall be bound to inform the Management of the Malta Drydocks about any activity through which earnings are derived. Any non-disclosure of such material fact shall make the pensioner liable to refund any pension, bonuses and contributions paid but not due."

Objects and Reasons

The Object of the Bill is to amend the principal Act in order to give effect to the agreement entered into between the Government and the Council of Malta Drydocks.