



# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

## **Presentation to Gurkha Veterans**



# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

## BACKGROUND

- Originally no settlement rights for Gurkhas
- October 2004 – HM Forces Immigration Rule for service from 1 July 1997
- May 2009 New Immigration Announcement for all ex-Gurkhas with service ending before 1 July 1997, includes eligible dependants



# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

## IMPLICATIONS OF DOING NOTHING

- Large numbers of elderly ex-Gurkhas and their families arriving in the UK with expectations that will not be met
- Ex-Gurkhas becoming homeless, require welfare or medical attention
- They will not have been able to make an informed choice
- They could waste their money in applying for settlement without the knowledge to prepare properly for life in the UK or knowing who was eligible



# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

- If you have completed at least four years service as a Gurkha with the British Army; or
- You are the legal spouse of the Gurkha applying for settlement; or
- You are a dependant of the Gurkha applying for settlement and under 18 years of age, with both parents settled in the UK or being admitted to the UK at the same time as you; or
- You are the widow of a Gurkha



# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

### (cont)

- Other Dependant Relatives (ODR), elderly parents or children aged 18 or more, are not eligible under the Settlement arrangements
- ODR have to apply under normal Immigration Rules. Applications have to show exceptional, compelling and compassionate circumstances



# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

## ROLE OF THE GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

- Provides a registration and help desk/help line support facility for ex-Gurkhas and their dependants wishing to apply for settlement
- Assist applicants applying for settlement with form filling, advise on process, provide checklists for the required documentation
- The role of the settlement office is to provide practical advice and not to influence the decision
- Provide information and record data on settlement arrangements in the UK for those wishing to travel and for those who have made travel arrangements



# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

## ROLE OF THE GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE (cont)

- Produce a checklist for each applicant intending to travel to the UK, and arrange a face to face briefing to ensure former Gurkhas and their dependants have the appropriate documentation and have made preparations for their arrival in the UK
- Register date of intended travel and address on arrival in the UK for the National Insurance Number (NINO) fast track arrangements
- Provide this as regular information to the Gurkha Settlement Office project manager in order to inform the Gurkha Welfare Centre and Department of Work and Pensions when individuals arrival in the UK



# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

## ROLE OF THE GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE (cont)

- Liaise with Record Office Pokhara for service records
- Liaise with Visa application centre to resolve queries
- Provide details of persons arriving in the UK to the Gurkha Welfare Centre
- Liaise with Area Welfare Offices over applicants' queries



# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

## ROLE OF THE GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE (cont)

- All of this is free
- And is to allow ex-Gurkhas to make an informed choice about whether or not they decide to apply for settlement in the UK



# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

## ROLE OF THE GURKHA WELFARE CENTRE

- Located in Salisbury with a Forward Base in Aldershot
- Acts as the UK focus for all ex-Gurkha welfare issues
- Provides regional network with details of incoming ex-Gurkhas to prepare local authorities and services
- Provides Government departments with information to fast track arrangements for benefits



# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

## HOUSING IN THE UK

- Critical to have a UK address to go to before leaving Nepal
- Housing is expensive and two months rent in advance is required
- The Internet is useful as a guide for regional costs but do not pay any money for accommodation without you (or a trusted friend) having seen and inspected the property first
- You will have to sign a contract that will guarantee you accommodation and security for at least six months, provided you pay your rent in advance monthly



# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

## HOUSING IN THE UK

### (Cont)

- You will be required to pay a monthly amount for Council Tax depending on the size of the property
- Government sponsored social housing is scarce and the waiting lists are long, running, in some areas, to several years



# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

## OTHER COSTS

- You will be required to pay your own utility bills – electricity, gas and water
- You will have to furnish your rented accommodation; furnished properties are available but will cost more
- You will need money to pay for food and clothing
- You will have to pay the costs for a tenancy agreement and preparing an inventory
- You will need to pay for travel by bus or train, although if you are over 60 in some areas, travel cards are available to give you free travel on buses



# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

## FINDING WORK

- The Gurkha Welfare Centre can provide details of local job centres
- You will need a National Insurance Number (NINO) to work or enable you to claim, if you are entitled, allowances and benefits
- The Gurkha Settlement Office in Kathmandu can help to fast track you if you request a NINO before leaving Nepal
- If you register for NINO fast track and the application form does not arrive within a week then contact the Gurkha Welfare Centre for help



# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

## WELFARE BENEFITS AVAILABLE

- You must have a National Insurance Number (NINO)
- See booklet for details of benefits available to those of you who qualify



# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

## HEALTH CARE

- National Health Service (NHS) provides free medical and dental treatment [dental treatment is not free for everyone]
- You will need to register with a local doctor (General Practitioner)
- You need an address to do this
- Take your medical documents and records and medicines to the UK with you



# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

## TAX

- You will be liable for tax on your income including your Gurkha pension
- If you are under 65 you will pay National Insurance Contributions (NIC) on earned income, but not your pension



# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

## EDUCATION

- Education is compulsory and free for children under 18
- You need to register your child's name and address with the local authority in which you live
- Your children will need to speak English as will you
- The over 18 dependants are not entitled to financial assistance for higher education until they have spent over 3 years in the UK



# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

## PREPARING TO GO TO THE UK

- Essential to register with the Gurkha Settlement Office in Kathmandu
- Date of travel and address will be needed to fast track arrangements for National Insurance Number (NINO) and local arrangements
- Gurkha Settlement Office will provide checklist to help ex-Gurkhas with arrangements
- Gurkha Settlement Office will contact the Gurkha Welfare Centre to get local information for you
- Documentation essential in the UK, so you need to take with you medical notes, medicines, details of your income and details of any property you own, including valuation



# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

## DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR VISA APPLICATION

- Completed Visa Application Form and Appendix
- Lal Book (AF B108)
- Valid Passport
- Kindred Roll from Record Office
- Marriage Certificate
- Birth Certificate
- Photos
- Visa Fee



# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

## ARRIVING IN THE UK

- Very important to have an address to stay at on arrival in the UK
- Someone will need to meet you at the airport (London, Heathrow)
- Contact the Gurkha Welfare Centre on arrival if you need help



# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

## SUMMARY

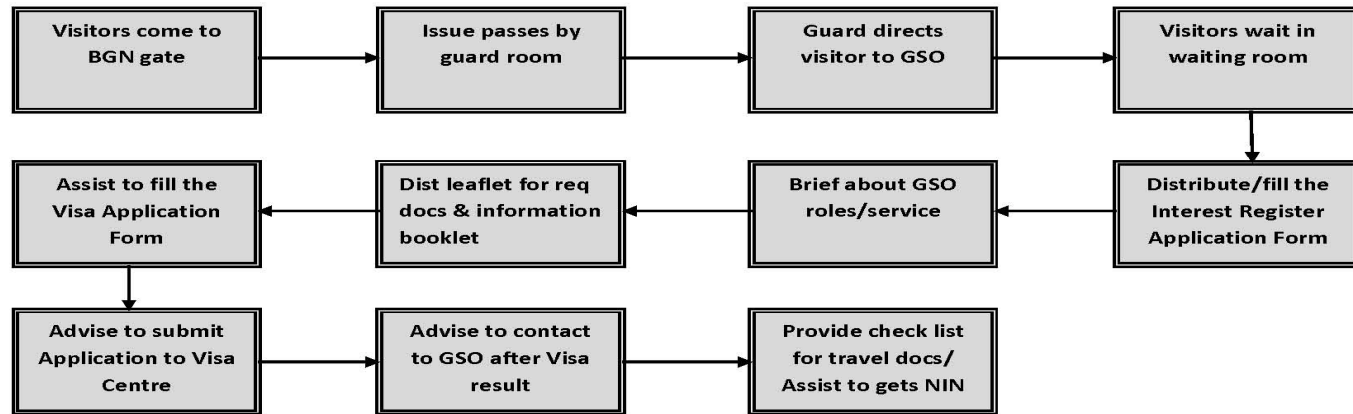
- Decide before you apply who is eligible to go to the UK
- A big family decision as some may be left behind
- Essential to consider cost of living in the UK and how you will manage
- An address to stay at in the UK will be needed before you travel
- Registration at the Gurkha Settlement Office will help with the application process and checklist for travel
- The Gurkha Settlement Office can help with fast tracking for National Insurance Number (NINO) and regional connections for when you arrive in the UK
- Contact the Gurkha Welfare Centre on arrival in the UK if you get into difficulty



