

DRAFTING NOTE

VETERANS, DISABLED FORMER COMBATANTS AND SURVIVORS ACT 2026

1. Status and purpose of this note

This drafting note is explanatory and is not part of the proposed Assembly Act. It identifies the legislative need, the relationship with earlier Eritrean law, the principal matters retained, the modernization choices made and the place of the draft within the emerging constitutional statute book. The instrument remains a consultation draft and should be finalized only after legal, institutional, fiscal and public review.

2. Legislative need and prior law

The supplied corpus contains benefits and pension measures but no complete dignity-based statute for veterans, disabled former combatants and survivors during democratic transition.

3. What the draft retains

The draft retains lawful recognition, disability and survivor support, pensions, rehabilitation and commemoration without disturbing accrued rights.

4. What the draft updates and modernizes

It introduces objective and inclusive eligibility, independent assessment, health and rehabilitation, education and livelihood support, accessibility, appeals, digital records, fiscal transparency and protection against partisan patronage, collective guilt or compulsory political loyalty.

5. Constitutional, code and treaty fit

The draft is framed under the Constitution of Eritrea 1997 and must be read with the Civil Code, Penal Code, Civil Procedure Code and Criminal Procedure Code of Eritrea 2015 where those Codes govern. It is also coordinated with the other institutional, financial, commercial, land, labour, administrative and sectoral drafts in this collection. References to international or regional standards guide compatibility and implementation; they do not bypass the Treaty-Making Act or convert an unincorporated instrument into domestic law.

6. Scope and organization

The principal divisions address preliminary and constitutional provisions; qualifying service, status and registration; veterans and survivors administration; health, rehabilitation and disability rights; compensation, income support and social protection; education, employment, enterprise, housing and land; family survivors, dependants and missing persons; demobilization, reintegration and security-sector transition; participation, associations,

remembrance and records; finance, planning, data and oversight; complaints, appeals, accountability and remedies; transitional, repeal and final provisions.

7. Transition, implementation and consultation

The draft preserves lawful accrued rights, completed transactions, pending proceedings and institutional continuity where appropriate, while preventing temporary savings from preserving unconstitutional coercion or indefinite executive discretion. Before enactment or issuance, authentic predecessor instruments and amendments should be verified, cross-references and fiscal capacity confirmed, implementing regulations and digital systems prepared, and affected institutions, professions, communities and the public given a practical opportunity to comment.

CONSULTATION DRAFT — NOT ENACTED LAW

ACT NO. ____ OF 2026

VETERANS, DISABLED FORMER COMBATANTS AND SURVIVORS ACT 2026

(ASSEMBLY ACT)

AN ACT TO RECOGNIZE VETERANS AND FORMER COMBATANTS WITHOUT PARTISAN PRIVILEGE; PROTECT DISABLED FORMER COMBATANTS AND FAMILIES OF DECEASED OR MISSING SERVICE MEMBERS; PROVIDE FAIR STATUS DETERMINATION, HEALTH CARE, REHABILITATION, COMPENSATION, SOCIAL PROTECTION, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, ENTERPRISE, HOUSING, PARTICIPATION, RECORDS, APPEALS AND REMEDIES; MODERNIZE AND CONSOLIDATE PRIOR DEMOBILIZATION AND SURVIVORS-BENEFIT ARRANGEMENTS; AND PROVIDE FOR RELATED MATTERS.

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS Articles 14, 16, 21, 22, 23, 26, 32 and 55 of the Constitution of Eritrea require equality, dignity, family protection, social and economic development, proportionate administration, legislative supremacy and accountable public institutions;

WHEREAS Eritrea owes lawful and practical support to persons whose military or liberation service caused death, disability, illness, trauma, interrupted education, lost livelihood or enduring family burden, without converting service into hereditary, partisan or governmental privilege;

WHEREAS Proclamation 113/2001 created a demobilization and reintegration programme, Proclamation 137/2003 provided a fixed benefit to survivors of persons officially recognized as martyrs, and related pension instruments created rights and expectations requiring transparent modernization and protection;

WHEREAS assistance must be rights-based, fiscally responsible, accessible throughout Eritrea, coordinated with general health, disability, labour, education, housing and social-insurance systems, and informed by Eritrea's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other applicable international and regional law;

WHEREAS democratic transition requires recognition of sacrifice together with civilian equality, truth, accountability, political neutrality and the principle that no former rank, force, faction, family relationship or service history confers a right to govern;

NOW, THEREFORE, the National Assembly of Eritrea, acting under Articles 21 and 32 of the Constitution, enacts as follows:

CHAPTER I PRELIMINARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS

Article 1 — Short title

1. This Act may be cited as the “Veterans, Disabled Former Combatants and Survivors Act 2026”.
2. It applies throughout Eritrea and to every public body administering a status, service or benefit under it.
3. The Act binds the State, including the Defence Forces, public enterprises and local governments.
4. A right or duty under this Act is enforceable according to its terms and available constitutional remedies.

Article 2 — Objects

1. to recognize qualifying service and repair service-related disadvantage without creating political privilege;
2. to provide coordinated, accessible and sustainable support to veterans, disabled former combatants and family survivors;
3. to preserve accrued entitlements while replacing opaque and fragmented administration; and
4. to support voluntary demobilization, civilian reintegration, equal citizenship and peaceful democratic government.

Article 3 — Interpretation

1. “Administration” means the Veterans and Survivors Administration established by this Act;
2. “family survivor” means a spouse, child or other person who was substantially dependent on a deceased or missing qualifying person as determined under this Act and the Civil Code;
3. “service-related” means caused, materially contributed to or materially aggravated by qualifying service; and
4. “veteran” means a living person whose qualifying service has been determined under Chapter II, whether or not the person has a disability.

Article 4 — Further definitions

1. “disabled former combatant” means a veteran with a long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment arising from or materially aggravated by qualifying service;
2. “former combatant” includes a person who performed an armed, medical, communications, logistics, intelligence, transport or other integral function in a qualifying force;

3. “missing service member” means a person whose fate or whereabouts remain unknown following qualifying service or related captivity; and
4. “qualifying service” means service recognized under Article 14 and verified under this Act.

Article 5 — Constitutional supremacy

1. This Act shall be interpreted consistently with the Constitution and the equal citizenship of every Eritrean.
2. Recognition of service shall not displace popular sovereignty, civilian government, merit, competitive election or lawful appointment.
3. No executive direction, military order, party rule, confidential list or commemorative practice may create, reduce or terminate a statutory entitlement.
4. A court shall prefer an interpretation protecting dignity, equality, family life, property, due process and effective remedy.

Article 6 — Equality and non-discrimination

1. Status and services shall be administered without discrimination prohibited by the Constitution.
2. A liberation organization, former unit, rank, ethnicity, region, language, religion, sex, political opinion, residence abroad or present party affiliation shall not determine worth or access.
3. Women, civilian auxiliaries, persons with disabilities, rural residents, pastoralists and persons lacking formal records shall receive equal and practical access.
4. Corrective measures may address documented historic exclusion where transparent, proportionate and periodically reviewed.

Article 7 — No collective guilt or collective honour

1. Responsibility for wrongdoing is individual and shall be determined through law and due process.
2. Service in a force or unit does not by itself establish criminality, innocence, heroism or entitlement beyond this Act.
3. A family survivor shall not be penalized for alleged or proven conduct of the deceased person.
4. Official recognition shall not require endorsement of a political organization, leader, war or governmental policy.

Article 8 — Rights limitations

1. A limitation of a constitutional right under this Act shall have clear legal authority and satisfy Article 26 of the Constitution.
2. It shall pursue a permitted purpose and be necessary, proportionate, nondiscriminatory and the least restrictive reasonably effective measure.
3. A limitation shall be reasoned, time-limited where appropriate and subject to independent review.

4. Administrative convenience, fiscal secrecy, former military custom or political sensitivity is not sufficient justification.

