



BELIZE

**NATIONAL HONOURS AND AWARDS ACT
CHAPTER 162**

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CHAPTER 162

NATIONAL HONOURS AND AWARDS

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CHAPTER 162**NATIONAL HONOURS AND AWARDS**

22 of 1991.
S.I. 126 of 1991.

[20th September, 1991]

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the National Honours and Awards Act.

Interpretation.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,

“Chairperson” means the Chairperson of the Committee;

“Committee” means the Advisory Committee established under section 4 of this Act;

“Secretary” means the Secretary to the Committee.

Establishment
of Honours and
Awards.

3.-(1) There shall be established in Belize the following national honours and awards,

- (a) the Order of the National Hero;
- (b) the Order of Belize;
- (c) the Order of Distinction;
- (d) the Meritorious Service Award;
- (e) the Services Medal of Honour; and
- (f) the Long Service Medal.

(2) The Order of the National Hero shall be the highest award and shall be granted for extraordinary and outstanding achievement and merit in service to Belize or to humanity at large.

(3) The remaining honours and awards mentioned in subsection (1) of this section, shall have the rank and precedence in the order in which they appear therein.

(4) Each Order established under this Act shall consist of members of that Order.

(5) The Governor-General shall be the Chancellor for each Order established under this Act and shall, as the holder of the office of Chancellor, be responsible for the administration of the respective Order.

4.-(1) There shall be an Advisory Committee for the purposes of this Act, which shall consist of a Chairperson and six other members who shall be persons of integrity and high national standing.

Advisory Committee.

(2) Two members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Governor-General acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister given with the concurrence of the Leader of the Opposition, and the other members of the Committee, including the Chairperson, shall be appointed by the Governor-General, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister given after consultation with the Leader of the Opposition,

Provided that in the process of consultation with the Leader of the Opposition for the appointment of the Chairperson, the Prime Minister shall use his best endeavours to secure the agreement of the Leader of the Opposition.

(3) The provisions of the Schedule shall have effect as to the term of, and procedure to be followed by, the Committee and otherwise in relation thereto.

(4) It shall be the duty of the Committee with a view to the proper carrying out of the provisions of this Act,

- (a) to make such investigation as it thinks fit to determine persons, living or dead, upon whom may be conferred the honours and awards under this Act;

- (b) to receive and consider nominations for honours and awards;
- (c) to make recommendations to the Prime Minister for the conferment of honours and awards; and
- (d) to undertake such other duties in relation to this Act as may be assigned by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister.

(5) The Committee may consult with such other persons or bodies as it thinks necessary for the purpose of discharging its functions.

(6) There shall be a Secretary to the Committee who shall be appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister.

(7) The Secretary shall maintain records of all honours and awards conferred under this Act, arrange for investitures and perform such other functions in relation thereto as the Governor-General may from time to time direct.

Conferment of Honours and Awards.

5.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, each year on Independence Day, the 21st day of September, or at such other times as may be deemed expedient, the Governor-General may confer honours and awards on persons, living or dead, who have rendered distinguished and meritorious service to Belize or who are otherwise deemed worthy of such honours and awards.

(2) In the exercise of the powers conferred upon the Governor-General by this Act, the Governor-General shall act on the advice of the Prime Minister given upon a consideration of the recommendations of the Committee.

(3) Every person upon whom an honour or award has been conferred under this Act shall be entitled to wear as a decoration the prescribed insignia or medal relating to the honour or award conferred upon him.

(4) The honour of National Hero may be conferred upon a person posthumously or during his lifetime.

(5) The name of every person who has been awarded the honour of a National Hero shall be published in the *Gazette*.

(6) All honours and awards under this Act shall be conferred by the Governor-General by instrument under the Public Seal of Belize.

(7) Recipients of the honours and awards under this Act shall be entitled to receive a warrant to that effect, and to wear insignia, medals or other decorations as may be prescribed in this Act or in the Regulations made thereunder.

6. Any person who,

Unauthorised use of insignia, etc.