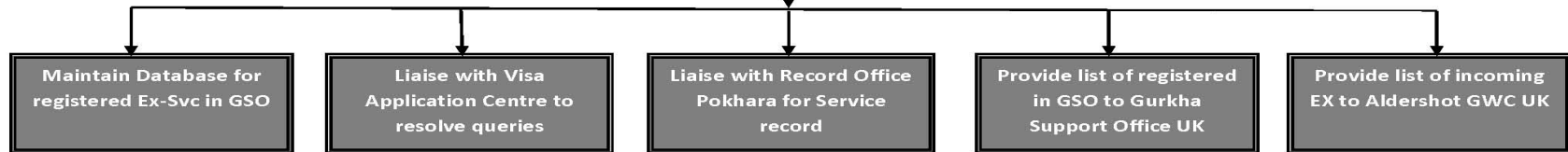
# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

## GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

### Working Procedure



### Roles



This form is for GSO registration purposes only and it is only necessary to fill out the name, service number and point of contact to obtain a GSO appointment.

## GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE KATHMANDU

### REGISTRATION FORM

EX-GURKHA'S DETAILS				
Army No.	Rank	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name
Unit	Date of Birth	Date of Enlistment	Date of Discharge	
Soldier's Name:(If different to AF B 108)		Passport Number		

NAME OF APPLICANT (OTHER THAN EX-GURKHAS)			
Name	Relation	Date of Birth	Date of Marriage
APPLICABLE FOR ONLY WIDOW OR ORPHAN			
Husband/Father's Name	Date of Death	Death in Service?	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

#### DEPENDANTS' DETAILS

Name	Relation	Date of Birth

#### ADDRESS

Ward No.	Tole/Area	Municipality/GBS
District	Zone	Telephone No.
Email		

#### NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE (WHO YOU ARE HAPPY TO ALLOW US TO SHARE INFORMATION)

Name	Relation

#### CONTACT DETAILS OF REPRESENTATIVE

Ward No.	Tole/Area	Municipality/GBS
District	Zone	Telephone No.
Email		

WILL DEPENDANTS BE APPLYING FOR VISA?  Yes  No

Address in the UK (if known)	Job/occupation planning to undertake in UK

Indication of date may wish to submit application	Date of intended to travel to UK

I authorise the staff in the GSO to use the information I supply to act on my behalf in dealing with my application.

Date of Registered:	Applicant's Signature

#### FOR GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE USE ONLY

Visa Application Form Completed on: Visa Approved: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Visa Number: If No, reason for rejected:	Number of Visits of Applicant: 1 / 2 / 3 / 4 / 5 / 6 Date of Visa Approved: Where Visa Issued:  Actual date of travel to UK:



# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

## **GSO Task**

- **General Brief**
- **Register with GSO**
- **Assist on Visa Application Form**
- **Provide Check list for applicant intending to travel to the UK.**



# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

## **Opening Hours:**

**08:30 to 16:00 –**

**Queries/Registration**

## **General Briefing:**

**09:30**

**11:30**

**14:30**



# GURKHA SETTLEMENT OFFICE

**ANY QUESTIONS?**