Article 9 — International and regional law

1. This Act gives domestic legislative effect, within Eritrea's constitutional order, to applicable principles of equality, disability rights, rehabilitation, social protection, decent work and family protection.
2. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities shall inform implementation according to its lawful status in Eritrea and this Assembly Act.
3. The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and applicable labour and human-rights obligations shall guide rights-respecting interpretation.
4. An international agreement concerning veterans or reintegration shall comply with the Treaty-Making Act, public-finance law and this Act.

Article 10 — Relationship with other laws

1. The Defence Forces Act governs service and discharge, and the National Service Act governs national-service completion and demobilization.
2. The Social Insurance and Public Service Pensions Act governs contributory pensions, employment injury and general survivor benefits, while this Act governs veteran-specific status and supplementation.
3. The Labour Code and Civil Service Administration Act govern employment according to sector, and the Civil Code governs family status, succession and private obligations.
4. Health, education, housing, land, data-protection, administrative-procedure, public-finance and procurement Acts remain applicable according to subject.

Article 11 — No duplication or adverse election

1. A person shall not receive duplicate compensation for the same quantified loss from two public schemes.
2. Different benefits addressing different losses or needs may be combined where law permits.
3. An administrator shall coordinate and credit benefits rather than reject a claimant merely because another scheme may apply.
4. No person shall be forced to elect between schemes without written comparison, informed choice and review.

Article 12 — Progressive realization and immediate duties

1. Benefits dependent on resources shall be planned and progressively realized to the maximum of available public resources.
2. Equality, dignity, urgent health care, non-retaliation, reasons, record correction and access to review are immediate duties.
3. A waiting list or phased programme shall use published need-based criteria and preserve place transparently.

4. Fiscal limits shall be disclosed through the budget and shall not justify unlawful favouritism or hidden nonpayment.

CHAPTER II QUALIFYING SERVICE, STATUS AND REGISTRATION

Article 13 — Status categories

1. The Administration may determine veteran, disabled former combatant, deceased service member, missing service member and family-survivor status.
2. A person may hold more than one status where the legal criteria are independently satisfied.
3. Status identifies eligibility pathways and does not establish automatic entitlement to every benefit.
4. A status determination shall state verified period, nature of service and any unresolved question without unnecessary sensitive detail.

Article 14 — Qualifying service

1. Qualifying service includes actual service in an Eritrean liberation force materially directed to national independence before 24 May 1991.
2. It includes lawful service in the Eritrean Defence Forces after that date and national service involving military duties as provided by law.
3. It includes integral medical, logistics, communications, transport, intelligence and civilian-support functions performed under a qualifying force where exposure or sacrifice was comparable.
4. Another historical category may be recognized only by Assembly Act after documented consultation and fiscal assessment.

Article 15 — Organizations and factions

1. Qualifying liberation service shall not be confined to membership in the Eritrean People's Liberation Front or a successor political organization.
2. Service in another Eritrean liberation organization may qualify on the same evidence and substantive criteria.
3. Political disagreement, later exile, dissent, resignation or residence abroad shall not erase qualifying service.
4. Recognition under this Article does not determine the legality of every act committed by an organization or member.

Article 16 — Civilian and auxiliary contribution

1. A person who did not bear arms may qualify where the person's sustained function was integral to a qualifying force and involved material danger, deprivation or displacement.
2. Cooking, nursing, carrying, intelligence, messaging, shelter, transport and other support shall not be discounted because historically performed by women or children.

3. Ordinary civilian residence in a conflict area, political sympathy or a single compelled contribution does not alone establish veteran status.
4. Civilian victims of conflict remain entitled under general victim, disability, health and social-protection law without needing veteran status.

Article 17 — Age and child participation

1. Service performed while under eighteen may be verified for protection, rehabilitation, historical record and lawful benefits.
2. Recognition shall not praise, normalize or encourage recruitment or use of children in armed activity.
3. A former child participant shall not be blamed for coercion, survival conduct or absence of formal enlistment.
4. Age-sensitive assessment shall protect privacy, trauma recovery, education and family interests.

Article 18 — Nature of discharge

1. Honourable discharge is sufficient but is not always necessary for recognition of actual qualifying service.
2. Desertion, unauthorized absence, political dissent or administrative dismissal shall not automatically defeat service-related health, disability or family-survivor protection.
3. A final lawful finding of fraudulent enlistment or absence of service may defeat status according to its scope.
4. A serious service offence may affect an honour award but shall not erase earned pay, necessary health care or compensation for proven service injury except by law and judgment.

Article 19 — Application for status

1. A person may apply orally, in writing, electronically or through an authorized representative without charge.
2. The Administration shall provide forms, assistance, interpretation, disability accommodation and mobile service.
3. One application shall initiate all reasonably apparent status pathways rather than require repetitive filings.
4. No applicant shall be required to join an association, attend a political ceremony or make a loyalty declaration.

Article 20 — Evidence of service

1. Evidence may include personnel records, unit rolls, pay or ration records, medical files, demobilization documents, contemporaneous correspondence, photographs, awards and credible testimony.
2. The Administration shall obtain public records it can reasonably access rather than shift that burden to the applicant.

3. Consistent evidence from former colleagues, family, community and independent archives may establish service where State records are missing or unreliable.
4. A secret adverse record shall not determine status unless its substance is disclosed sufficiently for fair answer, subject to narrow protective procedure.

Article 21 — Standard and burden of proof

1. Status is established on the balance of probabilities unless this Act provides a more protective presumption.
2. Once an applicant shows a credible service basis and State custody or failure explains missing records, evidentiary uncertainty shall not be used mechanically against the applicant.
3. The Administration may verify evidence but shall not demand impossible precision concerning clandestine or wartime activity.
4. Fraud shall be proved by the public body alleging it and shall not be inferred merely from inconsistency caused by age, trauma, translation or elapsed time.

Article 22 — Presumptions for legacy beneficiaries

1. A person lawfully registered under Proclamation 113/2001, Proclamation 137/2003 or a verified predecessor scheme is presumed to hold the corresponding status.
2. The presumption may be rebutted only by clear evidence of mistaken identity, material fraud or legal ineligibility after fair hearing.
3. Administrative loss of a predecessor file does not extinguish the presumption where payment, identification or other reliable evidence exists.
4. Transition review shall correct exclusion and duplication without interrupting subsistence support unnecessarily.

Article 23 — Service-status panel

1. Independent Service-Status Panels shall determine contested or complex applications.
2. A Panel shall include legal, historical, records, disability and community competence and shall not be controlled by a single former force.
3. A member shall disclose former affiliation and recuse where impartiality may reasonably be questioned.
4. Proceedings shall be informal, trauma-informed, reasoned and reviewable.

Article 24 — Decision time and reasons

1. An uncomplicated application shall be decided within ninety days and a complex application within one hundred eighty days.
2. Delay shall be explained before expiry with completed steps, missing information and a new reasonable date.
3. A decision shall identify evidence, findings, legal criteria, status, effective date and appeal route.

4. Urgent interim support may be granted without prejudging final status where serious health or destitution risk exists.

Article 25 — National register

1. The Administration shall maintain a secure and auditable National Veterans and Survivors Register.
2. The register shall distinguish verified fact, claimant statement, inference, dispute, correction and source.
3. Public statistics shall be aggregated and disaggregated safely by status, sex, age, disability, region and service period.
4. The register shall not become a political-membership roll, intelligence list or condition for ordinary citizenship rights.

Article 26 — Identification and proof

1. A verified person may receive a secure physical and optional digital status credential.
2. Loss or absence of a credential does not extinguish status and shall be remedied promptly.
3. A service provider shall verify only information necessary for the requested benefit.
4. Biometric processing requires express data-protection authority, necessity, an accessible alternative and independent security assessment.

CHAPTER III VETERANS AND SURVIVORS ADMINISTRATION

Article 27 — Establishment of Administration

1. The Veterans and Survivors Administration is established as a civilian executive public body with legal personality.
2. It shall be responsible to the minister designated for social protection rather than to military or party command.
3. Its headquarters shall be in Asmara with accessible provincial, mobile and electronic service.
4. Its independence in individual status and benefit determinations shall be respected.