- (a) without authority uses or wears any warrant, certificate or insignia or decoration or medal supplied or authorised in connection with any honour or award conferred under this Act, or any warrant, certificate or insignia or decoration or medal so nearly resembling the same as to be calculated to deceive;
- (b) falsely represents himself to be a person who is or has been entitled to use or wear any such warrant, certificate or insignia or decoration or medal as aforesaid; or
- (c) without lawful authority or excuse, supplies or offers to supply any such warrant, certificate or insignia or decoration or medal as aforesaid to any person not authorised to use or wear the same,

is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to both such fine and term of imprisonment.

7.-(1) Any person who accepts or obtains or agrees to accept or attempts to obtain from another person for himself or for any other person or for any purpose, any gift, money or valuable consideration as an inducement or reward for procuring or assisting or endeavouring to procure the grant

Abuse in connection with the grant of honours.

of an honour or award under this Act to any person, or otherwise in connection with such a grant, commits an offence.

(2) Any person who gives, or agrees or proposes to give or offers to another person any gift, money or valuable consideration as an inducement or reward for procuring or assisting or endeavouring to procure the grant of an honour or award under this Act, or otherwise in connection with such a grant, commits an offence.

(3) Any person who commits an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or to both such fine and term of imprisonment.

Regulations.

8.—(1) The Governor-General may, on the advice of the Prime Minister given after consultation with the Committee, make regulations for the better carrying out of the purposes and provisions of this Act and in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, may make regulations providing,

- (a) for medals, badges and other awards for the purposes of this Act and the form thereof;
- (b) for seal and motto of each of the Orders and awards referred to in section 3 of this Act;
- (c) for investitures in relation to the Orders and awards referred to in section 3 of this Act, the motifs, insignia and regalia of each Order and award;
- (d) for the wearing of insignia, regalia, medals and badges issued in relation to any Order or award under this Act, and for any other right or privilege appurtenant to the conferment of the honour of any such Order or award;
- (e) for the prevention of abuses in the wearing of insignia, regalia, medals and badges issued in relation to any

Order or award under this Act, or in assuming any style or title assigned to any such Order or award.

(2) All regulations made under this Act shall be laid before the National Assembly as soon as may be after the making thereof and shall be subject to negative resolution.

SCHEDULE

NATIONAL HONOURS AND AWARDS ACT
Tenure and Procedure of the Advisory Committee
[Section 4]

1. Subject to the provisions of this Schedule, the appointment of a member of the Advisory Committee (including the Chairperson) shall be for a period not exceeding three years, and such member shall be eligible for re-appointment.

2.-(1) Any member of the Advisory Committee, other than the Chairperson, may at any time resign his office by instrument in writing addressed to the Governor-General and transmitted through the Chairperson, and from the date of the receipt by the Governor-General of such instrument such member shall cease to be a member of the Advisory Committee.

(2) The Chairperson may at any time resign his office by instrument in writing addressed to the Governor-General and such resignation shall take effect as from the date of the receipt of such instrument by the Governor-General.

3. If any vacancy occurs in the membership of the Advisory Committee, such vacancy shall be filled by the appointment of another member who shall, subject to the provisions of this Schedule, hold office for the remainder of the period for which the previous member was appointed, so, however, that such appointment shall be made in the same manner and from the same category of persons, if any, as the appointment of the previous member.

4. The names of all members of the Advisory Committee as first constituted and every change in the membership thereof shall be published in the *Gazette*.

5. The validity of the proceedings of the Advisory Committee shall not be affected by any vacancy amongst the members thereof or by any defect in the appointment of a member thereof.
6. The Advisory Committee shall meet at such times as may be convenient or expedient for the transaction of business, and at such places as it may deem fit.
7. The Chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Advisory Committee and in the case of his absence from any meeting the members present shall elect one from amongst their number to preside at that meeting.
8. The decisions of the Advisory Committee shall be by a majority of votes of the members present and voting and, in addition to an original vote, the Chairperson or any other person presiding at the meeting shall have a casting vote in any case in which the voting is equal.
9. The quorum of the Advisory Committee shall be four members thereof.
10. Minutes in proper form shall be kept of the proceedings of the Advisory Committee.
11. Subject to the provisions of this Schedule, the Advisory Committee shall have power to regulate its own proceedings, and may delegate to any member or committee thereof the power and authority to carry out on behalf of the Advisory Committee such duties as the Advisory Committee may determine.
12. Any expenses incurred by the Chairperson and other members of the Advisory Committee in the performance of their duties shall be paid out of money provided for the purpose by the National Assembly.