Article 28 — Functions

1. The Administration shall determine status, coordinate services, maintain records and advise national policy.
2. It shall provide case navigation, monitor delivery, protect claimants and publish performance information.
3. It shall coordinate demobilization, rehabilitation, education, employment, enterprise, housing and family-survivor programmes without duplicating competent sector bodies.
4. It shall preserve archives, support lawful commemoration and report on treaty and constitutional implementation.

Article 29 — Powers and limits

1. The Administration may require relevant public records, enter lawful agreements, manage appropriated resources and issue decisions authorized by this Act.
2. It may not arrest, detain, conscript, tax, appropriate money, allocate land, license a business or direct military operations.
3. It shall not condition service on political support, silence, intelligence cooperation or participation in ceremony.
4. A direction affecting a person shall be written, lawful, proportionate and reviewable.

Article 30 — Governing Board

1. A Governing Board shall provide strategy, fiduciary oversight and protection of institutional independence.
2. The Board shall include competence in veterans' affairs, disability rights, health, social protection, finance, law, records, employment and local government.
3. At least one third of members shall be veterans, disabled former combatants or family survivors selected through an open process.
4. Serving military, intelligence or party officials shall not form a majority or chair the Board.

Article 31 — Appointment and tenure

1. The President shall appoint Board members from a published merit shortlist after consultation with the Civil Service Administration Commission and competent National Assembly committee.
2. A member serves one term of six years, with initial terms staggered for continuity.
3. Qualifications, service affiliation, interests and reasons for appointment shall be published.
4. Selection shall reflect Eritrea's geographic, linguistic, gender and historical breadth without sacrificing competence or integrity.

Article 32 — Board proceedings

1. The Board shall meet at least quarterly and publish its rules, attendance, recusals, decisions and non-sensitive minutes.
2. A majority of appointed members constitutes a quorum and decisions require a majority of those present and voting.
3. A protected annex may contain personal or security information and remains available to the Auditor General and courts.
4. The Board shall not decide an individual claim except through an appellate function expressly assigned by this Act.

Article 33 — Conflicts and removal

1. A member shall disclose financial, family, organizational, former-force and political interests and recuse where required.

2. Removal requires incapacity, serious misconduct, corruption, disqualifying conflict or persistent failure of duty established through fair independent inquiry.
3. The member shall receive notice, evidence, hearing, reasons and judicial review.
4. Suspension may protect an inquiry but shall not be used to change status decisions or suppress criticism.

Article 34 — Director-General

1. The President shall appoint a Director-General from a public merit shortlist after consultation with the Board and Civil Service Administration Commission.
2. The Director-General shall possess integrity and substantial competence in public administration, social protection, disability, law, health or a comparable field.
3. The term is six years, renewable once through the same process.
4. Appointment, qualifications, interests and reasons shall be published.

Article 35 — Responsibilities of Director-General

1. The Director-General is chief executive and accounting officer of the Administration.
2. The Director-General shall implement law and strategy, manage personnel, protect impartial decision-making and ensure lawful expenditure.
3. A material ministerial or Board direction shall be written, retained and available to oversight bodies.
4. The Director-General shall refuse and report a direction inconsistent with this Act.

Article 36 — Integrated service offices

1. Each province shall maintain an integrated veterans and survivors service office or reliable mobile equivalent.
2. An office shall accept applications for every relevant public scheme and coordinate referral rather than send a person repeatedly between institutions.
3. County and village administrations shall provide information and safe access without controlling entitlement.
4. No local official may demand payment, political endorsement or community approval for an application.

Article 37 — Advisory Forum

1. A National Veterans, Disability and Survivors Forum shall advise the Administration at least twice each year.
2. Participation shall include diverse former forces, women, disabled persons, families, youth, diaspora, pastoral and rural communities and independent specialists.
3. The Forum may publish recommendations and dissenting views but does not allocate benefits or exercise executive power.
4. Reasonable accommodation, interpretation and participation costs shall be provided.

Article 38 — Coordination with sector institutions

1. Health, education, labour, housing, land, finance, local-government, defence and social-protection institutions shall designate responsible liaison officers.
2. Coordination shall use common service standards, lawful data exchange, tracked referral and clear responsibility.
3. A memorandum cannot transfer statutory power or reduce an individual's right.
4. Unresolved institutional disputes shall be escalated promptly without suspending urgent service.

CHAPTER IV HEALTH, REHABILITATION AND DISABILITY RIGHTS

Article 39 — Right to health assessment

1. A veteran or former combatant may obtain a comprehensive voluntary assessment of service-related physical and mental health needs.
2. Assessment shall be accessible, confidential, trauma-informed and free from political judgment.
3. It shall consider injury, disease, toxic exposure, malnutrition, reproductive health, aging, pain, hearing, vision and psychosocial effects.
4. Urgent treatment shall not await completion of status or causation proceedings.

Article 40 — Service-related causation

1. Causation is established where qualifying service was a material cause or aggravating factor on the balance of probabilities.
2. Latency, cumulative exposure and absence of contemporaneous diagnosis shall be considered medically and historically.
3. Where State record failure materially prevents proof, credible evidence and reasonable medical inference shall receive appropriate weight.
4. The claimant may obtain independent medical evidence at public expense where complexity or fairness requires.

Article 41 — Presumptive conditions

1. Regulations may establish evidence-based presumptions for conditions strongly associated with defined service, exposure, place or period.
2. A presumption shall be reviewed periodically using science, claimant experience and transparent data.
3. Absence from a presumptive list does not prevent individual proof.
4. A presumption shall not be withdrawn retroactively from a finally determined claim except for material fraud.

Article 42 — Emergency and continuing care

1. A qualifying person shall receive clinically necessary emergency, primary, specialist, surgical, pharmaceutical and follow-up care through the public health system.
2. Referral outside Eritrea may be authorized where necessary care is unavailable and the process is transparent and reviewable.
3. Distance, inability to pay, missing identity papers or disputed political history shall not defeat necessary care.
4. Travel, accommodation and caregiver support may be provided where reasonably required for access.

Article 43 — Rehabilitation

1. A disabled former combatant is entitled to timely, person-directed rehabilitation aimed at autonomy, participation and chosen livelihood.
2. Services may include physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech support, pain management, counselling, vocational rehabilitation and community support.
3. A plan shall be developed with informed consent, measurable goals and periodic review.
4. Institutional convenience shall not substitute unnecessary segregation for community-based service.

Article 44 — Assistive products and technology

1. Necessary prosthetic, orthotic, mobility, hearing, vision, communication and other assistive products shall be provided, fitted, maintained and replaced.
2. Procurement shall consider quality, climate, terrain, user preference, local repair and lifecycle cost.
3. Digital and artificial-intelligence tools may assist assessment or customization under accountable professional and human control.
4. A donated or experimental device shall not be imposed without safety, consent, support and continuity.

Article 45 — Mental health and psychosocial support

1. Voluntary and confidential mental-health and psychosocial support shall address trauma, grief, moral injury, depression, anxiety, substance misuse, family stress and isolation.
2. Seeking care shall not by itself affect employment, licence, status, reputation or security classification.
3. Peer support may complement but shall not replace competent clinical care where needed.
4. Suicide prevention and crisis response shall be continuously available through accessible channels.

Article 46 — Sexual and gender-based harm

1. A survivor of service-related sexual violence or exploitation shall receive confidential health, psychosocial, protection, legal and compensation pathways.

2. The person shall not be required to report through the alleged perpetrator's former command or organization.
3. Status and benefits shall not depend on public disclosure, prosecution, corroboration impossible to obtain or family approval.
4. Evidence and limitation rules shall account for trauma, fear, secrecy and delayed reporting consistently with due process.

Article 47 — Disability determination

1. Disability determination shall assess functional effect, environment, participation and support needs rather than diagnosis or bodily impairment alone.
2. A multidisciplinary assessment shall include the person's account and may not presume incapacity from disability.
3. Percentage ratings may assist compensation but shall not define dignity, legal capacity or complete service entitlement.
4. A material change may justify review with notice, evidence and protection against arbitrary reduction.

Article 48 — Independent medical review

1. A person may challenge a medical or disability assessment before an independent review panel.
2. The panel shall have relevant clinical and disability-rights competence and no conflict concerning the original decision.
3. The person may attend, submit evidence, receive assistance and obtain intelligible reasons.
4. Necessary care shall continue during review unless a qualified clinician determines a concrete safety reason.

Article 49 — Health records and privacy

1. Health and rehabilitation records are confidential personal data governed by health and data-protection law.
2. Access shall be limited to care and benefit functions necessary and disclosed to the person through an access log.
3. Records shall not be used for political surveillance, public propaganda, unrelated military recruitment or discrimination.
4. The person may access, copy, annotate and seek correction without erasing lawful clinical history.

Article 50 — Family and caregiver support

1. A family or chosen caregiver may receive information, training, respite, counselling and practical support with the person's consent.
2. Support shall not assume that women provide unpaid care indefinitely.
3. A high-support need may justify personal assistance or household support according to assessment and appropriation.

4. Caregiver support does not transfer the person's legal capacity or control over benefits.

Article 51 — Health-service quality and complaints

1. Veterans' services shall meet the same professional, safety, consent and quality requirements as other health services.
2. Priority based on clinical urgency may be provided without displacing emergency care for other persons.
3. A person may complain about denial, delay, disrespect, unsafe care, privacy breach or improper charge.
4. The responsible body shall correct urgent risk immediately and provide investigation, reasons and remedy.

Article 52 — Research and ethical safeguards

1. Research involving veterans, disabled former combatants or family survivors requires lawful ethics review and voluntary informed consent.
2. Status, poverty, institutional residence or dependency shall not be exploited to obtain participation.
3. Genetic, biometric, trauma and military-exposure data require heightened protection and defined retention.
4. Results should improve prevention and care and shall not expose identifiable persons or communities.

CHAPTER V

COMPENSATION, INCOME SUPPORT AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

Article 53 — Compensation framework

1. A service-related injury, disease, disability, disappearance or death may give rise to compensation under this Act and coordinated general law.
2. Compensation shall address impairment, lost earning capacity, care, additional costs, pain and other loss recognized by law.
3. A benefit shall be determined by published criteria and shall not depend on rank, political favour or ceremonial status.
4. Compensation does not prevent a claim against a responsible wrongdoer for uncompensated loss.

Article 54 — Permanent impairment payment

1. Permanent service-related impairment may attract a periodic payment or proportionate lump sum under prescribed evidence-based tables.
2. The assessment shall consider combined conditions and avoid repeatedly discounting the same functional loss.
3. A lump-sum choice requires clear advice on amount, alternatives, tax and long-term consequence.

4. A serious lifelong support need shall not be converted into an inadequate lump sum merely for administrative convenience.

Article 55 — Incapacity and earnings loss

1. A person whose service-related condition reduces work capacity may receive time-limited or continuing income replacement.
2. Payment shall be coordinated with rehabilitation and suitable voluntary employment rather than conditioned on impossible incapacity.
3. Earnings, capacity, care burden and labour-market conditions shall be assessed fairly and reviewed periodically.
4. A person may attempt work without immediate permanent loss of entitlement under prescribed return-to-work protections.

Article 56 — Severe-disability supplement

1. A person requiring substantial continuing personal assistance may receive a severe-disability supplement.
2. Assessment shall consider actual additional costs, household circumstances and support chosen by the person.
3. Payment may be combined with publicly provided service where there is no duplicate funding of the same cost.
4. The supplement shall be portable within Eritrea and shall not require institutional residence.

Article 57 — Family-survivor benefit

1. Eligible family survivors of a deceased qualifying person may receive a periodic benefit and necessary transitional support.
2. Entitlement shall consider spouse, children, disability, actual dependency and diverse lawful family arrangements under the Civil Code.
3. Sex, remarriage, political opinion, residence or employment shall not produce arbitrary forfeiture.
4. A benefit for children shall protect education, health and care through a transparent age and dependency framework.

Article 58 — Missing-person interim benefit

1. Where a qualifying person has been missing for a prescribed period and credible evidence indicates service-related disappearance, dependants may receive interim support.
2. Support does not require premature declaration of death or abandonment of a search, truth or legal claim.
3. Recovery or clarification of the person's fate shall trigger humane reassessment without punitive recovery of good-faith payments.
4. The family shall receive information, tracing assistance and access to relevant records.

Article 59 — Funeral and burial support

1. Reasonable funeral, transport and burial costs may be paid for a qualifying deceased person according to published ceilings and actual need.
2. A family may choose a private, religious, customary, secular or official ceremony without losing support.
3. Official participation, symbols or burial location shall not be compelled.
4. Burial support shall not settle compensation, succession, truth or accountability claims.

Article 60 — Existing martyrs' survivors benefit

1. A lawful benefit payable under Proclamation 137/2003 is preserved and converted into the family-survivor framework under this Act.
2. No existing beneficiary shall receive less in nominal amount at transition, and adequacy shall be reviewed against cost of living and fiscal capacity.
3. The term historically used for the deceased shall not require the survivor to adopt a political or religious characterization.
4. Unpaid arrears, disputed identity and excluded eligible family members shall receive review under fair evidence rules.

Article 61 — Means-tested supplementary assistance

1. A low-income veteran, disabled former combatant or family survivor may receive supplementary food, transport, utility, care or cash assistance under general social-protection law.
2. Means assessment shall be simple, dignified, household-sensitive and free from intrusive political inquiry.
3. A diaspora relative's presumed ability to support shall not automatically disqualify a resident household.
4. Support shall connect voluntarily to employment and services without compulsory labour.

Article 62 — Indexation and adequacy

1. Periodic cash benefits shall be reviewed regularly for inflation, wage conditions, household need and fiscal sustainability.
2. The responsible minister shall publish the method, data, proposed adjustment and distributional effect.
3. Failure to adjust shall be explained to the National Assembly and affected persons.
4. No unpublished exchange rate, deduction or administrative fee may reduce a benefit.

Article 63 — Tax and creditor protection

1. Compensation for injury, disability, death or funeral cost is exempt from tax unless an Assembly Act expressly provides otherwise.
2. An income-replacement or pension component may receive the ordinary tax treatment expressly established by tax law.

3. A subsistence or disability benefit is not assignable and is protected from ordinary execution to the extent prescribed by law.
4. Protection does not defeat a lawful family-maintenance order, restitution judgment or recovery for proven benefit fraud under court supervision.

Article 64 — Coordination and recovery

1. The Administration and Social Insurance Fund shall coordinate payments through a written determination identifying each loss and legal source.
2. Overpayment recovery requires notice, evidence, reasons, hardship assessment and proportionate instalments.
3. No recovery shall occur for official error reasonably relied upon where recovery would be manifestly unjust, except fraud or knowing nondisclosure.
4. The State may recover from a liable third party without delaying the beneficiary's payment.

Article 65 — Payment administration

1. Payment shall be prompt, traceable and available through bank, regulated digital payment, postal, local or other accessible lawful channel.
2. A person may choose a practical channel and shall not be forced into an exclusive commercial provider.
3. Fees, failed transfers, dormant accounts and rejected identity matching shall be monitored and corrected.
4. Payment data shall not be shared for unrelated surveillance, marketing or political mobilization.

CHAPTER VI

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, ENTERPRISE, HOUSING AND LAND

Article 66 — Individual transition plan

1. A veteran seeking civilian advancement may receive a voluntary individual education, employment or enterprise plan.
2. The plan shall assess prior learning, experience, health, disability, family duty, location, language and chosen goals.
3. It shall identify realistic services, responsible institutions, timeframes and review.
4. Refusal or failure of a plan does not cancel health, disability or accrued benefits.

Article 67 — Recognition of prior learning

1. Education and professional bodies shall provide fair assessment of knowledge and skill acquired through service or informal work.
2. Recognition shall be competence-based and may require proportionate bridging education for civilian safety or professional standards.
3. Former rank or course attendance alone does not establish a civilian qualification.

4. Fees and documentation barriers may be reduced for low-income applicants according to published rules.

Article 68 — Literacy and basic education

1. A veteran or family survivor denied basic education by conflict or service shall have accessible literacy, numeracy and foundational education opportunities.
2. Programmes shall be age-respectful, flexible, multilingual where practical and compatible with work and care.
3. Digital learning may extend access but shall include offline and disability-accessible alternatives.
4. Participation is voluntary and shall not be represented as proof of political re-education.

Article 69 — Further and higher education

1. Scholarships, fee support, bridging programmes and counselling may support eligible veterans, disabled former combatants and children of deceased or severely disabled persons.
2. Selection shall use published need, merit, interruption and public-priority criteria.
3. Education support shall not guarantee admission, academic result or public employment.
4. A recipient shall retain academic freedom, lawful expression and ordinary institutional rights.

Article 70 — Employment services

1. Public employment services shall provide skills assessment, job matching, counselling, placement support and employer liaison.
2. Services shall prioritize suitable decent work freely chosen or accepted rather than compulsory placement.
3. A digital employment portal shall be supplemented by local and offline access.
4. Outcomes shall be measured by sustained lawful employment, earnings and worker satisfaction rather than registrations alone.

Article 71 — Public employment

1. Veteran status does not create an automatic right to public office, promotion, command or permanent employment.
2. A narrowly tailored and time-limited preference may be established by Assembly Act or authorized regulation where merit and equal access remain protected.
3. Public recruitment shall remain competitive, transparent and governed by the Civil Service Administration Act.
4. Past party or force affiliation shall not be used as an undisclosed selection criterion.

Article 72 — Private employment and reasonable accommodation

1. The Labour Code governs private employment, equality, safety, dismissal and reasonable accommodation.
2. The Administration may provide workplace assessment, assistive technology, wage subsidy or training support through transparent programmes.
3. An employer shall not demand unnecessary service or health information.
4. A subsidy does not authorize lower wages, unsafe work, involuntary labour or exclusion of non-veteran workers.

Article 73 — Enterprise and cooperative support

1. Eligible persons may receive business training, mentorship, incubation, lawful credit facilitation and cooperative assistance.
2. Support shall favour viable demand, capability and public value rather than obsolete activity imposed for appearance.
3. A grant or guarantee shall use published competitive or needs-based criteria, beneficial-ownership checks and performance monitoring.
4. Failure of a good-faith business does not create criminal liability or political disloyalty.

Article 74 — Public procurement

1. A veteran-owned enterprise may participate in public procurement under the Public Procurement Act on transparent terms.
2. Any preference shall be expressly authorized, proportionate, published, time-limited and monitored for value and genuine beneficial ownership.
3. Fronting, political allocation, contract splitting and exemption from performance standards are prohibited.
4. No procurement preference shall create an exclusive market or hereditary business privilege.

Article 75 — Agriculture, fisheries and rural livelihoods

1. Reintegration support may include voluntary training, extension, inputs, storage, market access and lawful finance for agriculture, livestock, fisheries and rural enterprise.
2. Programmes shall reflect water, ecology, land capacity, pastoral mobility, market demand and climate risk.
3. No person shall be settled, sedentarized or assigned a livelihood coercively.
4. Ordinary land, environmental, fisheries, animal-health and food-safety law remains applicable.

Article 76 — Housing assistance

1. Housing assistance may include rental support, repair, accessible adaptation, serviced plots, cooperative housing or transparent finance according to need and law.

2. Severe disability, displacement, dependants and unsafe housing may receive priority under published criteria.
3. Assistance shall not authorize occupation of another person's home or uncompensated taking of land.
4. Title, tenancy, mortgage, construction and succession remain governed by general law.

Article 77 — Land access and no automatic allocation

1. Veteran status does not create an automatic claim to community, pastoral, village, public or private land.
2. An eligible person may apply under the Land Act on the same lawful and transparent framework, including any general social priority.
3. Historical allocations shall be reviewed with due process, community participation and protection of accrued lawful interests.
4. No land may be distributed by former commanders, party bodies or the Administration outside competent land authority.

Article 78 — Diaspora and cross-border portability

1. A qualifying Eritrean residing abroad may obtain status, records and non-residence-dependent services without political condition.
2. Cash-benefit portability may be regulated according to benefit purpose, fiscal law, banking capacity and reciprocal arrangements.
3. Residence abroad shall not defeat compensation for established service injury or access to records and appeal.
4. Diaspora expertise and investment may support programmes voluntarily and transparently without control over individual entitlements.

Article 79 — Monitoring civilian outcomes

1. The Administration shall monitor education completion, employment retention, enterprise survival, housing security, income and wellbeing.
2. Data shall distinguish sex, disability, age, region, service period and programme without exposing persons.
3. Evaluation shall compare outcomes with similarly situated civilians to detect privilege, exclusion and displacement.
4. Programmes shall be revised or ended where ineffective, discriminatory, captured or fiscally unsustainable.

CHAPTER VII FAMILY SURVIVORS, DEPENDANTS AND MISSING PERSONS

Article 80 — Family-survivor equality

1. A family survivor is a rights-holder and shall not be treated merely as an extension of the deceased person's official reputation.

2. Women and men have equal status as surviving spouses, caregivers and beneficiaries.
3. A child born outside marriage, adopted child and other child recognized by the Civil Code shall receive equal treatment.
4. A family dispute shall be resolved under civil law without indefinite administrative withholding of undisputed shares.

Article 81 — Determining dependency

1. Dependency may be established through actual financial, care, household or disability reliance at the relevant time.
2. Formal residence, surname, marriage record or bank transfer is relevant but not exclusively determinative.
3. Pastoral mobility, displacement, clandestine service, customary family life and missing records shall be considered.
4. A decision shall protect against fabricated dependency while avoiding discriminatory assumptions.

Article 82 — Children

1. The best interests, survival, development, identity, education, health and participation of an affected child shall be primary considerations.
2. A child shall receive age-appropriate information and shall not be compelled to perform grief or political loyalty publicly.
3. Benefit administration shall prevent diversion, abuse, institutionalization and conflict of interest by a representative.
4. On attaining legal capacity, the person shall receive records and direct control of any continuing entitlement.

Article 83 — Older persons

1. An older veteran or family survivor shall receive accessible health, income, housing, mobility and community support according to need.
2. Age shall not be used to deny rehabilitation, assistive products, information or legal capacity.
3. Home and community support shall be preferred over unnecessary institutionalization.
4. A caregiver and local service shall receive appropriate support without taking control of the person's property.

Article 84 — Persons with disabilities in families

1. A family survivor with a disability shall receive reasonable accommodation and equal access to every procedure and benefit.
2. A disabled child or dependent adult may receive extended support under transparent need and legal-capacity rules.
3. Decision-making support shall respect will and preferences and shall not substitute blanket guardianship.

4. Disability information shall remain confidential and shall not be used to stigmatize the household.

Article 85 — Tracing missing persons

1. The State shall maintain an impartial mechanism to trace missing service members and clarify fate and whereabouts.
2. Defence, police, prison, intelligence, health, burial and archival institutions shall preserve and disclose relevant information under lawful safeguards.
3. Families may submit information, receive updates and request independent review of unreasonable inaction.
4. Tracing shall be coordinated with humanitarian and international mechanisms through constitutionally lawful arrangements.

Article 86 — Human remains and identification

1. Recovery, identification, storage and return of human remains shall respect dignity, forensic integrity, culture, religion and family rights.
2. DNA or biometric identification requires consent or clear law, secure custody, limited purpose and independent oversight.
3. A family shall receive truthful explanation of certainty, uncertainty and available options.
4. Remains shall not be displayed, withheld or used for political spectacle.

Article 87 — Declaration of absence or death

1. Civil declaration of absence or death remains governed by the Civil Code and competent courts.
2. The Administration shall provide records and assistance but shall not compel a family to seek declaration merely to access urgent interim support.
3. A later return or identification shall permit correction of status, civil records and benefits without stigma.
4. Property and succession consequences shall be resolved under the Civil Code with protection of good-faith interests.

Article 88 — Family information and participation

1. A family shall receive accessible information on status, benefits, tracing, records, remedies and responsible offices.
2. Families and survivor organizations shall be consulted on service design and evaluation.
3. Consultation shall include rural, poor, female-headed, displaced and less-visible households.
4. Participation shall not require disclosure of private grief or endorsement of official history.

Article 89 — Protection from exploitation

1. No official, association, lawyer, intermediary or relative may demand a share of a public benefit for access, influence or political sponsorship.
2. A fee for lawful professional service shall be reasonable, disclosed and subject to legal-profession and consumer law.
3. Sexual exploitation, benefit-for-favour demands, coercive recruitment and misuse of children's images are prohibited.
4. The Administration shall maintain safe complaint, referral and restitution procedures.

Article 90 — Death unrelated to service

1. A veteran's death need not be service-related for accrued pension, unpaid compensation, records and ordinary survivor rights to continue.
2. A special service-death benefit requires the causal standard in this Act.
3. The decision shall distinguish each entitlement and shall not deny all claims because one causal element fails.
4. Family survivors retain access to general social protection and civil remedies.

Article 91 — Family reconciliation and mediation

1. Voluntary mediation may assist disputes over dependency, representation, ceremony, records or allocation of divisible benefits.
2. A mediator shall be impartial, culturally competent and attentive to power imbalance and violence.
3. Mediation shall not determine criminal responsibility, extinguish a child's right or compel settlement.
4. A party retains access to administrative and judicial determination.

CHAPTER VIII

DEMOBILIZATION, REINTEGRATION AND SECURITY-SECTOR TRANSITION

Article 92 — Civilian character of demobilization

1. Demobilization shall transfer a person from military or national-service command to free civilian status under law.
2. It shall not create reserve control, unpaid availability, political assignment or concealed continuing command.
3. A completion certificate, final pay, personal records, identity documents and explanation of rights shall be provided promptly.
4. The person may choose residence, lawful work, education, association and travel on the same basis as other citizens.

Article 93 — Demobilization plan

1. A large-scale demobilization shall proceed under a published, costed and time-bound plan approved through lawful executive and budget processes.
2. The plan shall address security, weapons, records, health screening, transport, temporary income, housing, training, labour demand and local capacity.
3. Women, persons with disabilities, long-serving personnel, dependants and high-risk communities require tailored measures.
4. The National Assembly shall receive periodic implementation and expenditure reports.

Article 94 — Release from command

1. Release becomes effective on the stated date and no commander may delay it without express lawful authority and written reasons.
2. A person shall not be retained because a replacement, budget, transport or civilian job is unavailable.
3. A person voluntarily accepting public employment after release shall receive an ordinary employment contract and salary.
4. Unlawful retention gives rise to immediate review, release, payment and other remedy.

Article 95 — Disarmament and weapons

1. A demobilized person shall surrender public weapons, ammunition, military identification and controlled equipment under recorded safe procedure.
2. Personal property and lawful documents shall be returned and shall not be withheld as leverage.
3. A weapons discrepancy shall be investigated individually with due process and without collective punishment.
4. Weapons collection shall be coordinated with the Defence Forces Act, firearms law and mine-action requirements.

Article 96 — Initial reinsertion support

1. A released person lacking immediate means may receive short-term transport, food, accommodation, health and income support.
2. Support shall be sufficient for safe return or chosen lawful relocation and shall not be conditioned on political activity.
3. A mobile or pastoral person may choose suitable delivery and community arrangements.
4. Urgent assistance does not settle unpaid remuneration, compensation, pension or unlawful-service claims.

Article 97 — Long-term reintegration

1. Reintegration shall emphasize durable civilian capability, employment, enterprise, education, family life, health and community belonging.

2. It shall use ordinary national systems strengthened to benefit both former personnel and host communities.
3. Programmes shall avoid segregated settlements, obsolete occupations and dependence on former commanders.
4. Community infrastructure may accompany high concentrations of return where transparent and equitable.

Article 98 — Women in demobilization

1. Women shall be registered and served in their own right regardless of formal rank, marital status or current household head.
2. Assessment shall address reproductive health, care responsibilities, interrupted education, sexual harm, property access and employment barriers.
3. A benefit shall be paid directly to the entitled woman unless she freely authorizes another arrangement.
4. Programme design shall challenge rather than reproduce exclusion from skilled work and leadership.

Article 99 — Disabled and seriously injured persons

1. Release shall be preceded by safe continuity arrangements for care, medication, rehabilitation, assistive products, housing and income.
2. A person shall not be discharged into abandonment because military facilities are closing.
3. Civilian providers shall receive necessary records and resources with consent and privacy protection.
4. The person shall participate in decisions concerning residence, caregiver and services.

Article 100 — Host communities

1. A community receiving substantial numbers of demobilized persons shall be consulted on services, land, housing, water, employment and social cohesion.
2. Assistance shall avoid displacing equally poor civilians or rewarding coercive local gatekeepers.
3. Conflict prevention, mediation and lawful public safety may be supported without surveillance of political opinion.
4. Local investment shall use objective impact and need rather than former military allegiance.

Article 101 — International cooperation

1. Eritrea may seek technical, financial and humanitarian assistance for demobilization and reintegration through constitutionally lawful agreements.
2. Cooperation shall preserve national law, civilian leadership, human rights, fiscal control and affected-person participation.
3. A donor condition shall not require secrecy, political exclusion, unsafe speed or surrender of judicial remedy.

4. Assistance, overhead, implementing partners, results and remaining obligations shall be reported transparently.

Article 102 — Closure of temporary programmes

1. A temporary demobilization programme shall have measurable completion conditions and a lawful closure plan.
2. Long-term health, disability, pension, family-survivor, records and appeal functions shall transfer to permanent competent institutions.
3. Closure shall preserve records, contracts, assets, liabilities, unresolved claims and employee rights.
4. No claimant shall lose a right because a temporary office has closed.

Article 103 — Evaluation and lessons

1. Each major demobilization phase shall receive independent evaluation of security, rights, gender, disability, employment, community and fiscal outcomes.
2. Former participants and host communities shall provide confidential and public feedback.
3. Findings, methodology and management response shall be published subject to narrow personal protection.
4. Evidence shall revise later phases rather than preserve an ineffective programme for institutional reputation.

CHAPTER IX

PARTICIPATION, ASSOCIATIONS, REMEMBRANCE AND RECORDS

Article 104 — Freedom of association

1. Veterans, disabled former combatants and family survivors may form, join, leave and govern independent associations under general associations law.
2. No official body may appoint association leadership or require a single umbrella organization.
3. An association may advocate, criticize, litigate and provide services lawfully.
4. Membership or non-membership shall not determine public benefit entitlement.

Article 105 — Public funding of associations

1. An association may compete for grants or service contracts through transparent criteria and public-finance law.
2. Funding shall not purchase political loyalty, silence, electoral support or exclusive representation.
3. Beneficial ownership, leadership interests, expenditure and results shall be disclosed proportionately.
4. Independent audit and complaint procedures shall protect members and public money.

Article 106 — Consultation

1. Draft policy, regulations, standards and material programme changes under this Act shall receive meaningful public consultation.
2. Consultation shall provide accessible information, adequate time, rural and diaspora channels and reasons responding to material views.
3. Government shall seek views beyond prominent former commanders and established organizations.
4. Urgency may shorten but shall not eliminate later review and correction.

Article 107 — Remembrance and historical plurality

1. Public remembrance shall honour loss and service while respecting historical complexity, conscience and equal citizenship.
2. No official narrative shall erase a qualifying organization, women, civilian support, dissenters, victims or affected communities.
3. A person or family may decline ceremony, symbol, title or public identification without losing rights.
4. Schools, archives and museums shall distinguish evidence, interpretation and contested history.

Article 108 — Memorials and burial sites

1. A public memorial or military burial site shall be established, altered or relocated through law, consultation, land authority and cultural protection.
2. Families and affected communities shall receive notice and meaningful participation.
3. Human remains and names shall be treated accurately and with dignity.
4. Political event needs, development pressure or commercial use shall not justify secret removal or destruction.

Article 109 — National service and military archives

1. Service, demobilization, casualty, detention, medical, burial, award and benefit records shall be preserved as public archives with lawful access controls.
2. The Defence Forces, intelligence bodies, party archives receiving public resources and predecessor programme offices shall transfer or register relevant records.
3. Classification shall be item-specific, reasoned, time-limited and reviewable.
4. Records shall not be destroyed to avoid entitlement, historical truth, audit or accountability.

Article 110 — Personal access and correction

1. A person may access personal service and benefit records and obtain a copy in accessible form.
2. A narrow redaction may protect another person or concrete lawful security interest and shall be explained.

3. The person may correct factual error or append a statement of dispute while preserving audit history.
4. Unreasonable refusal, delay, falsification or destruction is reviewable and remediable.

Article 111 — Public historical access

1. Archives of lasting historical value shall become publicly accessible according to published retention and declassification schedules.
2. Researchers and journalists shall receive equal, content-neutral access subject to privacy and concrete security safeguards.
3. A politically inconvenient fact or criticism of leadership is not a classification ground.
4. Digitization shall preserve authenticity, provenance, version and accessible formats.

Article 112 — Awards and honours

1. An honour may recognize exceptional service or sacrifice under published and inclusive criteria.
2. An honour is symbolic and does not confer office, immunity, land, procurement, tax or hereditary privilege.
3. Revocation requires clear legal criteria, notice, evidence, hearing and reasons.
4. Basic benefits addressing injury, disability or dependency shall not be withdrawn merely because an honour is revoked.

Article 113 — Civic education and professional military culture

1. Programmes may support understanding of constitutional civilian control, lawful orders, human rights, plural history and democratic participation.
2. Education shall not become partisan indoctrination or a condition of subsistence support.
3. Former personnel may contribute experience to schools and institutions through ordinary safeguarding and professional standards.
4. The Administration shall promote the principle that military service serves the constitutional order and does not own the State.

CHAPTER X FINANCE, PLANNING, DATA AND OVERSIGHT

Article 114 — Veterans and Survivors Fund

1. A Veterans and Survivors Fund is established within the Treasury as a public fund governed by the Public Finance Management Act.
2. The Fund may receive appropriations, lawful grants, recoveries and other receipts authorized by law.
3. Money shall be used only for appropriated functions under this Act.
4. No secret, party, military-unit, personal or extra-budgetary benefit account may be maintained.

Article 115 — Budget

1. The annual budget shall present administration, cash benefits, health, rehabilitation, education, reintegration, contracts and regional delivery transparently.
2. A medium-term plan shall identify eligible populations, demand, cost, priority, arrears, fiscal risk and progressive realization.
3. Legacy liabilities and unpaid lawful benefits shall be disclosed rather than excluded from accounts.
4. The National Assembly may appropriate in phases but shall receive distributional and rights impact information.

Article 116 — Benefit reserve and sustainability

1. Long-term periodic obligations shall receive actuarial and fiscal assessment coordinated with the Social Insurance Fund.
2. Assets held for beneficiaries shall be segregated, prudently managed and protected from political or military use.
3. Assumptions, investment, administrative cost and funding gap shall be published.
4. A reform affecting accrued rights requires law, evidence, consultation, transition and constitutional protection.

Article 117 — Procurement and contracting

1. Procurement shall comply with the Public Procurement Act and address accessibility, quality, lifecycle cost and local capacity.
2. A former military supplier, association or public enterprise receives no automatic preference.
3. Contracts shall disclose beneficial ownership, conflicts, price, deliverables, data, complaints and performance.
4. Emergency procurement shall be narrow, recorded, reviewed and not used to establish permanent patronage.

Article 118 — Donations and international assistance

1. Cash, goods and services shall be valued, recorded, safeguarded and integrated into lawful plans and budgets.
2. Unusable, unsafe, dependency-creating or disproportionately costly assistance may be declined with reasons.
3. A donor may not choose individual beneficiaries outside lawful criteria or require political branding.
4. Receipts, overhead, implementing partners, allocation and results shall be published in aggregate.

Article 119 — Data governance

1. Personal data shall be collected only for defined lawful functions, minimized, secured, accurate and retained for a published period.
2. Service history, health, disability, family, location and payment data require role-based access and audit logs.
3. Automated matching shall not deny status or benefit without human review and intelligible reasons.
4. A data breach creating material risk shall be notified, contained, investigated and remedied under data-protection law.

Article 120 — Artificial intelligence

1. Artificial intelligence may assist records matching, translation, service navigation, fraud detection, demand planning and accessible communication.
2. A high-impact use shall have validated data, documented purpose, bias testing, cybersecurity, human oversight, contestability and independent audit.
3. Automated output alone shall not determine service, disability, fraud, family status, political risk or benefit termination.
4. Proprietary secrecy shall not prevent public audit, correction, continuity or protection of Eritrean data.

Article 121 — Annual report

1. The Administration shall submit an annual report to the President and National Assembly and publish it within six months after year end.
2. The report shall cover applications, decisions, delay, appeals, services, outcomes, expenditure, contracts, complaints and corrective action.
3. Data shall be disaggregated safely and shall identify exclusion, regional disparity and unmet need.
4. The report shall explain legal, institutional and fiscal barriers and propose action.

Article 122 — Auditor General

1. The Auditor General shall audit the Administration, Fund, benefit systems, contracts, grants, assets and predecessor transfers.
2. Access is complete and does not depend on permission from a minister, military body, association, donor or contractor.
3. Protected personal information may be handled securely without suppressing findings.
4. Recovery, referral, management response and implementation shall be reported publicly.

Article 123 — National Assembly oversight

1. The competent National Assembly committee shall review policy, budget, equity, service delivery, demobilization, data protection and unresolved findings.

2. It may summon officials, require records and hear veterans, disabled persons, family survivors, communities and experts.
3. Personal claims shall be protected from partisan intervention and directed to lawful review channels.
4. Oversight shall not allocate an individual benefit, contract, job, land interest or honour.

Article 124 — Independent evaluation

1. At least every five years, an independent evaluation shall assess relevance, rights, adequacy, outcomes, equality, cost and sustainability.
2. The evaluator shall have access to records and may survey claimants confidentially.
3. The report and Government response shall be published and debated by the National Assembly.
4. Evaluation shall recommend consolidation or termination of ineffective or duplicative programmes.

CHAPTER XI COMPLAINTS, APPEALS, ACCOUNTABILITY AND REMEDIES

Article 125 — Service complaint

1. A person may complain orally, in writing, electronically or through a representative concerning access, delay, conduct, discrimination, privacy, payment or service quality.
2. The complaint is free, accessible and receivable at any Administration or integrated-service office.
3. The receiving body shall acknowledge, track, investigate, correct and provide reasons within a reasonable time.
4. Urgent health, subsistence or protection action shall not await final determination.

Article 126 — Status and benefit appeal

1. A person may appeal a status, causation, disability, dependency, amount, suspension, recovery or termination decision.
2. The appeal shall be heard by a body independent of the original decision-maker with relevant competence.
3. The appellant may access the record, submit evidence, receive assistance, attend a hearing and obtain reasons.
4. A subsistence or necessary-care benefit shall ordinarily continue during appeal unless fraud or serious safety risk is established provisionally.

Article 127 — Appeal Board

1. A Veterans and Survivors Appeal Board is established as an independent administrative tribunal.
2. Members shall have legal, medical, disability, historical, social-protection and community competence and secure tenure.

3. Appointment shall use a public merit process and protect diversity and freedom from force or party domination.
4. The Board may confirm, vary, set aside, remit, order interim protection and make another lawful remedial order.

Article 128 — Judicial review

1. A person directly affected may seek judicial review of administrative action or failure under this Act.
2. The court may review authority, law, evidence, procedure, reasonableness, proportionality, discrimination, delay and legitimate expectation.
3. It may grant declaration, injunction, reconsideration, payment, correction, record access, compensation and another effective remedy.
4. Exhaustion of administrative appeal shall not be required where urgent harm, futility, bias or constitutional justice makes direct court access appropriate.

Article 129 — Legal and procedural assistance

1. A person may be assisted by a family member, association, advocate, legal practitioner or other trusted person.
2. Legal aid shall be available under the Legal Aid Act where eligibility and justice require.
3. Procedure shall accommodate disability, trauma, language, distance, poverty and missing documents.
4. A representative shall respect the person's instructions, privacy and ownership of the claim.

Article 130 — Protected disclosure

1. A person may report corruption, falsified records, diversion, abuse, discrimination or unlawful political condition to the Administration, Advocate General, Auditor General, Police Service or other competent body.
2. The person may bypass ordinary command or management where implicated, unsafe or unresponsive.
3. Retaliation in benefit, employment, housing, land, licence, service or association is prohibited.
4. Confidentiality, interim protection, investigation and court relief shall be available under applicable law.

Article 131 — Fraud and false statement

1. A person who intentionally uses a materially false identity, service record, relationship or medical document to obtain a substantial benefit commits the applicable offence under the Penal Code.
2. A mistake, trauma-related inconsistency, reasonable claim, translation error or corrected omission is not fraud absent required intent.
3. Administrative investigation shall preserve presumption of innocence and shall not use coercive former-command interrogation.

4. Recovery and criminal process shall distinguish the claimant, intermediary and public official responsible.

Article 132 — Official abuse and diversion

1. An official who intentionally diverts a benefit, falsifies a status, demands a favour, sells access or destroys a material record is subject to criminal, civil, administrative and disciplinary law.
2. Using benefits to purchase political support, silence criticism or recruit intelligence is a serious abuse of public office.
3. A superior who orders, knowingly conceals or deliberately fails within a legal duty may be individually responsible under general law.
4. Retirement, transfer, dissolution or political change does not erase evidence, restitution or responsibility.

Article 133 — Civil liability

1. A person harmed by unlawful denial, discrimination, negligent loss of records, privacy breach, benefit diversion or other wrongful administration may seek civil remedy.
2. Relief may include correction, restitution, payment, compensation, rehabilitation, apology, injunction and costs.
3. Good-faith reasonable emergency judgment may be considered, but immunity does not protect bad faith, gross negligence, corruption or knowing illegality.
4. Public liability and recourse against an official shall follow the Civil Code and constitutional remedy.

Article 134 — No immunity or amnesty by status

1. Veteran, combatant, martyr, survivor, rank, award or official status creates no immunity from criminal, civil or administrative law.
2. A benefit addressing injury, disability or family dependency is not an acquittal or endorsement of unrelated conduct.
3. Accountability for grave violations shall proceed through evidence, individual responsibility, due process and independent courts.
4. A lawful peace or transitional-justice measure requires express constitutional and legislative authority and shall not be invented by benefit administration.

Article 135 — Restitution and offsets

1. A final court may order restitution or compensation for a victim of proven wrongdoing by a qualifying person.
2. Any offset against a public benefit requires express law or judgment and protection of essential subsistence and innocent dependants.
3. The Administration shall not impose collective or politically directed forfeiture.
4. A victim's remedy shall not depend on official honour status or willingness of an association to cooperate.

CHAPTER XII

TRANSITIONAL, REPEAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 136 — Continuity of benefits

1. Every lawful benefit payable immediately before commencement continues until converted, reviewed or ended under this Act through fair procedure.
2. Transition shall not interrupt necessary health care, disability support or subsistence payment.
3. A more protective accrued entitlement is preserved unless lawfully replaced with an equal or more protective entitlement.
4. An unpublished reduction, political forfeiture or unauthorized deduction is not preserved.

Article 137 — Legacy claims and arrears

1. The Administration shall inventory pending, rejected, unpaid and unrecorded legacy claims within twelve months.
2. Applicants shall receive notice, a statement of available record and opportunity to correct or renew without unnecessary refiling.
3. Lawful arrears shall be quantified, budgeted and paid through a transparent settlement plan.
4. Limitation shall not run during a period when no accessible lawful claim or review process existed.

Article 138 — Institutional transfer

1. The functions, records, assets, contracts, claims and liabilities of the National Commission established by Proclamation 113/2001 and relevant survivor-benefit administration transfer as scheduled under this Act.
2. The transfer shall be inventoried and audited and shall distinguish temporary programme closure from permanent rights functions.
3. Employees shall receive fair assessment and treatment under the Civil Service Administration Act and Labour Code.
4. Transfer shall not be used for record destruction, political purge or evasion of liability.

Article 139 — Status and register transition

1. Existing verified registers shall be preserved, reconciled and migrated with source, confidence, correction history and privacy safeguards.
2. Every person shall be able to obtain a status statement and challenge error or omission.
3. Duplicate identity, inconsistent spelling, changed civil status and missing digital record shall be resolved through evidence rather than automatic denial.
4. No new centralized biometric register shall be created without separate lawful assessment and data-protection compliance.

Article 140 — Review of prior instruments

1. The Advocate General, Administration, Social Insurance Fund and Auditor General shall review every proclamation, legal notice, regulation and directive concerning veterans, demobilization, disabled former combatants and survivors within twelve months.
2. They shall authenticate texts and identify repeal, inconsistency, accrued rights, fiscal liability and necessary saving.
3. A consequential amendment schedule shall be submitted to the National Assembly with reasons.
4. Authentic historical instruments shall be preserved and shall not be silently rewritten.

Article 141 — Repeal of Proclamations 113/2001 and 137/2003

1. The Proclamation to Establish a National Commission for the Demobilization and Reintegration Program 113/2001 is repealed and its unfinished lawful functions are transferred under this Chapter.
2. The Martyrs' Survivors Benefit Proclamation 137/2003 is repealed and replaced by this Act without extinguishing an accrued benefit or claim.
3. A reference in another instrument to a repealed body or benefit shall be read as the corresponding body or benefit under this Act until corrected.
4. Repeal does not extinguish an offence, liability, audit, proceeding, contract, asset, record or lawful recovery.

Article 142 — Regulations

1. The President may issue regulations on recommendation of the responsible minister after consultation with the Administration for administrative implementation expressly delegated by this Act.
2. Regulations may prescribe evidence, service standards, benefit calculation, coordination, accessibility, payment, records, transition and review.
3. They shall not create an offence, imprisonment, tax, appropriation, military power, political qualification or reduction of accrued right absent an Assembly Act.
4. Draft material regulations shall identify authority, rights and fiscal effects and ordinarily allow at least sixty days for public comment.

Article 143 — Public service standards

1. The Administration may issue published nonbinding guidance and internal service standards consistent with this Act.
2. A mandatory external standard requires express delegated authority, consultation, accessibility, commencement and review.
3. No unpublished manual, database rule, algorithm or former-force practice may determine status or reduce a benefit.
4. Every applicable rule shall be available in accessible digital and non-digital form.

Article 144 — Commencement

1. The equality, continuity, urgent health, protection, records-preservation, complaint, appeal, oversight and repeal provisions commence thirty days after publication.
2. Institutional and programme provisions commence according to this Chapter and any published commencement regulation within eighteen months.
3. A commencement regulation may sequence administration but may not postpone preservation of accrued rights, court review, payment continuity or public-finance control.
4. Any provision not commenced within eighteen months commences automatically on the following day.

Made at Asmara, this ____ day of _____ 2026.

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF ERITREA